



ISSUE 19 | AUGUST 2025

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER





DERBARL MEMBERS' OPEN DAY

Saturday, September 6th
East Perth Clinic
10:00am to 12:00pm
Followed by a BBQ Lunch

Featuring

- Updates from the Chair, Board and CEO
- Financial and Service Delivery Reporting
- Q&A Session
- Launch of the Strategic Plan and Member's Portal

Open to DYHS Members Only



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Board Communique

from the Chairperson, Joslyn Eades

This communiqué is intended for all members of the Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service and provides important updates on a range of topics concerning the organisation.

Member Engagement

We invite all members to join us for the forthcoming **Members Open Day**. This event is a valuable opportunity to connect with the Board and leadership team, learn more about our initiatives, and engage in discussions about our direction.

You can also update your details for our new Members portal and get a new member card.

Join us on the 6th of September at Derbarl East Perth Clinic.

Elders Advisory Group

The Board has established an Elders Advisory sub-committee consisting of Elders, all of whom are Derbarl members, with representation of 50% male and 50% female. These Elders were selected through a process that was open, transparent, inclusive, and based on merit.

The group will provide important cultural leadership and guidance to the Board and Executive Management Team, and work to ensure our services remain respectful, inclusive, and connected to community values.

Improved Member Accessibility

To enhance accessibility, we are launching a new online portal for members.

The new Member Portal to make it easier for members to:

- Access key updates and information
- Share feedback and ideas
- Stay connected with events and opportunities
- Request a new membership card

As always we welcome new members and encourage everyone to have their say.

Governance and Leadership

Following the recent resignations of our Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and two Independent Directors, we have acted quickly to ensure strong and stable leadership.

Board

I have accepted the position of Chair and Mr Nathan Riley as Deputy Chair.

Two new Independent Directors have been appointed; Associate Professor Tuguy Esgin and Rick Brooks. Both bring valuable skills and experience to the Board.

EOI Board Vacancy (Member Director, Casual Vacancy)

The Board is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitable Derbarl members to fill the position of Member Director (casual appointment). To be eligible for consideration you must be a member of DYHS and meet other requirements for Member Directors under the DYHS Rule Book.

Candidates should have demonstrated knowledge in one or more of the following areas; Health, Finance, Governance, Law, Human Resource Management, Aboriginal Community engagement, or another area relevant to DYHS' work, and must also have completed or be prepared to complete suitable governance training. Preference will be given to those who have demonstrated analytical and communication skills at Board level.

To apply, please submit a personal statement not exceeding 2 pages by 5pm on Monday 25 August, 2025. The Board will only consider complete applications and the final appointment decision will be based on merit.



Executive Appointments

Our new Chief Executive Officer, James Christian PSM MPA, has been appointed following a competitive, open, transparent, merit-based selection process conducted by an independent Perth-based Executive Search firm, Lester Blades. A proud Wiradjuri man from Central Western NSW, James has been serving as Acting CEO for the past 12 weeks. He brings over 30 years of senior leadership experience in the Aboriginal community-controlled sector and Government.

We congratulate James and look forward to working with him in his new role. Also, we are

finalising the recruitment for our Chief Medical Officer position. More details at the next update.

Financial Stability

Our financial position remains stable, with Medicare accounting for about one-third of our overall income, and a \$1.5 million surplus at the end of the last financial year. This surplus from FY 24/25 will be allocated to priorities aimed at improving patient outcomes in FY 25/26.

We have secured additional funding from philanthropic sources, including a generous \$500,000 donation from the Minderoo Foundation, which will support the expansion of the Midland Clinic.

Every dollar supports our goal of delivering high-quality clinical care and proactive health promotion initiatives.

Fostering Partnerships

We are finalising a Memorandum of Understanding with Morrditj Koort and are developing joint projects with Wungening Aboriginal Corporation. These collaborations aim to further strengthen community support and foster meaningful partnerships within our region.

Stay Connected

Your feedback and ideas are essential to the future of your health service.

- Email: board@dyhs.org.au
- In Person: Join us at the Members Open Day, 6th of September 2025.

Thank you for being part of Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service and for the trust you place in us to serve our community.

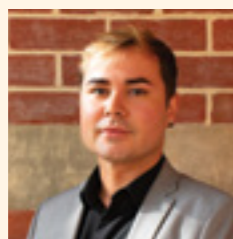
Joslyn

Joslyn Eades-Tass

Chairperson



Chairperson
Joslyn Tass-Eades



Deputy Chair
Nathan Riley



Member Director
Kaya Carson



Independent Director
Tuguy Esgin



Independent Director
Rick Brooks

Awards

NAIDOC Perth Awards

Nursing & Midwifery Award (State-wide) Rowie Winmar

This award recognises the commitment of an individual who provides care within health and acknowledges their excellence in delivering safe, quality care to the community.

