



including...



Greater Western
Aboriginal Health Service

ICN 792—under special administration

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3, December 2021

Dear members and other interested people,

Our names are Jack James and Paula Smith and we are from Rodgers Reidy in Perth. On 20 September 2021, the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations appointed us special administrators of Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (WACHS).

During the special administration, we will keep you informed of progress through newsletters and information meetings. All newsletters and meeting notices will be at register.oric.gov.au/PrintCorporationSearch.aspx?icn=792

PROGRESS OF SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION

We are continuing our work in stage 2 of the special administration, aiming to restore good operational order.

STAGE	ACTION	STATUS
1	Take control of the assets, including bank accounts; build a complete picture of issues and challenges; and establish a clear plan of action.	COMPLETE
2	Restore good operational order.	IN PROGRESS
3	Prepare the corporation for return to members control.	PENDING

INFORMATION MEETINGS

We were pleased to be able to meet and hear from community members at our first round of information meetings held in the week starting 6 December 2021.

We will hold our second round of information meetings from 31 January 2022.

Information meetings are open to all community members and other interested parties to attend. They provide an opportunity to hear from the special administrators about the progress of the special administration. More importantly, they provide us the opportunity to hear from community members about their views regarding WACHS.

See the following schedule—and the attached notice.

DATE	PLACE	TIME
Monday 31 January 2022	Wellington RSL Club 75 Arthur Street Wellington NSW 2820	6.00 pm
Tuesday 1 February 2022	PIUS X Aboriginal Corporation 140 Anne Street Moree NSW 2780	2.00 pm
Thursday 3 February 2022	Katoomba Leura Community Centre Town Centre Arcade, 81-83 Katoomba St Katoomba NSW 2780	12.00 pm
Thursday 3 February 2022	Sydney Regional Aboriginal Corporation 51-57 Henry Street Penrith NSW 2751	4.00 pm
Friday 4 February 2022	Kimberwalli 1 Mimika Avenue Whalan NSW 2770	11.00 am

STAFFING

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In response to the national advertising of the chief executive officer (CEO) role, WACHS received over 70 applications. From this large pool, 7 highly experienced candidates were selected for first interviews with a panel which included 3 members of the advisory group.

Two candidates advanced to the second round. Both then completed written exercises and presented to the full advisory group.

Now, we are pleased to advise that Darren Green has been selected as the new CEO of WACHS.

Darren brings over 20 years' of Aboriginal health and community service experience to the role and has worked

within health, culture and heritage, housing, crime and justice, youth and families, education and training. Most recently Darren has been acting as WACHS' executive manager, operations, where he has demonstrated excellent knowledge of the sector, a strong community orientation and a commitment to transforming WACHS.

Darren started as CEO on Monday, 6 December 2021. He is based in Wellington and will work closely with the advisory group and ourselves.

Please join us in congratulating Darren on his appointment. We wish him all the best in this challenging role.

WACHS' interim CEO, Joanne Grant, will continue to work closely with Darren in an advisory capacity for the remainder of the special administration. Please also join us in thanking Jo for her tremendous work and support over the last few months. Jo has provided WACHS and its staff much needed support and direction during a difficult time. We are most appreciative of her support.

Chief executive officer (CEO)	Darren Green
Chief finance officer (CFO)	Avtar Singh
Solicitor	Jennifer Conn
Executive manager, service development, Western Sydney & Dubbo	Janet Curran
Executive manager, operations	Jay Forrester (acting)
Executive manager, Moree Aboriginal residential rehabilitation service—Maayu Mali	Tim Horan
Executive manager, communications, marketing & engagement	Jodie Evans
Executive manager, Greater Western Aboriginal Health Service	Cherie Colliss (acting)

NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Avtar (Avi) Singh as chief financial officer (CFO). Avi's appointment followed an Australia-wide recruitment campaign.

