



Derby Aboriginal
Health Service Council
Aboriginal Corporation

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DAHS

The Derby Aboriginal Health Service Aboriginal Council (DAHS) opened its doors to clients in 1998 to provide a culturally appropriate primary health service to Derby and its remote communities.

In time, DAHS grew to include nine Aboriginal communities that are spread throughout the region and include Jarlmadangah, Pandanus Park, Yulumbu, Tirralintji, Imintji, Kupungarri, Dodnun, Ngallagunda and Kandiwal.

The number of DAHS work sections also grew to the point where there are now programmes that are designed to meet the physical and social and emotional needs of all its clients regardless of age or location. Providing holistic and cultural care is important when meeting the various health needs of Aboriginal clients.

MISSION

DAHS is committed to delivering holistic primary health care services which:

- are based on the social justice principles of equity and access;
- address the health needs of Aboriginal people; and
- respects and reflects the cultural values of the communities we serve.

The Derby Aboriginal Health Service has been established by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people, with the purpose of:

- empowering Aboriginal people in the prevention and management of ill-health and in the promotion of well-being for individuals, families and communities; as well as
- empowering Aboriginal people in the processes of decision-making, planning and service delivery.



FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As the Chairperson of DAHS Board of Directors, I'm pleased to be writing these opening comments for the very first Derby Aboriginal Health Services Annual Report for the financial year 2020-2021.

Producing our first Annual Report is a proud moment for DAHS, as it allows us to highlight some of the important work we are engaged in both here in Derby and in our remote communities.

Alongside achieving significant positive outcomes, DAHS has also been busy with the fight against COVID-19. It has taken a great deal of effort to make sure that DAHS is ready to protect our community against the virus when it comes to our region. I'm very happy to say that DAHS is fully resourced, prepared and trained and have vaccinated a great many people in our town and communities.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors and our CEO for their dedication and hard work which has resulted in an Aboriginal health service that is culturally and financially strong and healthy and I now look forward to the work we will do in 2022.

Warm regards

Tara Spry
Chairperson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chairperson
Tara Spry



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Alexander Fernandez



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Ina Kitching



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Director
Kelly Kitching



Chief Executive
Officer
Dr Lynette Henderson-Yates





THE OFFICE OF THE CEO

DAHS is coming to the end of what has been a very busy year.

As an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service, our focus has been on ensuring we are providing our clients with a culturally sound primary health care service that is responsive to the health needs of our clients. As the result of hard work, dedication and passion, we feel that DAHS has been able to achieve this goal.

Alongside supporting the everyday health needs of our communities, we have been very active in responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic which included, at the very early stages of the pandemic, a number of our staff working from home and then the conversion of an office in the main reception area into an airconditioned and secure COVID-19 testing room where clients could wait comfortably while they were tested and received their results.

In spite of such an enormous challenge, DAHS has also engaged in a number of developments and achieved some great outcomes.

We received additional funding to employ new staff in areas such as family support, early childhood and in the social and emotional wellbeing area. DAHS also purchased new accommodation to house our growing staff numbers – not an easy achievement when faced with limited available housing in Derby.

An important highlight was the launch of our health campaign 'Be Healthy, Be Anything' which was shown over a number of months on GWN and Seven. As we do each year, DAHS made significant financial donations to a growing number of education, community and sporting groups in town.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for their ongoing support and guidance for both myself and the DAHS staff. We look forward to continuing our hard work and achieving positive outcomes in the coming year.

Kind regards

Dr Lynette Henderson-Yates

Chief Executive Officer

DAHS ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the past year, DAHS staff have been busy on a number of new initiatives some of which include



The building of a new staff house at Kupungarri community



Renovating all remote area clinics at Pandanus Park, Jarlmadangah, Imintji, Kupungarri and Dodnun communities which are near completion



Upgrades were completed on the original staff house and unit at Kupungarri community



A number of vehicles and staff accommodation were purchased.



DAHS took a bold step in producing, for the first time, two very successful TV health commercials called the 'Be Healthy Be Anything' campaign which was shown throughout WA.



