



Annual Report 2016-17

The South West Aboriginal Medical Service supports Aboriginal health through tailored programs and services

Services:

- Doctors' appointments
- Aboriginal Health Workers
- Preventative health screening
- Dietician/nutritional services
- Immunisation
- Counselling

Programs:

- Antenatal and postnatal
- Child health
- Playgroup
- Chronic disease management
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Mental health

Plus:

- Bulk billing
- Patient transport
- Home visits
- Walk-in appointments
- Recall and reminder system

Bunbury clinic

Mon: 9.00 am-5.00 pm
Tues: 9.00 am-5.00 pm
Wed: 9.00 am-2.00 pm
Thurs: 9.00 am-8.00 pm
Fri: 9.00 am-5.00 pm

Unit 5/55 Forrest Avenue
Bunbury WA 6230

Phone: (08) 9726 6000
Toll Free: 1800 779 000
Fax: (08) 9791 7655

Outreach clinics

Brunswick
Tuesdays 10 am-12 pm
St John Ambulance, 1 Ridley Street

Busselton
Mondays, Thursdays 10 am-4 pm
Busselton Health Campus, West Busselton

Collie
Mondays 10 am-3 pm
Collie Hospital, Deakin Street

Manjimup
Thursdays 10 am-3 pm
GP Down South, Unit 7-8/30-32 Rose Street

Administration

Mon: 8.45 am-5.00 pm
Tues: 8.45 am-5.00 pm
Wed: 8.45 am-2.00 pm
Thurs: 8.45 am-5.00 pm
Fri: 8.45 am-5.00 pm

Unit 3/30 Wellington Street
Bunbury WA 6230
PO Box 1444
Bunbury WA 6230

Phone: (08) 9791 1166
Fax: (08) 9721 4621
Email: info@swams.com.au



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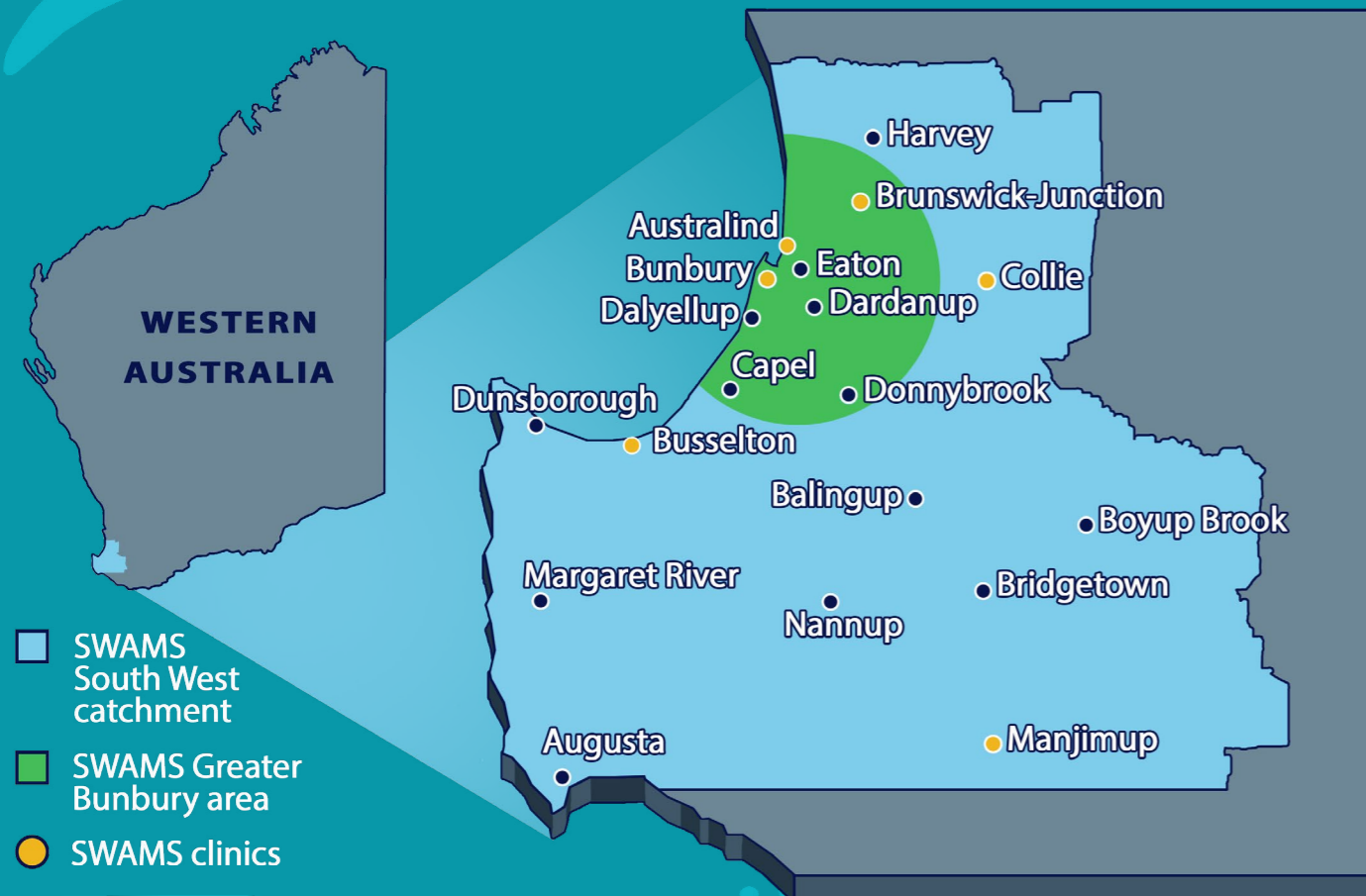
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SWAMS South West catchment map





Message from the Chairperson

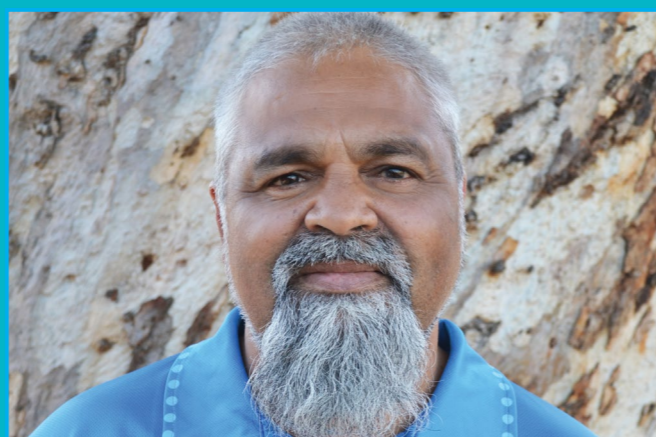
Kaya wandju. Hello and welcome. On behalf of the Board of Directors it is my privilege to present the South West Aboriginal Medical Service's (SWAMS) 2016-17 Annual Report.

This report marks the 20th anniversary of SWAMS. As Chairperson, it is both humbling and exciting to reflect back on what we have achieved during these two decades. We started off small, with an unwavering passion and a questionable future. But look at us now.

We are bigger and better than ever, and thanks to the development of our 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, we now have an even clearer path ahead of us. A path that will position SWAMS as the authority in Aboriginal health care for the South West region. A path which will strengthen SWAMS' culturally focused health service. And a path which will see Aboriginal people living in the South West enjoying longer, healthier lives.

We would not have gotten this far without the passion of the community, the guidance of our past and present Board members, and the collective expertise of the SWAMS staff. As Chairperson, I have been extremely proud of the Board's commitment to representing their respective wards. All of our elected Board members provide a voice for the community and strategic guidance to the organisation.

Special thanks in particular must go to Dean Colbung, Gwen Gray and Bill Turner; who finished their term with



the Board in November 2016. Your contribution to SWAMS and the wider community is appreciated.

In the same month, Ernie Hill, Lesley Ugle and Lynette Narkle commenced their term as Directors, and they are very welcome additions to our team.

In the twelve months ahead, the Board's focus will be on ensuring we maintain stability in the organisation while we all work together to position SWAMS as one of the top Aboriginal medical service's in the country. The Board strongly believes that it is imperative to keep growing our service offering and clinic facilities, and we look forward to doing so in the next financial year.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our gratitude to Lesley Nelson (CEO) and all the SWAMS team for their commitment and hard work in ensuring we deliver a quality service to our community. We have a bright future ahead of us.

- Karim Khan, Chairperson

Leadership

Your elected board representatives

Board member attendance at meetings for the 2016/17 financial year:

BOARD MEMBER	2016						2017						AGM	TOTAL	
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	NOV 2016		
Karim Khan (Chairperson)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	15
Lera Bennell (Vice Chairperson)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	16
Eddie Barron-Ugle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	15
Robyn McCreanor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	16
Michelle Munns			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	11
Ernie Hill						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Lynette Narkle						✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			6
Lesley Ugle						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Dean Colbung	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										6
Gwen Gray	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										6
Bill Turner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										5

Board Remuneration 2016-17:

BOARD MEMBER	START DATE	GROSS EARNINGS 2016-17 (\$)
Karim Khan	23/11/2013	10,625
Lera Bennell	11/10/2011	18,900
Eddie Barron-Ugle	23/11/2013	12,925
Ernie Hill	19/11/2016	12,950
Robyn McCreanor	17/03/2016	10,600
Michelle Munns	25/06/2015	12,525
Lynette Narkle	19/11/2016	8,125
Lesley Ugle	19/11/2016	8,450
Dean Colbung	11/10/2011	5,550
Gwen Gray	17/03/2016	5,500
Bill Turner	11/01/2016	3,750

Board member profiles

Karim Khan (Donnybrook) - Chairperson



Karim has been Chairman of the SWAMS Board since 2015, and is a familiar face in the Aboriginal community.

