South West AMS
Aboriginal Medical Service
Our Health, Our Way

Annual Report

2025 – 2026

Partnerships & Funding

Our important work at SWAMS is made possible thanks to the generous funding and support of the following organisations:

- Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA)
- Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
- Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
- Australian Government Department of Social Services
- Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation
- Binar Futures
- Cancer Council WA
- City of Bunbury
- Community Corrections
- Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia (CASWA)
- Curtin University
- Cyrenian House
- Dementia Australia
- Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS)
- Edith Cowan University
- Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation
- Headspace
- Hearing Australia
- Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH)
- Jawun
- Key Assets
- Lifeline WA (Living Stone Foundation Inc.)
- Lotterywest
- Marr Mooditj Training
- Mental Health Commission, Government of Western Australia
- Mission Australia
- Murdoch University
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
- National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)
- National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)
- Palmerston Association Inc.
- Perth Children's Hospital
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
- Rural Clinical School of WA
- Rural Health West
- South Metropolitan Health Service
- Southern Aboriginal Corporation
- State Library of Western Australia
- Telethon Kids Institute
- The University of Notre Dame Australia
- The University of Western Australia (UWA)
- University Department of Rural Health South West (UDRHSW)
- University of New South Wales
- WA Country Health Service (WACHS)
- Western Australia Department of Communities
- Western Australia Department of Health
- Western Australia Health Promotion Foundation (Healthway)
- Western Australia Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA)

About this document

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned this document may contain images of deceased people. Images used within this publication remain the property of the copyright holder.

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.

Accreditation

AGED CARE QUALITY STANDARDS

Alignment with the Aged Care Quality Standards supports the delivery of safe, culturally responsive and person-centred aged care services. These standards provide a framework for continuous improvement, ensuring older people are treated with dignity and respect, supported to make informed choices, and receive services that meet their individual needs and goals.

CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING

At SWAMS, we are deeply committed to ensuring the safety, wellbeing and empowerment of all children and young people who interact with our organisation. We recognise our duty of care to create and maintain a child-safe and child-friendly environment, guided by the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and the governance requirements.

ISO 9001

SWAMS is ISO 9001 Quality Management – Global-Mark Accredited, highlighting its commitment to excellence in healthcare service delivery and organisational efficiency. This internationally recognised accreditation ensures that SWAMS meets rigorous quality management standards, focusing on continuous improvement, patient satisfaction, and operational effectiveness. By applying ISO 9001 principles, SWAMS shows its dedication to providing high-quality, culturally safe, and patient-centred healthcare services.

AGPAL

As an AGPAL-accredited organisation, SWAMS maintains the highest standards of care, ensuring continuous improvement in service delivery, patient safety, and clinical excellence. This accreditation reflects SWAMS' commitment to best practices in healthcare. It aligns with national quality standards to deliver holistic, accessible, and community-focused medical, social, and preventative health services.

QIP (Quality Innovation Performance) Accredited

The QIP accreditation is a nationally recognised achievement that reflects SWAMS' commitment to continuous improvement, innovation, and excellence in healthcare delivery. This accreditation demonstrates that SWAMS meets the industry standards in clinical governance, patient care, and community engagement, reinforcing its role as a trusted and leading healthcare provider.

Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge the people of the Noongar nation who are the traditional custodians and first people of the land.

Ngaany kaadatjiny ngalang Noongar boodjar, Noongar boordiya baalap karnidjil boodjera warniny wer nyininy.


CONNECTED PARENTING THE BIG PICTURE
CULTURE
SPIRITUALITY
COUNTRY
COMMUNITY
FAMILY + KINSHIP
CIRCLE OF SECURITY
Koolungar Moorditj
Healthy Skin
Resources
Circle of Security Parenting
Nidja nganyang moolymari
djoombar
baap
miyal
mimboorn
mooly
dwangk
kalyat
djaa
ngorlak
Noongar
yat
HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY
THE FIRST YEAR
HELPING BABY
GROW WELL
0–6 months
6–7 months
7–8 months
8–9 months
10–12 months
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WHO WE ARE

The South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS) is a Noongar Community Controlled Health Organisation, founded on the principles of self-determination, empowerment and freedom of choice.

SWAMS recognises the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

To achieve the highest attainable standard of health for and with Noongar people, SWAMS will pursue the delivery of best-practice and culturally appropriate holistic health services to the Aboriginal population of the South West region of Western Australia.

Our Motto

Our Health, Our Way

Our Mission

To provide high quality, culturally appropriate and holistic health care which builds strong and healthy Aboriginal Communities.

We Put People at The Centre

Culture and Respect

We strive to provide the highest quality, culturally appropriate care. We take the time to understand our clients' needs, validate their experiences and respond with professional, holistic services.

We are Dedicated to Excellence

Leadership and Professionalism

We are a community-led organisation using innovative approaches to provide care. Our people are passionate, competent and strive for excellence in empowering our communities.

We Act with Integrity

Ethical, Accountable and Open

We are ethical, honest and open in our disclosure to our communities. We are always willing to listen and are honest in our communities.

About Our Design Inspiration

Strong Community
by Mariah Yarran

Mariah is a Whadjuk/Ballardong Noongar artist who uses painting to tell stories of connection, culture and community. Through her artwork, she aims to reflect the strength and resilience of Aboriginal people and the importance of supporting one another through life's journey.

"My Painting 'Strong Community' represents the strength found within our families, friendships and wider community. The central gathering place symbol reflects community members coming together, while the surrounding gathering symbols and travelling lines represent the connections between people, places and shared experiences. The artwork highlights unity, belonging, and the support we give one another, showing that strength grows when we stay connected and walk together as a community."



Chairperson's Report



It is my privilege to present the SWAMS Annual Report for 2025–26 as we reflect on a year of both achievement and significant change across our organisation.

Over the past year, SWAMS has continued to strengthen the foundations that underpin our services, workforce and operations, but our focus remained firmly on delivering high-quality, culturally safe services in a way that is sustainable, accountable and responsive to what our community needs.

A major milestone during the year was the transition of the SWAMS Health Hub from planning into active construction. This project represents a long-term investment in the future of Aboriginal health across the South West and reflects years of advocacy, planning and partnerships. While considerable work remains ahead, the commencement of construction demonstrates the strength of the organisation's vision and its commitment to providing fit-for-purpose facilities that will support future generations.

Across our organisation, SWAMS continued to deliver strong outcomes for community. We strengthened support for children and families, expanded community-based services, maintained a focus on prevention and early intervention and continued to improve access to care. Our achievements in childhood immunisation, our strengthened family support services and the introduction of the Aboriginal Aftercare program, demonstrate the positive impact of a coordinated, community-led approach.

Our ongoing commitment to workforce development and Aboriginal leadership has resulted in significant progress, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now making up much of our workforce and being strongly represented at all levels of leadership. Through ongoing investment in training, mentoring, cultural governance and professional development, SWAMS continues to build a capable and culturally strong organisation that reflects the communities it serves.