Avi has been a qualified accountant since 2002, and brings to the role many years' senior finance experience in a wide range of industries. He has worked in not-for-profit organisations and various cultural environments.

Avi commenced with WACHS on Monday, 6 December 2021 and will be located in the Wellington office. Please join us in welcoming Avi to WACHS.

Once Avi has had time to acquaint himself with WACHS' financial systems and operations, he is keen to get out to other sites to meet staff and rebuild the financial reporting and transparency within the corporation.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

As we have mentioned previously, during the special administration we will review the executive management team (EMT) in order to develop a structure that is best aligned to WACHS activities, locations and operating structures.

Now that Darren is CEO, we will work with him in the week starting 10 January 2022 to draft a new EMT structure. The following week, consultation with staff will begin.

NEW DOCTOR AT KATOOMBA CLINIC

We are pleased to advise that the recruitment of a doctor for the Katoomba clinic is well progressed and we anticipate they will start in January 2022.

REVIEW OF MAAYU MALI

As previously advised, The Glen (an experienced residential rehabilitation service) has been engaged to review Maayu Mali operations and recommend improvements to systems and processes that will lead to better outcomes for clients. We expect the review to be complete in December 2021.

MONEY STORY

A summary of WACHS' recent financial information is on the right side of this page.

FINANCIAL POSITION AND PERFORMANCE

An audit of the 2021 financial statements will likely begin in early January 2022. ORIC and the funders have granted an extension of time for the audit. We now have until 11 March 2022.

Based on the *unaudited* financial statements, we make the following comments:

- The accounts for the year ended 30 June 2021 are likely to change, especially once we adjust it to comply with the new accounting standards.
- Based on the current draft, for the year ended 30 June 2021 WACHS made a profit of \$1,202,940 and had net assets of \$16,385,412.
- The accounts for the first quarter of 2021–22 (to 30 September 2021) are yet to factor in unexpended grants, depreciation and leave accruals—so we expect the profit to be lower than it appears. Based on the current draft, for the first quarter of 2021–22 WACHS made a profit of \$838,522 and had net assets of \$17,223,934.
- As at 30 September 2021, WACHS is in a good financial position. It has a working capital surplus (that is, current assets less current liabilities) of \$6,022,805 and a current ratio (current assets divided by current liabilities) of 2.64. That means: for every \$1 of liabilities (money owed), WACHS has \$2.64 of assets (money owned). As such, WACHS can pay its debts as and when they fall due.

BUDGET FOR 2021–22

At the time of our appointment, a budget for 2021–22 had not been prepared. We have started one and now Avi is the CFO, it will progress and be ready to discuss with staff in the new year.

	30 Jun '20 (audited)	30 Jun '21 (unaudited)	30 Sep '21 (unaudited)
ASSETS			
Current assets	12,063,162	8,732,770	9,690,880
Non-current assets	8,666,487	12,037,901	12,208,534
TOTAL ASSETS	20,729,649	20,770,671	21,899,414
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities	3,719,043	3,377,855	3,668,075
Non-current liabilities	1,827,298	1,007,404	1,007,404
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,546,341	4,385,259	4,675,479
NET ASSETS	15,183,308	16,385,412	17,223,934
INCOME			
Grants	17,391,836	19,351,614	4,435,225
Medicare	2,737,959	3,063,069	624,174
Other	1,054,720	714,474	106,561
TOTAL INCOME	21,184,515	23,129,157	5,165,960
EXPENSES			
Administration costs	681,133	955,685	34,399
Board expenses	58,179	63,918	2,707
Capital acquisitions	123,709	531,161	-
Computer support & software	348,270	553,851	156,207
Consulting & professional fees	122,519	134,735	16,645
Contractors	739,513	480,227	202,742
Depreciation & amortisation	577,997	581,594	-
Employee benefits	12,763,702	12,750,658	3,048,269
Medical supplies	119,482	168,102	36,206
Other operating expenses	818,451	1,068,145	368,053
Program costs	1,125,986	1,623,091	114,697
Rent	742,710	805,928	178,814
Repairs & maintenance	605,793	581,176	85,676
Sponsorship	526,676	600,200	76,500
NSW Indigenous Touch carnival	40,541	-	-
Travel expenses	407,215	209,147	6,523
Unexpended grants	1,087,745	817,763	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	20,889,621	21,927,053	4,327,438
SURPLUS	294,894	1,202,104	838,522

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATORS' ADVISORY GROUP

Since our last newsletter, 2 members of the advisory group have resigned, being Roy Ah-See and Heidi Spratt.