He has worked for the Department of Parks and Wildlife for 20 years and through his role with the Conservation and Land Management Act (CALM), Karim helped Aboriginal people reconnect with country and customary activities, including bush medicine.

Karim has a Diploma of Business, a Certificate IV in Training and Assessing, and a Certificate in Governance Training. He is passionate about the health and wellbeing of the Noongar community to be healthy physically, mentally and spiritually.

Karim loves spending time with his two grandchildren, camping, fishing and watching the West Coast Eagles win.

Lera Bennell (Bunbury) - Vice Chairperson

Lera is a passionate advocate for ensuring the Aboriginal community has a quality, culturally-focussed health care service to enhance quality of life.

With a Masters in Indigenous Social Policy, a BA in Aboriginal Community Management and Development and a Certificate IV in Business, Lera is the Elder in Residence at Edith Cowan University in Bunbury. Lera has worked with the WA Police Force, Crown Land Department, the Aboriginal Legal Service, the Noongar Warda Newspaper and was Managing Director of Black in Business Pty Ltd, where she received the inaugural Henry Mayer media prize.



Lera holds many Board positions and loves spending time with family, gardening and watching football and cricket.

Eddie Barron-Ugle (Collie)



Since becoming a SWAMS Board Member in 2013, Eddie has worked hard to improve Aboriginal Health services for his ward.

Eddie has extensive governance knowledge from directorships with many Aboriginal organisations, and was a member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes. He has a Certificate in Agriculture and has owned and operated businesses in the agricultural industry over the years.

Eddie is passionate about seeing the youth of today enjoy a quality of life with access to vital health care services. In his spare time, Eddie enjoys spending time with family.

Ernie Hill (Bunbury)

Ernie joined the Board in October 2016 and brings extensive knowledge and experience gained from his time spent working in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

Ernie's passion for Aboriginal health extends to his current role spearheading Goomburrup's suicide prevention programme.

Ernie has previously held governance roles on the Goomburrup and the Advocacy South West Boards. His vision is to see the Noongar community living longer, healthier lives through the delivery of cultural health services. When not championing for better health outcomes, Ernie enjoys spending time with family and basketball.



Robyn McCreanor (Manjimup)



Since joining the SWAMS Board in June 2015, Robyn has been an advocate for her ward, Manjimup. She currently works as a Relief Education Assistant for East Manjimup Primary School and cares for her two granddaughters.

Her background includes an Aboriginal Land Conservation and Restoration traineeship, a Certificate III in Horticulture, a Certificate IV in Business Governance and a Certificate IV in Educational Support.

Robyn is passionate about the health and mental wellbeing of children who are affected by domestic violence from drug and alcohol abuse.

Michelle Munns (Bunbury)

Michelle's drive to make a positive difference in Aboriginal health has led her to key career opportunities, including her current role as a Senior Aboriginal Liaison Officer at the Western Australian Country Health Service, South West.

With three Certificate IV's in Business-Human Resources, Frontline Management and Logistics (Transport), Michelle understands the need for good governance and has also completed training with the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

She is currently attending Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) board meetings as a SWAMS representative.

Michelle enjoys camping, marroning, crabbing and spending time with her family.



Lynette Narkle (Bunbury)



A well-known and respected member of the community, Lynette joined the SWAMS Board in November 2016. With a career spanning five decades, Lynette is one of Australia's leading Aboriginal actors and performing arts practitioners. In 2017, Lynette was the recipient of the Australian Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Awards' prestigious Red Ochre Award for her extraordinary lifetime achievements and contribution to the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts.

Lynette is a passionate advocate for using theatre as a medium to improve mental wellbeing and self esteem in young people. She has held many governance positions over the years, including with the Australia Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board, Community Cultural Development Board and the Yirra Yaakin Aboriginal Corporation. Lynette enjoys gardening, fishing and reading.

Lesley Ugle (Harvey-Brunswick)

Knowing that our Aboriginal people are getting the best of care is a priority for Lesley, who joined the SWAMS Board in 2016.

Lesley's interest in improving Aboriginal health has been an important focus of her career life. Lesley has spent the past five years employed as an Aboriginal Health Worker with GP Down South, and has held previous positions as an Outreach Worker and an Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer at Harvey Primary and Harvey High Schools.

Aside from Aboriginal health, Lesley's other passion is her family, and she loves to spend time with her grandchildren and Elders.





Chief Executive Officer's Review of the year

Kaya wandju. Hello and welcome.

I am pleased to present the South West Aboriginal Medical Service's (SWAMS) 2016-17 Annual Report.

Our achievements over the past twelve months are a strong indicator of what we are capable of as we continue to journey towards our true potential.

I am proud to say that, despite all challenges, we are in a strong phase of growth. Our client intake, episodes of care, and service footprint are bigger than ever.

Our ultimate goal is for our service to reach all corners of the South West region. Already, we have started taking steps to expand our geographic reach to ensure we are a truly accessible health service.

One such step has been the opening of a new outreach clinic located within the Busselton Health Campus. The new facility, which opened in March 2017, has greatly improved accessibility to primary health care services for the greater Busselton community.

Our 2017-2021 Strategic Plan will be an invaluable tool as we navigate the ups and downs of the coming years. It will focus on the parts of the business where we can leverage our strengths, such as in collaborative partnerships and technological advancements.

I am excited by the prospect of what SWAMS can, and no doubt will, achieve in the times ahead

To our key collaborators, such as the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), thank you. When we work together, we are stronger and we are proud to join forces with you to shape a resilient and healthy community.

To the government bodies and organisations that financially support SWAMS, your generosity strengthens our quest to improve health outcomes and provide top quality patient care in our community.

To the Board of Directors and staff at SWAMS, I deeply appreciate your unwavering drive to improve our services. I am so proud of the passion and dedication you bring to the SWAMS mission. Your combined knowledge ensures we are a highly capable organisation with an exciting future ahead of us.

In closing, thank you to our community and clients for your ongoing trust and support over the past twenty years. We are honoured that you have chosen us to assist you and your families in your quest for a better quality of life.

It is 'our health, our way' all the way.

- Lesley Nelson, CEO

Organisational structure





Happy birthday SWAMS

What a ground-breaking year 1997 was for the South West's Aboriginal community.

Not only was the landmark 'Bringing Them Home' report published, detailing the sad story of the Stolen Generations, but it was also the year that SWAMS first opened its doors.

After years of lobbying and pressure from local community members and Elders in Bunbury, the government agreed to fund SWAMS as part of a nation-wide Co-ordinated Care Trial (CCT) aimed at assessing Aboriginal health levels and improving health service delivery.

And so began SWAMS, with three staff members working tirelessly from a converted house on Spencer Street and only six months of funding to its name.

At the time, Aboriginal people were dying from preventable disease, diabetes was rife, and a lack of cultural awareness in tertiary medicine made it difficult for Aboriginal people to get the specialist care needed.

But from small things, big things grow. For the first time ever, the local Aboriginal community had access to its own primary health care system.

Fast forward to 2017, and SWAMS is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

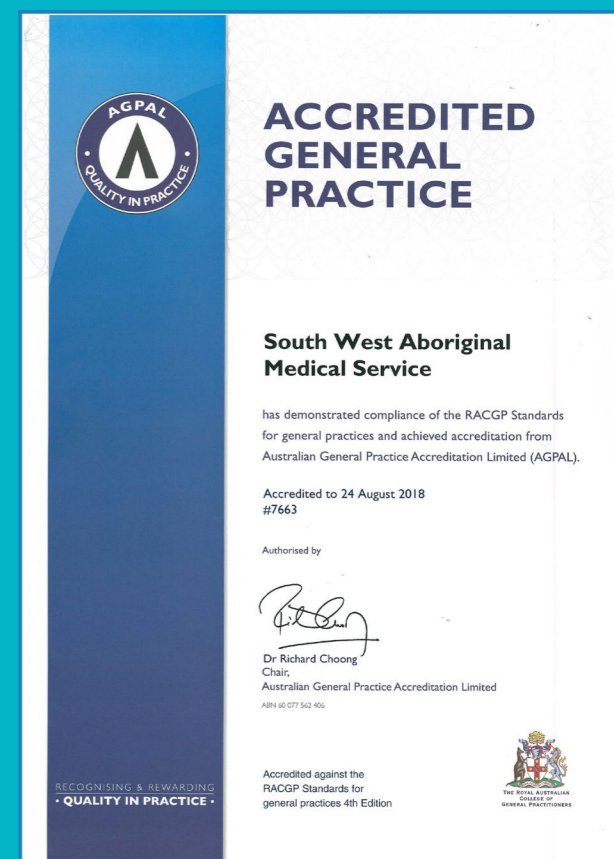
SWAMS is now a thriving organisation with highly trained staff working across six clinics to improve the quality and quantity of life for thousands of Aboriginal people under its care.

SWAMS now employs close to 70 staff, including Aboriginal Health Workers, GPs, Child Health Nurses, Social Workers, Midwives, Dieticians and more.

In 2011 SWAMS received funding for a mobile clinic on wheels capable of servicing isolated pockets of the South West where primary health care is extremely limited.