This year also brought significant change to the organisation's governance, including a period of challenge and transition for the Board. While these events were difficult for many involved, they reinforced the importance of strong governance, accountability, transparency, and meaningful member engagement.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our members and community for their ongoing support, involvement and commitment throughout this period of change. Your engagement and dedication have been instrumental in helping guide the organisation forward and in shaping the future of SWAMS.

Having served SWAMS and its Board over many years, I am proud to continue supporting an organisation that plays such an important role in the lives of Aboriginal people and families across the South West. The strength and resilience shown by our members, community and staff throughout this year give me great confidence in the future of SWAMS.

We will remain committed to strengthening governance, supporting organisational stability, and making decisions that reflect the best interests of our community. We will continue to work collaboratively to ensure SWAMS remains a strong, accountable, and community-led organisation for future generations.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I sincerely thank our members, Elders, community, partners, staff, and leadership team for their unwavering support and commitment throughout the year. The dedication demonstrated across every part of SWAMS during a period of significant challenge and change reflects the strength, resilience, and values that underpin our organisation.

Your guidance, hard work, and ongoing support continue to shape the success of SWAMS and strengthen our ability to deliver for community. Together, we remain committed to building a strong, sustainable, and community-led organisation that honours our past, responds to the needs of today, and creates opportunities for future generations.

Michelle Munns

Chairperson

Board of Directors

Elected representatives



Michelle Munns

Chairperson

Elected for a 3-year term at the 2025 AGM



Maxine Williams

Deputy Chairperson

Elected for a 1-year term at the 2025 AGM



Rhonda Norman

Elected for a 3-year term at the 2025 AGM



Lesley Ugle

Elected for a 2-year term at the 2025 AGM



David Williams

Elected for a 2-year term at the 2025 AGM



Robyn McCreanor

Elected for a 1-year term at the 2025 AGM

Board-Elected Skills-Based Directors



Laurence Riley



Jarrad Zanich

Chief Executive Officer's Report



It is an honour to present this report for the 2025/2026 financial year. I commenced as Acting Chief Executive Officer in March 2026, following the service of Mr Braden Fisher as Acting CEO. I acknowledge Mr Fisher's contribution and thank him for his commitment to SWAMS through a period of significant challenge and transition.

When I stepped into the role, the Board entrusted me with two clear priorities: to bring Aboriginal leadership back to SWAMS and to begin mending the organisation's relationship with community. These priorities have guided our work and reaffirmed the importance of SWAMS remaining accountable to the Aboriginal people and communities we serve.

The Annual General Meeting held in April 2026 delivered a clear message: community wanted SWAMS to return Aboriginal health to the centre of its work. We have listened, and the organisation has been working hard to ensure Aboriginal health is once again our primary focus. This means strengthening culturally safe, community-led care and making decisions that reflect the needs and aspirations of our people.

I want to thank and acknowledge our communities, whose ongoing trust in SWAMS to deliver services across our footprint is both valued and never taken for granted.

Across the South West, Wheatbelt, Great Southern and Bindjareb regions, we continue to provide community-led services that support Aboriginal people and families through every stage of life.

SWAMS has experienced considerable challenges over recent years. Throughout this time, our staff have continued to show resilience, dedication and professionalism, keeping the organisation operating and ensuring essential services remained available. I sincerely thank every staff member for continuing to support our community, our clients and the broader organisation.

With the support of the Board, we have created the position of Chief Operations Officer and will continue to prioritise further Aboriginal executive appointments within the organisation. These roles represent a practical investment in Aboriginal leadership and succession planning, while strengthening operational oversight across the organisation. It is an important step towards building a sustainable leadership pathway led by culture, capability and accountability.

We have placed a significant focus on developing Aboriginal Health Practitioners by supporting more people to undertake training, while also seeking to recruit experienced practitioners from across Australia. Aboriginal Health Practitioners bring clinical capability, cultural knowledge and trusted community connections to our services, and they will remain central to the future of Aboriginal health care at SWAMS.



We also know that we must do better for our regional communities. People should be able to access reliable, culturally safe services closer to home and more often. Improving the reach, frequency and consistency of our regional services is therefore an important priority as we plan for the year ahead.

Construction of the SWAMS Health Hub continued to progress throughout the year and remains one of the most significant projects in our organisation's history. While the building itself will be transformative, what excites me most is what it will mean for community through better-connected services, new opportunities and lasting benefits for future generations. The Health Hub will support future generations and provide a strong platform for continuing to deliver community-controlled healthcare for decades to come.

Rebuilding trust and strengthening an organisation takes time, consistency and honest engagement. The progress made this year provides a foundation, but there is more work ahead.

I thank the SWAMS Board for its guidance and support, our staff for their unwavering commitment, and our community for continuing to speak with us, challenge us and place their trust in our services. Together, we will continue returning SWAMS to its core purpose: improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people through strong Aboriginal leadership and responsive, culturally safe services.

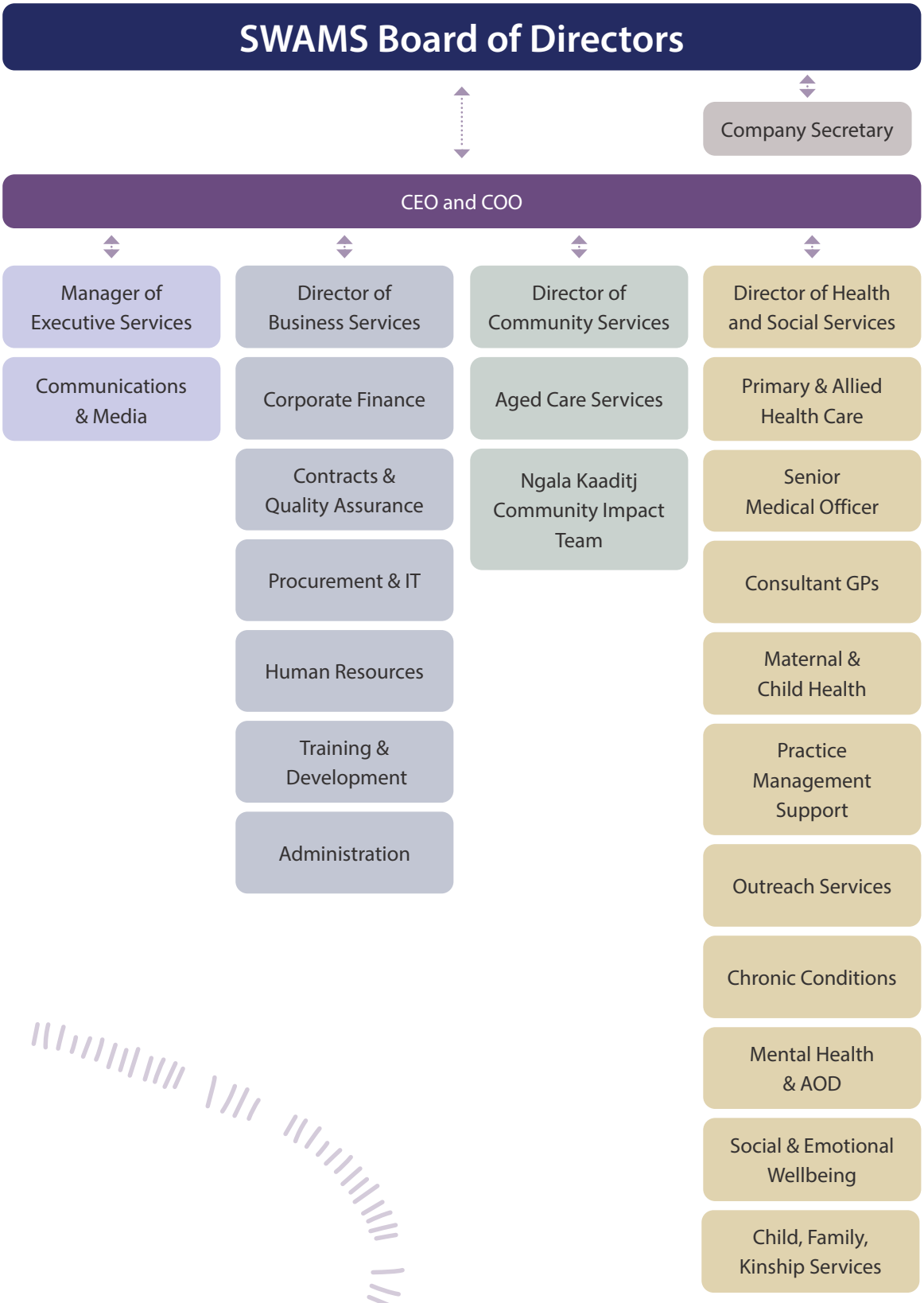
The organisation turns 30 in 2027 and it will be an amazing opportunity for the organisation and community to come together to celebrate those who came before us to build SWAMS into the organisation that it is today.

