



# PROSPECTUS

## WACHS Vision

WACHS is acknowledged and respected as an organisation of excellence which is demonstrated by a healthier Aboriginal community.

## WACHS Mission Statement

To advocate for and facilitate the achievement and maintenance of health outcomes consistent with Aboriginal peoples' evolving notion of cultural wellbeing.

## Purpose

WACHS plans, delivers, co-ordinates and advocates for effective clinic and community-based primary health care services to the Aboriginal community.

## WACHS Objectives

- a. Provide culturally appropriate primary health care service for Aboriginal people and the wider community within the Wellington shire.
- 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 community in Wellington shire including, Nanima Reserve.
- d. Involve Aboriginal people in the planning and provision of primary health care services.
- e. Provide professional development for our Aboriginal Board and staff to support their roles and responsibilities within WACHS.
- f. Support and assist Aboriginal people to better utilise existing holistic health care services.

## 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



# About Us

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

Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (WACHS) aims to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take control of their individual, family and community health and wellbeing needs through the community controlled model.

WACHS is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service offering a Primary Health Care Service and an Integrated Care program, supported by GP Services in our clinics, as well as a number of specialist clinical staff and Aboriginal Health Workers, a Specialist Programs Unit incorporating Social & Emotional Wellbeing, Child & Family Support, Drug & Alcohol, Aboriginal Family Health, Aboriginal Local Support, a Healthy for Life (H4L) Program, Maternal & Child Health Worker, Youth Health Worker and Dietitian targeting Maternal & Child Health and Chronic Diseases. Regional programs including Australian Nurse Family Partnership Program, Aboriginal Children's Therapy Team, Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program, as well as a Human Resource / Financial Management section are also part of our service.

Supporting all WACHS services and programs is a Quality Improvements Program, which incorporates consistent best practice processes across the organisation.

Our Finance team have worked to implement a range of financial objectives to guide decision making in the organisation. WACHS have a number of key strategic objectives in terms of financial management. The purpose of these objectives is to develop our capacity to self-fund priorities which we identify and to ensure we hold sufficient funds to invest in our capital needs, without compromising our liquidity. Also to grow our business by developing new revenue streams and to manage funds appropriately and in accordance with the high expectations rightfully placed on community organisations by funding providers.

WACHS is a not-for-profit organisation that provides specific health and specialist programs to support clients/patients in addressing their health, wellbeing needs and issues in a culturally appropriate way. As well as providing these specific health related services, our service endeavours to provide self-determination and empower Aboriginal people in Wellington, Dubbo, Moree, Western Sydney, Penrith, Nepean Blue Mountains, as well as other towns and communities through our regional programs to take control and responsibility for their health and wellbeing.



# Our Leadership Team



**Darren Ah See**  
Chief Executive Officer

Darren was born and raised in Wellington and is part of the Wiradjuri nation which covers a large part of central NSW. Darren possesses formal qualifications with a Diploma of Government (Management) and a Certificate IV in Indigenous Governance (Business).

Darren has an extensive employment record in a diverse range of fields including Local Government, Education, Juvenile Justice, and mainstream health. Darren is currently employed as the Chief Executive Officer of Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service where he has been employed since 2003.

He is also a current Board member of both Marathon Health and the Western NSW Local Health District and previously held Board positions with Greater Western Area Health Service, Western NSW Local Medicare Local and the Clinical Engagement Advisory Committee which was part of the Clinical Excellence Commission.



**Melissa Mills**  
Executive Manager Operations

Melissa Mills was born and raised in Wellington and is a proud Wiradjuri/Tubbah Gah woman. She has worked for WACHS for the past 9 years and holds the position of Executive Manager of Operations and is the 2IC to the CEO. As the organisation has expanded so has her role which now oversees 6 portfolios within the organisation.

Melissa has an Advanced Diploma of Management and a wealth of experience, gained during her time in Brisbane in senior management roles for the Division of General Practices, Youth and Family Support Services and Youth Detention centres. She has also worked in the state, federal and community sectors covering areas such as case management, advocacy, support and strong social justice framework.

After returning to Wellington, Melissa is now raising her 3 children, horses and dogs with husband Paul and is a community volunteer with Touch Football, Junior Rugby Union and Senior Rugby League.