To commemorate its anniversary, SWAMS will be celebrating with a week-long festival of events in December 2017, and the whole community is invited to participate.

The festivities will celebrate SWAMS' achievements over the past two decades, as well as acknowledge those community members who had a vision for better Aboriginal health care back in 1997.



CLINICAL SERVICES



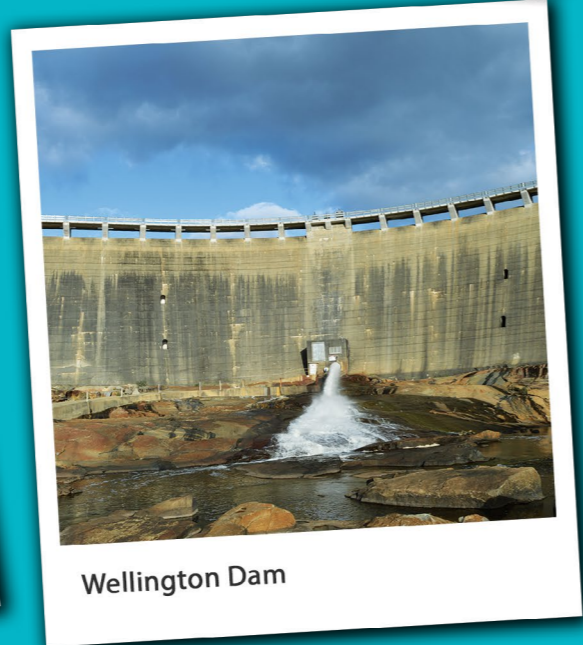
AHCWA award winners



ENT specialists



Gift for Ken Wyatt



Wellington Dam



Crazy hair day at playgroup



SWAMS newsletters



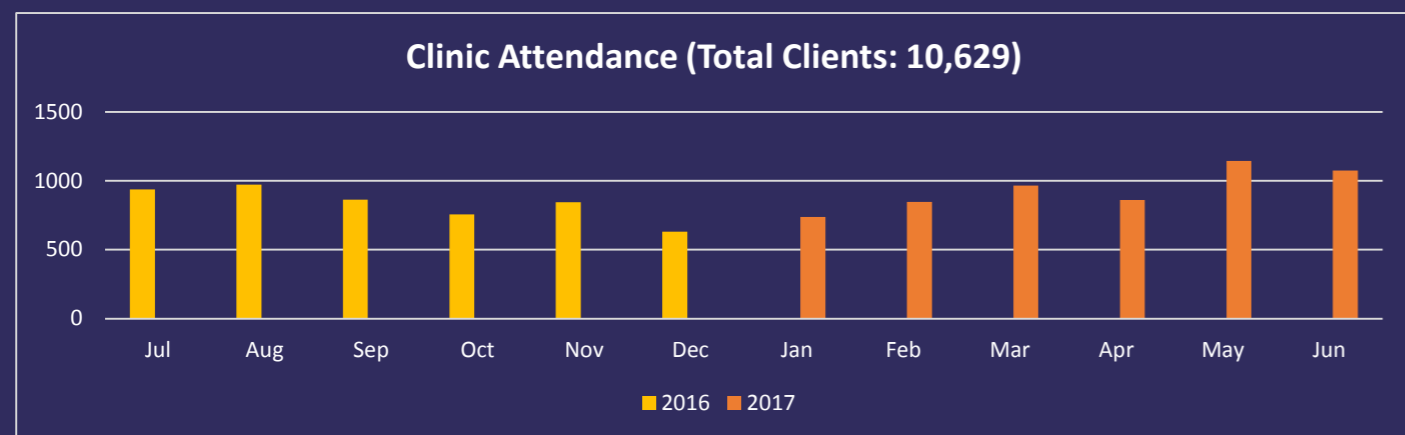
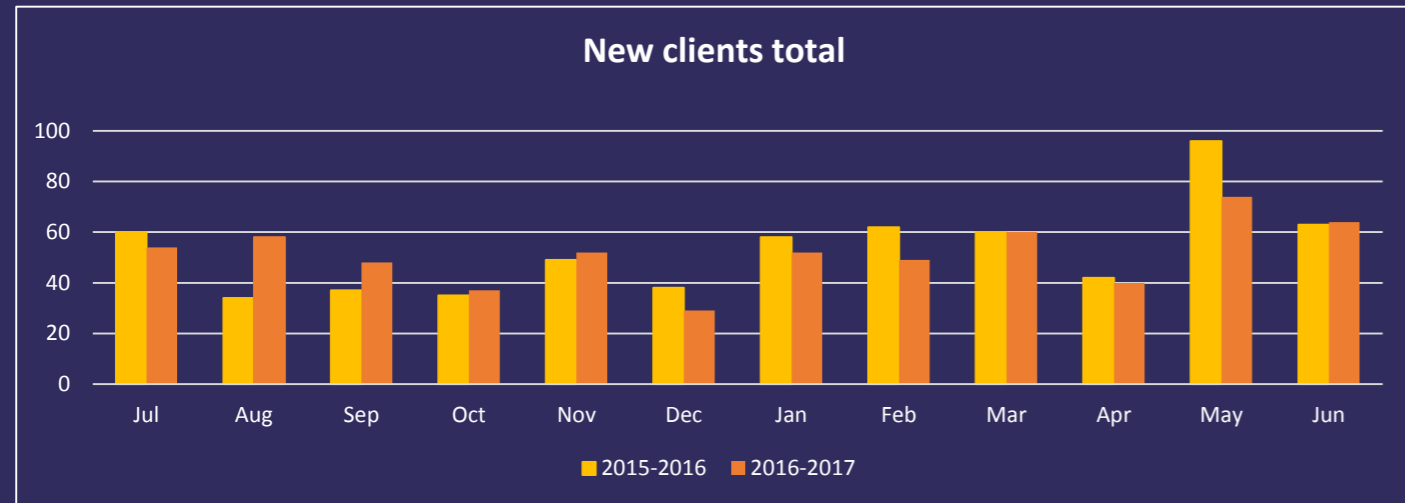
Waalitj - Eagle (Collie River)



Clinical services highlights

This financial year has been a busy and successful year for the SWAMS clinic, with SWAMS staff seeing more new clients and providing more episodes of care over the year, as well as several new partnership and funding opportunities. We have been fortunate to secure funding for a Mental Health Care Coordination program, partnered with GP Down South to secure Integrated Team Care funding and received extension funding from the Department of Health to expand our Antenatal and Child Health program.

WA Primary Health Network has also granted funding for the development of an Aboriginal – specific heart health program to support and improve the health of clients who have had, or are at risk of a cardiac event. SWAMS has been in a cycle of recruitment to build capacity and has had to make minor modifications to the new clinic to accommodate more staff and new programs. This has resulted in a mental health consulting area and the creation of four shared workspaces to enable staff to use clinic space creatively.



STAFF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

SWAMS is passionate about supporting staff to access further education and wherever possible promotes opportunities for professional development. In December, SWAMS had four staff graduate as Aboriginal Health Workers from the AHCWA Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care, three of whom registered as Aboriginal Health Practitioners. Two of our Aboriginal Health Practitioners then went on to complete their immunisation competency, allowing them to administer the childhood vaccination schedule. Our Diabetes Educator obtained her credentials and one of our Registered Nurses completed her Sexual Health certificate. Our GP registrar for 2016 completed his exams and graduated to a fully qualified GP. One of our midwives also completed her medication endorsement to allow her to prescribe medications and order investigations relevant to her role.

NURSE PRACTITIONER

The Nurse Practitioner service is integrated into the clinic setting to provide sexual and reproductive health services. This has translated to an increase in women's health checks, access to contraception and sexual health information. In collaboration with SWAMS health promotion team the Women's Wellness event visited six regions within the South West using the Clinic on Wheels. The event raised awareness of cervical screening and breast health in a relaxed environment.

Another component of the service has been health education and promotion within the schools and community and linking with external stakeholders. Service development into the future will aim to increase engagement with youth and increase awareness and uptake of the new Hepatitis C treatments which are listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS

It has been a very successful flu vaccination campaign this year, despite vaccinations commencing a month later than usual, on health department advice to make sure that we were covered for the whole flu season. 553 clients have received a flu vaccination which was up from 502 the previous year. Thank you to everyone who was vaccinated, please encourage your family to have a flu vaccination in 2018, so that we can keep our community healthy.



EVENING CLINIC REPORT

The Thursday evening clinic continues to be well received, and generally well attended, with a noted increase in parents attending with school age children, thus not effecting either work or school commitments. The clinic is staffed by a rotating roster of GP's, a registered nurse, and receptionist, along with one security personnel. Although the clinic is appointment based, walk in clients are accommodated, wherever possible.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE COORDINATION

In September 2016, SWAMS was fortunate to secure funding through WA Primary Health Network to establish a program for coordination of care for clients with mental health issues. This team has successfully established good working relationships with local mainstream providers to improve appropriate referrals and practical support to clients. Combined with SWAMS contracted counselling services, this team has had a significant impact in the community, demonstrated by positive outcomes for several clients and the number of referrals received. The team work closely with the SWAMS GP's, community mental health team and local providers to try and ensure that clients are supported to remain healthy within the community and do not slip through the cracks.



KANYINY MOODITJ (KAM)

The KAM team – (Kanyiny Mooditj “keeping solid”) focuses on clients with a chronic condition and works with individuals, families and community groups.

