



Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service: Strategic Plan 2023-26

Healthy, strong, and culturally
connected North-East Kimberley





Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands in which we deliver services, the Miriwoong Gajerrong people.

We pay our respect to Elders past present and emerging, and celebrate their continued connection to lands, waters, culture, law and language.

We extend our admiration to all First Nations people, including Aboriginal communities from neighbouring lands.

We serve our communities to promote the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in Kununurra and surrounds

Aboriginal communities around Kununurra have rich cultures with deep connections to Country

Kununurra and its surrounding regions have been home to Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years, and the North-East Kimberley region continues to play an important role in the lives of people, community, and country. Maintaining physical, emotional, and spiritual health has been central to our communities for hundreds of generations.

OVAHS upholds a tradition of supporting communities to live healthy, safe, and secure lives in Kununurra and its surrounds

The Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service (OVAHS) was first established in Kununurra as the East Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service (EKAMS) and has provided critical health and support services to local Aboriginal people since 1984. OVAHS incorporates cultural understanding and local knowledge in providing accessible healthcare to promote equitable health and wellbeing outcomes.

We promote health equity by supporting individual, family, and community health to help Close the Gap

OVAHS supports Aboriginal communities in the North-East Kimberley in overcoming challenges in accessing timely and culturally appropriate health care services. OVAHS' ambition is to deliver socially, culturally, and financially accessible health care that supports communities in the North-East Kimberley to be strong, healthy, and safe.

We are Aboriginal community-led, and are supported by community leaders to deliver culturally-safe healthcare

We are connected and accountable to the communities we serve. We are governed by Aboriginal community leaders. We deliver services in culturally safe ways, bringing the best of medical and cultural expertise to achieve positive health outcomes. Working with and responding to Aboriginal communities is central to what we do.

Based in Kununurra, we are connected with many communities across the North-East Kimberley and beyond

As a member of the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Service (KAMS), OVAHS operates in the far North-East Kimberley region. While the heart of our service is Kununurra, we deliver outreach and visiting services broadly across the North-East Kimberley and, through our partnership with KAMS, are involved in improving health care for Aboriginal people across the Kimberley.



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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

The CAPABILITIES that enable us

Workforce and culture

Our supportive teams of skilled people

Partnerships and relationships

The network of partners that we work and collaborate with

Resources and sustainability

The future-planning and efficiency of our work

Community and governance

Our integrity and connection to our communities

The VALUES that guide us

Community

We bring our connection with community to everything we do

Respect

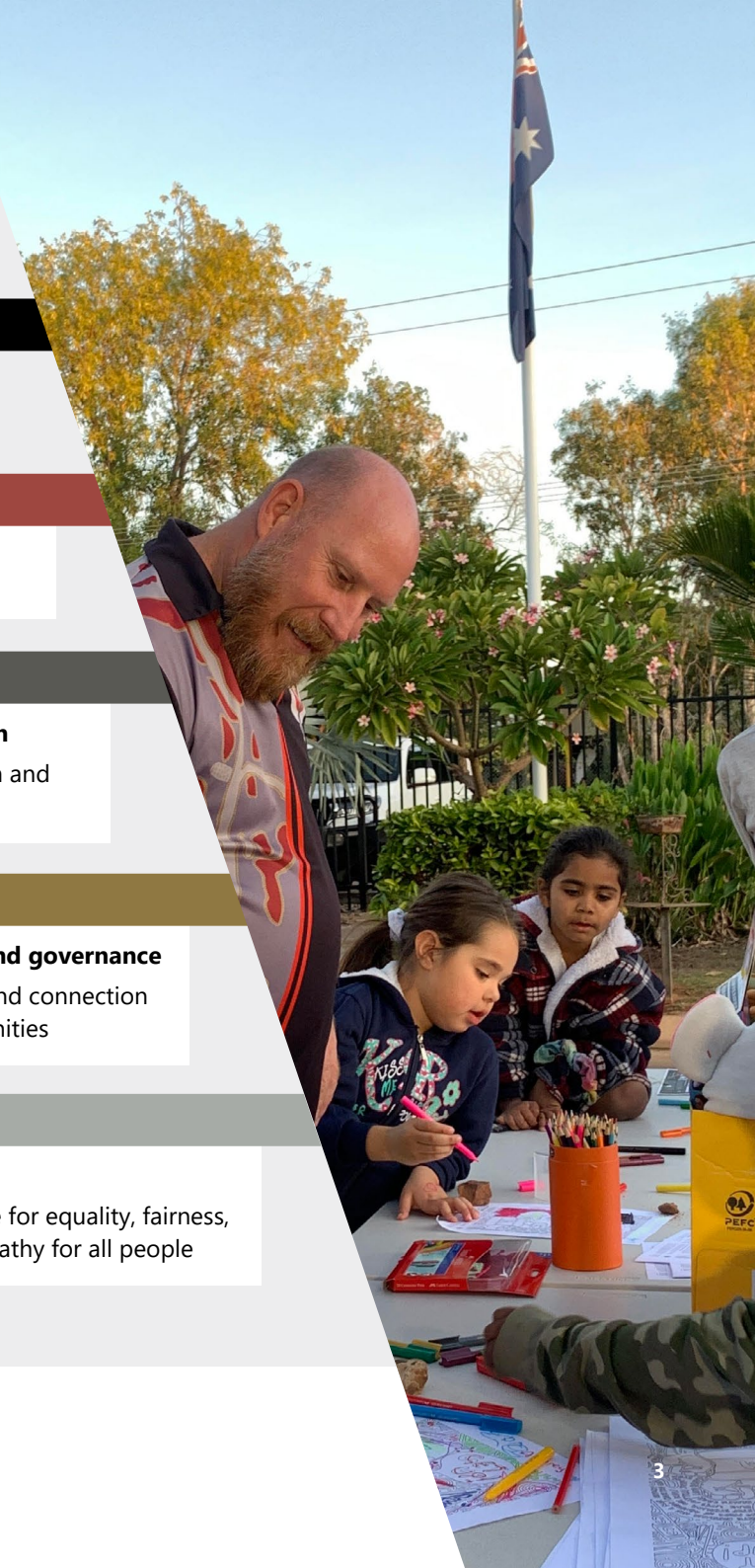
We show respect for all people, cultures, and backgrounds

