

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Nidjalla Waangan Mia Health Services Aboriginal Corporation**

#### **What is an ACCHO?**

An ACCHO is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation - a health service that is owned and run by the local community through their membership of the organisation and by local directors on the board.

#### **What is the difference between Nidjalla Waangan Mia Health Service and Nidjalla Waangan Mia Health Service Aboriginal Corporation?**

Currently the Nidjalla Waangan Mia health service in Mandurah is run by a mainstream not for profit organisation, Oseca. Nidjalla Waangan Mia has been the health and wellbeing centre for the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Bindjareb region since 2010.

The Nidjalla Waangan Mia Health Service Aboriginal Corporation is a group of seven local Aboriginal Directors and two independent Directors (including a retired GP) and is supported by the Peel Development Commission, City of Mandurah and Lavan Legal. The Aboriginal Corporation is hoping to one day run the Nidjalla Waangan Mia Health Service in Mandurah.

#### **Why do we want an ACCHO in our region?**

A local ACCHO has the potential to expand the services currently being provided by Nidjalla Waangan Mia through increased funding opportunities and to provide job opportunities for Aboriginal people. An ACCHO will likely lead to better health outcomes as the local community can design programs that work for them.

#### **What will the new organisation provide to the community?**

It is anticipated that the primary Health Services currently provided by Oseca will continue if and when the transition to the Aboriginal Corporation occurs. The Aboriginal Corporation is committed to ensuring there is no interruption in services to mob in the transition. With 'Aboriginal Health in Aboriginal Hands' it is hoped that health services provided to community are culturally appropriate and safe. Additional funding is sometimes available to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations which may assist the Aboriginal Corporation in expanding health programs to the Mandurah and wider Bindjareb Community.

#### **Will the ACCHO employ Aboriginal People?**

The ACCHO will be committed to maintaining the current highly skilled staff of Nidjalla Waangan Mia while also increasing the opportunities for Aboriginal employment through traineeships and a wider range of services available in the region.

#### **How will the new ACCHO contribute towards self-determination for the local community?**

The service and its funds would be managed by a local Aboriginal Board of directors elected by local members. Through local membership the community will have a say in who manages the organisation and how services are prioritised in the region. It is hoped that this will help achieve Closing the Gap targets.

## **Comments and feedback from the local community**

- “A local service will know the needs of our community, build confidence in Aboriginal people accessing the health services for themselves and their families, improving health outcomes for Aboriginal families.”
- “Nidjalla Waangan Mia needs to be a community led organisation that makes decisions based on local knowledge and experiences.”
- “Nidjalla already deliver a good service and have good rapport amongst our community. Having Nidjalla as an Aboriginal led organisation would be the best option for our local stakeholders.”

**Supporting this project will give the Bindjareb community self-determination over its health service delivery.**

## **How can you support this transition?**

- Put these points on the agenda of yarning groups, meetings and gatherings you attend.
- Invite a member of the Aboriginal Corporation to attend a question-and-answer session (contact [governance@nidjalla.org.au](mailto:governance@nidjalla.org.au))
- Share this flyer or start a conversation
- Expressions of interest to become a member: contact [governance@nidjalla.org.au](mailto:governance@nidjalla.org.au)

## **Next Steps**

Nidjalla Waangan Mia is registered as an Aboriginal Corporation and are now seeking members.

The Aboriginal Corporation will continue to work towards meeting the requirements to run the health service in the future.