Matt Harbisher

Acting CEO



Organisation Chart



Health Hub



Construction well underway

The SWAMS Health Hub is a landmark project that will bring together a broad range of culturally safe health, wellbeing and community services in a purpose-built facility in Carey Park, Bunbury. Supported by combined Federal and State Government funding of $36.6 million, the project represents the largest capital investment in SWAMS' history.

During 2025-26, significant progress was made across design, procurement, tender evaluation and governance approvals. In response to industry-wide construction cost increases, SWAMS worked closely with funding partners to refine the project scope and maintain its long-term viability.

A major milestone was achieved in late 2025 with Board approval of a revised tender from Perkins Builders. Construction commenced in February 2026 following contract execution and completion of planning and procurement activities.

By June 2026, the project was well into the construction phase, with key planning, procurement and contractor risks substantially reduced. SWAMS continues to maintain strong project oversight as work progresses on a facility that will support improved health outcomes for Aboriginal people across the South West for generations to come.



Health and Social Services

Health and Social Services

The Health and Social Services Directorate is dedicated to supporting the health, wellbeing and aspirations of Aboriginal people, families and communities across the South West, Katanning and Narrogin.

Guided by SWAMS' values and commitment to culturally safe, community-led care, our teams work alongside community members and service delivery staff to ensure programs and services remain responsive, coordinated and focused on the needs of Aboriginal people and families.

The achievements outlined in this section reflect the dedication, professionalism and cultural knowledge of our Health and Social Services staff, who continue to work alongside Aboriginal people, families and communities to deliver meaningful outcomes across our regions.

Through planning, administration, stakeholder engagement, reporting and continuous improvement, we strengthen the systems that support better health and social outcomes across our regions.

Program Highlights

Throughout the year, the Directorate continued to deliver culturally safe and community-centred services through our Primary Health, Maternal and Child Health, Child, Family and Kinship, and Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs teams.

Together, these services strengthened opportunities for Aboriginal people and families to access the support they need, when and where they need it.

Several important milestones were achieved during the reporting period. This included the first full year of operation of the South West Regional Family Support Hub, expanded access to GP services at the Kwilenap Eaton site, the establishment of an Aboriginal Health Practitioner Coordinator role, and the expansion of Aboriginal Aftercare services to provide additional support for people following a suicide attempt or period of elevated risk. These initiatives have strengthened pathways into care, improved service coordination and enhanced access to culturally safe support across the region.

Collaboration remained a key priority throughout the year. Increased integration between programs enabled stronger family support pathways, earlier access to health services and improved continuity of care. We also continued to invest in prevention and early intervention initiatives that support long-term health and wellbeing outcomes.

Our teams strengthened their focus on social and emotional wellbeing, recognising the important role culture, connection and community play in achieving positive health outcomes. Through continued engagement with community and strong partnerships across the health and social services sector, we remain responsive to emerging needs and can work to ensure services remain relevant and accessible.

A particularly significant achievement was reaching 100 per cent childhood immunisation coverage for Aboriginal children aged two and five years for the first time. This milestone reflects the dedication of our Maternal and Child Health, Primary Health and community-based teams, as well as the commitment of families who continue to prioritise the health and wellbeing of their children.



At a Glance

4,859
Individual healthcare clients served

52,034
Episodes of healthcare delivered

138
Young people and families supported through Kwaba Bidi program

680
Client visits to the Optometry Clinic

4,995
Chronic Conditions Service consults

72%
Of mental health counselling clients demonstrated significant improvement

100%
Of Aboriginal children aged two years fully immunised

100%
Of Aboriginal children aged five years fully immunised

88%
Clients identifying as Aboriginal

During the reporting period, the Directorate supported almost 5,000 clients through a range of integrated health and social services. These figures reflect the continued demand for community-led care and demonstrate the trust Aboriginal people and families place in SWAMS.

Increased engagement across health, wellbeing and family support programs highlights the importance of holistic care that recognises the connection between physical health, social and emotional wellbeing, family strength and culture.

Beyond the numbers, these outcomes represent individuals and families accessing support earlier, building stronger connections to services and receiving care that is culturally secure and responsive to their needs.

Together, these efforts are helping create healthier people, stronger families and more connected communities.

Looking Forward

In the year ahead, the Health and Social Services Directorate will continue to strengthen culturally responsive services that support Aboriginal people, families and communities to thrive. Our priorities include improving access to integrated health and social services, expanding early intervention and prevention programs, and enhancing support for children, young people and families.

We will continue to foster partnerships with community and service providers, create more opportunities to deliver care closer to home, and improve health, wellbeing and social outcomes through innovative and practical service delivery. We also remain committed to building a strong and sustainable workforce, increasing Aboriginal leadership and employment opportunities, and embedding continuous improvement across all areas of service delivery.

Most importantly, we will continue to listen to and learn from our communities, ensuring our services remain person-centred and aligned with the aspirations of Aboriginal people across our regions. By working together, we can continue building healthier people, stronger families and more connected communities for future generations.

Medical Services

Closing the Gap continues to guide the Medical Services' commitment to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people through accessible, inclusive and high-quality healthcare services.

SWAMS remains focused on providing comprehensive, community-led care that supports individuals and families at every stage of life while addressing the significant health inequities experienced by Aboriginal people across the South West, Great Southern and Lower Wheatbelt regions.

