

GURRINY news

HEALTHY
PEOPLE
HEALTHY
COMMUNITY

ISSUE 13: October 2014

It's been a long and successful story!



It was a happy, proud and emotional day of community celebrations held to mark the first transfer of primary health care services from Queensland Health to Gurriny in June this year.

Gurriny chair Sandra Houghton said Yarrabah people were finally in control. "We have come a long way and have finally achieved it," she told a crowd of several hundred people on the day. Other speakers included Valda

Miller, David and Les Baird, MC Elverina Johnson, Professor Gracelyn Smallwood, Mayor Errol Neal and MP Curtis Pitt. Included in the day was a formal opening of Gurriny's storyboard, now a permanent feature on the health services building.

The storyboard was developed by several staff members and artists including Eileen Yeatman, Alicia (Dixie) Hari and Lucretia Willett, and artists Kel Williams, Bradley Higgins, Ruben Ambrym, Valmai Pollard and Andrew Garrett.

INSIDE... Handover Day Celebrations Special + Diabetes Day

AGM planned for late November

It's been the biggest, the busiest and the best few months since Gurriny entered into an agreement with Queensland Health to deliver their own community-controlled primary health care services.

Transition Manager Ruth Fagan said they had already taken a number of new staff on board.

"Gurriny has welcomed a number of new staff over these past months," she said. "All the Gurriny teams are currently working on their GOALS for 2015 using the SMART – Specific, Measurable, Accountability, Realistic and Timeliness – format.

"Our planning and reflecting comes at a good time as we take the opportunity to share with them our

activities from this past year and take on board their ideas and experiences.

"Alongside this planning we are evaluating how we did this year including what worked well and what didn't so we can continue to improve."

She said the organisation was also preparing for the Annual General Meeting.

"As we move into the last quarter of 2014 Gurriny is preparing for their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 25th November at Workshop St at 2pm," Ms Fagan said.

"Members who are interested in nominating for the Board are encouraged to attend the 10am pre-AGM workshop which covers the responsibilities of our Board and more details about Gurriny.

"We hope to see as many members as possible at 2pm to listen to the reports and vote for your Board of Directors.

"Gurriny is keen to connect with community and this is one of many ways we can listen to the communities ideas."

Nutrition part of Year Four curriculum



Two Year Four classes have been learning about gardening and nutrition. Gurriny's Health Promotion Officer Dixie Hari and Nutrition Worker Kani Thompson have been working with the students to grow vegetables, herbs and strawberries for the Veggie Box Garden Program. The students have been doing some great work planting their plants, helping to look after them and measuring them to see that they are growing. Along with this there will be classroom activities around healthy eating. They say there are all looking forward to the end of the program to see what they can harvest!



Yarrabah celebrates!

Sandra Houghton

“Yarrabah people will now have easy access to 100% control of primary health care. With total commitment from our Board of Directors, CEO and staff, we aim to focus on early intervention which will save lives, be cost effective and above all, will lead Yarrabah into a better and healthier lifestyle for today and future generations. By having this readily available service, we should not only access primary health care when we are sick, but also to ensure we are taking care of ourselves to prevent carriage to secondary health care – let primary health care be a footprint that leads to healing. It starts with you. We have come a long way and have finally achieved it. It has made the government take note that we are serious about our people and community.”



Valda Miller

“I’m so proud of this day today. I’d like to thank all those who have helped and continue to support our service so that we can be successful. Thank you ladies, thank you members, thank you everyone.”



Errol Neal

“My people, my countryman, custodians, this day belongs to you. We have kept on, kept on the fight, the fight for our people to be recognised. We’ve made our mark today. Our people are still suffering. Economic development is the key in getting our people off the welfare and getting our people sharing in the benefits that all Australians share. Let me remind you of that because this is part of our struggle, our struggle to get our God-given rights are to give us back control for that to delivering and looking after and caring for our people. I want to say that a lot of this a long road yet. And today, I’ve got to thank those people who made it possible for today. My people, let’s not give up the fight. We have survived, we never say die. So congratulations to Yarrabah and Aboriginal Australia.”

