

ORD VALLEY ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023



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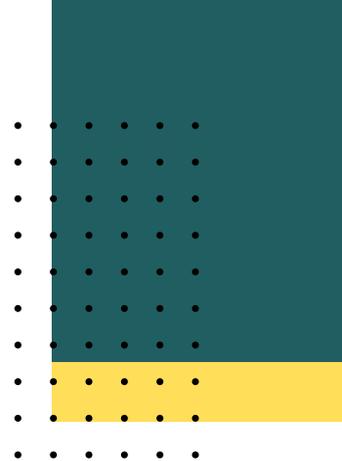


AHCWA

Aboriginal Health Council
of Western Australia



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The VISION that inspires us

Aboriginal people in Kununurra and the North-East Kimberley are supported to live prosperous lives that are strong, healthy, and culturally safe.

The PURPOSE that defines us

We bring clinical, cultural, and community expertise to deliver accessible and holistic health and wellbeing care for people in the North-East Kimberley.

The OBJECTIVES that describe us

Primary healthcare

- Physical health of individuals and families

Social and emotional wellbeing

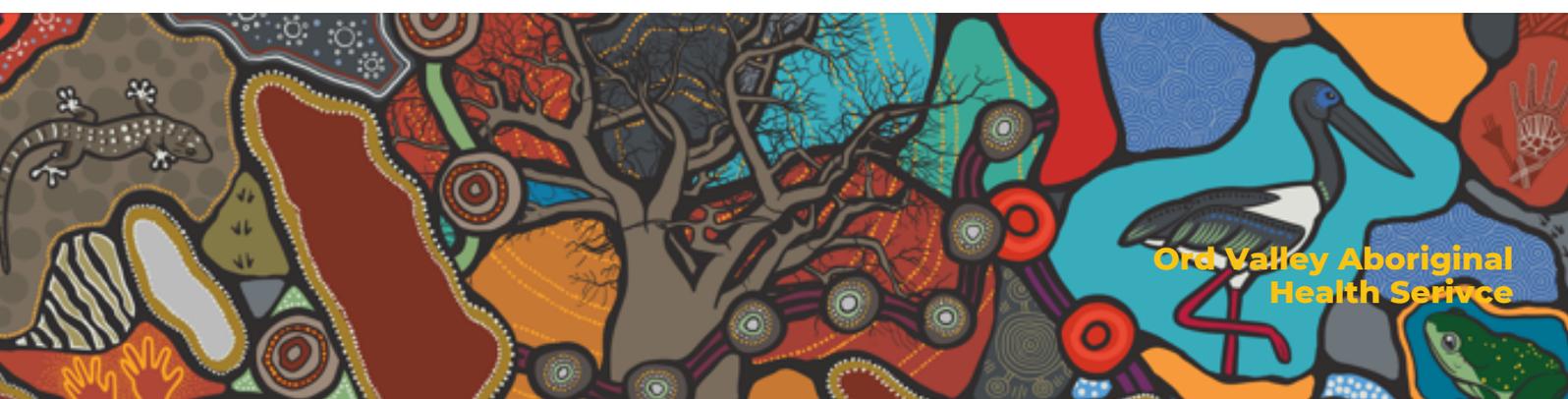
- Holistic spiritual, cultural, and emotional health

Specialised health

- Targeted, complex, and intensive healthcare

Population health

- Community health and health systems



MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jessie Cooke
Director



Mary Baird
Chairperson



Maxine Gore
Director



Elizabeth Cox
Director



Beverley Walley
Director



Ahmuth Bin Omar
Director



Lola Taylor
Director



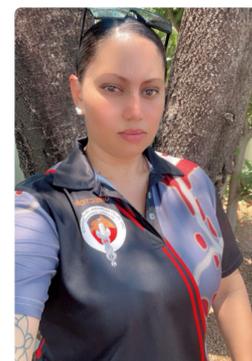
Shirleyann Wilson
Director



Desmond Hill
Director



Donald Chulung
Director



Candice Peart
Director

CHAIRPERSON REPORT



During our last AGM the members elected to fill all 12 positions of the board and voted in (7) new board members, Shirleyanne Wilson, Donald Chulung, Ahmuth Bin Omar, Candice Peart, Liz Cox Richard Wilson & me. Three (3) board members returned to complete their two-year term, Desmond Hill, Jessie Cooke and Maxine Gore and two (2) were renominated for a further term Beverley Walley and Lola Chulung.

My fellow board members then elected me to be their chairperson, I was honored to take on this role, learning about OVAHS, its challenges, and understanding how it all functions.

As part of our journey we participated in the strategic planning workshop in January with Nous followed by Governance training with Jackson McDonald Law firm who also assisted in the proposed changes to the rule book which you will be voting on today.

In March the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) hosted the annual Conference, where we got to meet and network with other Aboriginal Medical Services in WA. OVAHS supported three board members and five staff members to attend the conference over the course of four days. I strongly encourage staff members who want to attend to express their interest. It is such an educational event, I believe anyone that attends will take away something of value.

As a relatively new board, we felt we needed further understanding of Governance structure and needed more clarity. We then called upon Russell and Roz from Queensland who were very accommodating.

Throughout the year we faced challenges with staffing, performance, processes, and fleet management. We discovered issues that needed fixing as we continued on a day-to-day basis, we are addressing those issues as we went. With so many changes, it is likely OVAHS will undertake a full operational review in the next year.

Our CEO Sharon Benning took some extended leave in May and in June we also welcomed Kim Gates our current acting Chief Executive Officer. Kim has a wealth of knowledge and experience in this field. Welcome and Thank you for your efforts thus far.

Sharon has since resigned her position after 20 plus years of service, and I would like to personally thank Sharon for all the hard work and dedication you have put into the OVAHS. I wholeheartedly wish her the best in your future endeavors as she starts a new chapter.

OVAHS values its community partnerships. Throughout the year I have participated in the BBY Language and culture meetings, Joint decision-making process and participating with the early year's framework. OVAHS collaboration with BBY is key to working together, it has created a space to share knowledge and a place to network with other service providers in the community.

OVAHS has also joined with Wunan Headspace in a consortium to collectively support our community in addressing social and emotional wellbeing, mental health and other issues. The board got to meet the staff and tour the headspace building followed by a sit-down lunch.

