



Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service

July 2024 Newsletter

The GRAMS Gascoyne Outreach Service Celebrated NAIDOC Week

Friday 12th July 2024 - With This year's theme for NAIDOC 2024 being Keep the fire burning. BLAK, LOUD, AND PROUD.

The GRAMS Gascoyne Outreach Service formed a working group to contribute to NAIDOC WEEK celebrations. Diane Moncrieff was nominated to bring staff together to celebrate and organise a community event that would bring community members and organisation together at the Medical Service to celebrate this significant event.

The committee from GOS decided along with the theme to cook a feast underground as well as on the hot coals & the barbecue.

Lovo (underground oven) cooked all kinds of meats like kangaroo, goat, beef, lamb, pork & chicken, whilst kangaroo stews & dampers were

cooked in camp ovens cooked on the hot coals, with further kangaroo skewers on the barbecue.

It was very special seeing the children on the day engage with face painting, there was a fantastic turn out of community members as we live in a rich mix of culture and heritages area of the region.

GOS would like to thank all our community members that supported this special event. Congratulation to the staff at GOS for a well organised celebration bringing the whole community together.



The GRAMS Eye Health Program Wins Award in Hobart

4 awards were presented at the Eye Health Conference in Hobart and our GRAMS Eye Health Team were successful in being awarded with the following award on the night.

1. Exceptional contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health by Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHO)
2. Outstanding leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health
3. Emerging leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health
4. Deadly allyship in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health

The first 2024 award is for: "Exceptional contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health by an ACCHO". ACCHOs have been leading self-determination in health for over 50 years now.



Our ACCHOs changed how health and healthcare can be done and set a globally unique path to improving health through self-determination. Our work continues to be inspired by the ongoing work of these amazing organisations.

The winner of the 2024 award for Exceptional contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health by Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHO) is: Geraldton Region Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS)!!

From the nomination statement: GRAMS has distinguished itself as a trailblazer in the field of eye care, leveraging innovative partnerships and programs to enhance access to eye health services for Aboriginal people across its region.

The organisation's collaboration with the University of Western Australia (UWA) exemplifies their commitment to innovation and leadership.

Through this partnership, GRAMS has established a comprehensive eye care program in Geraldton that is Aboriginal-led and facilitates access to culturally safe optometry and ophthalmology services for their community.

This initiative not only addresses the immediate eye health care needs of Aboriginal community members, but it also contributes to the development of a culturally safe eye care workforce for the future by delivering a unique learning experience for students of UWA's Doctor of Optometry.

GRAMS' leadership has the potential to drive systemic change in optometry education and healthcare delivery.

By demonstrating the effectiveness of Aboriginal-led eye care models and fostering partnerships between academic institutions and Aboriginal Medical Services, GRAMS is paving the way for improved health outcomes and better cultural understanding among future healthcare professionals.

Congratulations to Geraldton Aboriginal Medical Service!

GRAMS Staff Attended 1 Day Workshop With Stopping Family Violence WA

18 staff members from the Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service attended a one-day workshop that was delivered by Kyalie Moore from Stopping Family Violence WA and supported by David Batty from GRAMS.

The one-day workshop provided key knowledge, considerations and practice skills when responding to disclosures by people impacted by family and domestic violence. The workshop is one step towards building the capability of the organisation towards becoming an FDV informed organisation.

Future training will include the Safe and Together Core training, followed by a Communities of Practice and a 1 day consultation to support the co-design of an ACCO Healing and Change service Model.

'The work Stopping Family Violence is doing with GRAMS is more than training.



We are building the capability of GRAMS and supporting staff to be FDV informed in their engagement and responses to clients who may be experiencing family and domestic violence and/or using family and domestic violence," said Kyalie Moore.

If you or someone you know is experiencing FDV or using FDV and require help, call Police 000, Lifeline 131114, Women's Domestic Violence Helpline 1800007339 (free call). Don't leave it till it's too late.

For more information, please email david.batty@grams.asn.au or visit our GRAMS website www.grams.asn.au.

GRAMS NDIS team supported the Discover New Insights Geraldton Disability Expo held in Geraldton

The Focus of this event was about service providers in the Midwest to provide their information as to the programs that they run in the region to support families with Disabilities.

This was also the official launch of City of Greater Geraldton Access and Inclusion Plan 2024- 2029. Many other stakeholders were involved in the community event on the day that was held at the QE11 centre in Geraldton. This was a great opportunity for stakeholder and community to net work on the day to further support the community.

GRAMS Remote community connectors was happy to be invited to hold a stall at the first Geraldton Disability Expo to engage with participants and services providers. This networking is to help GRAMS community connectors gain understanding about service providers better to support rural and remote community members wanting to access the NDIS or needing support to link to services provider. For more information, please email ndis@grams.asn.au or visit our website www.grams.asn.au.



