

Aboriginal Men's Health Newsletter

"Improving Aboriginal Male Health in WA"

Aboriginal Men's Health Strategic Plan 2011 & Beyond

The Aboriginal Men's Health Strategic Plan (AMHSP) 2011 and beyond has taken a number of years to put together. The plan provides the strategic focus to close the life expectancy gap between Aboriginal males and non-Aboriginal males and also between Aboriginal males and Aboriginal females in Western Australia (WA).

Aboriginal male health statistics in WA are the worst of any sub group in Australia. This plan will look at what is working now and sets out a framework for a coordinated approach to reducing the Aboriginal male health statistics in WA.

This document is aimed at all organisations that have an obligation or commitment to improving Aboriginal male health in WA. The document has gone through a continuous consultation process through the Aboriginal men's health program engagement plan.

In 2007, the OAH convened the WA Aboriginal health promotion conference where a concurrent 'men's business' session was held. The session highlighted real deficiencies in the way Aboriginal men's health was being delivered, which clearly indicated that Aboriginal men's health was not being adequately addressed. This is due to the lack of coordination within a service delivery context, among all leading stakeholder groups and a lack of leadership and direction at a policy development level.

In 2008 the OAH prepared to undertake a 'renewed focus' towards Aboriginal men's health by developing strategic approaches to an Aboriginal men's health program and identify ways to reduce levels of mortality and morbidity among the Aboriginal male population across WA.

In 2009 the draft Aboriginal Men's Health Engagement Plan commenced and saw various levels of engagement for the Aboriginal men's health program, including;

- Regional Aboriginal men's network,
- Regional representatives,
- WA Aboriginal men's health reference group (AMHRG),
- WA Aboriginal men's health inter-agency group, and
- WA health executive.

In 2010, on advice from such group, it was agreed to consolidate, effort in the form of an Aboriginal men's health strategic plan. The draft strategic plan has been disseminated far and wide to various stakeholder groups for their input.

In 2011 the Aboriginal men's health inter-agency group was phased out after achieving their objective, to establish the WA Aboriginal Men's Health Reference Group (AMHRG). The reference group held a strategic planning workshop on April 20th to fine tune the draft AMHSP 2011 and Beyond.

The AMHSP 2011 and Beyond is a document that has been put together to provide leadership and direction for all stakeholder groups, in dealing with the issues that affect ATSI males in WA today.

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Ambassadors being recruited Australia wide, this is the fisheries research and development commission Indigenous reference group.



Western Australian (WA) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) men's health reference group.

Ambassador Program Raising Awareness of Aboriginal Males Need to have a Health Check

Background

The Community Ambassador Program is a complimentary engagement initiative to the Pit Stop program where Aboriginal men are invited to act in a voluntary capacity as Community Ambassadors for men's health across WA.

The Ambassador program is also about raising the awareness of the need for Aboriginal males to go and have a health check, which could save their life or contribute to them living longer.

Once registered, Community Ambassadors would receive a cap, t-shirt, bag and a certificate and would support the local health service or Pit Stop Coordinator. The program seeks to register 500 Community Ambassadors across WA.

The Aboriginal Male Health Coordinator has commenced recruiting Ambassadors in the metropolitan area and is finding that there is a large number of Aboriginal Males in the area that don't know about the Pit Stop program.

The WA Aboriginal men's health reference group (AMHRG) were all recruited as ambassadors while attending a strategic planning workshop held in April 2011.

The recruitment has gone national, with the recruitment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants of the fisheries and research development commission's (FRDC) Indigenous reference group (IRG) while at a meeting in Cairns.

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Positive Promotion of Aboriginal Male Health Initiatives

Aboriginal Male Health Show

Marmun Wanganiny Show

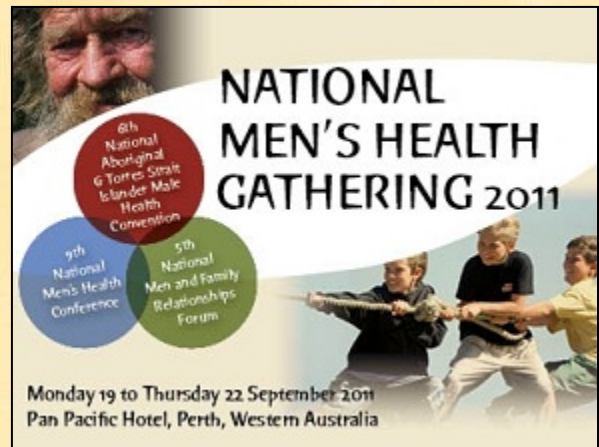
The Marmun (Man) Wanganiny (Healing) Show commenced airing on Noongar Radio, 100.9fm on the 4th of May 2011.

The program is designed to be informative about Aboriginal male health issues to the men of the community and in particular those involved with men's groups around the metropolitan area. It is also being used to inform people of the up and coming National Wanganiny Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Men's Health Convention.

The Marmun Wanganiny Show will be on air every Wednesday night from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. So tune in and check out what's happening in Aboriginal men's health, not only in Noongar country but also the rest of the country.



Presenters and guests of the second Marmun Wanganiny Show, from left, Phillip Cox, Wayne Bynder, Shannon Kearing, David Chesson, Kevin Giles, and Shaun Nannup.



National Men's Health Gathering 2011

*Pan Pacific Hotel (formerly the Sheraton), Perth, Western Australia
19 to 22 September 2011*

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“if it is to be, it is up to me”

(Aboriginal Elder, 2003)

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