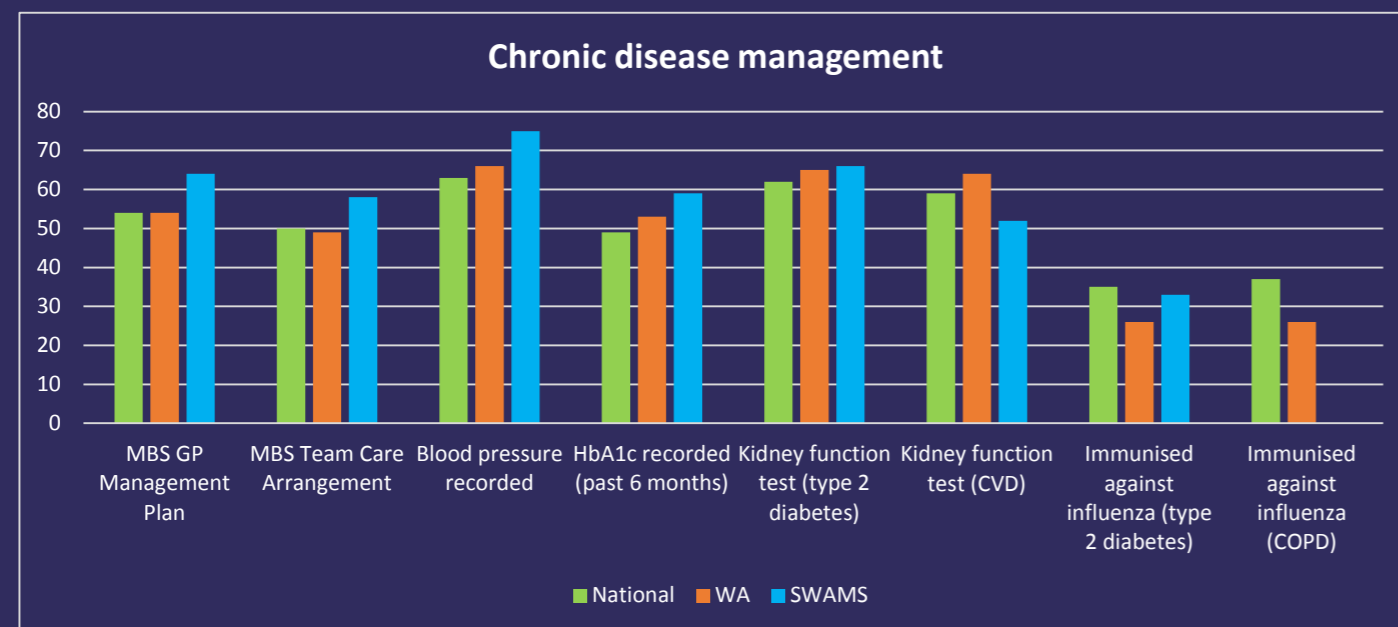
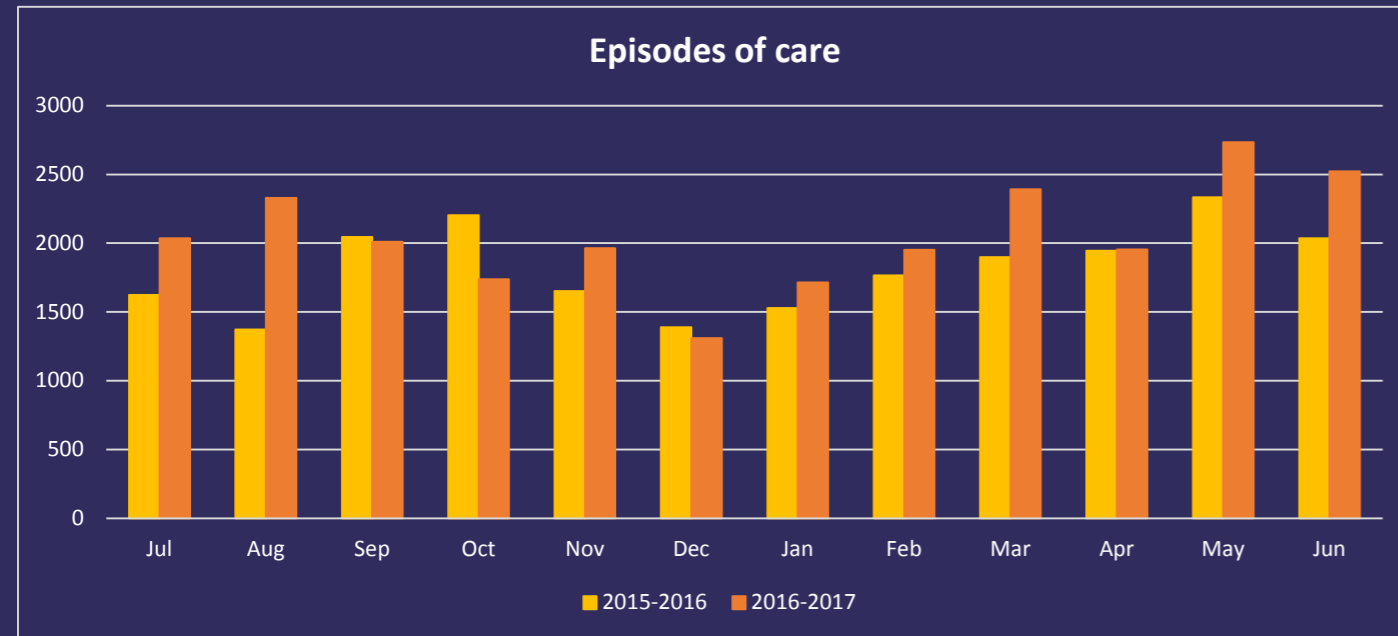
Made up of Aboriginal Health Workers, Aboriginal Outreach Workers, an Aboriginal Registered Nurse and a Registered Nurse Diabetes Educator, the team’s aim is to work with clients to reach their health goals and in turn live long and strong with a chronic condition.

The team can assist clients to coordinate their care and appointments with external agencies, organise medications, provide transport and advocate for client needs. This year’s focus has been on education about blood pressure and how

high blood pressure can reduce life expectancy. Clients have been able to record their blood pressure at home, thanks to the team purchasing two home-recording blood pressure machines.

These results are then reviewed by the client with their GP and after consultation, changes may be made to their health plan. The KAM team is passionate about ongoing education on being active, safe consumption of alcohol and quitting smoking.

The team’s vision is to empower its clients to work towards their own health and personal goals and to provide support on their journeys. Individual successes improve overall health and wellbeing of the community.



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

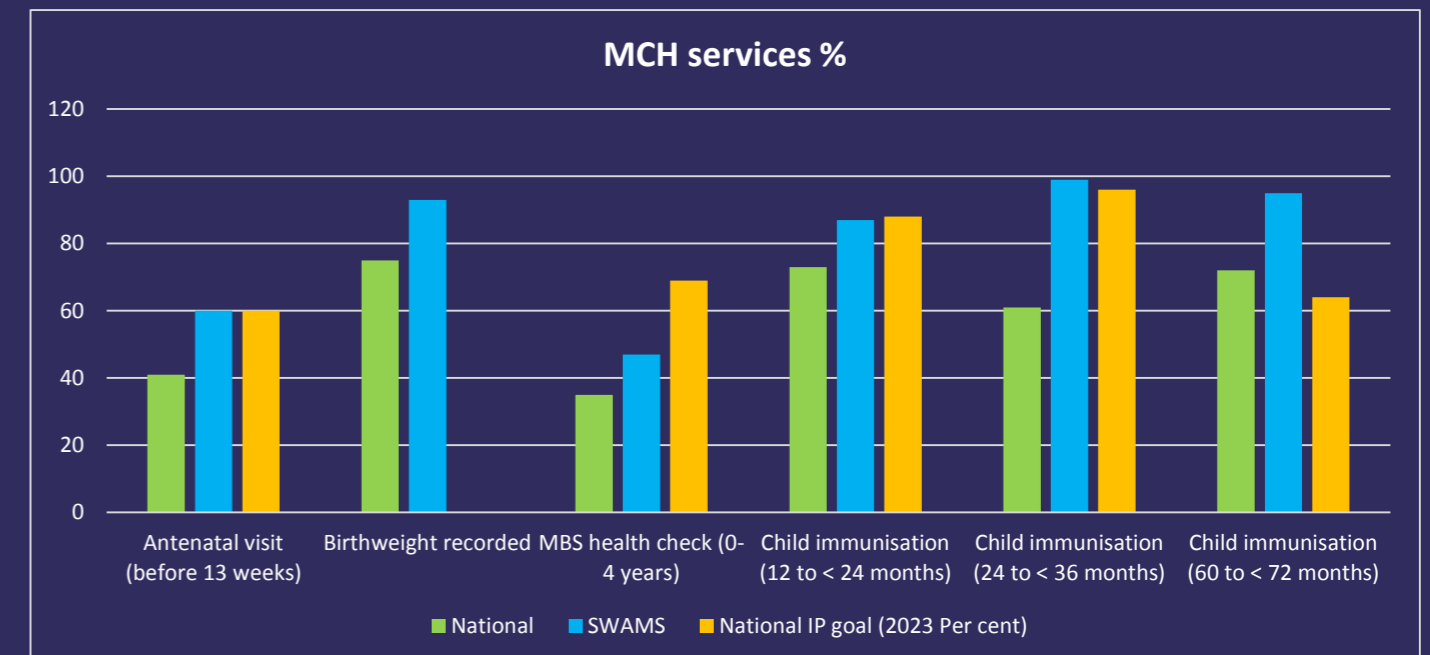
SWAMS maternal and child health team have had a busy and successful year. Our statistics show that SWAMS achieved higher than the national average for antenatal and postnatal checks, as well as improved immunisation rates across all cohorts. SWAMS have also been working in partnership with Dr Harvey Coates to deliver ear, nose and throat specialist appointments for children throughout the year.