Passion

We are deeply motivated to achieve outcomes

Equality

We strive for equality, fairness, and empathy for all people



OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

What we deliver and why

Primary healthcare



Why is this important?

Primary health care is the first means of accessing the health care system for many people and is critical to individual, family, and community health outcomes.

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What do we do?

- We **deliver clinic-based services** that provide high-quality primary health care to meet individual, family, and community needs.
- We will **expand our remote and mobile clinics** to increase the impact of our service to other communities.
- We **provide home-based and outreach care services**, including telehealth and home visits that broaden the reach of our service delivery.
- We will **enhance maternal and child health services** to better support family health needs.

Social & emotional wellbeing



Why is this important?

Social and emotional wellbeing relates to the mental health of individuals and communities and is a key component of the overall health of Aboriginal people.

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What do we do?

- We support **social and emotional wellbeing programs** to foster community wellbeing and awareness.
- We provide culturally appropriate and accessible **suicide prevention and postvention services** such as psychosocial support and awareness training.
- We **promote alcohol and other drug early intervention** and management through dedicated counselling, education, and rehabilitation support.
- We plan and support **cultural and traditional healing** and connection to Country services.

What we deliver and why

Specialised health



Why is this important?

Our communities deserve targeted support to prevent and address complex health needs, including chronic disease and disability.

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What do we do?

- We deliver **chronic disease support services** including disease prevention, management, and education.
- We facilitate **access to secondary and tertiary care** by supporting patient journeys and health system navigation.
- We will launch **nutritional health services**, including dietary education and support to promote healthy lifestyle choices.
- We will **enhance disability services and deliver physical activity initiatives** to encourage and support healthy lifestyles.

Population health



Why is this important?

Reducing future health challenges and Closing the Gap requires long-term system change and community-wide solutions.

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What do we do?

- We conduct **health education and promotion activities** to improve health system literacy and participation.
- We will deliver **preventative campaigns and programs** to empower individuals, families, and communities.
- We **conduct health screening and immunisation campaigns** to improve community vaccination rates.
- We work with others to contribute to **health research and advocacy** including through partnerships to improve community health outcomes.

OUR CAPABILITIES

How we will operate as an organisation



Workforce & culture



Partnerships & relationships



Resources & sustainability



Community connection & governance

How does this support us?

Our workforce's skills and the caring and trusting culture that we foster make OVAHS a successful organisation.

Our relationships with our partners, peers and funders enable us to support holistic health outcomes.

The quality of our resources, facilities, and equipment will enable our efficient and effective service delivery.

Our governance and community membership support our integrity, transparency, and learning.

How will this extend us?

- Targeted recruitment to support our services and priorities.
- Renewed emphasis on workforce retention to find out what is most important to our staff.
- Continue our focus on enhancing our work culture and establishing OVAHS as a leading employer of choice.

- Work across the North-East Kimberley to form new and deepen existing partnerships with other health and community organisations.
- Continue our dialogue, reporting, and cooperation with health system members, and funding bodies.

- Ensure that our technology, equipment, and infrastructure is suitable and appropriate to support our service delivery and meet the needs of our communities.
- Examine our funding arrangements and financial performance to explore possible cost savings and alternative funding options.

- Strengthen our governance structures and policies to suit the communities that we support.
- Promote membership across our communities.
- Review our monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms to ensure transparency and high-quality performance across OVAHS.



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OVAHS