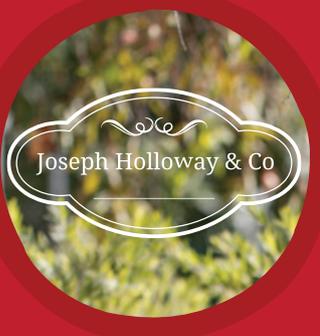


**Janet Curran**  
Executive Manager Operations

Janet has worked in the field of social and human services in Western NSW for more than 25 years. She is a Registered Psychologist and has worked with a range of vulnerable persons. Specific areas of expertise range from child protection, persons with disabilities, young offenders and families.

After providing direct client services, Janet moved into management positions, becoming Centre Manager of the Orana Juvenile Justice Centre for six years and was responsible for managing teams through changes and restructures, as well as the overall operations of the secure facility and all that entails. Janet has managed therapeutic and case management teams, teams of staff in remote and rural locations with a diverse range of skills and experience, along with development projects.

Janet has worked at WACHS since 2012 and has enjoyed a variety of roles in that time. She maintains a very strong commitment to respect and fairness in the workplace balanced with compliance and accountability.



Joseph Holloway & Co

## Paul Mills

Principal, Joseph Holloway & Co

Paul has over 25 years experience in the non-government, government and commercial sectors, Paul has a demonstrated record of achievement in working with organisations to improve policy, program and financial outcomes. He specialises in working with 'at risk' entities in both the commercial and non-government sectors, in supporting organisations to develop evidence based programs, assisting organisations to develop resourcing strategies to support their objectives, and in establishing effective financial management systems.

Paul holds post graduate qualifications in Social Science (Human Services) together with further tertiary study in Business (Accounting). He has been the Principal of Joseph Holloway & Co (established in 1969) since 2003.



## Jodie Evans

Exec Manager Communication,  
Marketing & Engagement

Jodie has over 29 years of Management, Marketing and Sales experience, Jodie has worked for State and Local Government along with private and not for profit organisations. Her skill set extends from Tourism, Travel, Hotel, Sports and Health related industries managing teams of over 120 staff and 100 volunteers. Overseeing and managing Marketing, Communication, Business and Action Plan's with her key achievements being the following:

- Presented with the Key's To The City – By Coffs Harbour City Council Mayor
- Business Leader Award – Coffs Harbour Chamber Of Commerce Awards
- Marketing & Advertising Award – Coffs Harbour Chamber Of Commerce Awards
- Business Of The Year Award – Coffs Harbour Chamber Of Commerce Awards
- Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award



## Tim Horan

Executive Manager MARRS

Tim has a wealth of experience in Local Government and the Health industry, serving on many government and non-government boards during his career including the Western NSW Local Health District, Rural and remote Medical Services, Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council.

Tim was a member of the Walgett Council from 1999 to 2002 and became the first Aboriginal person elected to Coonamble Council in 2002. Tim remained in this role until 2012 and went on to become the second longest consecutive serving Mayor of Coonamble Council with 11 years of service.

After a career with the NSW Police serving 20 years in Western NSW, Tim was on long service leave and became familiar with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) and then began employment with Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service assisting with the setup of the Dubbo Aboriginal Medical Service.

Tim and his wife have fostered over 50 Aboriginal kids across Western NSW over the last 23 years.



## Jen Conn

Legal Counsel

Jen graduated from Macquarie University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Law and has worked as a Solicitor for the last 13 years with the last 7 in Sole Practice at Graham & Ward Solicitors in Wellington. She is an active member of the New South Wales Law Society and the Orana Law Society.

Jen has had a long running relationship with WACHS as Legal Consultant and has been providing WACHS with Legal advice for many years.

A local Wellington girl who has lived in the area for 23 years and has assisted many local volunteer organisation and community groups by being their pro bono solicitor.



## 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 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

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.



## Regional Eye Program

### 📍 Wellington

Regional Eye Health Coordinators (REHC) 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.

The towns that the WACHS Eye Health Program covers include Baradine, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo, Gilgandra, Gulargambone, Narromine, Nyngan, Trangie, Warren as well as Wellington.

## 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](http://www.wachs.net.au)