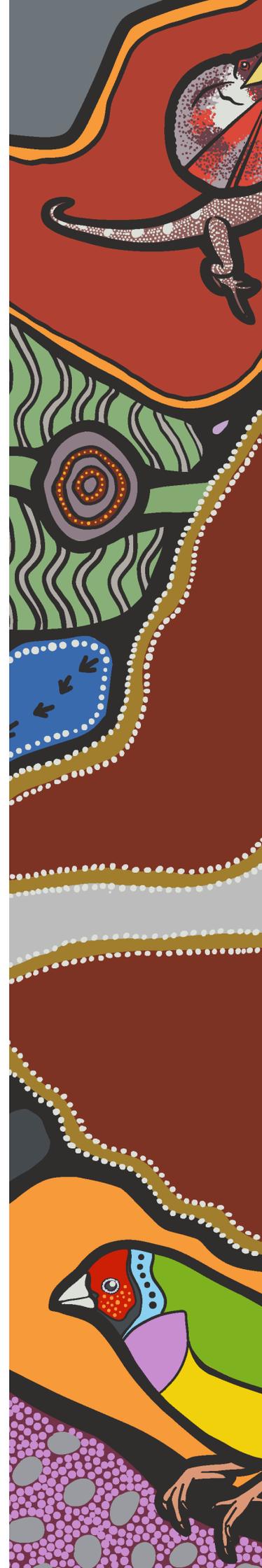
OVAHS continues to be a supporter of our East Kimberley College Senior School Awards Night , supporting our future students and show acknowledgement of their accomplishments.

It has been quite a journey; I would like to thank my fellow board members for your support and your difference in opinions. I believe having a difference in opinion is what helps extract the knowledge for the best outcome.

Enclosing once again, thank you to Sharon Benning and Kim Gates for your support during the year and to the staff at OVAHS, thank you for your patience and understanding.

I believe in supporting one another, working and growing together as one.

Chairperson





CEO Update

The OVAHS Board would like to thank Sharon Benning and acknowledge her contribution to OVAHS and wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Sharon has had a successful career spanning over 20 years with OVAHS, working in the areas of Medical Reception, Administration, Payroll / Bookkeeping, Office Management and more recently as the CEO.

Kim Gates has been seconded from the Aboriginal Health Council of WA to act as CEO until a recruitment process is finalised.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ORD VALLEY ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (ICN 275)

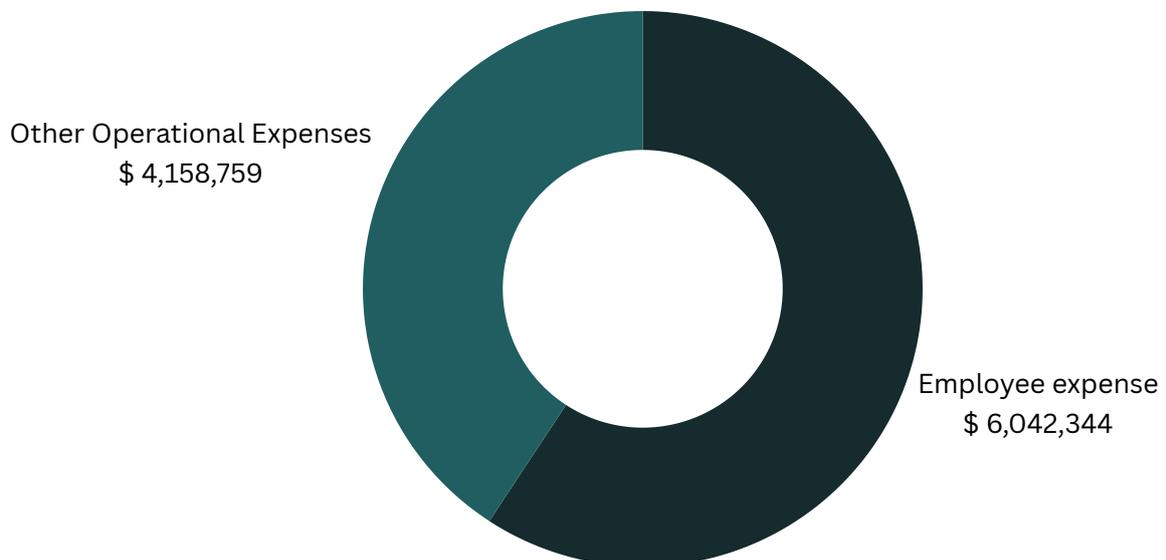
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023

Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service
Director's report for the Year Ended 30 June 2032

OVAHS recorded a loss of \$ 356,622 for the 2022-2023 financial year
Compared with a surplus of \$ 738,523 he previous year.

Operating Cost

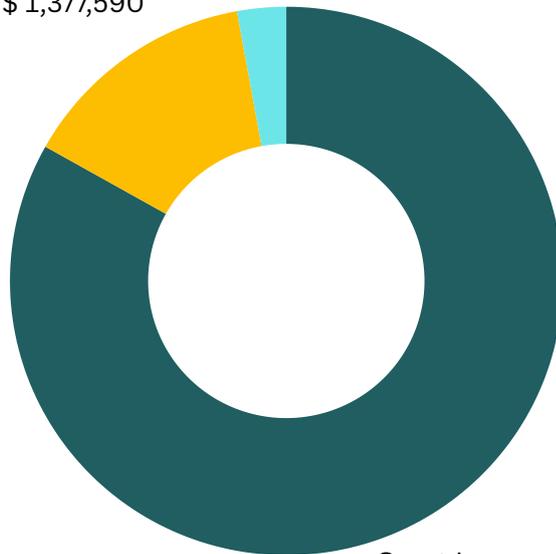
This is a result of increased operating costs.





Income Chart

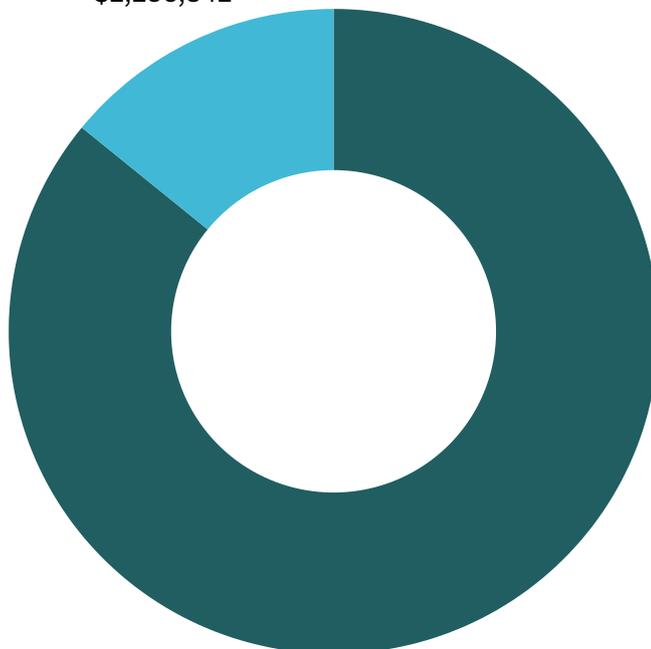
Medicare Income
\$ 1,377,590



Grant Income
\$ 8,185,310

Liabilities and Assets Chart

Total Liabilities
\$2,259,342



Total Assets
\$13,750,241

CORPORATE SERVICE REPORT



This summary report highlights key achievements, challenges, and initiatives related to our workforce and payroll.

