

# Winnunga News

NOVEMBER 2015

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## CEO Update

Reflecting on the 2014-15 financial year, our devoted staff team has again provided high level services and programs. Thank you all for your hard work ensuring our deserving community can continue to access the best possible care. On average 136 people were seen to daily. Occasions of service provided stood at 46,882 an increase of 8% from the 2013-14 years' encounters. 80% of clients were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and 20% were either non Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or their Indigenous status was unknown.

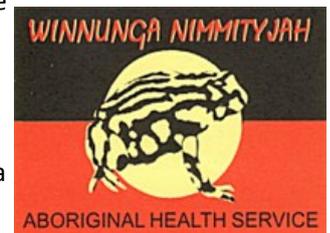
Winnunga continued to deliver services to people living right across the region. The fact around 20% of clients access Winnunga from outside the ACT is a trend to be noted, as it has been the case for a number of years now. It is pleasing to report we are again the service of choice for the majority of ACT's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. This coupled with the annual client satisfaction survey results from March 2015 positing 94% of respondents being either very satisfied or satisfied with Winnunga's services and 96% of respondents stating they would recommend Winnunga Services to others – reinforces the model of care provided is meeting expectations of clients. We are committed to continuous quality improvement and I look forward to investigating ways for Winnunga to keep strengthening service provision across the whole organisation.

Under the leadership of our Executive Director of Clinical Services, Dr Nadeem Siddiqui, the streamlining of clinical processes previously identified have been implemented. The second reception area and refurbishment of existing rooms to become clinic spaces has been successfully carried out. These changes have positively impacted on clients and staff, and we have seen a 30% increase in nursing encounters, more than double the number of health checks carried out, almost a tripling of team care arrangements, and over three times the number of care plan reviews carried out during the 2014-15 financial year. Support to 1,116 individuals through 6,859 encounters was provided by the Social Health Team. The Team is committed to working together with clients on best possible outcomes for families, individuals and the community. We continue to look at opportunities to expand the current Team, as the demand for services has increased at a faster rate than our capacity to deliver.

Staff across all program areas have been well supported by the skilled and experienced Senior Management Team and I thank the Team for their dedication and hard work. I am proud of Winnunga's achievements in 2014-15, and look forward to continuing to provide the best possible comprehensive health care services in the ACT and surrounding region in the 2015-16 financial year.



Julie Tongs OAM, CEO



*Thank you  
Liberal  
MLA  
Nicole Lawder  
for your efforts  
supporting  
Winnunga and  
other ACT  
community  
sector  
members to  
have debate  
on the  
amendments  
to the Children  
and Young  
People Act*

# Children and Young People

## Amendment Bill

Winnunga wishes to take the opportunity to thank Liberal MLA Nicole Lawder, Shadow Minister for Family and Community Services and the Liberal Party generally for supporting Winnunga and other significant ACT Community Sector members in efforts to have debate on amendments to the Children and Young People Act deferred to allow for genuine community consultation and a more mature consideration of the effects the amendments will have on Aboriginal children and their families.

The Liberal Party's attempt to have the Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services for inquiry and report, was regrettably not supported by the Labor Party and the Greens. As a consequence very significant changes have been made to the way in which the law treats children in care and protection without any serious attempt by the ACT Government to consult with either Winnunga or Gugan Gulwan, the only two Aboriginal managed service delivery organisations in the ACT. The rate of removal of Aboriginal children from their families in the ACT is a national disgrace and warrants a full external audit of the Office of Family and Community Services.

## ACT Police Blot Copy Book on ANZAC Day

An AFP professional standards investigation into the behaviour of three ACT police officers present at an Aboriginal protest in Canberra on ANZAC Day has found that one of the officers breached the professional standards in relation to his treatment of NITV journalist Myles Morgan.

The relevant part of the standards requires an officer to act with fairness, reasonableness, courtesy and respect without discrimination or harassment.

An objective viewing of the incident, which was captured on camera and recorded, reveals just how grievously the standard was breached. Myles Morgan is a highly respected journalist and his treatment at the hands of the police is to be condemned.

It is hoped that Mr Morgan has received a formal apology from both the Chief Police Officer on behalf of the ACT Police Force and from the disgraced officer.

**Fact: Over 1000 Indigenous Australians fought in the First World War.**

# Shadow Minister Andrew Wall MLA

## Visits Winnunga

Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs Andrew Wall MLA was a welcome recent visitor to Winnunga. Mr Wall had arranged a formal visit to Winnunga to inspect the health centre and to hold discussions with CEO Julie Tongs on the services provided and the challenges faced by both Winnunga and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Winnunga thanks Mr Wall for his interest in the Aboriginal community and welcomed the opportunity of discussing issues such as the level of ICE usage in the community, the demand and need for enhanced health services within the Aboriginal community and the approach and attitude which Winnunga proposes to take to the management of Boomanulla Oval if it is successful in its bid to manage the facility.