As an enrolled nurse (EN), Rowie has been a valued member of the Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service paediatric team for the past three years. Throughout her time at Derbarl, Rowie has consistently demonstrated compassion, professionalism, and a deep commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and families.

Currently completing her Registered Nurse qualification, Rowie brings both cultural insight and clinical expertise to her role. Her ability to connect with families in a culturally safe and respectful way makes her an essential part of the Derbarl Kids model of care. Rowie's work exemplifies the strength, leadership, and care that Aboriginal women bring to community health, and she continues to inspire both her colleagues and the families she supports.

Rowie's paediatric clinics consistently achieve over 90% attendance, a remarkable outcome that reflects the deep trust families place in her care. This level of engagement is not only exceptional—it's a direct result of Rowie's culturally safe, compassionate approach and her ability to build strong, respectful relationships with families.



Program of the Year Elders Care Connect

This Award is open to Not-for-profit organisations that deliver quality programs to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and is based in the Perth metropolitan area.

The Elder Care Connect Program deserves to be recognised for their visionary leadership and tireless commitment to improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders. As part of a small but dedicated team within Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, they have built a culturally safe and community-driven aged care program from the ground up. In a space where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have historically been underrepresented and underserved, this team is creating real, lasting change—ensuring Elders are supported, respected, and empowered to access the care they deserve.

Their work directly addresses systemic barriers and is grounded in cultural knowledge, compassion, and community connection. They are not only delivering services—they are restoring trust and dignity in aged care for our people.

The program has excelled by leading a new and growing program that is already making a measurable impact. Despite limited resources, they have helped establish a model that engages with over 90 Elders each month through yarning circles, educational sessions, and community outreach. Their ability to connect with Elders, listen deeply, and respond with culturally appropriate support has been instrumental in the program's success.

ACHWA Awards

Elder in the Community Award

Diane Ugle

Aboriginal Health Practitioner

Diane has worked at Derbarl for 17 years and currently situated in the Mirrabooka service. Diane works diligently and without objection, working hard and rarely wanting to pop her head up – Diane does not ask for praise, but absolutely deserves it. Diane serves as Acting Clinic Manager when needed and is a valued member of team Derbarl.

Young Achiever Award

Bianca Penny (Collard)

Clinic Manager

Bianca has been at Derbarl for a number of years – and is the Clinical Manager for the Maddington clinic. She started her journey at Derbarl as a receptionist, stepping into the role of Aboriginal Liaison Officer, then Aboriginal Health Practitioner and now Clinic Manager. Bianca is an aspiring leader in the Derbarl community.

Elder in the Contribution by an ACCHS Employee Award

Daniel Ryan

Handyman / Gardener

Daniel has been with Derbarl for 25 years – he is the handyman/gardener – and is always available to assist staff and patients.

Daniel ensures through his dedicated work that all staff and patients are provided with a safe space to work and receive care.

Around Derbarl

Sorry Day

On Sorry Day, Derbarl acknowledged the victims and survivors of government policies that led to generations of Aboriginal children in WA and nationally taken from their parents, families, and communities.

On the Friday prior, Derbarl partnered with Yorgum to host our annual Sorry Day luncheon for our Elders. The event started with an inspiring Welcome to Country from Aunty Marie Taylor, and Derbarl CEO James Christian paid respects to our Stolen Generations mob. Elders enjoyed a lovely lunch and morning tea, along with yarning, live music, and dancing. There was also a wellness room where mob could relax with a massage and activities.

While there is still a long journey towards recognition, truth and healing, Derbarl will continue to provide holistic care for mob and lend our voices to the call for change.



Visits

Jordan Steele-John

Derbarl was delighted to welcome Senator for Western Australia, Jordon Steele-John to our East Perth Clinic. He was welcomed by Derbarl Executive representatives and clinicians from our Paediatric, Elder Care, Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Dental teams.

After an Acknowledgement of Country from Elder Patrick Eagan, there was lively discussion about the success of Derbarl's holistic health care model, and the areas of support required to sustain it. The teams provided further depth into key areas, including families' difficulties navigating mainstream health services and accessing culturally informed mental health support. The Senator is a strong advocate for Dental Services to be included in Medicare, and recognised the success of Derbarl's model in integrating it into a primary health care service. The team also touched on Closing the Gap outcomes and challenges, and the importance of a culturally safe environment.

Kate Chaney

In late June, we welcomed the Federal Member for Curtin, Kate Chaney MP, to our East Perth clinic for a guided tour and roundtable discussion. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase our work as Western Australia's oldest and largest Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisation. Discussions explored our current strategic priorities, achievements such as our leading clinical outcomes in Hepatitis C treatment, and future initiatives, including the new purpose-built Midland clinic, opening in late 2025, and exploring health service delivery into Banksia Hill Detention Centre.