Following discussions at recent information meetings, we are looking for further nominations as follows:

- 2 nominees from Wellington / Dubbo (to replace the 2 members who resigned)
- 1 further nomination from Moree
- 1 nomination from Katoomba
- 1 nomination from Penrith

A nomination form is attached. If you would like to nominate, please complete and return the form by 10 January 2022.

We will also review nominations previously submitted—so if you nominated before, there is no need to do so again.

Going forward, we will work with the advisory group to review the rule book to strengthen governance and representation in WACHS.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

Our next steps will include, amongst other things:

- review the EMT structure
- complete the audit of the 2020–21 financial statements
- complete the budget for the remainder of the current financial year
- review governance structure including a review of the rule book—with the assistance of the advisory group
- hold a second round of information meetings

CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR CLOSURE

As previously advised, WACHS will be fully closed from 12.00pm Friday 24 December and will reopen on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

During the closure period, WACHS has dedicated emergency contacts at each of its business sites, for those in need.

Also, WACHS will provide a list of alternative contacts to all members and clients, keep its social media pages updated and clearly display signage on all our office sites.

WACHS has already notified regional primary health networks, local doctors and hospitals of the Christmas / New Year arrangements.

We thank staff for their ongoing support and hard work during a very challenging period.

We wish all staff, members and community members a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to meeting with you in the new year.

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATORS



Jack James

jjames@rogersreidy.com.au



Paula Smith

Rodgers Reidy
(08) 9328 6262

MORE INFORMATION

The Registrar has a fact sheet, Special administrations: what members and directors need to know—See oric.gov.au/special-admins or free call **1800 622 431**.



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NOMINATION TO BE IN THE ADVISORY GROUP

Please return your completed form by **10 January 2022**
to jjames@rodgersreidy.com.au

I, _____

(insert name)

nominate myself for the **special administrators' advisory group**.

RELEVANT BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE:

CONTACT DETAILS:

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____





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Kevin Vu, of ORIC, will be at the meetings in Wellington and Mount Druitt (Whalan) and available to answer your questions.

This is your opportunity to discuss the special administration and the future of the corporation. Please come along.

Light refreshments will be served.

AGENDA

- 1 Progress to date
- 2 Money story
- 3 Discussion of the rule book
- 4 Next steps in the special administration
- 5 Questions

NOTICE OF INFORMATION MEETINGS

On 20 September 2021, the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations appointed us special administrators. We are holding a second round of information meetings and invite members, community and interested parties to come.

To respect the privacy of those attending, the media will be absent from these meetings.

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATORS



Jack James

jjames@rogersreidy.com.au | psmith@rogersreidy.com.au
Rodgers Reidy (08) 9328 6262



Paula Smith

MORE INFORMATION

The Registrar has a fact sheet, *Special administrations: what members and directors need to know*—see oric.gov.au/special-admins or freecall **1800 622 431**.

COVID-19 CAUTION

The health of community members, employees and stakeholders is of paramount importance. Covid restrictions eased further on 15 December, and we will monitor case numbers in the region of each meeting location and take all necessary precautions to maintain the safety of attendees. We will update community members and stakeholders of any change in circumstances that may affect the meetings.

We have endeavoured to select spacious venues and encourage participants to wear a face mask if social distancing is impossible. Depending on the venue owner, you might also need to check in with the NSW service app.