



**GURRINY YEALAMUCKA**  
HEALTH SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

# Gurriny News

May 2017



## Remote and regional leadership thinking challenged in Indonesian context

Gurriny CEO Sue Andrews was one of 36 leaders from rural, regional and remote Australia who landed in Indonesia earlier this month to spend two weeks experiencing Java and Sumatra from a leadership development perspective.

The trip was part of the 15 month Australian Rural Leadership Program aimed at providing people with experiences to develop as leaders on a personal level, and within community, regional, national and international contexts. Program Facilitator Graham Smith said Indonesia was chosen for its unique capability to challenge thinking on leadership.

“The study tour will provide a very real leadership development experience for the Course participants,” he said.

“We thank the Australian Embassy in Indonesia and many Indonesian individuals and organisations, including Padjadjaran University for helping us develop this challenging international experiential session.”

Mrs Andrews said the course

had helped develop her leadership skills on several levels.

“This course enhanced my own leadership not only as CEO but also as a community leader,” she said.

“The experience has helped me build my confidence, public speaking ability and knowledge of leadership, especially in the context of developing leadership in rural and remote communities.”

# Delegates offer positive feedback

More than 50 conference delegates from the World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA) visited Gurriny as part of their participation in the 14th WONCA World Rural Health Conference held in Cairns from 29 April to 2 May.

The conference was hosted by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and attended by about 750 delegates from Australia and around the world attended, the majority of whom were family doctors. Business Development Research Manager Ruth Fagan said the delegates visited the museum, thanks to the Council, before splitting into two groups to have a look at the health services and talking about Gurriny's cultural orientation program.

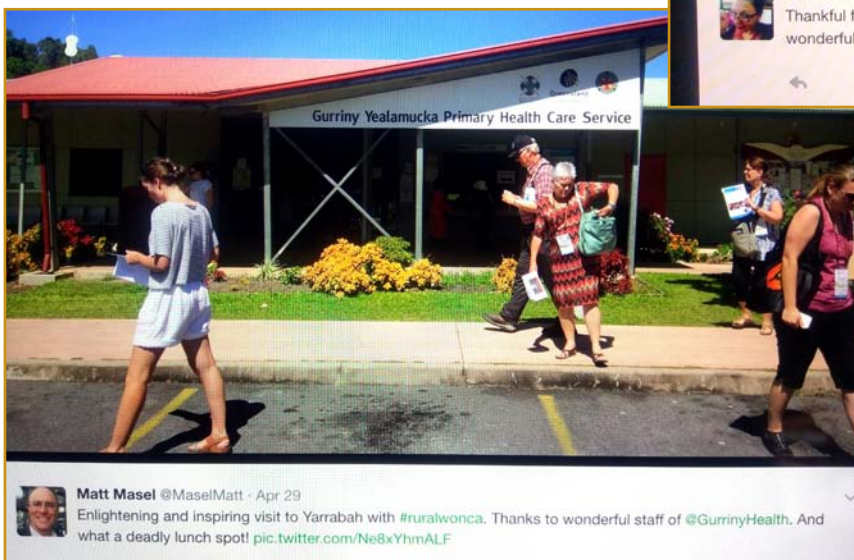
"Lucretia Willett and I took a group each, I spoke to them about our model of care, the types of programs we run and some of the health outcomes we've achieved," she said.

"Lucretia took them on a tour of the centre and spoke to them about the history of Yarrabah and Gurriny's journey.

"We've got a real lot of good feedback, so probably about ten people from the group left business cards and they've since connected up to Gurriny interested in just continuing either to support us.

"We've also had some interest from a group in Brisbane around mental health during perinatal care, so looking after pregnant mums who might be in need of some emotional wellbeing support.

"It was a great day for everyone concerned."



# 2016 Staff Awards

The recipients below were nominated by their peers and colleagues.

## Living the Vision - Tamar Patterson

The person whose approach and way of working on a daily basis is consistent with our community control philosophy.

## Team Player - Paul Neal

The person who works well with everyone and encourages others to work as a team; this person goes out of their way to make others feel comfortable and welcome in the team and the organisation, and is an inspiration to others around them

## Unsung Hero - Jannali Neal

The quiet achiever of your team who just gets it done in a quiet way; and just seems to work through the challenges that face them on a day-to-day basis and gets the job done.

## Innovation & Quality - Alicia Hari

The person who is always looking for better and more effective ways of doing their work; is constructive to others when it comes to improvements; has developed / initiated something new which has contributed to better ways of doing things.

## Dignity in Service Delivery - Nanette Sands

A member of staff who has shown they have gone the extra mile to ensure dignity and respect in any area of service delivery to our patients or community members of Yarrabah.

# Training routine includes hazardous handling

Staff Hazardous Material Training will be part of a regular training routine here at Gurriny, Compliance and Risk Coordinator Clay Mitchell writes.

We always need to be aware and ensure that some of the routine activities we undertake play such important roles in the quality and health of our services to both staff and client.

Thanks to Mark Howgate for his training presentation and work exercises, we are all now well prepared in the knowledge of what to do for the prevention and control of infection.