## Minister Launches Opening Doors

Minister Burch launched the *Opening Doors: improving access to the NDIS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT* initiative, at Winnunga on 11 November.

The aim of the project is to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members with a disability living in the ACT get the supports they need. Winnunga's CEO Julie Tongs welcomed the initiative, and will continue to investigate the role Winnunga may play within this important arena.



Visiting medical specialists primarily from The Canberra Hospital, provided services to 134 clients at Winnunga through 184 encounters during the 2014-15 financial year

**Fact: Nearly 20% of Winnunga's clients live in NSW**

Over a three year period we expect to see a reduction or stabilisation in the weight of overweight and obese clients in this priority area, and more people with skills and knowledge to maintain a healthy weight for life.

## Healthy Weight Program

We are pleased to report confirmation has been received from Minister Corbell stating Winnunga's application for a *Healthy Weight Program—prevention and support* has been successful through ACT Health. The Program will span over approximately a three year period with funding of \$640k attached over the life of the program. We hope to have the contract prepared ready for Board signing before the end of this calendar year. The Program will include a clinical component for Winnunga clients who are overweight or obese, education/information material, case management by the Healthy Lifestyle Worker, coordination, resources to alleviate high costs associated with joining fitness programs, a weekly support group and assistance with transport. Dr Nadeem (Executive Director of Clinical Services) is in the process of liaising with The Canberra Hospital's (TCH) Chronic Disease Management Unit for the provision of in-reach services to support clients of this program, as well as discussing the use of established TCH protocols which we could tailor to suit Winnunga's program. We look forward to delivering this new initiative in 2016.



## ACT Women's Safety Grants Program

Minister Berry notified funding for Winnunga to deliver an *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Safety Project* has been successful. The project includes the development of a policy and safety plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children in the ACT, and the launch of both the plan and policy through one of Winnunga's Community Events. The project will be used as a platform to raise awareness of safety matters within the community, provide education, and refer clients into appropriate internal and external services. The project will enable Winnunga to provide advice to the ACT Office for Women on an appropriate model of integration that would work for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children around safety, based on Winnunga's in-reach model of services with external specialist providers. Winnunga secured \$80,710 for the Project which will commence in January 2016 and end in January 2017. We welcome this resourcing from the ACT Office for Women to be able to focus on safety matters for women, children and the Community as a whole.

**Fact: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 34 times more likely to be admitted to hospital and 11 times more likely to be killed as a result of a violent assault than non-Aboriginal women**

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Incarceration Rates

A recent report by Deakin University Professor of Law Mirko Bagaric has concluded, from a study of 482,000 sentences, that Aboriginal people were twice as likely to be jailed for a crime than non-Aboriginal people, even when the crime was the same. Professor Bagaric's research certainly raises a number of very interesting questions including about the traditional notion of justice being blind.

It is findings such as those of Professor Bagaric which go some way to explaining why in the period since the handing down, twenty four years ago, of the report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody that despite the 339 recommendations made by the Royal Commission, a significant number of which were aimed at keeping Aboriginal people out of jail, that there has been a 300% increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prison in Australia.

It is difficult to imagine a more profound policy failure by Governments across Australia than the failure to come to terms with this sad state of affairs.

## Steven Freeman

It is now seven months since a young Aboriginal man, Steven Freeman, was while on remand in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), subjected to a savage beating from which he suffered massive head injuries. As reported in the October Newsletter the ACT Police have reportedly made some progress in its investigation of the assault and has called on members of the community to assist in any way they can.

The Minister for Justice, Mr Shane Rattenbury has now formally advised Winnunga that neither he nor the AMC will make any statement or provide any information about the circumstances of the assault or of any steps that have been taken to ensure there will be no repeat of this tragic event. It is presumed this blackout extends to neither confirming or denying reports in the Canberra Times of the apparent ease with which security cameras deployed within the prison can be tampered with, and if so whether the problem has been addressed.

Mr Rattenbury has also advised he will not support an independent inquiry into this matter since he believes that the police investigation into the assault on Mr Freeman constitutes an independent inquiry.

With respect, the Ministers' sanguine response to this brutal assault on an Aboriginal inmate in the AMC, flies in the face of almost every conclusion and recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report.