DAHS became registered as a NDIS service provider which gives us another service to support our clients.



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The World Health Organisation announced the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic in March 2020.

Since that time, DAHS continues to work hard to make sure we are providing the safest and pandemic appropriate service to our clients. We are also ensuring staff are kept up to date on all COVID-19 information and training. Following this, DAHS put in place safe work practices for DAHS staff which also benefits the community especially the triage process which is required before entering DAHS. Further work was done on safe distancing, putting up hand washing stations and notices.

Another strategy to ensure our clinical services continued during the pandemic, was to introduce Telehealth where clients could call DAHS to speak with clinical staff. This proved very successful and is something that DAHS continues to provide.

July 2020



DAHS became a 'Point of Care Testing' site for COVID-19

April 2021



DAHS became a COVID-19 vaccination site



Up to 11 November 2021 we have tested 537 community members for the virus



Up to 11 November we have given 1541 vaccinations to the people of Derby and our remote communities



CLINICAL AND REMOTE SERVICE DELIVERY

The DAHS clinic continues to be very busy. The reason for this has been the ongoing changes needed to maintain better health outcomes for DAHS clients whilst dealing with the onset of COVID-19 and the introduction of the vaccine roll out to clients.

The DAHS clinic strives to be on the forefront in health providing culturally appropriate primary health care to the Derby community and outreach communities. This requires constant training and discussions around processes, procedures and regular monitoring of our client cultural care practices. We are fortunate to have long term doctors, nurses and Aboriginal Health Practitioners in our clinic.

DAHS supports the Aboriginal Health Worker training course and encourages trainees to continue working with our Kimberley Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services once they have graduated.

DAHS is the sole WA Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services provider of a community based palliative care support service to both the nursing home clients and the community of Derby and remote communities.