Throughout the year, our Medical Services team delivered a broad range of healthcare services, including acute and urgent care, chronic disease management, preventative health activities, maternal and child health support, population health initiatives and ongoing quality improvement programs. Strong partnerships with hospitals, specialist providers and allied health professionals continued to strengthen referral pathways and support coordinated care, ensuring clients were able to access the right services at the right time.

The reporting period also saw a leadership transition within Medical Services. Dr Chris Bird assumed the role of Senior Medical Officer late in the year following the tenure of Dr Arman Yazdani. This transition ensured continuity of clinical leadership and supported ongoing service development, workforce mentoring and quality improvement initiatives across the organisation.

A significant achievement during the year was the continued development of PRISM (Patient Record Integration & Summary Matrix), an innovative clinical intelligence system designed to support proactive healthcare delivery. PRISM assists clinicians to identify patients who may benefit from preventative health interventions, recalls, chronic disease management activities and targeted investigations. By using clinical data more effectively, the system is helping SWAMS strengthen preventative care and improve long-term health outcomes.

Maintaining a stable and well-supported GP workforce remained a key priority and enabled improved access to healthcare services throughout the region. During the year, SWAMS expanded GP services in Busselton through the introduction of an additional weekly consultation day and increased GP availability within the Eaton Maternal and Child Health (Kwilenap) program. Dedicated GP services are now available Monday to Thursday each week, supporting developmental screening, immunisation programs, health assessments, preventative care and early intervention for children and families.

Integrated care continues to be strengthened through collaboration with visiting specialists and allied health professionals across a range of disciplines, including paediatrics, cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, rheumatology, renal medicine, ear, nose and throat (ENT), diabetes education, nutrition and dietetics, physiotherapy, and obstetrics and gynaecology. These partnerships improve access to specialist care closer to home and support better management of complex and chronic health conditions for Aboriginal people throughout our service footprint.

Supporting the future healthcare workforce remains an essential part of our role as an Aboriginal



New Senior Medical Officer Dr Chris Bird and Dr Arman Yazdani.



Rural Clinical School of WA student doctors orientation.

Community Controlled Health Organisation. Our senior GPs continued to provide education, supervision and mentoring to medical students, resident medical officers and GP registrars throughout the year, helping build a sustainable workforce committed to Aboriginal health.

Dr Dee Arnold, Dr Clare Willix and Dr Leanne Abas also contributed to important workforce development activities, supporting engagement with medical students from the Rural Clinical School of Western Australia and providing practical learning opportunities for junior doctors. Emergency simulation exercises further enhanced training opportunities, allowing Resident Medical Officers and GP registrars to develop confidence, teamwork and clinical decision-making skills through realistic clinical scenarios.

SWAMS is preparing to implement an AI Scribe solution to support clinical documentation, reduce administrative workload and allow clinicians to spend more time with clients.

We will also continue growing our Clinical Governance Framework through enhanced quality and safety oversight, improved clinical risk management and expanded quality improvement activities. Through innovation, workforce development, specialist partnerships and a continued focus on preventative healthcare, SWAMS remains committed to Closing the Gap and ensuring Aboriginal people and families receive culturally safe, evidence-based care that supports healthier futures.

Primary Health

Operating across the South West, Great Southern and lower Wheatbelt, the Primary Health team delivers a broad range of services including treatment room care, health assessments, immunisations, chronic disease management, preventative health programs, recalls, care coordination and outreach services.

Community remains at the centre of everything the team does. Through accessible healthcare delivered close to home and coordinated care pathways across SWAMS services, the team supports improved health outcomes for individuals, families and communities.

Program highlights

Preventative Health and Screening Programs

Throughout the year, the team continued to promote and deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Checks, immunisation programs and cancer screening awareness initiatives. These activities support the early identification of health concerns, improve access to preventative healthcare and encourage community members to take an active role in managing their health and wellbeing. By increasing participation in routine health checks and preventative care, the team helps reduce the impact of chronic disease and supports healthier outcomes over the long term.

Strengthening the Aboriginal Health Practitioner Workforce

A significant achievement during the reporting period was the establishment of the Aboriginal Health Practitioner Coordinator position. This new role provides leadership, mentoring and professional support for Aboriginal Health Practitioners across the organisation, strengthening workforce development pathways and creating greater opportunities for career growth. The initiative reflects SWAMS' ongoing commitment to building a strong Aboriginal health workforce that understands community needs and delivers culturally informed care.

Student Placements and Workforce Development

Throughout the year, the team provided clinical placement opportunities, mentoring and supervision for Registered Nursing and Aboriginal Health Practitioner students. These experiences support workforce development, strengthen succession planning and contribute to the long-term sustainability of culturally safe healthcare services in regional communities.

Clinical Governance and Quality Improvement

The Primary Health Team continued to strengthen clinical governance systems through improvements in recalls, infection prevention and control processes, documentation standards, data quality and quality assurance activities. These initiatives support safe, effective and evidence-based healthcare delivery while ensuring services continue to meet the highest standards of clinical practice.

From 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026

1013

Immunisations Conducted by Primary Health Team



CASE STUDY

Improving Access to Preventative Healthcare

"The Primary Health Team continued to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Checks, immunisations and cancer screening initiatives. By increasing awareness and participation, the team improved access to preventative healthcare services and encouraged earlier identification of health concerns. This supports better long-term health outcomes and helps community members stay connected to ongoing healthcare and support services. "

Looking Forward

The Primary Health Team aims to expand preventative health programs, strengthen chronic disease management and increase participation in health screening initiatives across the region. The team will continue to support the development of the Aboriginal Health Practitioner workforce and strengthen student placement opportunities to grow the future health workforce.

We remain committed to delivering accessible and person-centred care that meets the evolving needs of our community.

Key Activity Measures

21,698
GP / Doctor Consults

33
Endocrinologist Consults

87
Paediatrician Consults

2,171
Aboriginal Health Checks

299
Physiotherapist Sessions

136
Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Consults

37
Cardiology Consults

51
Ophthalmologist Consults

877
Antenatal Checks

116
ENT Consults

668
Diabetes Educator Consults

680
Optometry Checks

1,556
Child Health and Development Checks

303
Dietitian Consults

4,773
Mental Health Service Contacts

4,859
Healthcare Clients Seen




South West
AMS
Aboriginal Medical Service
Our Health, Our Way

Chronic Conditions Team



The SWAMS Chronic Conditions Team works alongside Aboriginal people and their families to support the prevention and management of chronic disease and improve long-term health outcomes.

The team helps clients navigate the healthcare system, access specialist and allied health services, and build confidence in managing their health and wellbeing. Services include chronic disease management, optometry, physiotherapy, diabetes education, care coordination, specialist clinics delivered in partnership with Rural Health West, the Integrated Team Care (ITC) Program, the Keeping Solid Fitness Group and the SWAMS Subsidy Scheme.

Together, these services help improve access to healthcare and support better long-term health outcomes for Aboriginal people and families.