Despite staffing challenges within this team, the SWAMS child health nurses have engaged with playgroups and collaborative research projects across the sector.

Our maternal and child health program is community based and seeks to support families through providing home visits, assistance with attending appointments and providing culturally appropriate primary health care services.

SPECIALIST SERVICES

In the second half of the financial year, SWAMS was successful in securing funding through Rural Health West for specialist medical services. Dr Harvey Coates provided an ENT consultation clinic at SWAMS Bunbury in February and May 2017. Both sessions were very well attended with over 60 children seen. Dr Tony Ryan provided a general physician clinic in February and June 2017, assisting in the care and management of clients with complex medical issues. SWAMS would like to acknowledge the funding of Rural Health West through the Healthy Ears-Better Hearing, Better Listening program and the Medical Outreach Indigenous Chronic Disease Program and thank them for their support.



ADMIN SERVICES



NAIDOC family fun day



Maternal child health



Staff Christmas party



Ferguson Valley



Manjimup SHS gala day



Playgroup



Wyalup - Rocky Point (Bunbury)



Admin services highlights

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE

The Home and Community Care (HACC) team aims to support clients to live independently in their homes and community.

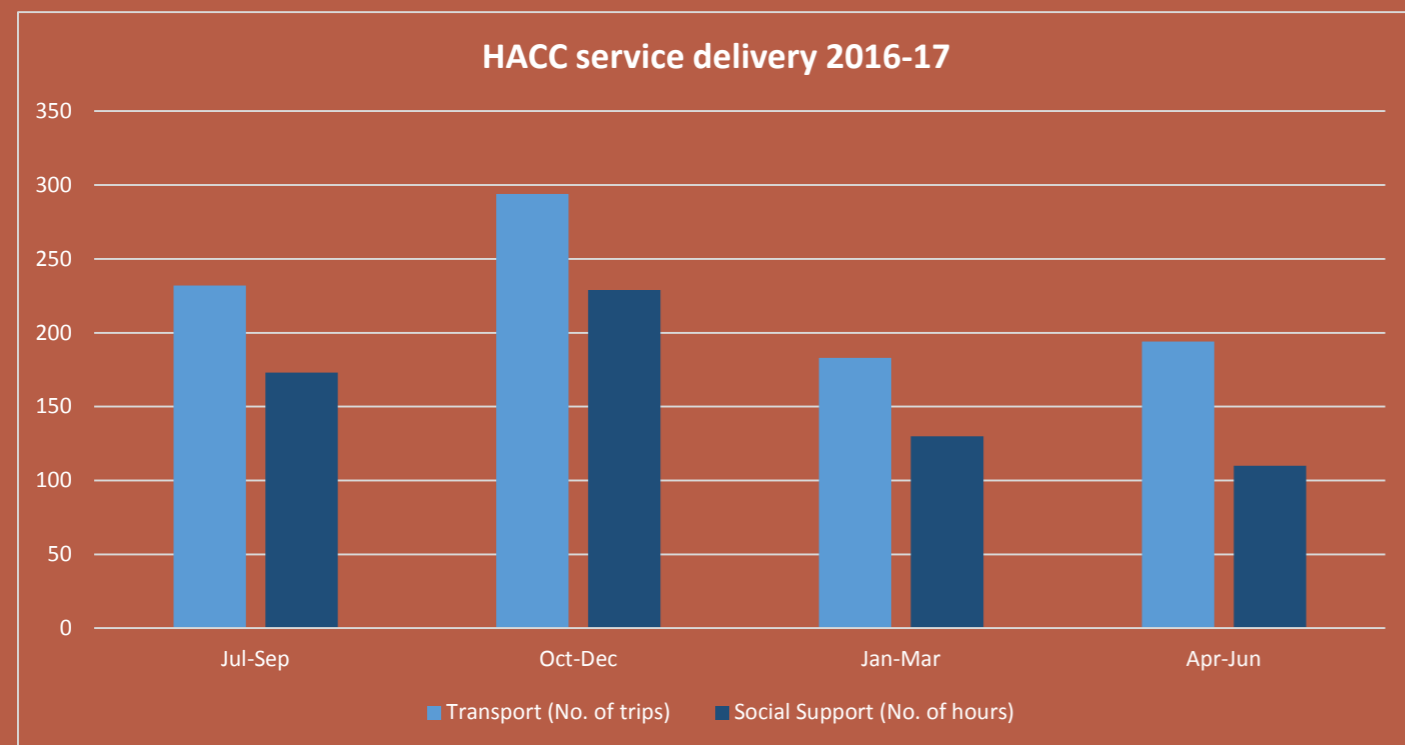
Throughout the year we have had an average of 32 clients living in Bunbury, Busselton, Brunswick Junction, Harvey, Donnybrook and Boyanup.

SWAMS supports our HACC clients through providing one-on-one and group social support, medical and non-medical

transport and advocacy.

The financial year has seen a number of successful events held including the NAIDOC Elders Luncheon, Christmas celebrations, dementia education workshops and an Elder abuse awareness morning tea.

The graph below shows the number of transport trips and social support hours undertaken by SWAMS.



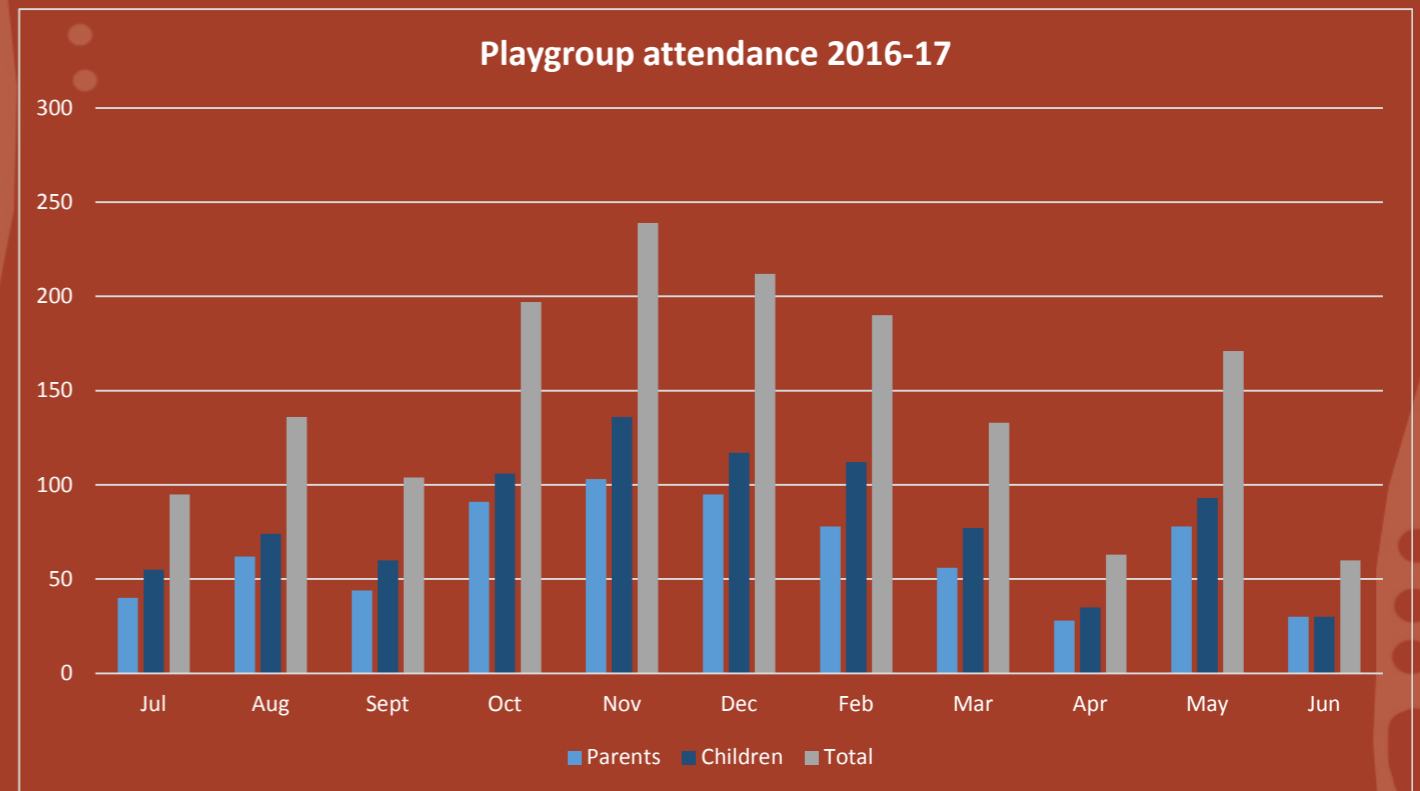
PLAYGROUP

The SWAMS Playgroups aim to support families to give their children a good start in life. SWAMS delivers three engaging playgroups each week in alignment with school terms with two held in Bunbury and one in Brunswick Junction.

Activities delivered in each session are interactive, educational and engaging for both children and parents and

includes activities like playdough, painting, reading, singing, dancing and interactive play.

