



MDAS
MALLEE DISTRICT ABORIGINAL SERVICES

Koori NEWS

SUMMER 2019



GROWING OUR OWN SUCCESS

STRONGER FROM WITHIN FOR THE FUTURE



AT MDAS WE ARE COMMITTED "GROWING OUR OWN".

That means we are taking a long-term view of securing and building the quality skilled workforce we need as an organisation and a community.

We were proud to hold our first "Celebrating Success" morning tea recently, where 21 of our staff were recognised for completing nationally-accredited courses.

Pictured: Ian Kirby got some advice from Kosha Shanahan from the MDAS MAEP program and found his passion as the MDAS Community Liaison Officer. 21 MDAS staff were recognised at the first Celebrating Success morning tea.

MDAS currently has 120 staff studying nationally-accredited training from Certificate level to Master's degree.

We also supported 19 trainees in the 2018-19 financial year who are currently studying across all program areas in the organisation.

And our innovative Mallee Aboriginal Employment Program is providing partnerships and opportunities to get you started, or support you on your work journey.

We have some real talent within MDAS and our community. Investing in our staff and supporting people as they strive to become future leaders is great for the whole community.

So if you need a bit of help or advice – chat to our People and Culture team and see what we can do together.

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MDAS Christmas opening hours

Our MDAS Health teams will be here to help right across the Christmas-New Year period. The Health service will only be closed on public holidays. But we will close early on Christmas eve (12 noon) and New Years' Eve (4pm).



RECOGNITION FOR SWAN HILL YOUTH PROGRAM

WE ARE PROUD AND EXCITED TO HAVE OUR MDAS SWAN HILL YOUTH PROGRAM NOMINATED FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH AWARD AT THE LODDON MALLEE REGIONAL COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARDS.

And extra proud that our fabulous youth worker Arron Nicholls was nominated as well, for the Strengthening Culture Award.

The Aboriginal Community Justice Awards recognise work in the justice field that promotes engagement of children and youth, adults and Elders, cultural strengthening, reconciliation, partnership, and leadership.

Arron and the youth team have been doing some super work with our youth camps and community days at Menera – and it shows in the growing cultural learning and pride in our young people, which improves outcomes in all sorts of areas.

Pictured above: Arron Nicholls



NEW AGED AND DISABILITY SERVICES HUB OPEN FOR BUSINESS

A NEW-LOOK HUB THAT'S MORE ACCESSIBLE AND USER-FRIENDLY FOR ELDERS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS AT MDAS MILDURA.

The MDAS Aged Care and Disability Services team moved into the new site at 116 Orange Avenue earlier this year, and work's been continuing since to overhaul the space for staff and clients.

The site is adjacent to existing MDAS services and was chosen because of its convenience for clients.

The building is now the central hub for all Aged Care and Disability Services in Mildura so everything and everyone our clients need to access for aged care and disability services is in the one place.

And when community members do need to access other services with MDAS or elsewhere, they can easily be supported by the Aged and Disability services team members.

MDAS Aged and Disability support programs include a social support group and a respite group for Aboriginal people over 50 and people who are living with a disability. In addition, staff also help clients access My Aged Care and the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Pictured: The new hub was officially opened by board member Uncle Josh Kirby

MDAS Community Engagement Officer John Jackson chatting with Barkindji Elder Uncle Rex Smith at the morning tea

SWAN HILL FRIDAY BARBIES GETTING BLOKES TALKING

A NEW SWAN HILL PROJECT IS COOKING UP A STORM TO GET BLOKES TALKING.

The Indig-N-Us men's project started last month and partners with local health providers with the aim of improving health outcomes for men.

It's a free Friday barbecue, held every second week, and provides an opportunity for men to get together, enjoy lunch and provide an opportunity to talk about difficult topics or access health support.

The group is being run by MDAS Indigenous Access and Support Officer Kokwam Wapau, and he can be contacted for information on dates and times.



KERANG KIDS MAKING DEADLY CHOICES

A BIG WELL DONE TO OUR KERANG TECHNICAL SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED THE DEADLY CHOICES 8 WEEK EDUCATION PROGRAM.

The program is all about healthy choices – for life. We finished

off with a BBQ lunch, certificate presentation and handed out shirts and backpacks to program graduates.

It was a huge success and the Kerang team is looking forward to delivering it again 2020.

SWAN HILL AND KERANG ARTISTS TO THE FORE

OUR SWAN HILL AND KERANG ART COMPETITION IS NOW CLOSED...BUT WHAT AMAZING WORKS AND NEW ARTISTS IT UNCOVERED.

The MDAS art competition reflects the importance of art, culture, language and storytelling in our communities and will be used in future MDAS promotions.

The \$500 prizes for each section (under 12, 12-24 and open) will come just in time for Christmas – and winners will be decided soon (watch our website and Facebook page for the big announcement!)



Our Community Art Day gave people an opportunity to create their works – and it brought out some beautiful art that community members are justifiably proud of.

