

Aboriginal Health E-Newsletter

WACHS Midwest – Spring 2011

FIRST EDITION

FIRSTLY....WHO ARE WE?

WA Country Health Service Midwest (WACHS)

The Midwest Health Region is part of WA Country Health Service. Health services are delivered to the Region through the Central West Mental Health Service, Aged Care Services, Population Health, Health Service Development, Midwest Units (Dongara, Eneabba, Kalbarri, Mingenew, Morawa, Mullewa, Northampton, Three Springs and Yalgoo) and Murchison Units (Cue, Meekatharra, Mt Magnet, Sandstone, Wiluna, Carnarvon, Shark Bay, Burringurrah and Exmouth.) Geraldton is the regional base for all major hospital activities including surgery and obstetrics.

The Midwest Health Region covers an area of approx 605,000 square kilometres, which is nearly a fifth of the State. The population of the region is concentrated along the coast with more than 71% living around the city of Greater Geraldton.



WELCOME to the first edition of the WA Country Health Service Midwest Aboriginal Health E-Newsletter. This newsletter will be published quarterly, keeping you up-to-date with the latest news and information on all things Aboriginal happening within the Midwest WA Country Health Service.

We hope to use this newsletter to keep everyone in the region updated on the following:

- Aboriginal health services and programs in the region
- COAG 'Close the Gap' program outcomes
- Aboriginal events and activities planned
- Aboriginal health issues and trends



What has been happening....?

In this first edition we would like to provide you with an update on our latest program called the COAG 'Close the Gap' (CTG) program.

In 2010 WACHS Midwest was successful in securing funding for ten Aboriginal identified positions and four specialist positions in the region to help us to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people in this region.

The program has been in place for almost twelve months and has helped us to achieve some great improvements in Aboriginal service delivery in WACHS.

Attached is a list of our Aboriginal 'Close the Gap' staff members, their role description and contact details. Please call them if you have any queries about the services they provide.

CLOSE THE GAP STAFF



ABORIGINAL THERAPY ASSISTANT(S):



Maureen Valeluma
Geraldton
Ph: (08) 99 562 204
Service:



Lorraine Derschow
Geraldton
Ph: (08) 99 562 204



Carole Minney
Mt Magnet (located GRAMS clinic)
Ph: (08) 99 634 805

Assists Aboriginal children (0-10) to access to specialists' services such as Speech Pathology(CTG), Audiology, Podiatry, Occupational Therapy(CTG), Physiotherapy(CTG) and other specialist health services as required.

- Provides support in following up with clients through all stages of diagnosis and treatment.
- Liaise between health care professionals and Aboriginal clients
- Advocates and liaise on behalf of client and families
- Provide information about specialist services
- Provides support to clients and their families
- Assist with referrals to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations or services

Note # (CTG) indicates the service is funded by the COAG 'Close the Gap' program



ABORIGINAL LIAISON OFFICERS – HOSPITALS:

Darren Quartermaine
Geraldton Hospital
Ph: (08) 08 9956 8679



Fiona Wright
Geraldton Hospital
Ph: (08) 9956 8677



Ben Robinson
Meekatharra Hospital
Ph: (08) 99810 600

Service:

Our Aboriginal Liaison Officer(s) provide a liaison service to Aboriginal clients admitted to Geraldton and Meekatharra hospitals. The service includes:

- Provides emotional, social and cultural support to clients and their families
- Liaise between health care professionals and Aboriginal clients
- Advocates and liaise on behalf of client and families
- Provide information about hospital services
- Assist with referrals to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations or services



ABORIGINAL HEALTH OFFICER(S):

Gloria Jones
Geraldton Community Health
Ph: (08) 9956 1965

Naomi Chandler
Geraldton Community Health
Ph: (08) 9956 1965

Vacant position
Murchison
Ph: (08) 99810 600

Service:

- Follows up on child immunisations
- Participates in health education and health promotion activities particularly in the areas of sexual prevention, screening and management at a regional level
- Supports the local implementation of health programs in the region
- Advocates and liaise on behalf of client and families
- Assist with referrals to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations or services



TOBACCO PROGRAM:

Natasha Garlett
Aboriginal Health Officer
Geraldton Community Health
Ph: (08) 99 561 985

Tunya Brown - Coordinator
Geraldton Community Health
Ph: (08) 99561 970 or Ph: (08) 99 561 985

Service:

- Conduct community based education and activities around smoking cessation
- To develop and implement strategies for the delivery of a Regional Tobacco prevention / intervention program
- Develop a tobacco plan, identifying pathways and appropriate cessation treatment and support
- Assist with referrals to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations or services



CHRONIC DISEASE / DIABETES PROGRAM:

Julie Hancocks Diabetes Educator

Geraldton Hospital – Diabetes Care

Ph: (08) 99562 383

Service:

- Adult and child screening for diabetes
- Health promotion and education to prevent the onset of chronic health illnesses
- Management of chronic diseases for clients with at least one chronic condition
- Liaise with Princess Margaret Hospitals Diabetes and Endocrinology Department to assist them with follow ups and referrals for services to children and adolescents with diabetes



ABORIGINAL HEALTH COORDINATOR

Jasmine Gregory

WACHS Geraldton Regional Office - Hospital

Ph: (08) 99562 434

Role:

- Assist in coordination planning, implementation and evaluation of culturally appropriate strategies, policies and programs to meet the needs of Aboriginal people in the Midwest

We hope you have enjoyed the first edition of the Aboriginal Health E-Newsletter, for enquiries regarding information in the newsletter call or email the Aboriginal Health Coordinator Jasmine Gregory on (08) 99566 2434 or send via email : Jasmine.Gregory@health.wa.gov.au.

F.Y.I. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Note # (to activate link hold cursor over the link press control then click)

National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes

http://www.coag.gov.au/intergov_agreements/federal_financial_relations/docs/national_partnership/NP_closing_the_Gap_indigenous_health_outcomes.pdf