The graph below shows the number of parents and children attending the playgroup per month. There were a total of 1600 attendances by parents and children in total, which increased by 61.78% compared to the previous year of 989 attendances.





HEALTH PROMOTION

The Health Promotion Team works collaboratively with SWAMS staff and external organisations to raise awareness of health issues and delivery programs to increase knowledge and skills of clients in the community.

The team have a monthly health promotion calendar covering topics such as diabetes, dental health, sexual health, tobacco cessation, men's and women's health and heart health. An interactive and educational display is delivered at the SWAMS Bunbury clinic each month aligning with the calendar.

The team have successfully facilitated and attended more

than 50 events and programs including the Kaardajiny Yoka Healthy Lifestyle Program, walking groups and Women's Wellness cervical screening program, just to name a few.

The health promotion team are working towards delivering program based activities based on sound evidence and research into the future.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Team have made significant achievements in re-branding SWAMS promotional material throughout the financial year.

The SWAMS newsletter was released in alignment with the Noongar seasons. The newsletter includes a message from the CEO, stories from events and community members, and information on up and coming events.

The SWAMS Facebook page is regularly updated with events and health information.

Some achievements from July 2016 to June 2017 include:

- Completion of the previous year annual report
- Completion of the SWAMS style guide
- Preparation of SWAMS teams flyers, brochures and events materials
- Development of media releases

SWAMS in the media

Activities to teach culture to children

CULTURAL activities, entertainment and indigenous food will be on offer at the inaugural National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day in Collie on Thursday.

The free celebrations will be held at the Collie Community Garden from 11am until 1pm for children up to five years old. There will be vegetable seed planting and an interactive walk for children to get involved in.

South West Aboriginal Medical Service maternal child health coordinator Julie-Ann Dowdell said the event was a great example of key community service providers working together to create a special day of celebration.

"Children's Day is an important day to celebrate the strengths and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children," Ms Dowdell said. "The event is for all children and will be a great chance for the first official National Children's Day in Collie special."



WA Country Health Service community nurse Suzanne Mumford, South West Aboriginal Medical Service social worker Joyce Dimer and maternal child health coordinator Julie-Ann Dowdell get ready for the first National Children's Day in Collie.

share their culture with all of their kindy friends. "We have been overwhelmed by the support of local service providers who will help make the first official National Children's Day in Collie special."

There will be a performance from Wilson Park Primary School students who will sing in Noongar language and Welcome to Country by respected custodian Joe Northover. The event is a collaboration between community organisations, including Njalang Hoodla, Collie Community Gardens, Collie Child and Parent Centre and South West Medical Aboriginal Service.

Women's wellness focus of free tests

ABOUT 30 women took advantage of a women's wellness event organised by the South West Aboriginal Medical Service as part of the month-long cervical cancer awareness initiative in May.

South West women conquered their fears of a Pap smear at the Brunswick Community Resource Centre, the first location of a series of events between Harvey and Bridgetown.

Participants enjoyed a healthy lunch and were pampered at a nail polish booth while their children were kept busy with colouring in.

Mother-of-two Kaean Hill agreed the free clinic and information sessions raised awareness of the importance of regular Pap smears.

She said it was a fun day out and gathered all the women and children together. Jessica Celsano and Annika Triscari last received their Pap smear reminders from their general practitioner while they were both pregnant with their children, now aged 5 and 6 months.

"If it wasn't for today, I would not have had my Pap smear done because it's hard to find the time when you're busy being a mum," Ms Celsano said. "Having access to this free service is important as we are coming to them and it is giving



Kaeann Hill and daughter Mya, 9 months, enjoy a pamper session with South West Aboriginal Medical Service staff member Talicia Jetta.



Attending the first Women's Wellness event are Jessica Celsano and son Deklan Callegari, 5 months, and Annika Triscari with daughter Mia Zampogna, 6 months.

having a Pap smear in the Clinic on Wheels. "Having access to this free service is important as we are coming to them and it is giving

women the opportunity to have a pap smear in a supported environment," she said. "A Pap smear is a quick and simple test used to check the health of the cells on your cervix and it's your best protection against cervical cancer for all women aged between 18 and 68."

"We want to encourage women to come along to one of our events, have a free health check and enjoy some healthy snacks and we also have prizes and giveaways at each event." The events are funded by the WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program as part of its 2015-16 Small Grants Program.

The next after hours clinic will be held on May 19 from 5pm to 8pm at the SWAMS clinic, 31-35 Forrest Avenue, Bunbury, which is also open to all women.



South West Aboriginal Medical Service chief executive officer Lesley Nelson, Minister for Aged Care and Indigenous Health Ken Wyatt and Forrester MHR Nola Marino met in Bunbury this week to discuss the region's aged care and indigenous health needs. Picture: Kristin Macfarlane

Politicians discuss key indigenous issues

GOVERNMENT officials met with the South West's key indigenous health and aged care leaders to gain an insight into the needs of the sectors at a regional level. Minister for Aged Care and Indigenous Health Ken Wyatt and Forrester MHR Nola Marino were in Bunbury this week visiting the South West Aboriginal Medical Service.

The visit was part of a series of meetings being held across the South West focusing on aged care and indigenous health needs around the region. The pair also attended round table discussions with key aged care stakeholders in Bunbury and Busselton as well as a community forum. Mr Wyatt, who was born in Bunbury, said it was important to visit

what was happening in the sectors locally and to uncover any concerns leaders in the community had, which he could take back to government. "It's important to see what's happening on the ground locally," Mr Wyatt said. Chief executive officer Lesley Nelson said having the opportunity to highlight the needs of the Aboriginal community with key politicians was encouraging for the future of targeted health care

Gloves off for fun day

FAMILIES from around Bunbury came out to celebrate Indigenous culture at a Family Fun Day held last week.



CHAMP: Boxing champion Nathaniel 'Cheeky' May with SWAMS CEO Lesley Nelson and Board Chairperson Karim Khan.

The South West Aboriginal Medical Service hosted the fun day at the Bunbury Training Club in celebration of NAIDOC week.

There was traditional Aboriginal dance on show performed by the young boys with Koolankas Kreats, didgeridoo players, face painting, a sausage sizzle and bouncing castles for the kids.

Highlight on the day was featherweight boxing champion Cheeky May turning out to say hello to friends and family and to celebrate the day.

Cheeky also did a short interview with SWAMS employee Karim Khan who quizzed him on his success as an athlete and his strict training regimen. But for the champion boxer the fun day was an opportunity to relax.

"It's not all the time that we all get together and have that keeps me going. Week was a fantastic opportunity to highlight Indigenous achievement in the community. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for us to all come together, embrace, respect and celebrate our culture through some engaging community events," Ms Nelson said.

"NAIDOC Week is also a very important time to showcase the achievements of our people, and on behalf of myself and the SWAMS Board, we would like to encourage our Noongar community to embrace and enjoy this special week."

Ms Nelson also said NAIDOC week held plenty of educational value. "It's a fun place where you can learn about Noongar people, our culture, language and history," she said.

SWAMS held a total of 10 events over NAIDOC week including a flag raising ceremony, a drug and alcohol service, a youth disco and an elders luncheon.

For more on the South West Aboriginal Medical Service visit swams.com.au. Visit page 22 to see more photos from the SWAMS Family Fun Day.

Aboriginal health is in good hands

JOYCE Dimer, Wade Garwood and Dr Arman Yazdani have varied skills, but they do have at least one thing in common - they are doing all they can to support Bunbury's Aboriginal community.

The South West Aboriginal Medical Service staff members have all been recognised by the Aboriginal Health Council of WA.

SWAMS key social worker Joyce Dimer received the Elder in the Community Award, logistics assistant Wade Garwood was the recipient of the Young Achiever Award and general practitioner Dr Arman Yazdani was awarded the Contribution by an ACHS employee Award.

Mrs Dimer said she was "elated" by the recognition. She said it was a desire to be part of a health change for her people that led her into the career.

SWAMS chief executive officer Lesley Nelson said the trio played a vital role in helping SWAMS provide a culturally-focussed health care service to the South West.



South West Aboriginal Medical Service's Joyce Dimer, Wade Garwood and Dr Arman Yazdani have been honoured by the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia. Picture: Jon Gellwiler



SWAMS staff Dr Stephen Arthur, Talicia Jetta, Gwen Gray, Janerie Gray, Amanda Wallam and Terry Kneale during a visit to the Busselton Family centre last week. Picture: Chloe Fraser

New clinic service for indigenous health

The Bunbury-based South West Aboriginal Medical Health Service will open a clinic at the Busselton Health Campus to provide high quality and accessible health care to the indigenous community in Busselton.

SWAMS clinical director Terry Kneale said the service focused on GP services and chronic disease and would operate two days each week from a clinic at the Busselton Health Campus. "We provide a GP

in Busselton further cemented SWAMS' vision is to provide high-quality, holistic and accessible services to the South West Aboriginal community. "We are proud that Busselton is our fourth outreach clinic in the South West," Ms Nelson said. "There are also clinics at Brunswick Junction, Collie and Manjimup. "SWAMS supports Aboriginal health through a range of tailored programs and services, which can include bulk billing, patient transport and home visits."