Men's Brief Intervention Program

Round Three of the We Can Together Men's Domestic Violence Program, Carnarvon.

The We Can Together Program is a Men's Brief Intervention Program that has been codesigned by Stopping Family Violence and GRAMS, that commenced in Carnarvon in July 2023.

The program is designed to hold men accountable for violence against women and children. This is a 10-session program that takes place on a fortnightly basis on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm. On the off week to the program, the men also attend a one-day reconnection program that has now been implemented into the additional program.

Round four intake for the program commenced on the 15th till the 17th of April in Carnarvon. David Batty, (Behaviour Change Program Coordinator), and Kameli Rova, (Men Program Facilitator) said the program intake of referrals had grown in the past month to 17 men being referred to the program.



Of the 17 referrals 13 of the men have been accepted into round four of the program.

Family violence has a profound impact on children, shaping their lives in ways we cannot underestimate. Through training and education and unwavering support, we can empower our community to grow and heal.

It is critical to address the barriers that men face in seeking support, challenging the misconception that seeking help is a sign of weakness. Together we can take this challenge head on and provide the men with training and support to make better choices in their lives and to be accountable for their own actions.

We Can Together Stop Family Domestic Violence by not condoning violence within our families and community. If you're in a violent relationship, help is available. Don't leave it till it's too late. Police 000, Lifeline 131114, Women's Domestic Violence Helpline 1800007339 (free call).

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We Can Together Connection to Country Group 4

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The program is designed to hold men accountable for violence against women and children. This is a 10-session program that takes place on a fortnightly basis on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 2pm.

On the off week to the program, the men from this round attend TAFE, and Real Futures to help them

become work ready by completing their White Cards and Drone Operator Certificates.

This new employment implementation to the program has proven to be a great outcome for both the men and the program. Facilitator David Batty said it was great to see the changes in the men that attended and completed round four of the programs.

13 men started the program with 6 men completed the full program. The 6 men that completed the program were also taken back on country to Denham over 2 nights and 3 days. During this time we spent a day out with Capes from Wula Gura Nyinda Eco Cultural Adventures.

This day is designed to connect the men back to country through a variety of activities like teamwork, fishing, netting, 4x4 driving and yarning about each of the men's violence that they had used in the past against their partners.

This camp also allowed the men to reflect on the past while being accountable for their own actions and choice to use violence.

We Can Together Stop Family Domestic Violence by not condoning violence within our families and community.

If you or someone you know is experiencing FDV or using FDV and require help please call No to violence 1300766491, 13YARN 139276, Lifeline 131114, Women's Domestic Violence Helpline 1800007339 (free call).

Don't leave it till it's too late. For more information, please email david.batty@grams.asn.au or visit our GRAMS website www.grams.asn.au.

The program is designed to hold men accountable for violence against women and children.



Yamatji Nyarlu Yarning 2024

This group was established four years ago along with (Kyalie Moore) Stopping Family Violence and GRAMS.

Yamatji Nyarlu Yarning is a group of women that come together in a safe space four times a year to address the issues around women, children and families who are victims / survivors of family and domestic violence. Each session is a new topic of discussion around issues that have impacted the participants and families and community.

Circle followed by a discussion around Domestic violence. Each session is a different topic of conversation, such as (Healthy boundary setting and respectful conversations that are need to have with people in our lives) as the ladies get together and share their stories they support each other and respect each other's privacy.

As the participants are talking about FDV they have full support of Kyalie and myself for any conversations that may be triggering.

Each session we ask what activities they would like to take part in, at the moment the ladies are making Floral tributes. The ladies are a great support to each other as they make suggestions for Self-care and other activities they can do as part of their healing. The sessions duration is 4 hour each time we meet and at the end of the year we gather together for a Christmas lunch.

Yamatji Nyarlu Yarning held a group session on the 27/03/2024 in the support group information /education is given out on the issues that have impacted participants as a follow on from the group sessions the participants have the option of individual Counselling and some ladies have booked appointment with me to continue their personal stories and experiences. The Counselling is one on one, and person centred, and strengths based. As the women grow with their own healing, they become more confident and have a higher self-esteem.

On reflection the ladies realise how resilient they are and how much they have gone through in their efforts to have a life that is free from Domestic Violence and it's at this point you can see they are very proud of themselves Morning tea and lunch and transport are provided for each session.

On the 27/03/2024 one participants of the Group Yamatji Nyarlu Yarning, Finished her floral tribute for a family members Funeral. This was a suggestion from the ladies in the group. Unfortunately there are several funerals for the community to attend in a short space of time and in making the floral tributes makes the women feel they are able to contribute to the family as floral arrangements are very expensive, the wreaths made with love and care, in making the wreathes the ladies work on the loved ones favourite colours and Food ball club colours.

As they make each Floral tribute each person will have a yarn and tell stories about that particular loved one that has passed away.