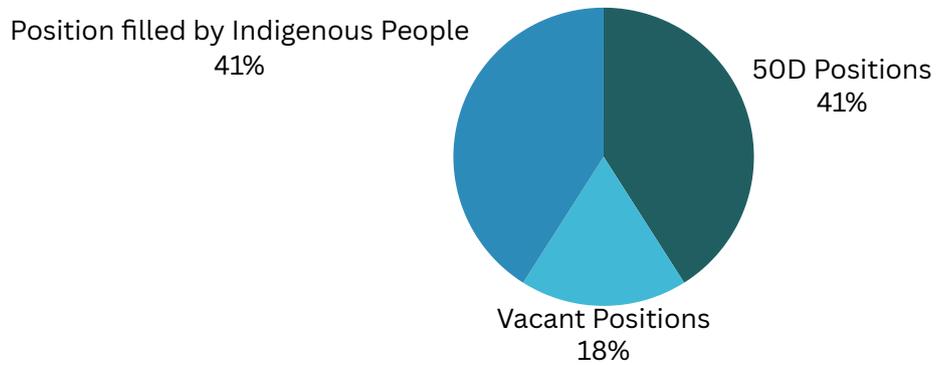
The Corporate Services team has played a pivotal role in supporting the well-being of our employees and the effective functioning of the organisation over the past year.

It has been a challenging year with significant changes to leadership, change management occurring across all departments, and balancing organisational growth and staff shortages whilst maintaining and enhancing cultural expertise, knowledge, and employment.

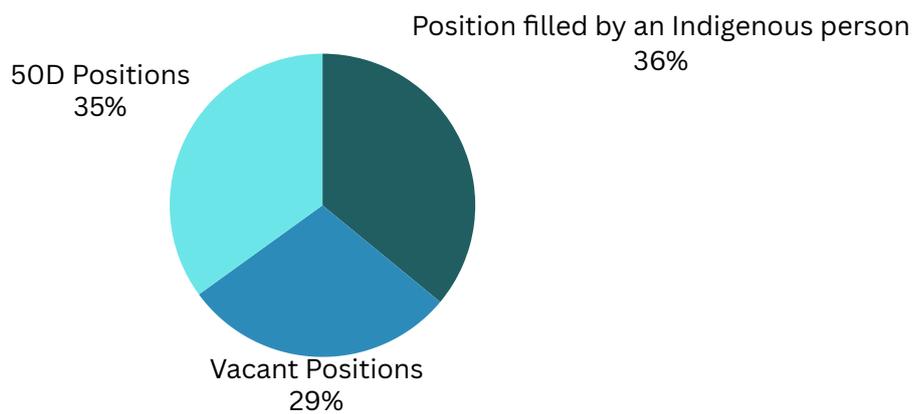
Workforce Overview

1.1 Total Employee number, workforce vacancies and 50D position

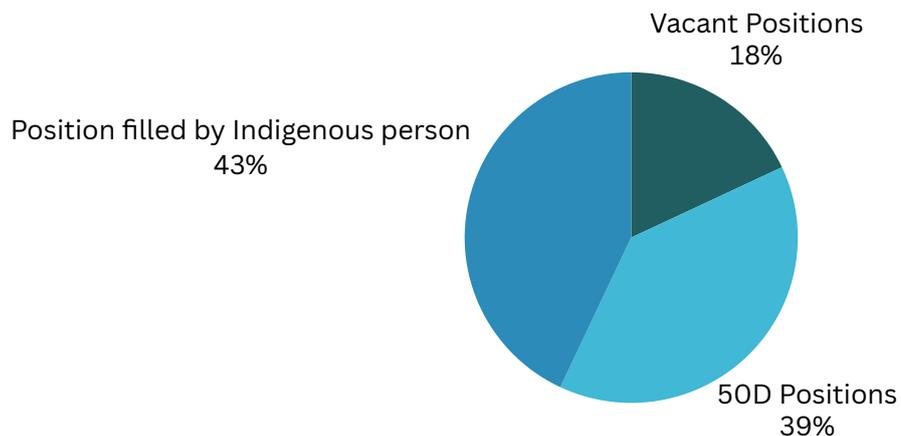
July 2022 Total Employees:50



January 2023 Total Employees:43



June 2023 Total Employees:48



1.2 Recruitment and Retention:

Like other East Kimberley organisations and businesses, a key challenge for OVAHS has been the recruitment and retention of staff. In January 2023, OVAHS experienced an increase in position vacancies and has since recovered to almost pre-2023 levels, by June 2023.

1.3 Training and Development:

Over the past year, OVAHS has supported staff and managers to undertake training and development in mental health, Aboriginal Health Worker training, WHS, payroll and taxation, and people and performance management.

Looking forward:

- OVAHS aims to develop mentoring and training programs to support career development and retention; including implementing strategies to enhance Indigenous recruitment and retention efforts.
- A focus on recruitment of Aboriginal Health Practitioners to fill clinical positions.
- Succession planning with a focus on Indigenous employee career progression.

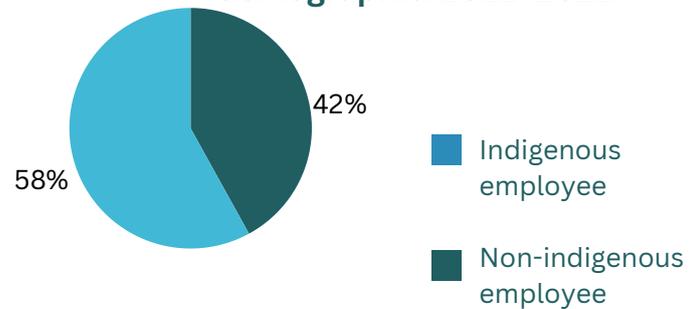
1.4 Health and Well-being:

OVAHS ensures that all staff have access to an external counselling service called an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), that is free to use and available 24/7. Staff utilise this service by organising appointments with our provider directly, so the service remains confidential and neutral. We encourage staff to access the EAP service anytime they wish to including for work or personal-related concerns.