SWAMS News

Following the six Noongar seasons



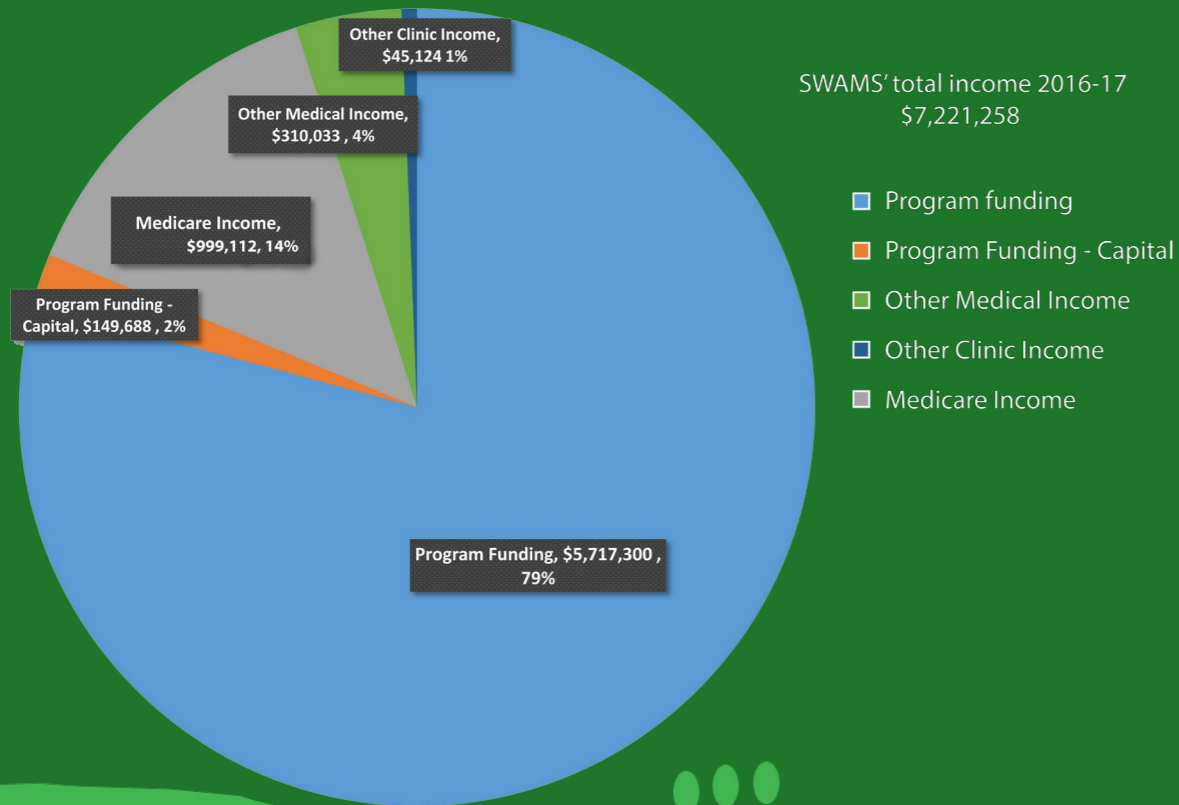
FINANCE



Finance highlights

TOTAL INCOME

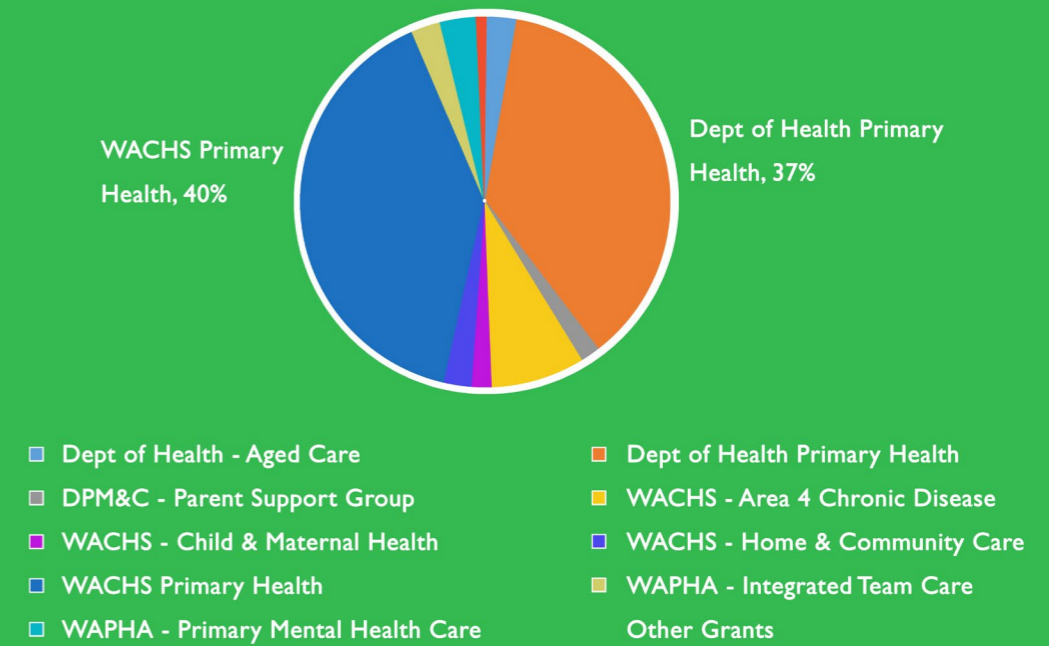
SWAMS' main source of income is from the WA Country Health Service and Commonwealth Department of Health. The below chart shows income for the organisation for 2016-17 financial year.