The feedback from the ladies is that the sessions are healing as they dealing with Grief and loss in the community.

The next group sessions Yamatji Nyarlu Yarning will be held on the 17/07/2024, 09/10/2024.



Follow us on [@GRAMSmob](https://www.facebook.com/GRAMSmob) to keep up to date with the latest activities, programs and upcoming events.

For information on our services and programs, please phone GRAMS on [\(08\) 9956 6555](tel:(08)99566555) or visit our website www.grams.asn.au

Geraldton NAIDOC Awards 11th July 2024

This year the Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service held the Geraldton NAIDOC Awards at the Multicultural Centre in Geraldton on Thursday the 11th July.

This was a night to present well deserved NAIDOC Awards to local members of the community for their high standards of achievement.

Congratulations to all the award winners for NAIDOC 2024.

Sportsperson of the year award Winner: Mya Dudley

The sportsperson award recognises accomplished athletes or sporting leaders who have promoted or developed sport within the Geraldton region. Mya has been playing association netball in Geraldton for the past 6 years in that time she has progressed from juniors to now for past 2 years playing both juniors and seniors

In 2021 she accepted an invitation to play at state championships for a mixed team from all over WA from that she was asked to travel with them to play at nationals in Queensland in January 2022 at that carnival she trialled for the National Indigenous under16 team which she was chosen

July 2023, she went back to Queensland and played at internationals where she won MVP for under 16s Indigenous National team. January 24 back to Nationals and trialled for the national Indigenous team once again chosen and is headed to Christchurch New Zealand in September for internationals.

- Mya also loves basketball and was in the WA country team in 2019 and 2020.
- State country championship grand final MVP.
- Members 2022 MVP Association Championships.
- GNA 2023 Junior 1 Fairest & Best.
- Midwest NAIDOC Netball Carnival Grand Final MVP.
- International Netball Festival Gold Coast 2023 15/Under MVP.
- Midwest NAIDOC Netball Carnival Premiers.
- Geraldton Netball Association 2023 Junior All Stars.

Youth of the year award Winner: Andrew Ronan

The youth of the year award recognise exceptional young people under the age of 25 years who have contributed and are recognised by their community and their peers in the Geraldton region.

Andrew is a member of the Yamatji Southern Sea Ranger program and has been enrolled at CRTAFE since early 2023 undertaking a number of different qualifications.

Andrew has shown excellent dedication and leadership both academically and within his community. As an Aboriginal student, Andrew has been both a beacon of cultural pride and academic achievement.

Academically, Andrew has done very well in class, maintaining a high academic standard while actively participating in extracurricular



activities that enrich his learning experience. His commitment to academic excellence is matched by his passion for community service and leadership. In his time outside the classroom, Andrew works with the Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation "Streeties" providing support to Aboriginal youth. Andrew takes on a leadership role at TAFE and in the community, demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility and initiative.

Andrew will no doubt continue to be an upstanding member of the community in the future.



As an Aboriginal student, Andrew has been both a beacon of cultural pride and academic achievement.

Scholar of the year award Winner: Destiny McIntosh

The scholar of the year award recognises Secondary, Tertiary and Vocational education students who have excelled with their studies either completed or still studying.

Destiny has demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership academically. As an Aboriginal student, Destiny has been a beacon of cultural pride and academic achievement. Academically, Destiny has consistently excelled, maintaining a high academic standard and her commitment to academic excellence is matched by her passion for leadership. Destiny has taken on leadership roles within the class demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility and initiative. Destiny has shown remarkable growth and maturity, serving as a role model for her peers and inspiring others through her actions.

Destiny has received several scholarship awards that highlight her exceptional talents and contributions.

She has been recognized for her academic achievements with scholarships from Beach Energy, Mitsui E&P and Rio Tinto. These accolades underscore Destiny's commitment to scholarly pursuits and dedication to achieving excellence in her studies.

As part of the Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation Sea Ranger program, Destiny has been attending Central Regional TAFE since February 2023 enrolled in and completing a number of different qualifications including:

- Certificate I in Leadership
- Certificate II in Leadership
- Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management (marine)
- Coxswain Grade 2
- Coxswain Grade 1

Elder of the year award Winner: Sandy Davies

The elder of the year award recognises Elders who are over the age of 60 who are positive role models and are respected and inspirational to their family and community.

I have an extensive history in Aboriginal affairs which dates back some thirty years ago, when I first took to the road with key people such as Leadham Cameron and Bill Mallard fighting for justice and a fair go for Yamatji people.

My mentors include people such as the late Robert Riley and the late Leadham Cameron who were key people in my life, they left great legacies for this region.

One of my other great mentors is Margaret Colbung who herself is a fighter for Aboriginal Health injustices.