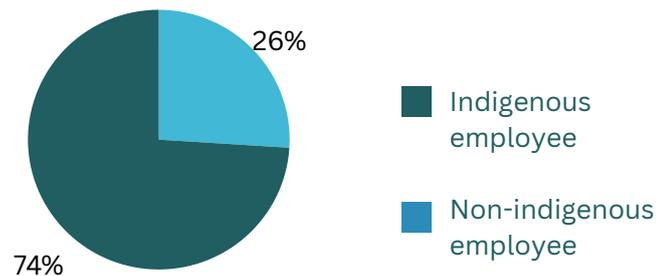
Looking forward:

- Development of a Cultural Safety Framework developed and led by Aboriginal staff that will support the organisation to explore opportunities for:
 - o enhancing cultural safety in the workplace,
 - o cultural sensitivity and awareness training for staff,
 - o leadership opportunities for Indigenous staff to nurture future leaders within OVAHS.
- Development of a Strategic Human Resources and Workforce Plan to ensure the organisation is adequately staffed, employees are supported, and succession planning is occurring.

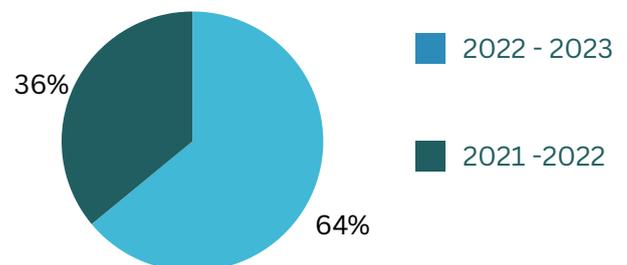
Staff turnover by demographic: 2021 -2022:



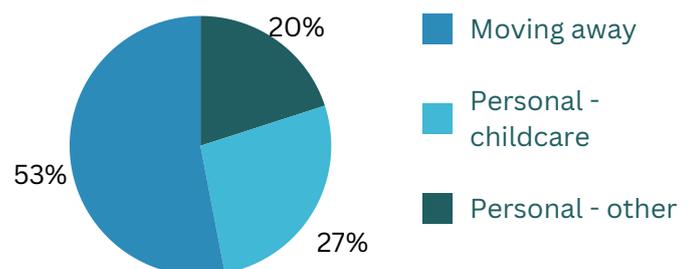
Staff turnover by demographic: 2022 -2023:



Turnover - all staff



Top 3 Reason for resigning: 2022 - 2023



Workplace Culture

OVAHS aims to foster a culture of respect, diversity, and inclusion.

Incorporating people and behavioural skills, cultural awareness, commitment and workplace integrity into performance appraisals and work plans.

Looking forward:

- Celebrating cultural events and traditions within the workplace and celebrating staff achievements and contributions.
- Rewarding staff who go above and beyond via recognition program – Employee of the Month and Shoutabiz.

Indigenous Engagement

Collaborated with local Indigenous communities to strengthen ties and support community development initiatives such as the Wunan Carer expo, East Kimberley College/Clontarf career expo, and other events.

Payroll

Employee Compensation and turnover:

- Total 22-23 payroll: \$5,726,543.05

Compliance, Taxation and financial transparency:

- Covered in the Auditors report.

Challenges:

- Adapting to changes in taxation regulations and compliance requirements.
- Managing payroll for a growing workforce and updating processes to ensure best practices.
- Ensuring the accuracy of payroll data in remote work scenarios.

Future initiatives:

- Invest in payroll software and technology for enhanced efficiency and accuracy.

Conclusion

We remain dedicated to our mission and will continue to adapt to the evolving needs of our workforce and communities.

Operation and Risk Report

I am pleased to present the AGM report for the Operations and Infrastructure year 2023.

The report has been prepared in accordance with OVAHS AGM policy guidelines includes the organisation of infrastructure improvement, funding budget, and annual performance activities. The past year has been another period of significant achievements and challenges particular for staff housing.

Infrastructure Improvement Sustainability Target 2023

As in previous years, I would like to recognise the large amount of funding invested in OVAHS infrastructure improvement. OVAHS has had many capital improvements we progressed a range of projects to ensure we attract and retain the best people and effectively support them in their roles. This work is underpinned by our new Strategic and Operation Plan 2023 and continued implementation of our values.

Grant funding is necessary for OVAHS expansion and improvement of services and living conditions for staff. Good infrastructure is key to OVAHS' workforce retention and productivity. In order to maintain upkeeping the standards service facilities, OVAHS constantly seek funding improvements through capital and service maintenance program where available. Upon succesfful, dependent on each time funding amount grant, we use this limited funding allocate and split to their budget portion % to each sectors we aim to improve such as Climate Change Plan 20%, WHS 40%, Accessibility 40% to the best possible over the years. Below are the funding allocation highlights as part of FY22/23:

Funding Allocation Highlights

Climate Change Plan

20%

Solar Panel
Security Solar Lighting
Bore Water System
Reticulation System
Emergency LED Lights
New Paint - Heat Resistance

Work Health and Safety

40%

CCTV
AMPAC FIRE PANEL ALARM
RCD UPGRADE
SMOKE DETECTOR
SECURITY ALARM PANEL
KITCHEN RANGEHOOD
NEW AIRCONS

Accessibility

40%

Garrison Fencing
Double Gates Upgraded
Security Car Cage
Auto Sliding Doors
Termite Barriers
Fire Escape Admin Stairway
Bathroom/ Toilet Suit

Housing Improvement

This FY22/23 we were able to secure IAHP funding of \$970,000 GST excl to purchase 2 additional staff houses.



Future Directions

In spite of all the successes mentioned in last year's AGM report, there are also some lessons learnt. Lack of funding remains a major factor for infrastructure improvement.

Staff housing remains one of the biggest issues for OVAHS. With the roll out of new funding it is important that we have the infrastructure to recruit suitable staff to Kununurra.

We will continue to seek funding to increase our current housing stock and to maintain our current stock in good condition.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of and thank Brendan Smith, Maintenance Worker who works tire-lessly to contribute to OVAHS infrastructure and improvement.

IT Infrastructure Improvement

With the proposal and support of KAMS , OVAHS is looking to have a better unified communication system to be installed late 2023. The new phone system replace with existing Panasonic which enables OVAHS.