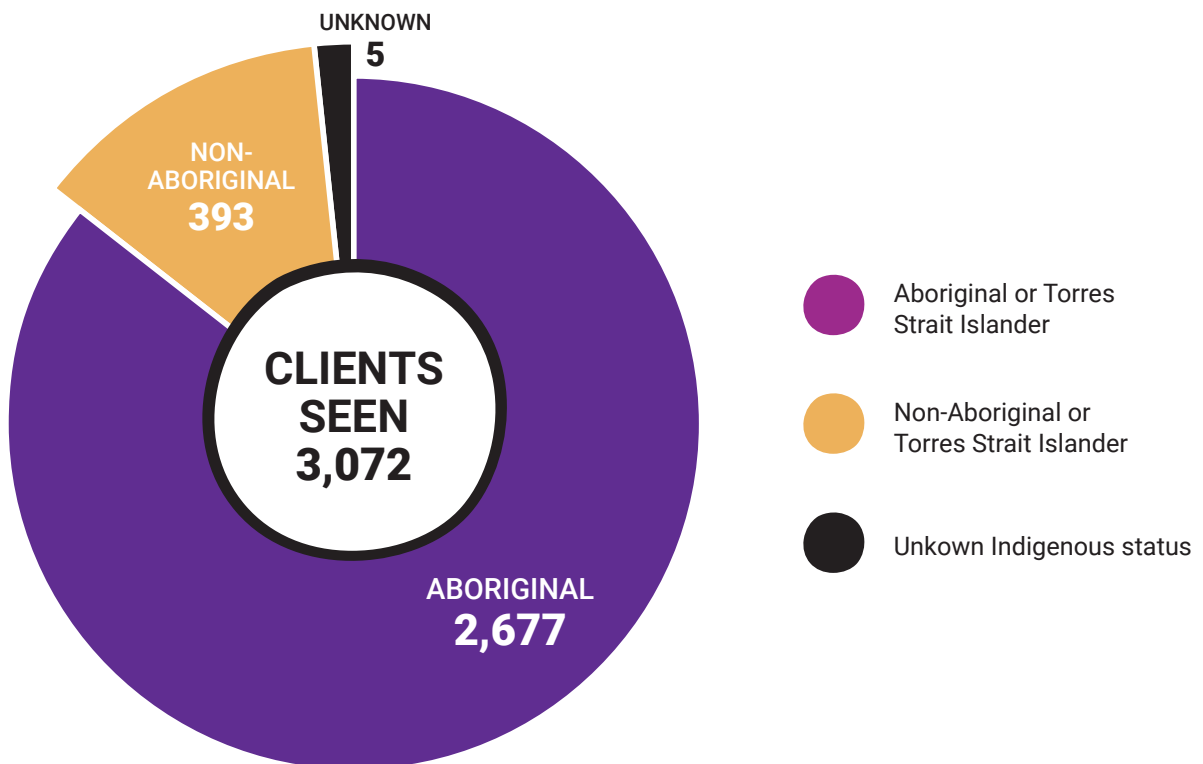
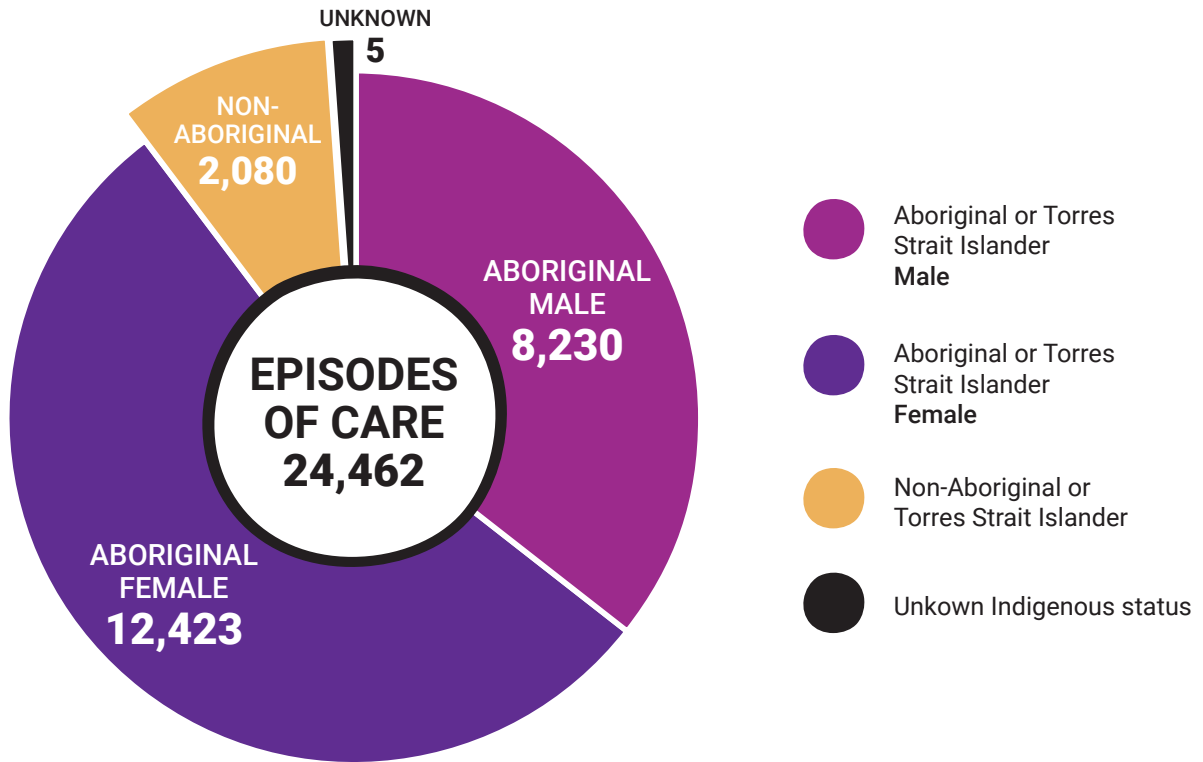
We provide palliative care nursing, practical support, emotional and spiritual support as well as information, medications, complex symptom and pain management and access to medical review and assessment in peoples' homes. The staff in this programme include a doctor, registered nurse and an enrolled nurse.

Another initiative that DAHS have implemented, is the ENT telehealth programme conducted at the Kupungarri Community clinic. This has meant clients are able to have consults without leaving the community and also means staff do not need to travel out to communities as frequently as they have done in the past.