Next it will be Mildura and Robinvale's turn, with the competition to be announced at the Mildura community day on December 20.



YARNING ABOUT CARING

IF YOU'RE A CARER, OR THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CARER, THIS IS FOR YOU!

Join other kinship and foster carers for a two-day workshop, in a safe, non-judgemental setting, to discuss the challenges and rewards of being a carer.

The all-day sessions on December 9 and 10 are run by Carer Kafe and will include arts-based activities on Country and men's and women's yarning circles about the challenges of being a carer and building resilience.

If you would like more information, please contact Glenn at MDAS.

COMBINED CHRISTMAS PLAYGROUP

MDAS Early Years and Parents & Bubs Swan Hill

December 20 - 10.30 am

Gifts for kids and morning tea

Around MDAS

MDAS KERANG CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Kerang Valley Resort
December 20 - 11.30am
RSVP at MDAS Kerang by Dec 16

ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS

December 20 Langtree Mall
2pm - 7pm
Rugby legend Steve Renouf,
Barkindji Warrior Shantelle Thompson,
BBQ, face painting, Santa

DEADLY THIS MONTH

MALINDA LOATS – SWAN HILL EARLY YEARS

Malinda Loats began her journey to a Bachelor of Education, Early Childhood 20 years ago. Now, with the support of MDAS, she's graduated! "It was something I wanted to do, but there were a few times along the way when I got off track. Once I started working at MDAS, that's when I started thinking about it again. I have four children myself and my husband and family supported me incredibly. But everyone at MDAS was so supportive. My colleagues would encourage me if I was struggling, I had mentors within the Early Years team who were just so supportive every time I came up against a challenge – and my managers allowed me the flexibility for study and to do placement. I could not have asked for more support or encouragement... and I made it. I'm very proud and I hope there are young people around me who will think: "I can do that too!"



OUR ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria is now elected and will be the voice for Aboriginal people in the next phase of the Treaty process.

There are 21 representatives from across Victoria including, from three elected from the North West:

- Jacinta Chaplin
- Raylene Harradine
- Jason Kelly

But a big congratulations to every candidate – 70 from across the State – who all made an important contribution to this process. And congratulations to everyone who voted.

OUR SERVICES

HEALTH

GP
Nurse
Aboriginal Health Workers
Outreach Workers
Chronic Disease Management
Maternal Child Health
Nurse Health Checks
Transport

SPECIALIST SERVICES

Nephrologist
Drug And Alcohol Worker
Psychologist
Maternal And Child Health Nurse
Dietician
Podiatrist
Cardiologist
Urologist
Paediatrician
Optometrist
Cardiologist
Respiratory Specialist Audiologist
Physiotherapist
Personal Trainers

CLINICS

Well Women's Clinic
Immunisation Clinic

TACKLING SMOKING AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES SERVICES

Quit Smoking Support
Boot Camps
Community Gym

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING TEAM

Local Justice Worker Program
Bringing Them Home Program
Drug & Alcohol Counselling
Gamblers Help
Koori Women's Diversion
Wiimpatja Healing Centre
Mental Health-AOD (Youth Specific)
Adult Mental Health
Gambling Community
Prevention Project
Psychiatrist

AGED AND DISABILITY

Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)
Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC-PYP)

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

CHILDREN'S PLACEMENT SERVICES

Aboriginal Children Specialist
Advice Support Service (ACSASS)
Home Based Care
Kinship Care
Aboriginal Family Led
Decision Making
Cultural Support Planning
Therapeutic Foster Care
Therapeutic Residential Care
Therapeutic Residential Case Management

FAMILY SERVICES

Integrated Family Services
Aboriginal Stronger Families
Family Preservation and Restoration
Parents Under Pressure
Youth Services
Koori Night Patrol
Soccer Club
Community Development Project
Youth Justice
Early School Leavers
Emerging Leaders Program
Family Violence

Meminar (Family Violence refuge)

Men's Case Management
Time out Services
Men's Behaviour Change Group
Koori Youth Connect

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SERVICES

Crisis Support
Transition Support
Aboriginal Tenants at Risk of Eviction
Koori Private Tenancy Worker
Community Housing

EARLY YEARS SERVICES

Maternity Services
Maternal and Child Health Services
Family Support Services;
- In Home support
- Cradle to Kinder
Early Intervention and Early Learning Services
- Supported Playgroups
- Circle of Security
- Collaborative Therapy
HIPPY (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters)
Koori Preschool Assistant Program

OPENING HOURS

Mon - Thur 9am - 5pm
Friday 9am - 4pm

MILDURA

120 Madden Avenue
5018 4100

SWAN HILL

70 Nyah Road
5032 8600

KERANG

9 Nolan Street
5450 3019

ROBINVALE

77 Perrin Street
5026 1848

TO HAVE ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE MDAS NEWSLETTER

Please contact Terry or Jacinta Gange, NewsAlert PR Mildura
0498 490 672 or email hello@newsalertpr.com.au

www.mdas.org.au