Curtis Pitt

“I want to congratulate Sue and Sandra, and of course all of the staff at Gurriny Health for the work they have been doing. I don’t think it’s ever been an issue of trust, but I tell you what, if people take a look at this health service – it doesn’t matter if you’re from an Aboriginal community, from a Torres Strait Islander community, this is a great model for any small community because it is run by local people for local people and, of course, it is the great range of expertise that is allowing it to continue the work that we’ve seen over the last decade to go forward and beyond. Can I say that this is a significant milestone, and we heard the Mayor talking about this, not just being for the community of Yarrabah but for all Aboriginal Australia. I think it really comes down to this community is leading the way. It has led the way for many years, but with this official transition today, this recognising and celebration today, we have seen yet another milestone Yarrabah has shown that it is leading the way right around the country. It makes me very proud to know that this service has done work in the past, and I have no doubt that it will be a health service that others will aspire to look at, a model they will follow, and we will see more and more community health going through into the Cape.”

Professor Gracelyn Smallwood

“Finally it’s starting to happen, but we got a long way to go. For 230 years non-Indigenous Australians have been making big mistakes on our behalf, we’ve got the answers to our community, it’s not rocket science. We now need research that’s going to empower our communities all around this country. We want deadly culturally appropriate programs from a bottom-up approach. Don’t put us all under the one umbrella, because only the community can deal with our healing and can deal with our programs. Everything I’m saying today I said 30 years ago. We talked about the empowerment of health workers; health workers on the communities. The key to our empowerment is our grassroots people and, most importantly, autonomy given to health workers, they are the key. There is a light at the end of the tunnel.”

Yarrabah



David Baird

“It is an important day today, that we should forgive be done on the ground of organisations and today to remember where Gurriny started going forward. The services and programs Gracelyn pointed out with our bubs and a good day today, w



celebrates!



an important milestone, a significant event that we should not take too lightly. As Gracelyn pointed out, there's a whole lot more work that needs to be done here with our community. One of my preferences is building the capacity of our families in our community. We should use where we come from. And there are a lot of people who have contributed to the developments along the way and to where Gurriny is today and next year is going to be pivotal for Gurriny in terms of how it delivers its services and make changes to the wellbeing and health of our people, especially as we look at, there's those statistics about the health we have, the problems we have with our mums and all the elders as well. It's about working together. It's a really good day to celebrate today but remember we got a lot more work to do."

MORE NEXT PAGE!



Yarrabah celebrates!



Les Baird

“When I got up this morning, my heart was prepared for Yarrabah because everything that we planned from 25 years ago, when Wendy and Auntie Violet and



Auntie Maisie and everybody who was in the health team, they did a survey in the community and they wanted to find out and ask the people, what was the problem. And the people said there was no doctors, they had no control over what was coming in and out of Yarrabah, services would come in, like we had health workers fly in and fly out. But today, when I came down here and looked at all the people and planning which has gone into this organisation. Today is such an amazing day. There's so many people that have given, my brother Kevin, my sister Selma, Auntie Valda and Charmaine, they also had input into these developments. It was not an easy job. We struggled not only internally within the community, we struggled externally with governments outside; it was a struggle. But it is a mighty blessing, you know because externally we have people who have followed our struggle here like Gracelyn. Those are people who knew what we were struggling for. Many times I felt like giving up and walking away, but today I'm so blessed to see so many young people working for Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service, taking control, and these young people are training, and they're becoming professionals in their field, and it's such a blessing to see that. Everybody in Yarrabah has contributed to what this is today.”

MC Elverina Johnson

“I'd just like to say a big congratulations to all of those people that paved the way to today, which is not just about community-control, this day the start of our self-determination, it's also the beginning of sovereignty within our community. This is only one of those milestones on our way to controlling our own affairs. So congratulations to everyone for coming together and making a great day today, there's been so much work that's gone into today and making it a great iconic day to celebrate. This

is something that will go down in the history books for future generations to make reference to when they continue on with the service. We also hope that the government will continue to hand over that control. Thank you all for a really good day.”



Diabetes Day 2014



Meet our Staff...



Kelsey Vandike HR Manager

Born: Geneseo, Illinois, USA

Why health? I want to make a positive impact on people's lives—what better way to do that than to help improve their health!

Weekends: Travel

Fave Music: Country

Favourite food: White Chocolate Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Amanda Hand Clinical Director

Born: Hobart Tasmania

Why health?

To help improve health systems and health outcomes in communities

Weekends: Spend time with my children

Fave Music: Dance, Jazz, Alternative

Fave Team: Detroit Lions – NFL American Football

COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

- What's next!
- The Patient's Journey
- Staff profiles and pics