The new phone system have the following benefits:

- A fully featured cloud-based platform with high availability (99.99%) that can easily be configured for OVAHS business continuity scenarios (cyclones)
- A solution that allows end-users to communicate on their device of choice (handset/laptop/mobile phone).
- A solution that can be easily and quickly managed centrally across all sites.
- A solution that reduced the need for onsite hardware thereby reducing points of failure and costly maintenance repairs.
- A solution that can be deployed in stages across sites (KAMS ICT)

Risk, Safety and Security

OVAHS operates in an environment where the safety and security of our staff is sometimes at risk. OVAHS has a strong risk management process which is reviewed regularly to mitigate those risks. There are some incidents that OVAHS has been identified, assessed, and controlled these hazards before they arise for improvements. Example of Incidents such as improving of INC_425_hazards management by relocating hand sanitizer from the waiting room to safer appropriated area to avoid being taken by patient. Another ex-ample of incident's INC_427_patient being flighting at OVAHS ground exit gate were identified by the SMT, the situation was assessed and controlled immediately by deescalating the situation and recovered the incident. Injured patients were offered medical attention while others were taken home.

Compliance and Regulatory Change

OVAHS is committed to full compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, standards, codes, licensing, contractual obligations to which it is met over the year FY22/23. Compliance risk register are reviewed periodically by SMT through their respective clinical, medications, client / staff safety, finance and WHS to enable OVAHS to meet their compliance obligations, enhance stakeholders, service provider, community and staff protection.



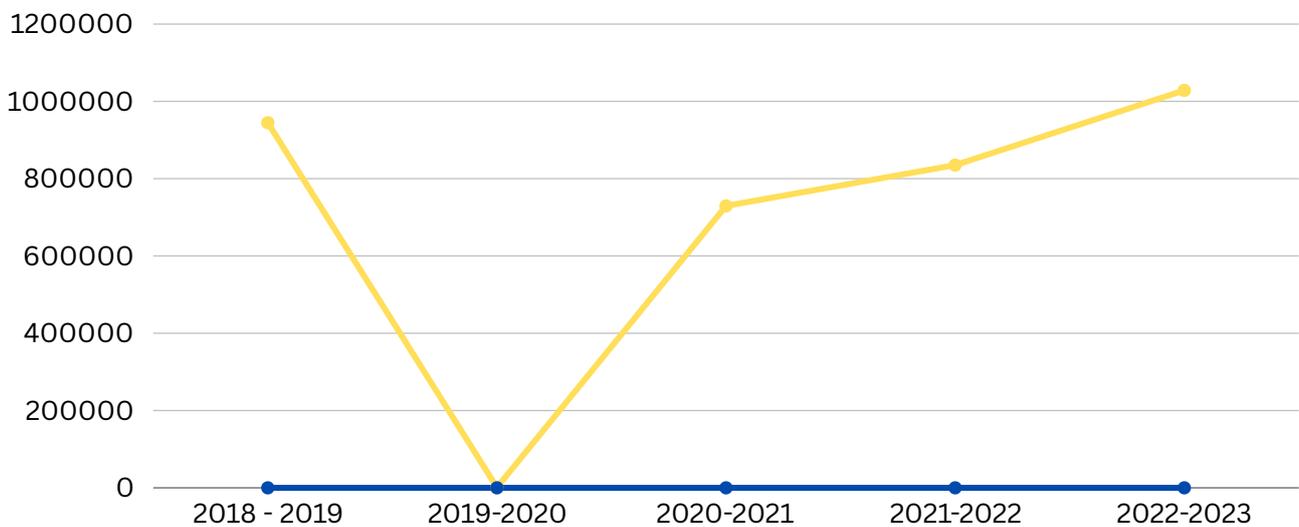
Clinic Report

Number of Clients: 3332	Medicare Income: \$1,028,377.00
Episodes of Care: 26 278	Health Check Completed 582
Number of staff member 53	

It has been a busy and challenging year for the clinic. Despite this, the OVAHS clinic has continued to perform at, or above state and national targets set by our funders.

After a reduction in Medicare income at the start of the COVID outbreak, our Medicare income has increased year on year over the past 3 years and the 2022 -2023 financial year has been the first time OVAHS has broken the \$1 million mark for Medicare Income.

Medicare Income



This year has seen several long-term and well-established clinic staff leave for new adventures and we have had some fantastic new additions to the team. We still have a long way to go with recruiting until we are again running at full capacity. The staff that remain have done a commendable job. Not only have they continued their own work at a high standard, but they are also covering other roles while they wait to be filled.

Health Check

The OVAHS clinic continues to recognize the importance of 715 health checks in improving the well being of the Aboriginal people in Kununurra and surrounds. Our clinic staff have endeavored to offer all clients visiting the clinic a health check. Outreach to provide health checks to stakeholders such as Clontaff Academy, Girls Academy, Alta One, local sporting groups and outlying communities, has been conducted to facilitate access to our service.

Unfortunately, we have seen a decline in the number of health checks that we were able to offer in the past year due to low staffing numbers and a unfilled vacancies. Since 2020 the COVID-19 outbreak also impacted the number of health checks that was completed as clearly seen in the graph below.



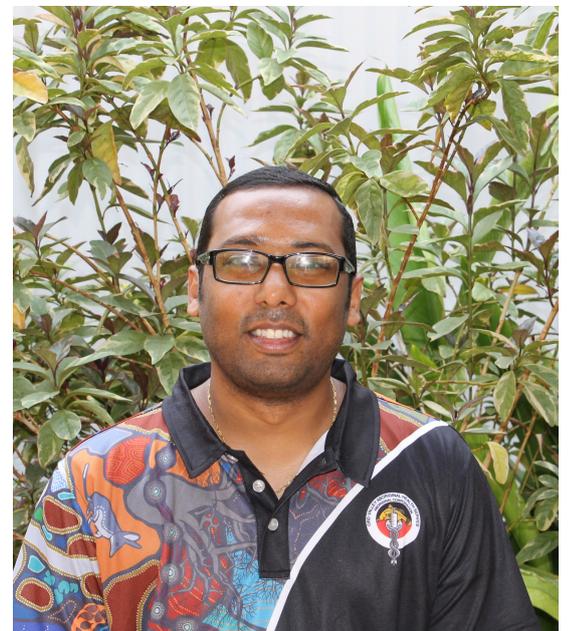
Immunisation

There has been an increase of 100% in the number of Influenza vaccinations delivered by the clinic to the community in this period. 1087 Influenza vaccinations have been administered over the past year year. The clinic has also continued to provide COVID-19 vaccinations and testing despite the closure of our GP Respiratory Clinic earlier in the year.