By engaging directly with our elected representatives, we continue to ensure that the needs, priorities, and voices of our community remain at the forefront of health policy and investment.



Dr Shirley Bowen

Derbarl was joined by Dr Shirley Bowen, the Director-General of the WA Health Department at our half-year Staff Summit. Dr Bowen delivered the keynote speech, and recognised Derbarl's successes in our service delivery and model of care.

RACGP Visit

Derbarl was pleased to welcome national RACGP President Dr Michael Wright, RACGP Vice-President and RACGP WA Chair Dr Ramya Raman and RACGP WA Faculty Team Lead, Lisa Francis to visit our East Perth Clinic.

Dr Wright, Dr Raman and Ms Francis enjoyed their walk through, stopping for discussions with various staff, and gained insight in our comprehensive primary health care model. Acting Medical Director Dr Jeanita Wong and Dr Wright also had the opportunity to discuss the challenges of the new MyMedicare enrolment, and how this has affected ACCHOs.



Midland Clinic Smoking Ceremony

A Smoking Ceremony was held at Derbarl's new Midland site to mark the beginning of the Clinic interior's construction, performed by John Mogridge and Lyell Bowie. Derbarl staff and community representatives gathered at the building and enjoyed Elder Patrick Eagan's Welcome to Country, along with greetings from Derbarl Chair and CEO.

The new clinic represents a significant upgrade in available space and services, and Derbarl is very excited to get it up and running and serving the community.



The establishment of Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service in Midland began with a bold and visionary step—launching a clinic with just two dedicated staff members. This modest beginning was not just about providing healthcare; it was a statement of belief in the community's need and a commitment to meeting it.

From those early days, the clinic has grown significantly— and in 2026 it will jump to a site more double its current size – 330m2 to 880m2. This growth is not merely a reflection of operational expansion; it is a testament to the trust the Midland community placed in Derbarl. The community recognised the value of culturally safe, accessible, and responsive healthcare, and they showed up. They engaged. They supported. And they helped shape the service into what it is today.



Cultural Immersion Workshops

Over the past few months, Derbarl has held Cultural Immersion workshops, where a focus group of Community and staff have developed the look and feel of the new Derbarl Midland clinic, and ensured that it is a culturally safe place for mob.

Kambarang Services, under the leadership of Mr Danny Ford and Mr Jonathan Ford, has led the cultural immersion program for the new Midland Clinic with Community members, the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, employees from the current Midland Clinic and Board members.

A report of the consultation was developed following the initial three sessions with the Working Group, and presented to Perfect Practice, our project construction company for the new Midland Clinic.

Perfect Practice completed a review and integration of all elements of the working group report and feedback and has developed a design intent document and presentation that was presented back to the working group for endorsement on 22 July 2025. Feedback from the Working Group was exceptionally positive.



Health Promotions

Strong Born Maternity Photoshoot

Strong Mums, Strong Bubs, Strong Born!

Derbarl hosted a free Maternity Photoshoot for expecting mums, through the Strong Born program, at a traditional birthing site along the banks of the Derbarl Yerrigan. For thousands of years, Aboriginal women and mothers have come together at this place to celebrate the strength and power of our women.

We continued this tradition by capturing the strength and power of these expecting mothers and their connections to country and culture. We are deeply honoured to have shared this sacred moment and special space with these incredible women and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended for sharing their journey with us.



Childhood Immunisation Week

Immunisations give our kids superhero protection!

The health promotions team went out promoting our childhood immunisation programs at the Derbarl clinics for Immunisation Week.

Carbon Creative help educate about immunisation and gave away moorditj superhero t-shirts to the kids.



NAIDOC Celebrations

Derbarl teams were out and about during NAIDOC Week 2025, visiting events all around Perth to connect with Community.



Environmental Health

Easy Cleaning Booklet

The new Environmental Health booklet 'Easy Cleaning' has been printed and distributed to the clinics to give out to clients struggling with Environmental Health concerns.

Environmental Health focuses on the impact of our surroundings on our health, and the team at Derbarl is doing important work by supporting clients in managing environmental health challenges at home such as personal hygiene education, pest control, and waste management.

These efforts can make a huge difference in improving living conditions and preventing health issues.



Wugen Wal-Yan

World No Tobacco Day

For 2025 World No Tobacco Day, our Wugen Wal-Yan team brought the Boorloo community together for a deadly day of culture, connection and fun!

We welcomed young mob from local schools, Clontarf, Stars Foundation and Deadly Sister Girls to a jam-packed day with:

- Inflatable racecourse & gladiator ring
- Footy kick comps
- 'Design your own crocs' & the open WNTD art canvas
- Good food & solid prizes
- Health info from Cancer Council, Make Smoking History WA, St John Ambulance, Arche Health, DYHS & Headspace.