We all learnt how Infection control effects everyone, especially if we don't understand how infection can spread, how to correctly clean up and what equipment we have and how to use it.

Interactive learning was had by all, trying on the gowns and gloves and leaning the correct techniques required when cleaning up very realistic scenarios provided – who knew breakfast cereal could be used for this purpose and be nutritious at the same time!

Thanks to all for their active participation, we are all better prepared and confident to apply our skills to effectively manage our responsibilities to infection control.



# Celebrating 25





*years in style!*



# Making the right connections...

Filling in the gaps and making new service connections for people in need is the idea behind Gurriny's new Family Wellbeing Program Business Development Research Manager Ruth Fagan says.

"Its focus is on caring, giving support to families with children up to the age of 14 who are just needing some additional advice," she said.

"So there are three positions including a Social Worker and the program will be link into support programs, including counselling.

"To do this we have recently

advertised for two community-based workers and the social worker".

"The program will be integrated with all of our other programs, so if somebody is being seen by the social worker but they also need to be seen by the doctor this program will also help them to access those other services.

"It's about helping families so that they don't reach a crisis point where child safety might be involved.

Mrs Fagan said if anybody is interested in knowing more about how they can access the program contact is Melanie Walsh or any member of the Social & Emotional Wellbeing team.

## Support offered to girls with AFL aspirations



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*Gurriny is delivering a four month program to support young girls from Yarrabah to participate in sports.*

*It means girls aged between 7-11-years-old can attend two training sessions per week with Pyramid Power AFL Juniors in Gordonvale. The program aims to support girls to engage with their teammates and coaches, and enhance their social skills, physical capabilities and skills of playing AFL. Eight girls have signed up to be a part of this program, funded by the Australian Government through the Communities for Children program with Mission Australia.*



# Busy role keeping Gurriny on the move

With more than ten vehicles, including several buses, and dozens of staff and patients needing them on a day-to-day basis, new Transport and Facilities Manager Paul Munn is relishing the busy'ness of his new role.



As well as managing the organisation's transport, he is also responsible for making sure facilities around the buildings were safe and compliant. He said the constant shuffling and timetabling was important. "We do appreciate that it's sometimes the buses are full but it's really, really busy here," he said. "We will eventually come and get people, it's not that we've

forgotten about them, but it's because the demand. "Recently we have put on a second bus and an extra driver, and that's helping a lot." He said decisions made around transport were made with safety being the number one regard. "We have got extra drivers on now, but we're even finding things are speeding up all the time, which is a good thing, but we need to keep driver fatigue

and those sorts of things in mind. "Our visiting services days are our crazy days," he said. "When they have 25 clients, and a bus driver back and forth all day, picking up, dropping off. "And also, as part of delivering primary health care, is the access to the medicines and this can sometimes mean an additional stop at the Pharmacy. "We just want everyone to be safe, happy and patient."



## Had your flu shot yet?

Flu shots are being offered through our Clinics.

It is important we get as many people covered in the Yarrabah community to protect against the spread of the flu virus this year. If you have diabetes, heart disease, asthma/chest problems, kidney disease or smoke or drink alcohol you are at risk of getting the flu. It is important you come to clinic and get your flu shot. For more information about the flu and the flu shot contact our Registered Nurse, Deb Hunt, or call the clinic on 4226 4100.



# Staff Member Profile: Clay Mitchell



Compliance & Risk Coordinator  
Clay Mitchell was born in Brisbane but spent much of his life in the Port Douglas, Mossman and Daintree area, he says...

I've worked on Thursday Island and the Northern Peninsular Area of Cape York for many years. I ended up working in the wildlife industry at Hartley's Crocodile Farm for about six years, with particular interest in crocodile and cassowary management, developing and delivering education and related programs.

For many years I worked in the mining industry for drilling companies in remote South Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland conducting systems management and compliance in safety and training.

Most recently, I have been involved in safety systems development, process mapping and compliance within the shipping industry of Cairns working on naval vessels, white boats and with reef and shipping operators.

Drawing on my experiences over the years, I've always taken the best out of everything, so it's really great to be offered the opportunity to work with Gurriny and be involved as part of its development and the community. Everything is here – the people, the attitude, the common goal – it's all here.

My job as Compliance and Risk Coordinator is to work with the people and share my experiences towards the common goal of developing our practice as an industry leader to ensure accreditation and the safety of all that attend and work at Gurriny.

It's exciting to help Gurriny develop into something that's really going to benefit the actual practice and the community as a whole.

Don't forget to find us on Facebook



Or see our website at:  
<http://www.gyhsac.org.au/>

A screenshot of the Facebook page for Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service Aboriginal Corporation. The page header shows the organization's logo and name. Below the header is a photo of two women in a clinical setting; one is wearing a green high-visibility vest and the other is in an orange shirt. The page shows interaction buttons like 'Liked', 'Following', and 'Share'. A status update is visible with a 'Write something on this Page...' prompt. On the right, there is a 'Healthcare administrator in Yarrabah' badge with a 4.7 rating and a 'Community' section showing '327 people like this'.