I want equal rights for all our people when they are accessing health services provided by government agencies. I am passionate about social justice and making sure our people have a voice and the right to be heard.

GRAMS Board of Directors Community Recognition Award Winner: Lily - Mae Kerley

Lily-mae, 23, is a quiet achiever often not recognising the importance of her achievements and how she often goes above and beyond in her role as an Arts Development Officer at Yamaji Art. In her role Lily-mae advocates for Aboriginal Artist at Yamaji Art and the promotion of their culture, heritage and artworks at a local, state and national basis. Lily-mae has led the art centre to an award-winning film, Star Dreaming, by assisting with the production of the film. Lily-mae has also represented the Art Centre and the Yamaji region at several conferences both in WA and interstate.

Additionally, at the age of 17, Lily-mae developed a textiles program working with young at-risk girls that resulted in a showcase of cultural fashion wear. The program outcome was presented at an International First Nations Suicide Conference as being a leading program for the development of self-esteem amongst its participants. One such participant is now modelling at the National Melbourne Fashion Week festival.

Lily-mae is also one of the very limited Emerging Aboriginal Curators in WA, if not Nationally, and currently works with the WA Museum to develop skills in the repatriation of cultural art facts, recording of oral histories of elders, as well as the planning and delivery of Exhibitions promoting Yamaji Culture.

As a young person, this can be an overwhelming experience when navigating two worlds, being Western Institutions such as Galleries and Museums, whilst balancing her cultural responsibilities as a young Aboriginal Women and adhering to community protocols. However, Lily-mae does this with such grace as she knows how privileged she is to be in a position to represent her community in such an important role.

In her private time, Lily-mae is also an emerging artist herself and dedicates her time to creating artworks celebrating her cultural and has started her own business "Mooditj Djet" (Solid Flower) and hopes that one day she will be in a position to dedicate all her time to expanding this so she can focus on being a full time artist and curator.

Has the Nominee received any other awards or special achievements?

At no point has Lily-mae ever sought out any acknowledgement or formal recognition for all that she has achieved both professionally and personally often preferring to work away quietly and 'out of the spotlight'.

Lily-mae is truly a positive role model to her peers and community members.

Beachlands Primary School NAIDOC Celebrations

GRAMS programs were invited to attend Beachlands Primary School NAIDOC celebration where we were able to share our activities with students and other stakeholders to make the day memorable for all involve by doing messy play, painting and storytelling. It was great to see the attendees engage with our activity on the day.

For More information about our GRAMS NDIS Program please email ndis@grams.asn.au or visit our website www.grams.asn.au.

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Supporting the Olympians Basketball Club – Securing sports bras for female players to improve accessibility to sport

GRAMS, Red Dust Holdings, and the Olympians Basketball Club have teamed up to support better retention of young female basketballers in Geraldton – through \$13,000 worth of free sports bras.

We are very proud to have played a role in this amazing initiative, along with Intersports Geraldton, to obtain a fully sponsored sports bra initiative for the club, supplying 162 sports bras to our female athletes – Fully sponsored by Red Dust Holdings.

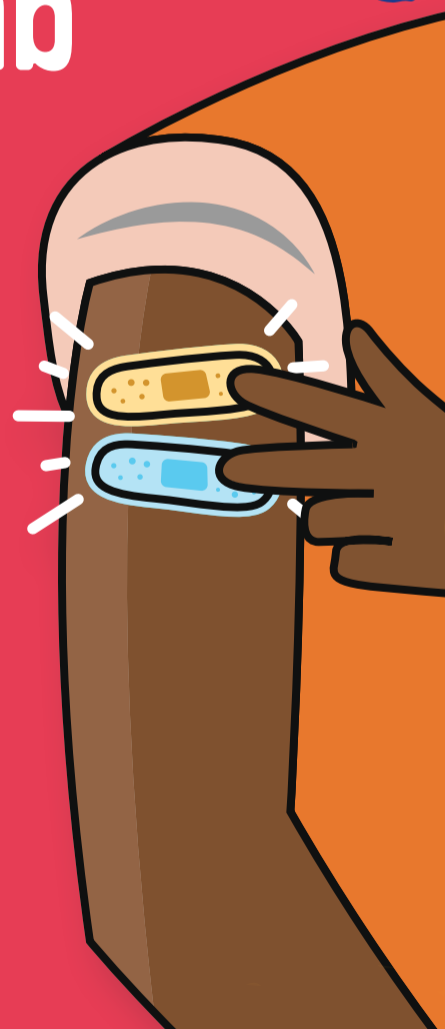
GRAMS are incredibly grateful to have been able to partner with these amazing organisations, coming together to share their knowledge, passion, and commitment to supporting women and girls in sports.



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Get your flu jab at your local clinic

You can get it at the same time as your COVID-19 vaccination!



Aboriginal Health Council
of Western Australia

Public Health
Continuous Quality
Improvement



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