

CONNECT with RESPECT

Issue 3

KELLY SHINES WITH TERRIFIC SUPPORT

Pharmacy Technician Kelly Winmar is loving her new role at Maroondah Hospital, grateful to her team for their amazing support.

Kelly, who is a Nyungar Yorga (woman) from Perth, has been living in Victoria for just over ten years. She began as a Pharmacy Technician in March, having successfully applied through the Eastern Health Koolin Balit Traineeship Program.

"My first thought was 'my goodness, I've got so much to learn. How can I do this?'

"However, I have been working with some great pharmacists and

technicians who have been really patient and welcoming."

Kelly's role has seen her work across a range of pharmacy roles, including distribution, imprest, dispensary, aseptic services, procurement and clinical support.

"My experience has been challenging and rewarding. I'm lucky to have such a great team to work with."

She hopes to inspire other Aboriginal people to pursue a career in Pharmacy or healthcare.

"It's terrific that working here has increased awareness and understanding of Aboriginal culture in the Department."



EXCITING WORK:
Pharmacy Technician Kelly Winmar is enjoying working with the Pharmacy Team at Maroondah Hospital.


CLOSING THE GAP SPORTS DAY

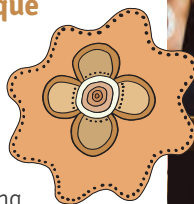
Eastern Health is committed to its Closing the Gap Family Sports Day. As it has been five years since this unique partnership started, we would like to offer the community a chance to provide their feedback.

We would really like to know if there is a better time to have this event as the weather in March can be very warm for a football and netball tournament. Perhaps it should be held during a cooler period in spring, such as October or November? Maybe it should be held every two years to enhance community engagement?

To allow us to properly reflect and gain the community's perspective on the best path forward for this important event, next year's Closing the Gap Family Sports Day will be held in late 2018.

In the meantime, your feedback would be very much welcome.

 Please call the Aboriginal Health Team on **5957 1100** or email AHTIntake@easternhealth.org.au and tell us what you think. We would love to hear from you.



SPREADING THE HEALTH MESSAGE

Eastern Health acknowledged NAIDOC Week in 2017 with a special event at Maroondah Hospital. Highlights of the July event included a Welcome to Country from Wurrundjeri Elder Aunty Joy Murphy, and a performance by the Djiurri Djiurri Dancing Group (pictured).



Eastern Health is committed to achieving equality in health status between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-indigenous Australians.

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MENTAL HEALTH CONNECTION



***STRONG COMMITMENT:** Kate Locastro and Eddie Thomson are dedicated to enhancing mental health care for Aboriginal residents in the region.*

Enhancing services to better meet the needs of the local Aboriginal community has been a key priority for Maroondah's Mental Health Team.

The development of the Aboriginal Clinical Engagement Project for Maroondah Mental Health Services has been crucial in improved engagement between Eastern Health and Aboriginal residents in the region.

It aims to improve access to services and outcomes for Aboriginal people as well as cultural responsiveness of services.

Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer Jo Voce has been a key adviser since the inception of the project. She has been instrumental in increasing the mental health staff understanding of the needs of our Aboriginal consumers and clients.

Eastern Health Aboriginal Engagement Clinician Kate Locastro said there had been important improvements at Maroondah Hospital Inpatient Unit (IPU) 1, IPU2, and Prevention and Recovery Care since the project was introduced.

"From the installation of Aboriginal specific information boards to reducing

barriers for Aboriginal people so they can better access PARC services, we are starting to see a positive difference being made."

Volunteer Eddie Thomson has been involved in painting feature walls at Maroondah Hospital Mental Health Services so they are in-line with Aboriginal culture.

"We can all play a part in ensuring healthcare is as accessible as possible for our local Aboriginal community," Mr Thomson said.

The hard work is starting to pay off. The percentage of Aboriginal admissions at Maroondah Hospital's Mental Health Services has increased. Ms Locastro said the Aboriginal community is increasingly becoming more aware of the services Eastern Health provides, with positive feedback and increased referrals.

"We certainly recognise there is still a lot of hard work to do. However, there have been some encouraging signs," Ms Locastro said.

"We look forward to working with the Aboriginal community in the region on how we can continue to enhance mental health care in the east."

“From the installation of Aboriginal specific information boards to reducing barriers for Aboriginal people so they can better access PARC services, we are starting to see a positive difference being made.”

– Kate Locastro

ABORIGINAL HEALTH TEAM

Eastern Health's Aboriginal Health Team is a community-based service based in Healesville that is accessible by Aboriginal people and their families living anywhere in Eastern Health's catchment.

It provides a range of services that are available on-site in Healesville and through home visits and outreach support. These include:

- ⦿ **Primary health care:** health checks, nursing support and general health information and education.
- ⦿ **Case management and advocacy:** care planning, case management, referral and advocacy for other services.
- ⦿ **Social and emotional wellbeing:** counselling services, school-based programs and education support.
- ⦿ **Home and community care:** domestic assistance, property maintenance and social events.

i The Aboriginal Health Team is located at 377 Maroondah Highway, Healesville and is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm. Phone **5957 1100** or email **AHTIntake@easternhealth.org.au**