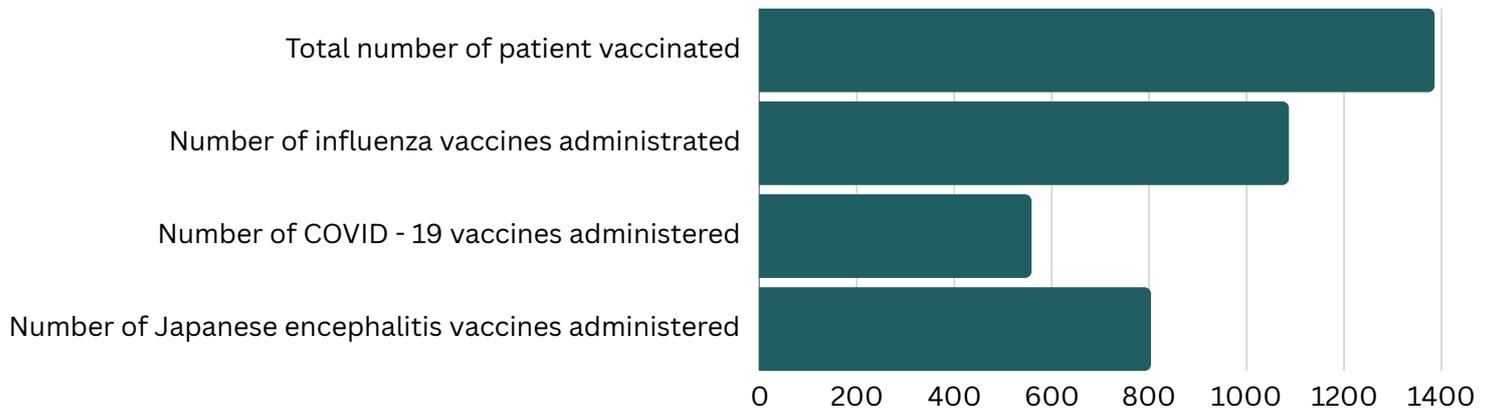
Two new positions have been created to ensure our vaccination rates remain high. These are our new Immunisation Nurse, and our Vaccination Health Promotion Officer.

Their job will be to ensure that all clients visiting OVAHS are offered recommended vaccines, and education is delivered to the community relating to these recommended vaccinations.

OVAHS has been commended for our response to the Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) detections by the Kimberley Population Health Unit. Through community and targeted education and a vaccination rollout, which included outreach to all our outlying communities, over 250 vaccines were administered in the first 2 weeks following the initial detection.



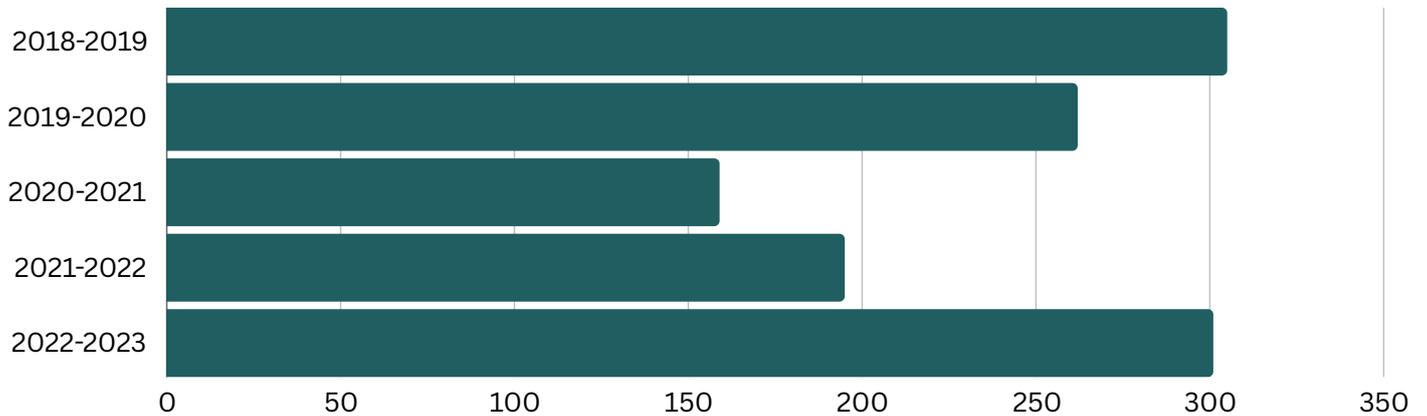
Sajo Prasad
Registered Nurse - Immunisation



Chronic Disease

Our clients have a large burden of chronic disease, making chronic disease management large part of what we do in the clinic. As with all services, chronic disease management was affected by COVID-19, as reflected in the number of GP Management Plans completed during the year.

This past year we were able to increase the number of GPMPs completed to pre-COVID numbers.



The clinic has been very fortunate over the past 12 months to have our Chronic Disease Nurse. Unfortunately, this Nurse has now moved on and we are in the process for recruiting a new Nurse/AHP to this position. One of our wonderful AHPS is looking after our Integrated Chronic Disease Care program clients in the meantime. Key performance indicators (NKPIs) are used to track our performance against our previous results and against other general practices in WA and nationwide. Below is a snapshot of our NKPIs for managing patients with diabetes:



AGPAL Accreditation 2023



Child and Maternal Health

Our Midwife has had an extremely busy year with no less than 30 – 40 pregnant ladies at any time. OVAHS has purchased an ultrasound machine which, once delivered and training completed, will enable pregnant ladies to have growth and wellbeing scans at OVAHS as part of their antenatal visits.

The Child Health area has had a revamp with new colourful wall mounted children's toys and a fresh coat of paint making it look the best it ever has been. Our amazing team of Child Health Nurses have done an incredible job with the kids and have worked closely with the visiting Paediatrician to provide more clinics. This year we have said farewell to two Child Health Nurses but have welcomed a new addition to the team. We are currently recruiting for another Nurse and a driver to complete our team.

Rheumatic Heart Disease

The OVAHS RHD Nurse has done a great job in managing our Rheumatic Heart Disease clients this year. Unfortunately, she will be leaving us shortly and we will begin recruiting for this role. On the bright side, we now have a Rheumatic Heart Disease Health Promotion Officer, joining the team.

We are very excited to let you know that OVAHS has bought an ultrasound machine capable of performing cardiac echocardiograms. This means we can check for damage caused by RHD in clients here at the clinic at any time with no need to travel or wait for the visiting sonographer.



The Kimberley Remote Outreach Clinic

In August we said goodbye to our Remote Outreach Nurse. Our Outreach Nurse has done an amazing job over the last 3 years, and I am sure she will be missed by our clients out in the communities. We are currently recruiting to fill this role and get the outreach visits back up and running.

The Kimberley Remote Outreach Clinic truck (KROC) will be getting a face lift when it goes to Darwin to get the new OVAHS branding, and logos put on. Keep an eye out for it, it's going to look fantastic.