Program Highlights

Integrated Team Care (ITC) Program

The Integrated Team Care Program continued to play a central role in supporting Aboriginal people living with chronic health conditions. The program assists clients to navigate the healthcare system, access specialist and allied health services, and coordinate the care required to manage complex medical needs.

Through culturally appropriate care coordination, the program supports treatment adherence, encourages self-management and helps clients remain engaged with ongoing healthcare services.

Specialist Clinics

Specialist clinics continue to provide significant benefits for SWAMS clients by bringing expert healthcare services closer to community and reducing barriers associated with travel, cost and access. Working in partnership with Rural Health West and other providers, SWAMS helps clients access specialist services in a familiar and culturally aware environment.

These clinics support earlier intervention, timely diagnosis and improved management of complex and chronic health conditions while helping people receive care closer to home.

SWAMS Subsidy Scheme

The SWAMS Subsidy Scheme supports SWAMS members to access essential healthcare items and services that may otherwise be difficult to afford. By reducing financial barriers to healthcare, the scheme helps improve access to treatment and encourages ongoing engagement with health services.

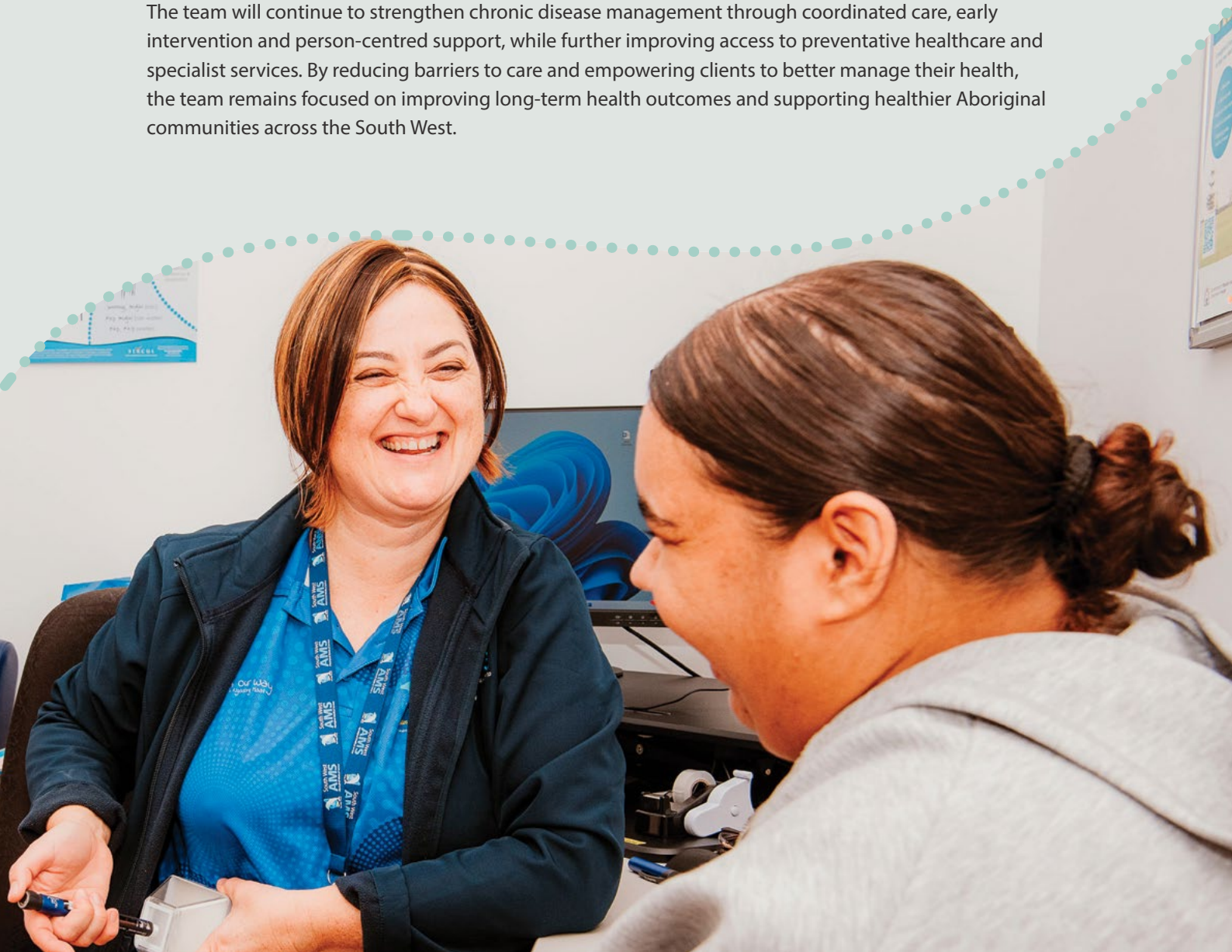
The subsidy scheme contributes to:

- Better disease control
- Increased treatment adherence
- Improved quality of life
- Greater confidence in self-managing health conditions
- Reduced preventable health complications

Looking Forward

In the coming year, the Chronic Conditions Team aims to further increase access to specialist clinics, allied health services and subsidy support programs to ensure more community members can access timely and culturally safe healthcare.

The team will continue to strengthen chronic disease management through coordinated care, early intervention and person-centred support, while further improving access to preventative healthcare and specialist services. By reducing barriers to care and empowering clients to better manage their health, the team remains focused on improving long-term health outcomes and supporting healthier Aboriginal communities across the South West.



Sexual & Reproductive Health

Through health promotion, education, screening programs and outreach activities, the Sexual and Reproductive Health service worked to reduce stigma associated with sexual and reproductive health while encouraging early testing, treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and blood-borne viruses.

The service remains committed to creating safe and respectful environments where community members can access information, support and healthcare tailored to their individual needs. Throughout the year, access to culturally safe healthcare for Aboriginal people was strengthened across the South West, Narrogin and Katanning.

A major focus during the year was strengthening partnerships with local schools and youth programs to support health education. The service continued its work with senior high schools in Busselton, Collie, Narrogin and Bunbury, delivering health checks, education sessions and the Mooditj Relationship and Sexual Health Program. These initiatives provided young people with accurate information, increased health literacy and supported informed decision-making regarding relationships, sexual health and personal wellbeing.

Education and engagement activities were also delivered through the Clontarf and STARS foundations, community groups and outreach programs. By providing culturally appropriate information in trusted settings, these activities helped build confidence among young people and strengthened connections between health services and community.

Katanning event with Katanning staff and Jemima Higgins from Bunbury (pictured second).



Working closely with the SWAMS Communications Team, the service developed promotional campaigns to increase participation in STI and blood-borne virus screening. The "Protecting our mob's sexual health? That's music to our ears" campaign encouraged people aged 15 to 45 years to undertake testing and screening, with participants given the opportunity to enter a prize draw for AirPods Pro 2. This campaign increased community awareness of the importance of regular testing and helped normalise conversations about sexual health.

Participation in the CoCo Study also continued, providing a $20 incentive to eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients aged 15 to 39 years who complete STI screening as part of a 715 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Check. This initiative supports increased testing rates, early identification of infections and improved access to treatment and follow-up care.