The day kicked off with a powerful Welcome to Country by Noongar Elder Dennis Taylor.

The team was proud to see our young mob highly engaged and celebrating a smoke-free future together.



SEWB

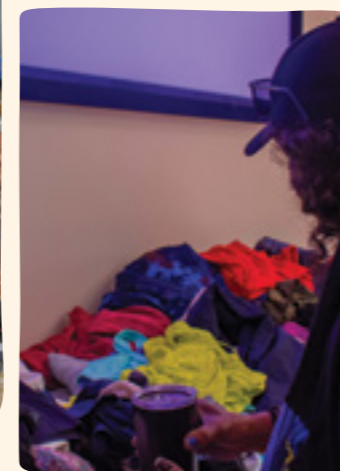
World's Biggest Morning Tea

Promoted by the Cancer Council, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is a community event across the nation that invites groups to host their own morning tea to raise funds to make a difference in the lives of those impacted by cancer. Derbarl's Cancer Support Group got together to recognise the occasion, sharing a lovely morning tea and having a good a yarn.

Walking with Community

In recognition of Homelessness Week, on August 6th Derbarl hosted the event 'Walking with Community', which invited community to enjoy a free sausage sizzle, activities and information stalls for Homelessness Week 2025. Derbarl gave away free care packs and had donated clothing available to browse.

The event was very successful, seeing over 80 people attend, with very positive feedback. A majority of surveyed attendees indicated that they were currently experiencing homelessness or had experienced it in the past and expressed enthusiasm for future events.



Elder Care Support

Elder Abuse Awareness

In May, our Elder Care Support team held the Elder Yarning Group in Maddington, with a focus on Elder Abuse Awareness. This important session was supported by the Family and Domestic Violence team. Our Elders participated actively, sharing thoughts and asking questions. It was encouraging to see such active involvement on a topic that deeply impacts our communities.

The Family and Domestic Violence team also provided take-home packs, which included self-care items and resources to help spread awareness and empower our Elders.

The session was well received, with many clients leaving the day uplifted and eager for the next gathering.



Organisational Updates

Finance

Budget Overview

The Board has approved Derbarl's budget for the 2025-26 financial year. A summary is provided below:

Total Revenue: \$32.43 million – primarily from government grants and Medicare income, supporting ongoing service delivery.

Total Expenditure: \$32.43 million – covering staff costs, programs delivery cost, property, IT, and administration.

Net Result: Balanced budget.

Capital Budget: A total of \$5.37 million has been allocated to support infrastructure improvements, ensuring our services continue to meet community needs. Major portion of this is towards the Midland New Clinic Project, funded by the Commonwealth.



- 85% of DYHS' budget is allocated to expenses associated with delivery of programs and services to patients and community.
- 15% of DYHS' budget is allocated to administrative costs

People Services

Growing Our Own, Leading With Care

It's been a big season of progress in People Services, with several exciting initiatives coming to fruition. We're proud to announce the creation of a new Aboriginal Engagement and Retention Officer role. This will be a dedicated position to strengthen our connection with community, identify talented candidates for Derbarl roles, and support our emerging Derbarl Leadership Framework, designed to help high-performing and high-potential team members achieve their career goals within Derbarl. We've also received an overwhelmingly positive response to our call for expressions of interest in establishing WHS Representatives at each site and a WHS Committee.

These are fantastic signs of our shared commitment to a safe and thriving workplace. To support this work, we've engaged a highly regarded WHS Consultant who will walk alongside us to close out risks and ensure full ongoing compliance with the WA WHS Act.

Lastly, in our ongoing effort to support internal growth and opportunity, People Services will now advertise suitable roles internally before going to the public, giving Derbarl team members the first chance to step forward.

Our focus is clear: grow our own, lead with care, and create pathways for lasting success.



DO YOU HAVE CULTURAL ADVICE AND INSIGHT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

Derbarl is seeking Expressions of Interest for the newly established **Elders Advisory Group**.

The Elders Advisory Group will provide cultural advice to the Derbarl Board and Executive team to enhance health and wellbeing outcomes for our Noongar community.

FOR MORE DETAILS:

Elders Advisory Group Information Day
Thursday 21st of August, 10am-12:30pm
East Perth Conference Room
Lunch Provided

Contact

Email governance@dyhs.org.au
or call 1800 311 888.

Expression of Interest Form

www.dyhs.org.au/services/resources

Members of the group will be a recognised cultural knowledge holders and respected Elders with direct connections to local Noongar families and Country. The group will be composed of 50% men and 50% women.

Nomination Eligibility

- Derbarl Member
- Noongar Connection
- 60+ Years of Age



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Mirrabooka Clinic

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