Assets, Liabilities and Equity \$



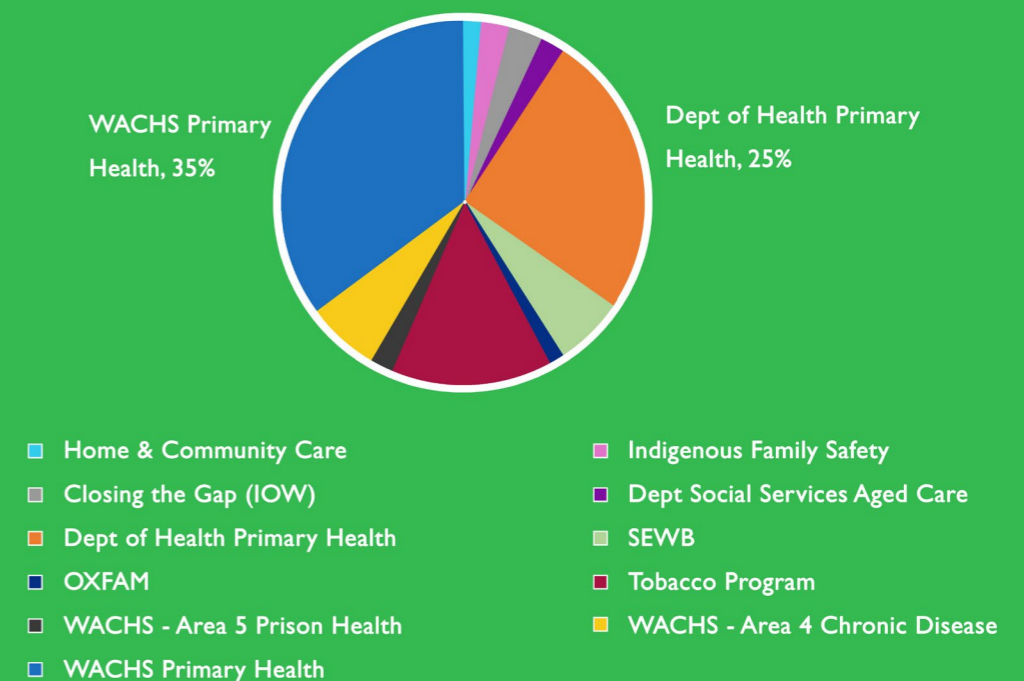
Grants Revenue by Source 2016-17

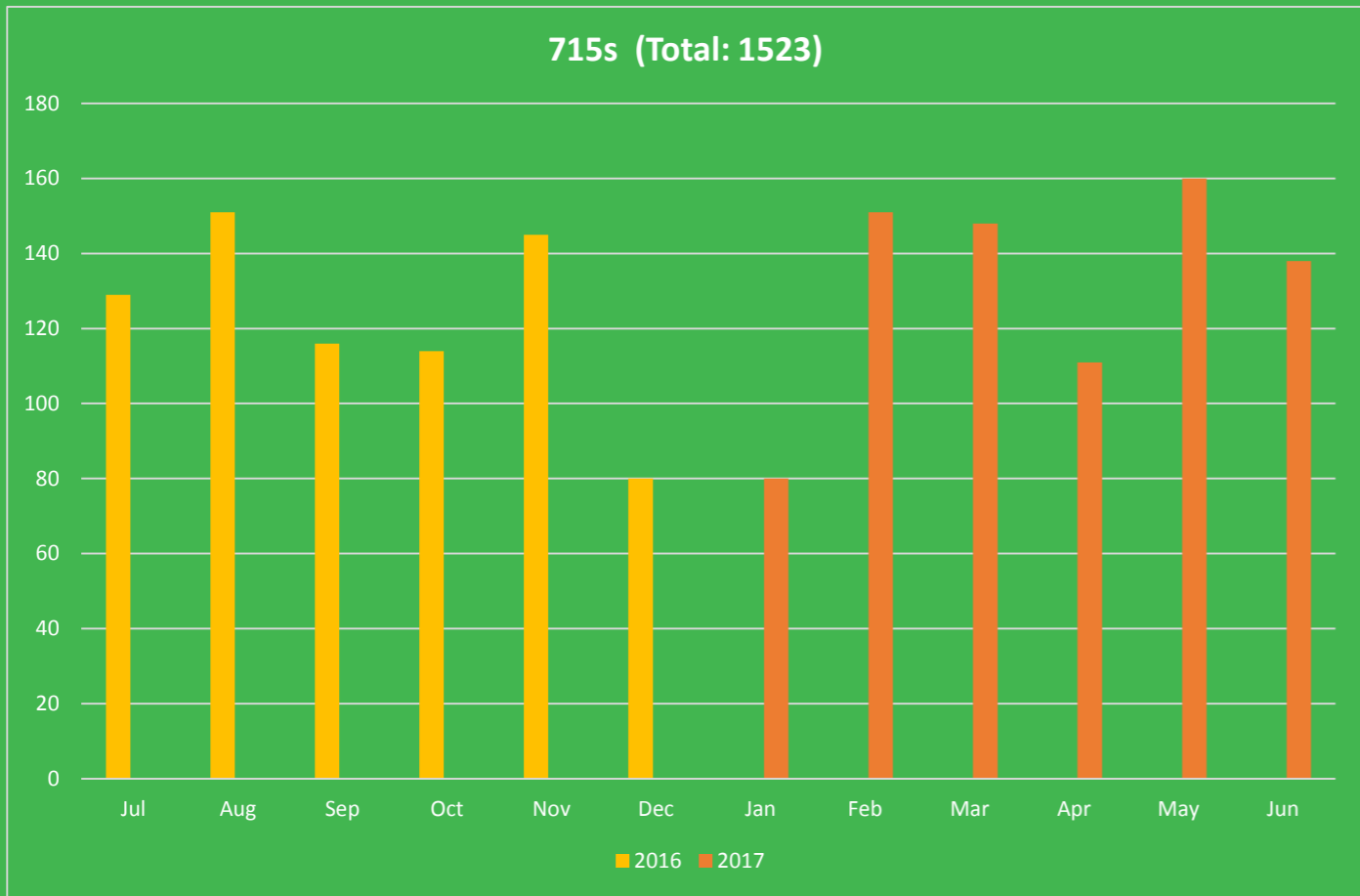
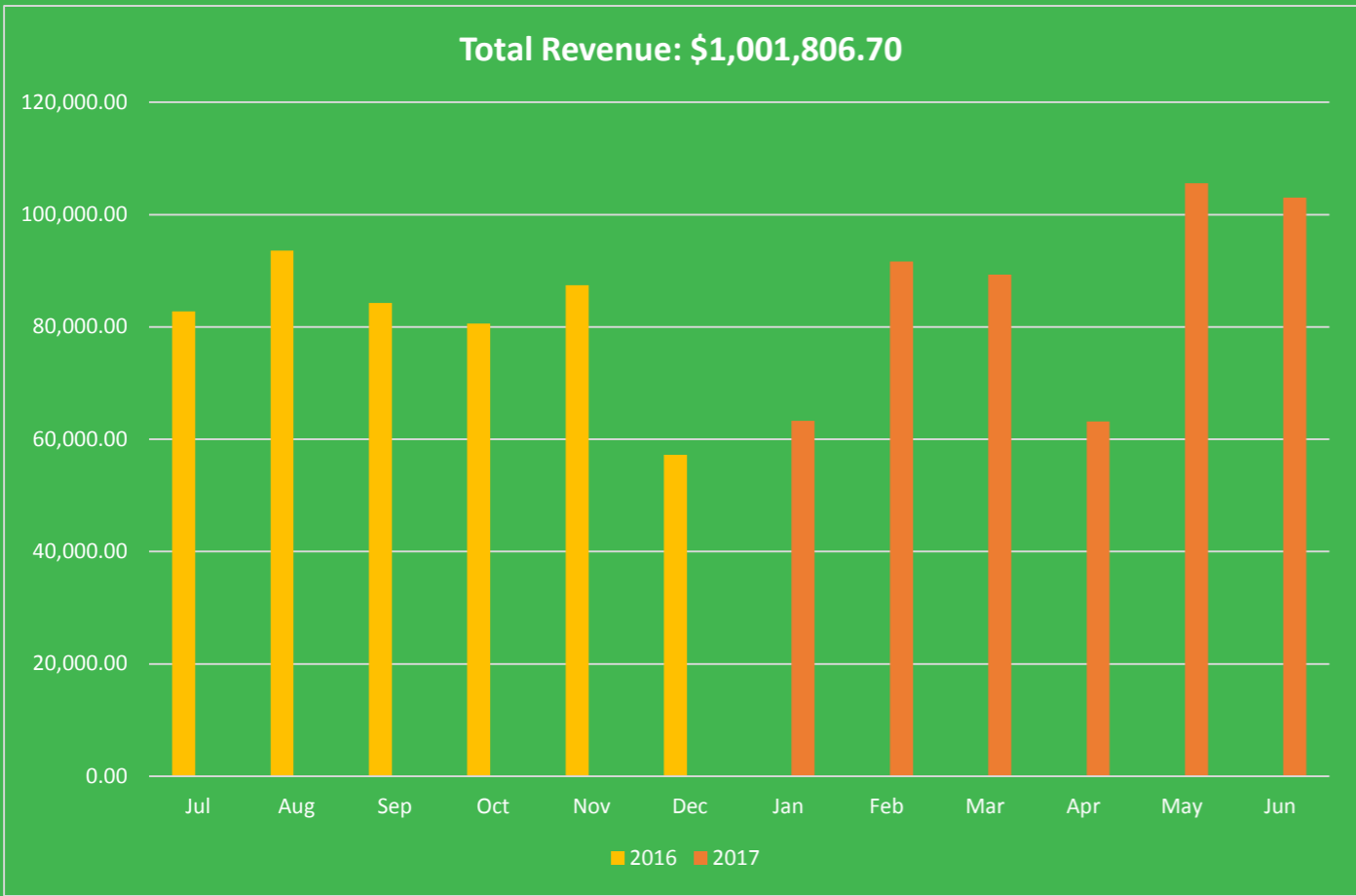


GRANT REVENUE

SWAMS is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation that relies heavily on government funding and assistance. The above shows revenue for the organisation for 2016-17 financial year, while the below graph shows a comparison of revenue compared to 2015-16.

Grants Revenue by Source 2015-16





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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH-WEST ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ("SWAMSAC")

Opinion
We have audited the financial report of SWAMSAC which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report is in accordance with the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012, including:

- i) giving a true and fair view, in all material aspects, of the financial position of SWAMSAC as at 30 June 2017, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards, the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2007, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013 and SWAMSAC rule book.

Basis for Opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of SWAMSAC in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Economic Dependency
We draw attention to Note 2(e) to the financial statements which outlines the corporation's economic dependency, whereby to continue as a going concern SWAMSAC is dependent upon continued receipt of Commonwealth and State grant funding. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information
Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in SWAMSAC's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2017, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF
BKR
INTERNATIONAL

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report
The directors of the corporation are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the corporation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the corporation's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

AMD Chartered Accountants

MARIA CAVALLO
Director

28-30 Wellington Street, Bunbury, Western Australia Dated this 13th day of October 2017

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 339-50 OF THE CORPORATIONS (ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER) ACT 2006 TO THE BOARD OF SOUTH WEST ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and beliefs, during the year ended 30 June 2017 there have been no contraventions of:

- (i) the auditor independence requirements as set out in the in the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

AMD Chartered Accountants

MARIA CAVALLO
Director

Bunbury, Western Australia Dated this 10th day of October 2017



Staff Christmas party



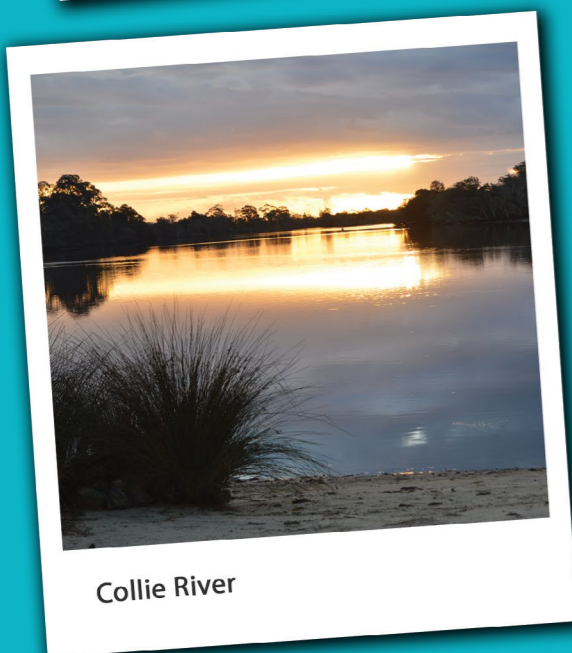
Busselton clinic opening



Clinic display prize-winner



Elder's Luncheon 2016



Collie River



Busselton clinic opening



Women's wellness, Busselton



Minister Ken Wyatt visit



Indigenous Hip Hop Projects



Playgroup



National ATSI Children's Day



Flu vaccine campaign 2017

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Outreach programs are delivered by Rural Health West on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health.



SWAMS acknowledges WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) for providing funding in its role as the operator of the Country WA PHN.

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The information contained in this document is considered correct at the time of publication. The term 'Aboriginal' refers to any persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this document may contain images of deceased people. Images used within this publication remain the property of the copyright holder.