Promoting breast health and cervical screening remained a key priority throughout the year. Ongoing health promotion activities raised awareness of screening options, including self-collected cervical screening, helping reduce barriers for women who may be hesitant to participate in traditional screening methods. To support these efforts, a community awareness video was developed and shared during National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week, encouraging women to access regular screening and preventative healthcare.

Comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare services continued to be available across the region, including support for contraception, cervical screening, early pregnancy care and women's health. The service also expanded its focus on perimenopause and menopause care, ensuring women had access to evidence-based information, clinical support and culturally safe healthcare throughout all stages of life.

Statistics

199
Cervical screening tests

61
High school-based health checks

Looking Forward

In the coming year, the Sexual and Reproductive Health service will continue to strengthen relationships with schools, youth services and community partners to increase access to education and health promotion programs. The focus will remain on increasing participation in breast health, cervical screening and STI testing, while expanding outreach services and enhancing community engagement opportunities.


Leonie

Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Service

A range of programs support the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of Aboriginal people and their families across the South West, including counselling, psychosocial support, Aboriginal Aftercare, group programs and community partnerships.



Through counselling, psychosocial support, group programs and community partnerships, the service works alongside clients to build resilience, strengthen connections and support positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

A positive trend during the year was the continued increase in self-referrals. Almost one-third (29%) of referrals to mental health and suicide prevention counselling and 41 per cent of alcohol and other drug counselling referrals came directly from community members seeking support. This increase reflects growing awareness of available services and the trust community continues to place in SWAMS.

Mental health and suicide prevention counselling received 328 referrals during the reporting period, with 319 clients actively engaging in support. Of those who completed counselling programs, 72 per cent demonstrated significant improvement in their wellbeing outcomes. Alcohol and other drug counselling received 100 referrals, with 82 clients engaging in support. Alcohol remained the most common primary concern at the time of referral, and 81 per cent of clients reported satisfaction with the service.

Expanding Aboriginal Aftercare Support

A significant milestone this year was the commencement of the Aboriginal Aftercare Program, a new initiative designed to walk alongside individuals and families following a suicide attempt or period of elevated suicide or self-harm risk.

Suicide continues to have a disproportionate impact on Aboriginal people and remains a significant contributor to premature mortality, so we welcomed funding for this important initiative. The program was developed in partnership with funders to ensure it remained culturally accessible and responsive to community needs.

The program accepts referrals from Bunbury and Busselton Hospital Emergency Departments as well as directly from community members. Since commencing in February 2026, the service has received 13 referrals, with eight people choosing to engage in an intensive 90-day support program. Support focuses on strengthening connections to self, family, culture and community while helping people access practical services and supports that contribute to long-term wellbeing.

The establishment of Aboriginal Aftercare also created additional identified employment opportunities under Section 50D provisions, strengthening Aboriginal workforce participation while enhancing the cultural safety and effectiveness of service delivery.

Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Service (cont.)

Social and Emotional Wellbeing

The Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Service continued to support Aboriginal people aged 16 to 65 living with severe and persistent mental illness and co-occurring alcohol and other drug challenges. Services were also provided to families, carers and kin through a holistic and culturally safe model of care.

During 2025-26, the SEWB team provided non-clinical psychosocial support to 233 people through advocacy, referrals, care coordination, information sharing and connection to community-based services. Group activities remained an important part of service delivery, with 84 men's and women's group sessions delivered throughout the year. A total of 87 men participated in men's group activities, while 80 women participated in women's group programs, with feedback demonstrating strong levels of satisfaction and engagement.

The service maintained strong referral pathways with internal SWAMS programs and external providers, while also establishing new partnerships during the year to strengthen coordinated care across the South West. These relationships included WA Country Health Service, Community Mental Health, Palmerston Association, Headspace, Cyrenian House, Community Corrections, housing and homelessness services and other community organisations. These partnerships support coordinated care and improve access to services across the region.

Planning also commenced on refreshing the SEWB model to further strengthen cultural responsiveness, enhance participation and increase opportunities for cultural connection through expanded cultural activities and community engagement initiatives.

STEPS in the Right Direction

SWAMS continues to partner with Palmerston to deliver the STEPS Program within Bunbury Regional Prison. STEPS is an alcohol and other drug reintegration program that supports people preparing for release from prison while also engaging with families to strengthen successful transitions back into community.

This year marked an important milestone, with the first participants reaching the full two-year post-release support period and successfully completing the program journey. Ongoing support after release continues to play an important role in reducing relapse, strengthening family connections and supporting successful reintegration into community life.

Key Statistics

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Counselling

328
Referrals received

319
Clients engaged in support

72%
Demonstrated significant improvement following counselling

Alcohol and Other Drug Counselling

100
Referrals received

81%
Client satisfaction rate

Social and Emotional Wellbeing

233
People received psychosocial support

84
Group sessions delivered

87
Men's group participants

80
Women's group participants

Looking Forward

In the coming year, the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Service will continue to strengthen our tailored, trauma-informed services that support the wellbeing of Aboriginal people and families. Priorities include expanding Aboriginal Aftercare, further enhancing the Social and Emotional Wellbeing model, strengthening partnerships across the region and increasing opportunities for cultural connection through both individual and group-based programs.

Through counselling, aftercare, psychosocial support, reintegration programs and community partnerships, the service remains committed to supporting stronger individuals, healthier families and more resilient Aboriginal communities throughout the South West.

Maternal and Child Health

Our purpose is to deliver culturally safe, family-centred and community-focused services that support children and families to thrive.

Our multidisciplinary team includes Administration Staff, Child Health Nurses, Midwives, General Practitioners, Aboriginal Health Practitioners, Playgroup Leaders, Family and Domestic Violence Workers and Indigenous Outreach Workers. Together, we provide integrated services that respond to the diverse needs of children, parents and caregivers.

Through clinical care, health assessments, developmental monitoring, health education, parenting support, family and domestic violence services, outreach activities and community engagement programs, we deliver holistic care that addresses the physical, emotional, social, cultural and developmental needs of families. By working collaboratively across disciplines and services, we ensure families can access the right support at the right time, helping to improve outcomes and build resilience.

Community remains at the centre of everything we do. We partner with families, Elders, community members and local organisations to ensure services are accessible, culturally responsive and aligned with community priorities. By listening to community voices, respecting cultural knowledge and building trusted relationships, we continue to strengthen the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and families across the region.

A highlight for the year was our Playgroup expanding to two sessions each week during the year, creating additional opportunities for children and families to connect, learn and engage with support services in a culturally safe environment. Families attending playgroup also benefited from visits by the Smiling Starts Dental Team, HAPEE Audiology and the SWAMS Optometry Team, helping increase access to preventative healthcare and the early identification of health and development concerns.

Child Health Team

Our Child Health Nurses, Indigenous Outreach Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners provide a range of services designed to support healthy childhood development, including:

- Child growth and developmental monitoring, with referrals provided when additional support is required.
- Childhood immunisation programs.
- Circle of Security Parenting and Positive Parenting Programs.
- Health education and early intervention support.