Sexual Health

Our Sexual Health Nurse has been flat out testing and treating in the past year. He has done a great job delivering education to clients and children at the schools and ensuring the community has a constant supply of condoms. Tim has moved back to Queensland last month and again we are recruiting to fill this role.

Pharmacy

We have recruited our new Aboriginal Medication Support Officer to join our team in the pharmacy. Our new recruit has proven to be a valuable new asset to our team. Our new AMSO has started her training and we are expecting great things from her.

Juniper

OVAHS clients who are residents in Juniper or who attend Juniper Community Service are managed by outreach visits to Juniper by our Nurse Practitioner, with support from our SMO. She ensures that all clients have regular reviews and are up to date with their immunisations and check-ups.

Retinal screening

All diabetic patients should have regular retinal screening, which is a special photo that is taken of the eye to detect damage caused by diabetes.

Our retinal screening numbers were negatively affected by COVID-19, but this year OVAHS collaborated with WACHS optometrist to improve our screening numbers and ensure all diabetics are offered this important test.

Cancer screening

Cancer screening is an important part of preventative health. Due to the poor uptake of the National Bowel Cancer screening program in our region, we have created our own bowel screening kit in conjunction with KAMS, so that OVAHS clients do not miss out on the opportunity for early detection of bowel cancer. We continue to encourage cervical cancer screening, and this can now be done on a self-collected swab for most ladies.

GP Respiratory clinic (GPRC) and COVID-19:

During the COVID outbreak OVAHS had the GPRC for consulting with and managing patients with respiratory symptoms. The GPRC closed at the end of February 2023, and patients with respiratory symptoms are now managed in the main clinic as before. We are still able to do a point of care test in the clinic which takes about 1 hour to complete and can now detect flu and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) as well.

While COVID support was available through a national telephone service, this was not appropriate for our clients, and OVAHS elected to manage and support our own patients during the pandemic. We managed 248 COVID positive patients through our COVID Care pathway.



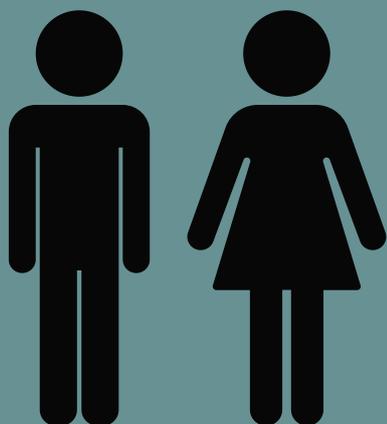
Medical Reception and Record Service

Medical Reception team includes Medical Reception Manager, Medicare Clerk, Receptionist and Field Officers. They are the first point of contact when clients access OVAHS services. They pride themselves as being a culturally safe and non-threatening point of contact whether this is when being picked up by the field officers or presenting to medical reception in person or by phone.

The entire team has responsibility for ensuring our revenue is accurate. OVAHS Medical Clerk Lillian and Medical Reception Robin check MBS items are correct before claiming Medicare. Lillian looks up expired Medicare numbers and updates them as required. Juita is responsible for the PIP Incentive payment for clients with Chronic disease. Our Medicare revenue in 2022/2023 was the highest it has ever been.

The past year was challenging due to lack of staff in reception at times, with field officers maintaining client priority in delivering clients to and from OVAHS, Hospital, Coolibah Centre and specialist appointments as directed. They also deliver recall letters, medication and OVAHS DAA Webster Packs.

Transport Stats July – June



Male: 2068

Female: 4123



Child/Infant
2277

HEALTH PROGRAM REPORT

Health Programs are the Community Face of OVAHS, focused on prevention, education, awareness & early identification. Our various health programs, A Better Life Program (ABLE Program), Healthy Mums Strong Bubs Program (FASD Program) and the Tackling Indigenous Smoking & Vape Program (TIS) have provided a variety of culturally safe community based educational activities and events throughout the year to the local community.

OVAHS Health Programs are continuously working towards achieving the sustainable development goals, inclusive of good health & wellbeing, reduced inequalities, promoting advocacy & working in partnership whenever possible with many local East Kimberley stakeholders such as;

- Garnduwa,
- East Kimberley College
- Shooting Stars Girls Program,
- Clontarf Boys Program,
- Western Australian Police,
- Binarrri-binyja yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation
- Department of Communities,
- Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation Wyndham,
- MG Aboriginal Corporation,
- Horizon Power,
- Aboriginal Families As First Educators,
- CathEd Primary School,
- Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation,
- Alta-1 Private College,
- Stepping Stones,
- Wunan Foundation,
- One Tree Services Day Care Services,
- East Kimberley Job Pathways,
- 54 Reasons (formerly Save the Children),
- PCYC Kununurra,
- Kimberley Stolen Generation,
- National Disability Insurance Scheme,
- Gawooleng Yawoodeng Aboriginal Corporation,
- Kununurra Neighbourhood House,
- Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- Headspace



Jenni Rogers
Health Program Manager



A Better Life (ABLE)

A Better Life (ABLE) program has had another successful year, providing counseling and therapy for mental health issues; assistance and support to access Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation; support and advocacy with practical issues such as housing, legal issues, payment of bills &/or service negotiation; providing patient transport to a disadvantage client and group education sessions at the Rehabilitation Centre in Wyndham.

The ABLe Program consists of 1 qualified Senior Social Worker and 1 Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer. The ABLe team had 56 active clients as of June 2023 and the two positions provide excellent support to large numbers of people living in the Kununurra area.

ABLE Program distributed Emergency Relief to their active clients and participants entering rehab. Participants were gifted with goods such as dry food goods, baby products, baby formula, baby food, blankets, sheet sets, pillows, suitcases, fishing chairs, fishing lines & tackle, gift vouchers from Coles and Meat Vouchers from Tenderspot Butchers.

The month of March was extremely busy with the number of individual clients counselled totalled 15; Ninety (90) recorded occasions of service; five (5) new referrals to program; Eight (8) ABLe Referrals to 7 Mile Rehab and eight (8) clients accepted to 7 Mile Rehab.

April was just as hectic with the number of individual clients counselled totalling twelve (12); number of occasions of service totalled seventy (70); number of new referrals to program totalled six (6) and referrals to 7 Mile Rehab from ABLe in April totalled 4.

The ABLe Program Indigenous Community Liaison Officer started his upskilling journey and was accepted into the Certificate IV in Mental Health (Course Code CHC43315) studies at Broome's School of Health Studies at KAMS.



Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS)

From July 2022 to June 2023, the Tackling Indigenous Smoking educator provided education and support for smoking cessation through yarning groups, community groups and community events.

