

Board Update July/August 2021



MDAS
MALLEE DISTRICT ABORIGINAL SERVICES

The COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions are affecting us all in different ways, so please remember to reach out to MDAS if we can help in any way.

Thank you to everyone who's been vaccinated against COVID-19 - you're doing your bit to protect our Mob. To those who haven't, please make an appointment. COVID-19 isn't going away and we need to do everything we can to stay safe.

Recognising our staff members

On behalf of the Board and Executive Management Team at MDAS, we want to thank our staff members who have been working particularly hard throughout the COVID-19 response to continue to provide services to our Community.

To the staff members involved in delivering COVID-19 testing and vaccinations; those delivering food hampers to Community members in need; and those staff members who continued the many programs and services MDAS has for our Mob, we thank you for your care and dedication.

Improving our governance

COVID-19 has challenged our Board in a number of ways, but we are continuing to work together to improve the governance and accountability of MDAS, while strengthening important relationships. Key pieces of work include:

- **Auditing our Confirmation of Aboriginality process:** This involves going through previous approvals and rejections to ensure the appropriate process was followed and the decisions were correct. There is a lot of work involved in this and it is likely to take until the end of October to complete. It's important work and means you Mob can be confident the right decisions are being made now and into the future.
- **Undertaking policy reviews:** A detailed review of MDAS policies is underway to address gaps and ensure we have robust processes in place. The Conflict of Interest Policy and Financial Delegations Policy are among those we are looking at, both of which are required to ensure we are delivering good governance of the organisation.
- **Maintaining strong relationships:** The Board was recently briefed on the relationship MDAS has with its largest funder, the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. This relationship continues to be strong and MDAS remains focused on delivering against important contracts and action plans we have in place with the department.

Damien Murray, Chair, MDAS Board
Jacki Turfrey, Chief Executive Officer

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UPDATE #4
MDAS
BOARD

setting a course for our shared future