As part of looking after the health of children in remote areas, DAHS provides a Remote School Child Health programme to ensure school aged children are up to date with their vaccinations and health checks.



SOME INTERESTING CLINIC DATA



VISITING SERVICES TO DAHS



Podiatry



Optometry



Dental



Speech
Therapy



Diabetes
Educator



Dietician



Silver Chain



Australian
Hearing



Hearing Assessment
Program – Early Ears



Paediatrician



Paediatric
Dietician



Developmental
Paediatrician



Paediatric
Cardiology



Ophthalmology



Physician



Renal Physician



Psychiatrist

SPECIALIST APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSPORT

DAHS have an on-site Specialist Appointment service which is responsible for ensuring DAHS clients see a visiting Allied Health or Medical Specialist in a timely manner.

DAHS provide transport to and from the DAHS clinic for various service provision i.e. pick up and drop off for general clinical presentations upon the client's request, deliver appointment/patient assisted travel scheme letters and pick up and drop off for all visiting allied health/specialist appointments. DAHS will also provide medication delivery for those clients without means of transport.

DAHS also provide transport services for clients without transport to attend appointments at the Derby Hospital for Specialist appointments, ultrasounds, x-rays and other allied health services.



GOOD NEWS STORY



“
DAHS received funding from the Commonwealth Department for a new staff residence for the DAHS Remote Area staff at Kupungarri Community. Up until this, staff lived in a house with a small attached flat.
”

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING (SEWB) UNIT

The DAHS SEWB is a small team that delivers a big service to the Derby community.

The team consists of a youth worker, two Aboriginal Mental Health Workers, a family and domestic violence case manager and three social workers. In the 2020-2021 reporting period, SEWB have supported over 640 individuals. A range of programs and initiatives have been implemented and successfully delivered over the last twelve months, on top of the consistent workload of mental health brief interventions, sustained mental health support, risk assessment, individual and community suicide response, case management and counselling offered by the team.

Some of these programs include partnerships with Youth Justice, Kimberley Aboriginal Stolen Generation, Marnin Bowa Dumbara Women's Refuge, Derby District High School, Holy Rosary Primary School and Mowunjum Community.

The programs being delivered include family violence education, anti-bullying workshops, girls Shine groups, effective communication, on-country men's trips, on-country boy's groups and digital art therapy.

Some of our highlights for the year include working across the management team to tender for and present proposals that have resulted in future funding for pilot programs and three extra full-time positions in the space of Art Therapy and Family Domestic Violence.



