



PROSPECTUS

About Us

Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (WACHS) is on the land of the Wiradjuri people.

WACHS is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation which has been running for over 25 years, located in the town of Wellington. Wellington is a small rural community with a shire population of approximately 8,831 people of which 1,897 are Aboriginal (2016 Census Stats).

WACHS offers professional, holistic health care to enhance the health and emotional wellbeing of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in Wellington and surrounding districts including Dubbo, Moree, North West and Far West Regions of NSW and Greater Western Sydney covering Mt Druitt, Penrith, Nepean and Blue Mountains.

Our services continue to expand with new programs, staff and clinics coming onboard and our expansive range of specialist programs provided by staff from WACHS or through partnership links with visiting services continues to grow providing our communities with the best possible health care options available.

WACHS is governed by a Board of Directors which consists of seven Aboriginal community members and the two recently added board positions for specialist non-member directors. These are elected annually by the Community. The Board of Directors provides the strategic direction of the organisation and works in close consultation with the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that organisational, community and funding outcomes are being achieved in line with our Strategic Plan.

WACHS employs approximately 130 staff including Visiting Specialists across all service locations.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the traditional lands of all Aboriginal people, we respect all Elders past, present & future. We ask all people that walk, work & live on traditional Aboriginal lands to be respectful of culture & traditions and work together as one to better Aboriginal Health.

WACHS Locations





Our Vision

To be acknowledged and respected as a leader in the provision of primary health care which is demonstrated by healthier communities across all locations serviced by WACHS.

Our Purpose

WACHS plans, delivers, co-ordinates and advocates for enhanced clinical and community-based primary health care services to the Aboriginal communities of which WACHS services.

Our Mission

To increase population health outcomes through culturally appropriate services delivery, engaged leadership and community engagement that supports and advocates Aboriginal peoples' evolving notion of community and cultural wellbeing.

Our Objectives

- a. Provide culturally appropriate primary health care service for Aboriginal people across the communities of which WACHS services.
- b. Administer and operate an Aboriginal Medical Service within the legal framework, funding agreements and the capacity of WACHS.
- c. Enhance the health status of the Aboriginal communities of which WACHS services including, Wellington, Nanima, Dubbo Moree, Blue Mountains, Penrith and Mount Druitt.
- d. Involve Aboriginal people across WACHS service site locations in the planning and provision of primary health care services.
- e. Create a highly skilled community-based Board of Governance and a high functioning skilled clinical, community and administrative workforce through professional development opportunities to support their roles and responsibilities within WACHS.
- f. Increase health literacy of the communities WACHS services to support and assist Aboriginal people to better utilise existing holistic health care services.



Aboriginal Children's Therapy Team

📍 Dubbo

The Aboriginal Children's Therapy Team (ACTT) is a free Allied Health Service for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children that live in the Dubbo area. Aged from birth to eight years, our early intervention program aims to provide assessment and intervention within a multidisciplinary, culturally and family centered framework.

ACTT offers Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Psychology services in collaboration with our Aboriginal Community and Therapy Support Workers.

Australian Nurse-Family Partnership Program

📍 Dubbo, Blacktown & Nepean LGAs

The ANFPP supports first time mums carrying an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander baby, through a Nurse-led home visiting program, based on the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) model developed by Professor Olds in the US.

The Australian adaptation of the program is unique in that an Aboriginal Family Partnership Worker contributes their cultural knowledge to assist the Nurse Home Visitor and other team members to ensure a culturally safe program is delivered to the client and their family. Visits commence during pregnancy and continue until the child reaches two years of age, ensuring valuable support and advice to mothers and fathers that helps with the baby's development in their early years.



Clinic Program

📍 Wellington, Mt Druitt, Penrith & Katoomba

At our Health Services we offer a wide variety of services within the clinics to look after every member of the family and our Community.

We operate 5 days a week in each location providing services such as Health Assessments, Family Planning, Family Health Programs, Eye Health, Mental Health, chronic disease management and prevention, immunisation, a range of allied health professionals (physio/podiatry/ dietician etc.), Dental, and Drug and Alcohol Programs are also available.

Connected Beginnings

📍 Mt Druitt

The Connected Beginnings Program aims to integrate early childhood, maternal health and family support services within school settings. This includes engaging families in health care to facilitate better outcomes by the time their child starts school.

The program is for pregnant mothers and children aged 0 to 5 years in the Mount Druitt and Doonside regions.

The Connected Beginnings team provide a free child screener which consists of checking a child's; physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, communication skills and general knowledge.



Healthy for Life

📍 Wellington & Blue Mountains

The Healthy for Life team offer a broad range of services to support the local community with culturally appropriate holistic care involving Antenatal, Maternal & Child Health, Dietitian, Chronic Disease Support, Youth and Sexual Health programs.

The Healthy for Life Program objectives are to:

- Improve the availability of child and maternal health care
- Improvement in the prevention, early detection and management of chronic diseases
- Improve the long term health outcome of Indigenous Australians



Moree Aboriginal Residential Rehabilitation Service – Maayu Mali

📍 Moree

MARRS – Maayu Mali is a rehabilitation centre for Aboriginal people over 18 experiencing dependence on alcohol or other drugs, with the ability to house 14 males and 4 females. Maayu Mali provides a minimum 12-week residential rehabilitation program followed by referral into appropriate community-based supports.

Our Program adopts a five prong approach of individual treatment and case management; group based treatment and care; holistic health care; living and recreation skills; cultural and Community Healing.

New Directions

📍 Wellington

New Directions aims to support the developmental needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children within the community and for the provision of outpatient allied health service in Wellington for continuity of care. Our services include Maternal and Infant nurse, Occupational therapist, Speech Pathologist and Dietitian and is supported by experienced Aboriginal health workers.

The program is aimed at meeting the needs of children 0-5years for Occupational therapy and Speech pathology and 0-16 year olds and their mothers for dietetics service. Transport assistance or home visits may be offered to clients without transport or special needs. Referral can be made by internal or external services.



Eye Health Program

📍 Wellington

Eye Health Coordinators play a very important role in the holistic care of our communities by way of providing eye clinics.

The Eye Health Program was developed in 1999 in conjunction with AH&MRC, RFDS, ICEE and Vision Care NSW who realised there was a vision problem in the Aboriginal Communities and thus the position of REHC was created.

During COVID-19 the WACHS Eye Health Program has adapted to become a local model servicing Wellington and surrounding areas.

Social Emotional Wellbeing Team

📍 Wellington & Mt Druitt

The SEWB team provides a confidential, culturally appropriate and sensitive service for clients accessing our programs and throughout the referral process. This service is available for any person of the community who may be facing some challenges in their lives which is, or may result in, having an impact on their health.

The SEWB Team provide support and case management for the community in the area's of family violence, child protection, sexual assault, drug and alcohol, transition to school, school retention, family support and social and emotional well being.



Tackling Indigenous Smoking – Quit B Fit

📍 Dubbo

The Quit B Fit team is funded by the Australian Government to deliver the Tackling Indigenous Smoking program, as part of the Closing the Gap initiative. The focus is health promotion, awareness and prevention program to provide Indigenous people with tools and resources to live healthier lives without smoking cigarettes.

Our team run programs in each of the schools in the region and also attend many events to promote the Quit B Fit message to the local communities. The Quit B Fit team covers a large area of New South Wales incorporating Western Sydney, Central West, Far West and New England regions.



www.wachs.net.au