A milestone achievement this year was reaching full immunisation coverage (100%) for Aboriginal children aged two and five years, while achieving 97 per cent immunisation coverage for one-year-old children. These results exceed national immunisation averages and demonstrate the dedication of staff and families working together to give children the healthiest possible start in life.

The Care Coordination Team continued to support children with complex health and developmental needs by coordinating appointments with allied health professionals, Perth Children's Hospital and local specialists. The team also organised regular Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) clinics and Paediatrician clinics, helping children access specialist services significantly sooner than would otherwise be possible through public waiting lists.



Birthing on Country Team

Our Midwives and Birthing on Country Practitioners continued to provide culturally informed maternity care that supports women throughout pregnancy, birth and early parenting.

Key achievements included:

- Increased attendance at five or more antenatal appointments from 84 per cent to 95 per cent.
- Increased exclusive breastfeeding rates from 52 per cent to 63 per cent.
- Supporting 22 per cent of mums to successfully stop smoking during or after pregnancy.

These outcomes reflect the benefits of continuity of care, culturally safe support and strong engagement between families and the Birthing on Country team.

Maternal and Child Health (cont.)

Additional Programs

The Health Navigator Pilot Program continued to support children entering Out of Home Care by helping ensure their health, developmental and specialist care needs are identified and addressed as early as possible.

The Connected Beginnings Program remained an active partner in the Early Years Partnership across the Central Great Southern region. Through child development checks, immunisations, antenatal care and family support services, the program works to improve health, wellbeing and school readiness outcomes for Aboriginal children.

Our Family and Domestic Violence Team continued to provide advocacy, safety planning and practical support for women and families experiencing family and domestic violence. The team also participated in pre-birth meetings to advocate for families and support safe outcomes for mothers and babies.

Looking Forward

In the year ahead, the Maternal and Child Health Team will continue working alongside families to deliver excellence in maternal and child healthcare. Our focus will remain on supporting healthy pregnancies, healthy babies and strong families, while expanding access to preventative healthcare, early intervention and culturally safe services that give Aboriginal children the best possible start in life.

CASE STUDY

Bringing Integrated Care Closer to Families



During the year, GP services expanded at the Kwilenap Eaton clinic, further strengthening integrated care for children and families. Dr Kristin White now attends fortnightly on Mondays and Wednesdays, Dr Viv provides services on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Dr Christiane supports the clinic on Wednesdays.

The presence of dedicated GPs within the Maternal and Child Health service enables more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Checks (715s) to be completed for children while improving access to medical care. Aboriginal Health Practitioners support these clinics through triage and care coordination, ensuring families can access child health checks, immunisations, developmental assessments and GP services in one convenient location.

This integrated model has improved access to healthcare, reduced travel for families and strengthened continuity of care for children and their caregivers.

Helping Close the Gap for Aboriginal Children

This year's results demonstrate meaningful progress toward improving health outcomes for Aboriginal children and families:

100%
Immunisation coverage for Aboriginal children aged 2 years

100%
Immunisation coverage for Aboriginal children aged 5 years

97%
Immunisation coverage for Aboriginal children aged 1 year

95%
Of women attended five or more antenatal visits

63%
Exclusive breastfeeding rate

80
Visits with the visiting Paediatrician

146
Clients accessed the visiting ENT specialist service

These outcomes reflect the importance of informed healthcare, early intervention and strong community engagement in improving lifelong health outcomes.

COMMUNITY VOICES

"I don't feel shame. I feel welcome. I cry, I laugh; they make me feel like I'm doing a good job. I can bring my mum, my nan, my sisters. The doctors are strong and caring women and they are culturally safe. All the girls there, they are my sisters and my baby's Aunties out there."

"Having more baby and child-specific doctors at Eaton has been fantastic. The clinic feels calm, welcoming and easy to access. I feel more at ease bringing my children there and I really hope this service continues into the future."



Kwaba Bidi Child, Family & Kinship Services

Guided by the principles of keeping families strong, connected and supported, Kwaba Bidi oversees three key programs: Out of Home Care (OOHC), the South West Regional Family Support Hub and Home Stretch.

The Out of Home Care program provides culturally appropriate foster care and support for Aboriginal children and young people who are unable to live with their families. The South West Regional Family Support Hub, delivered in partnership with Key Assets Australia, provides early intervention and family support services designed to strengthen families and prevent children entering care wherever possible. Home Stretch, delivered under contract from Mission Australia, supports young people transitioning from care into adulthood, ensuring they continue to receive practical, cultural and emotional support beyond their eighteenth birthday.

Together, these programs work to strengthen families, maintain cultural connections and create opportunities for children and young people to thrive within their communities. Building on SWAMS' holistic approach to care, Kwaba Bidi continues to support families through culturally responsive services that recognise the importance of family, culture, identity and belonging.

Program Highlights

The 2025-26 financial year marked the first full year of operation for the South West Regional Family Support Hub, which provided support to hundreds of families across the region. The Hub plays a vital role in preventing child removals, supporting family reunification and addressing the impacts of intergenerational trauma. Through intensive family support, case management and practical assistance, families were supported to create safer and more stable home environments while strengthening protective factors for children and young people.

In May 2026, the Busselton Kwaba Bidi team relocated from the SWAMS Clinic to the Busselton Community Resource Centre. The move significantly improved accessibility for families and enabled the expansion of walk-in support services from two days per week to five days per week. This increased accessibility has strengthened community engagement and allowed more families to access support when they need it.

The Out of Home Care program continued to grow throughout the year, supporting 25 children and young people by the end of the reporting period. As the only Aboriginal-led Out of Home Care provider in the region, Kwaba Bidi remains committed to ensuring children maintain connections to culture, community and family wherever possible. School holiday activities also continued to grow in popularity, attracting participation from children supported by other care providers across the South West.

The Home Stretch Program remained a vital support for young people transitioning from care to independence, assisting 17 young adults during the year. By providing practical assistance, cultural support and ongoing mentoring, Home Stretch helps ensure young people are not left to navigate adulthood alone once they reach 18 years of age.

To increase awareness of services and strengthen community connections, Kwaba Bidi hosted outreach days in Busselton, Manjimup, Margaret River and Collie. Often delivered alongside Key Assets Australia and other SWAMS teams, these events provided opportunities for community members to learn more about available services, connect with staff and access support in a welcoming environment.

The team is set for another year of firsts in 2026-27, with Kwaba Bidi being awarded the contract for the Bindjareb Support Network. The service is expected to begin servicing Mandurah and surrounding communities in the second half of 2026.

Statistics

Out of Home Care

25

Children and young people supported by the end of the financial year

Home Stretch

17

Young people supported throughout 2025-26

Workforce

24+

More than two dozen staff employed across Kwaba Bidi services

South West Regional Family Support Hub

STREAM 1

14

Cases managed and 378 brief interactions (walk-in support services)

STREAM 2

39

Community case-managed families

STREAM 3

43

Intensive statutory case-managed families

CASE STUDY

Supporting a Family Back Together

During 2025-26, the South West Regional Family Support Hub supported a father to successfully reunite with his six children after they had previously been removed from his care.

