



South Australian West Coast ACCHO Network (SAWCAN)

Annual Report

2021-2022

South Australian West Coast ACCHO Network (SAWCAN)

SAWCAN formally commenced in 2020 as a partnership consortium consisting of five ACCHOs on the Eyre Peninsula and Far West Coast of South Australia:

- Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service
- Yadu Health Aboriginal Corporation
- Tullawon Health Service
- Oak Valley Health Service
- Nunyara Aboriginal Health Service

The SAWCAN consortium work collaboratively to:

- Build capacity within the region to achieve improved health and wellness outcomes for Aboriginal peoples
- Demonstrate a strengths-based approach to achieving large-scale solutions
- Share and co-operate with each other to utilise mutual skills, experience and specialist knowledge
- Leverage opportunities by advocating as one voice
- Become a central point of contact that provides advice and direction to external parties on Aboriginal-specific funds and programs coming into our region where it relates to health and wellbeing
- Act as a point of truth-telling and a support to each other

Indigenous Governance Awards

In June 2022 SAWCAN were one of nine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations and initiatives from around the country who were shortlisted as finalists in the 2022 Indigenous Governance Awards. Whilst we didn't win, SAWCAN were one of two initiatives who were given high commendations from the judging panel.

The Indigenous Governance Awards (IGAs) are co-hosted by Reconciliation Australia and the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute in partnership with BHP Billiton.



The IGAs share and promote the success from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations around Australia.

SAWCAN were recognised for our culturally informed ways of working, driving positive and long-lasting change for our region.

“the fact that you have been able to, in such a short amount of time, change the way that governments themselves saw their program objectives and you were able to step into that space and not only speak to it but re-negotiate what that looked like for your mob, I think speaks volumes about the strength of your collaboration and the value that others see in it as well, including government.” - Romlie Mokak, Indigenous Governance Awards judging panel and Productivity Commissioner.

Our services are delighted and so proud to be a part of this innovative way of working as a region. We are excited to see what the next year will bring!



Left to right: Karen Mundine, CEO Reconciliation Australia; Janine Mohamed, CEO Lowitja Institute; Donna Murray, CEO Indigenous Allied Health Australia; Cindy Zbierski, CEO Nunyara Aboriginal Health Service; Zell Dodd, CEO Yadu Health Aboriginal Corporation; Warren Clements, Public Health Manager Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service; Polly Paerata SAWCAN Secretariat; Leeroy Bilney, COO Tullawon Health Service and Romlie Mokak, Commissioner with the Productivity Commission

Our founding Directors

The SAWCAN Directors is comprised of the CEOs of each of the Partner organisations.



Cindy Zbierski, CEO of Nunyara
Aboriginal Health Service.
Inaugural Chairperson of
SAWCAN



Carolyn Miller, CEO of Port
Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service.
Director of SAWCAN



Joanne Badke, CEO of Tullawon
Health Service.
Director of SAWCAN



Sharon Yendall, General
Manager of Oak Valley
Maralinga.
Director of SAWCAN



Zell Dodd, CEO of Yadu
Health Aboriginal
Corporation.
Director of SAWCAN



Our regional project work

Aboriginal disAbility Alliance (AAA)

The AAA project has been running for the past 18 months and aims to increase access to culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal peoples living with a disability, their families, and carers. Through this project, we employ 6.0 FTE across the region, many of which are based in community to provide hands-on support to people living with a disability.

Our major achievements this year include:

- increased access to the NDIS to individuals and families across the region
- two of our services are now providing NDIS services to their communities; one of those health services was recently awarded their NDIS Registration certificate from the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission
- being invited to share our model and ways of working at a national NDIS Conference hosted by NACCHO in Darwin
- held a series of regional workshops for workforce to come together to learn and share from one another
- developing and delivering our own training packages around NDIS to our staff

Closing the Gap, Maternal and Child Health

Since late 2021 SA Health, under Closing the Gap, have been leading a state-based project which aims to review the health system to improve Aboriginal Maternal and Child Health through the development of continuity-of-care protocols. Over this period, each of our health services received two small buckets of funds which we have pooled to deliver two projects.

Project one (due to be completed by August 2022):

Engage a Project Consultant to:

- Map existing systems and processes that exist both internally (within each ACCHO) and externally (mainstream services)
- Identify system gaps and failures
- Provide recommendations for improvement
- Propose innovative models of care
- Deliver a final report and recommendations

Project two:

In late March 2022 we welcomed Mary-Anne Williams to the SAWCAN team in the position of Regional Clinical Projects Coordinator. Mary-Anne's role is varied and will support our region in many ways with a particular focus on:

- Leading the Maternal and Child Health Project across the region
- Working with each of the ACCHOs to position the region in good stead to receive future Aboriginal Maternal and Child Health

COVID-19 Vaccination uptake advertisements

This year we were successful in obtaining a grant from Wellbeing SA to run a series of COVID-19 Vaccination advertisements. In total, we developed 5 adverts in English and Pitjantjatjara focussing on:

- Childhood vaccinations
- Booster vaccinations
- The 'My Why' campaign which featured community members from across the region

Since January 2022 our adverts have aired on our local TV networks approximately 13,000 times. With my 'My Why' campaign still airing, we envisage that this will increase to approximately 20,000 by the end of the campaign.



Our regional project work

Community Connections

Community Connections program aims to help Aboriginal Peoples living across the Eyre and Far West Coast region to access culturally appropriate supports to increase their independence and build stronger social and community connections. Working in partnership with the Department of Human Services, SAWCAN will play a key role in piloting the Community Connections program over the next 18 months. Post the pilot phase, SAWCAN is confident that the program will be extended on a long-term basis.

As the Aboriginal Organisation Partner, our ACCHOs will work with Aboriginal peoples aged 18 – 64 years to enhance their connections with communities, social networks, culture, and services critical to their social and emotional wellbeing. We will do this by employing local people in each of the ACCHOs to work with individuals to assess need, create goals and provide support in the achievement of identified goals.

Over the coming months, we will work in partnership with the Department of Human Services and other Community Connections providers across the state to co-design, develop and deliver culturally responsive services to our communities.





SAWCAN