*The report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody 24 years ago made 339 recommendations, many of which were aimed at keeping Aboriginal people out of jail...*

# Introducing Winnunga's Finance Team

*Winnunga has a finance team made up of three full time workers, an external accountant and an external independent auditor*

The Finance team is responsible for managing Winnunga's finances. The team consists of Jim Demitriou (Finance Manager, on left of photo below), Jan Chapman (Finance Officer) and Michael Watson (Finance Officer, on right of photo below). The team performs a variety of



tasks such as financial reporting to the Board, reporting to Winnunga's funding bodies in accordance with its funding agreements, preparing the annual financial statements, ensuring Winnunga complies with all of the financial matters associated with its funding agreements, payroll processing, managing accounts payable and receivable, asset management, completing Winnunga's financial compliance reporting to the relevant government agencies such as the Australian Taxation

Office, costing funding submissions, dispensing petty cash, bus tickets, vouchers, cabcharges associated with Winnunga's client programs, and arranging Winnunga's various insurance policies. Winnunga's finance system is MYOB and the team extensively use Excel spreadsheets in its work. The team is located on the administrative side of Winnunga's premises.

## Winnunga Possums Win Grand Final

Winnunga Possums played at Wagga touch football tournament on 14 and 15 November, and won the Grand Final! The team played nine games over the weekend and never lost a game for the whole tournament, going on to win the grand final in extra time 7 to 6 against a very fast Wagga Team. Congratulations to the Possums!



## Boxing Club Contact Details

- Winnunga Boxing is located at 255 Canberra Avenue in Fyshwick.
- General classes are run from 5pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Feel free to drop in and have a look or a chat with one of our friendly coaches!

Alternatively, If you have any questions, the boxing coaches can be reached on 0409 863 934 during /after training hours.

**Fact: Winnunga's gross income for 2015 was \$8,566,632.16. This translates to a benefit to the economic output of the Territory at over \$40 million**

# Upcoming Events

## Justice Reinvestment and Incarceration in the ACT

A Joint IGPA & ANU Event

The Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis at the University of Canberra and the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University are thrilled to invite guests to attend, *Justice Reinvestment and Incarceration in the ACT: A Canberra Conversation*.

This free public seminar will be a conversation between ANU Professor Mick Dodson AM, IGPA Professorial Fellow Jon Stanhope AO, and former Editor-in-Chief at the Canberra Times Jack Waterford AM.

To register for this event please go to

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/justice-reinvestment-and-incarceration-in-the-act-a-joint-anu-igpa-event-tickets-19417648710>

**Monday 30 November 2015**

**12.30pm—1.30pm**

**Members Dining Room 3**

**Old Parliament House**

## Winnunga Christmas Party

Winnunga will be hosting a Children's Christmas Party on Friday 18 December 2015. There will be activities for children, a visit by Santa, entertainment for all ages and plenty of festive food. A flyer with more details will be available soon.

**Friday 18 December 2015**

**Children's Christmas Party at  
Winnunga**

**A flyer with more details will be  
available soon**



# Staff Profile

**Name:** Thelma Weston

**Position:** Admin Reception/NSP

**Who is your favourite singer?**

Frank Sinatra

**What do you do on the weekends?**

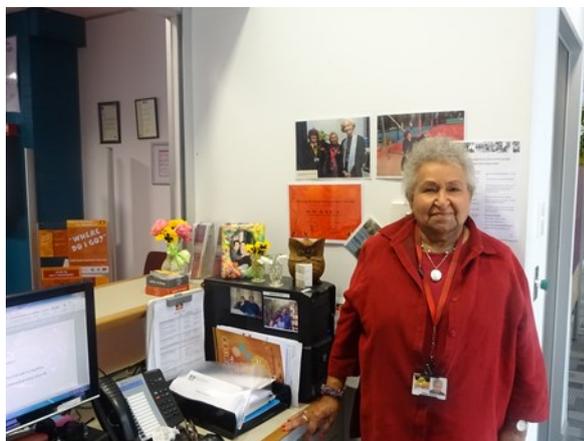
Family time, gardening, and have fun with my dog Misty

**What is your favourite food?**

Fish and chicken

**What do you like most about working at Winnunga?**

All the staff, meeting and greeting visitors and serving our NSP customers.



**What is your pet hate?**

Racism

**Who is your most respected Aboriginal leader/hero and why?**

Eddie Koiki Mabo, fighting for land rights on Murray Island and being successful for the High Court Decision on Indigenous Land Rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.



**Fact: In 2014-15 there were 1,504 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health checks conducted at Winnunga. This was more than double the number carried out in the previous financial year**