TIS program maintained strong relationships with other service providers to provide both education and support to facilitate 'smoke free' workplaces and homes.

The TIS team are regular attenders at the East Kimberley College and support the Shooting Stars, Clontarf and KALS program with cessation education for the whole year been delivered on a fortnightly basis.

Within the period of July 2022 to June 2023 TIS completed:

- 28 Community education sessions around the harms of smoking tobacco and vaping.
- Participated in 12 Community Events (Kununurra, Halls Creek & Wyndham)
- 14 Social Media posts around harms of smoking and vaping
- Completed two (2) internal audits on Smoking in the Workplace



Raphael Sampi
Tackling Indigenous Smoking Educator

Jaxon Cooper
Tackling Indigenous Smoking Educator

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY TIS COLOUR RUN 31st May, 2023

Tackling Indigenous Smoking
hosted World No Tobacco Day
2023 Colour Run Event at the
Town Oval.



Ord Valley Aboriginal
Health Service

Healthy Mums Strong Bubs (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder)

Strong Mum's Healthy Bub's (FASD) program continues to be active in the community and works tirelessly to reinforce the messaging of 'No Grog for 9', educating the community on the harmful and detrimental impacts of alcohol consumption in pregnancy is a vital component of working towards ensuring the health and development of the next generation.

FASD Program collaborated with many local services to participate in all the annual events such as NAIDOC Week, NAIDOC Week events at OVAHS, NAIDOC Community Day at White Gum Park, the Domestic Violence Football Round, Careers Weeks at the Leisure Centre and Youth Week at the Youth Centre with PCYC among many other events this year.

The FASD Team provide one on one and group education to antenates, groups and service providers to ensure healthy and happy pregnancies resulting in healthy babies. Pregnant mothers need access to contraception post birth and are a priority for our team.

In addition, the ladies provide education around FASD and the effects of alcohol on the unborn child to various forums and community groups like the Strong Women's Group run out of the Women's Crisis Centre.

Between July 2022 and July 2023 the FASD Program had:

- 72 one on one education sessions with antenates
- 64 community group education sessions performed
- 12 Health Promotion Community Events were attended or organised
- 60% of clients indicated an improved knowledge of FASD after an education session



Car donated to FASD Program for Youth Week activities - car on display permanently at Knx Speedway grounds.





SEWB AND DISABILITY SERVICE

The OVAHS NDIS team continues its unwavering commitment to providing support coordination services to the Kununurra community. Presently, OVAHS is assisting 25 clients.

In August 2022, OVAHS successfully underwent a registration audit for the NDIS, and we are delighted to share that our NDIS component met all audit requirements without any non-conformities. This achievement is a significant milestone for our team, especially considering consider that the audit was challenging, demanding a substantial amount of effort and meticulous paperwork.

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25%

NDIS Participants



17

Participants were supported to access NDIS

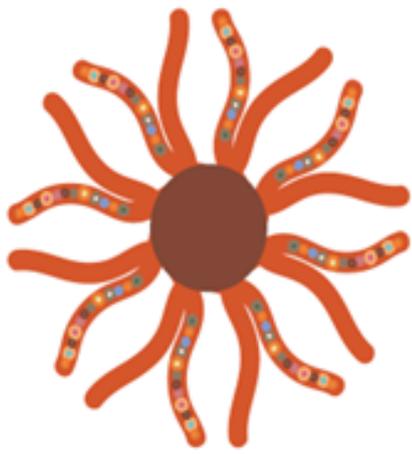
Information Linkages Capacity Building Program (ILCB)

Since its inception in July 2021, the ILCB has expanded its reach into the community, establishing various group activities for individuals and families impacted by disability. The program offers a range of activities including art therapy, fishing on country, a food and wellness program, a yarnning group, and Carpool Karaoke. The response from consumers has been overwhelmingly positive, with participants embracing the opportunity to socialize and build their capacity within the community.

Our food and wellness initiative, coupled with on-country excursions and driving programs, has garnered notable interest and engagement among our participants. The driving program, initiated based on participant requests, has been particularly well-received, with participants enjoying the fun of 'Carpool Karaoke.'

During this reporting period, we extended the food and wellness program by actively involving participants in preparing shopping lists and venturing into supermarkets. This proved to be transformative on multiple fronts. For participants with disabilities, navigating supermarket aisles, identifying ingredients, and making selections instilled a profound sense of autonomy, decision-making skills, organizational abilities, and heightened self-confidence.





OVAHS

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Social Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Program

The SEWB program remains committed to enhancing the social and emotional well-being of our communities. It provides therapeutic and educational programs, including group and individual counseling sessions, offering a safe, confidential, and supportive space for open discussions of personal thoughts, feelings, and concerns.

The standout achievement of the year for SEWB has undoubtedly been the successful execution of "Storyteller," a short film project generously funded by the Mental Health Commission. This remarkable initiative yielded a range of significant outcomes, with a primary focus on enhancing awareness and comprehension of SEWB issues and the impact of Alcohol and other drugs within the community.

A notable achievement of the project was the establishment of an inclusive platform for young individuals, enabling them to showcase their artistic talents. This initiative not only encouraged creative expression but also enhanced their awareness of SEWB and the effects of alcohol consumption.

The participants' evident engagement and enthusiasm throughout the project underscored its distinctive and meaningful character. Consequently, the "Breaking the Silence" short film, encapsulating the project's essence, will be presented at the esteemed Aboriginal Health Conference in November. This presentation holds the potential to amplify the project's influence by sharing its success story and fostering increased awareness of SEWB among indigenous communities.



OVAHS 2023 Gallery



Our 3 wonderful staff who won awards at the 2022-2023 AHCWA Health Conference Awards.
Anne Clarke: Young Achiever of the Year Award
Dr. Luke Davis: Contribution by an ACCHS Employee
Jane Angliss: Contribution by an ACCHS Employee



Juita and Eve were our outstanding employee of the month for February 2023



OVAHS Fire Warden (Emergency Reaction Control Team – ERCT) and Tim Phillip, our KAMS OSH, for delivering top-notch Fire Prevention/Emergency Response training at OVAHS on Wed 01/03 and Fire Warden refresher training at NDIS.

A big thank you to Craig, Ceara & the Revive Team for the kind donations of gorgeous baby clothes to our pregnant mums participating in our Healthy Mums Strong Bubs Program



Garnduwa's Young Mens Day was held in Kununurra

Maxine, Aileen and Mandy supported the Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service - OVAHS Yarning Group



Kimberley-wide - Kimberley Tackling Indigenous Smoking Team!



GET IN TOUCH



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