FAMILY AND POPULATION HEALTH UNIT

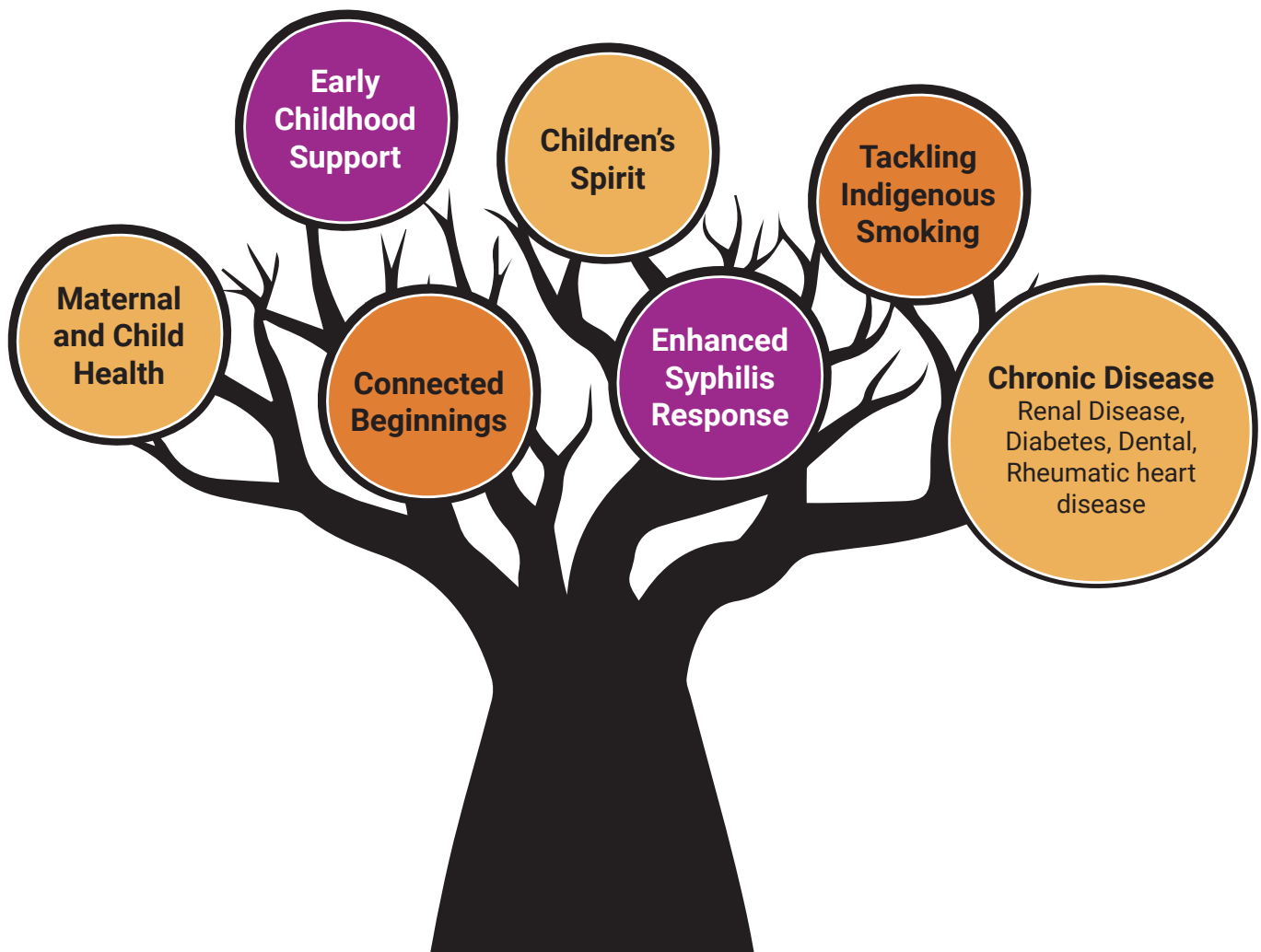
The Family and Population Health Unit focuses on holistically preventing and addressing a number of key health requirements of the individual and family.

Underpinning the work of the Family and Population Health Unit is the emphasis on the idea that by educating and treating one person, we are in fact educating and treating the whole family and community. This holistic approach across multiple areas is a new way of working to reduce Aboriginal ill health.

An important focus is on the health of children and mothers, both of whom require support during the pre and post birthing months and the early years of child development.

The unit is made up of 19 staff, including a Child Health Doctor, who delivers these programmes in Derby and throughout our remote communities. DAHS staff focus on community engagement and education while also providing home visits to clients when necessary. Staff also travel out to our remote clinics including Pandanus Park, Jarlmadangah and Kupungarri to provide education and clinical services.

THE PROGRAMMES IN THIS UNIT INCLUDE:



SPONSORSHIPS

DAHS is very proud to continue making financial donations to education, community and sporting events to promote healthy living and to educate the younger generations for the future.

Some of our many sponsorships include:

Derby Outback Rodeo

Holy Rosary School

Cancer Council of Australia

Mowanjum Football Club

Derby Basketball Association

Derby Tigers Football Club



THANK YOU

The DAHS Board of Directors, CEO and staff thank our clients, partners and the wider Derby and remote communities for your loyalty and support throughout the 2020 – 2021 financial year.

It has been a very trying time for all, however, together, we continue to offer the best primary health care service we can to our communities.

The Derby Aboriginal Health Service Aboriginal Corporation looks forward to producing our second Annual Report for the financial year 2021 -2022 and again sharing our achievements with you.





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Aboriginal Corporation**

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