Working alongside the family, the Hub helped connect them with the support services needed to address previous challenges and establish a more stable home environment. The family has since secured stable accommodation and has multiple supports in place to help maintain positive outcomes.

This reunification represents the important role the Hub plays in supporting families to stay together wherever possible and helping break cycles of intergenerational trauma.



Kwaba Bidi Cultural Practice Lead Aunty Elsie Penny, Key Assets Case Worker Lisa Campbell, Kwaba Bidi Manjimup Case Worker Marika Councillor, Manjimup Elder Aunty Suzanne Kelly and SWAMS Board Member Robyn McCreanor outside the Round House at Manjimup Heritage Park for the Manjimup Community Day on June 12, 2026.

Regional Sites and Services

SWAMS is based in Bunbury and operates regional clinics in a number of smaller communities across the South West, as well as Narrogin and Katanning.

As the only Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation delivering comprehensive primary healthcare south of the Perth metropolitan area, SWAMS provides services in Busselton, Collie, Manjimup, Narrogin and Katanning. The Brunswick Junction clinic ceased operations in March 2026, while Kwaba Bidi relocated to larger premises in Busselton in May 2026 due to expanding clinical services at Busselton Clinic.

In addition, Bindjareb Aged Care Services are delivered in Mandurah. For more information about Bindjareb, refer to the Community Services section.

By building strong community connections and delivering high-quality healthcare, SWAMS regional clinics remain a vital source of support and healthcare for Aboriginal people and families in smaller communities.



Brunswick

- GP consultations
- Preventative health screening
- Aboriginal health worker support
- Aboriginal Health Checks

213
Episodes of care

23
Health checks

Note: The Brunswick outreach clinic ceased operations in March 2026.



Busselton

- GP consultations
- Preventative health screening
- Aboriginal health worker support
- Aboriginal Health Checks
- Integrated Team Care
- Counselling
- Maternal and Child Health services (as needed)

2,885
Episodes of care

295
Health checks

Note: Kwaba Bidi relocated to larger premises in Busselton in May 2026.



Collie

- GP consultations
- Preventative health screening
- Aboriginal health worker support
- Aboriginal Health Checks
- Integrated Team Care
- Counselling
- Child health and midwifery services
- Kwaba Bidi family support services

1,475
Episodes of care

118
Health checks



Manjimup

- GP consultations
- Preventative health screening
- Aboriginal health worker support
- Aboriginal Health Checks
- Integrated Team Care
- Nursing services
- Kwaba Bidi family support services

842
Episodes of care

89
Health checks



Narrogin

- GP consultations
- Preventative health screening
- Aboriginal health worker support
- Aboriginal Health Checks
- Remote Community Connectors
- Transport support

113
Transport services

68
Health checks



Katanning

- GP consultations
- Preventative health screening
- Aboriginal health worker support
- Aboriginal Health Checks
- Nurse-led Health Clinic
- Remote Community Connectors
- Transport support

140
Transport services

3,218
Episodes of care

Community Services

Community Services Overview



Through meaningful engagement and strong partnerships, the SWAMS Community Services division supported growing healthier, stronger and more connected communities while ensuring local voices remained at the centre of service planning and delivery.

Spanning four regions and the broadest geographic area of any SWAMS directorate, Community Services worked across the South West, Bindjareb, Great Southern and Wheatbelt regions to deliver aged care, health promotion, research, advocacy and community-led initiatives that improve health outcomes and foster stronger relationships.

SWAMS Aged Care Services once more provided care for Elders and older community members across the South West and Bindjareb (Peel) regions through culturally safe, person-centred programs that promote independence, wellbeing and connection to community. Through services including domestic assistance, home and garden maintenance, transport, nursing, allied health, social support and the Transition Care Program, clients were supported to remain living safely and confidently at home while staying connected to culture, family and community.

Across the Bindjareb region, clients received more than 26,000 hours of care and more than 1,300 group activities were delivered, providing opportunities for social connection and engagement.

Guided by the knowledge and experience of our Elders, we remain committed to delivering high-quality, culturally responsive care that enables people to age with dignity, maintain independence, and thrive within their communities. As recognised throughout our approach to care, when people feel heard, respected and connected to their culture and community, they are better supported to live well and maintain their independence.

The Ngala Kaaditj Community Impact Team (CIT), formerly known as Access, Engagement and Research, continued to play a vital role in improving the health, wellbeing and self-determination of Aboriginal communities across the South West, Wheatbelt, Great Southern and Bindjareb regions. Meaning "knowing and understanding together", Ngala Kaaditj reflects the team's commitment to working alongside communities through engagement, health promotion, research, advocacy and partnerships to address community priorities, reduce barriers to services, and ensure Aboriginal voices remained at the centre of planning and decision-making.

Key achievements included the establishment of the Waalbiirniny Research and Knowledge Council, strengthening Aboriginal data sovereignty and community-led research, increased participation in cancer screening programs through the NACCHO Cancer Project, national recognition of the Aboriginal Disability Liaison Officer Journey Mapping Project and the continued delivery of youth engagement and community-wide education programs across a large regional footprint.

Together, these initiatives have strengthened community connections, improved access to services and supported healthier, stronger and more empowered Aboriginal communities.





Bindjareb Aged Care

The Bindjareb Aged Care Service delivers two key programs from its Mandurah centre, supporting Aboriginal Elders and older community members throughout the Bindjareb (Peel) region.

These programs include the Transition Care Program (TCP) and Aged Care Services, both designed to promote independence, wellbeing and connection to community while providing culturally safe and responsive care.

The Transition Care Program (TCP) provides short-term, culturally supported care for older people following a hospital admission. The program focuses on helping clients regain functional independence, improve confidence and safely transition back to daily life at home.

The Bindjareb Aged Care Services Program provides culturally appropriate entry-level aged care support throughout the Bindjareb region. Services include domestic assistance, home and garden maintenance, individual support, transport and social support groups. The team currently consists of a Coordinator and eight Community Support Workers, including both permanent and casual staff members.

Funding through the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program (NATSIFACP) enables services to be provided at no cost to eligible clients. This support ensures Elders can access assistance both in their homes and while remaining active participants in community life.

A key feature of the service is the twice-weekly group gathering held every Tuesday and Thursday at the Mandurah centre. These sessions create a culturally safe and welcoming environment where clients can socialise, participate in activities, share stories and enjoy outings together. For many clients, these gatherings provide regular opportunities to stay connected to culture, community and family while reducing social isolation.

Program Highlights

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program (NATSIFACP)

The NATSIFACP continues to provide accessible aged care services that support clients to remain living independently at home. Beyond practical supports, the program focuses on building each client's confidence and capacity to manage daily activities while maintaining strong connections to community.

The Bindjareb centre has become a trusted and valued place for many Elders. Staff work hard to create a welcoming environment where clients feel recognised, respected and supported. Whether participating in group activities or receiving individual assistance, clients know they can access a service that understands their cultural identity and values their lived experiences.

When additional supports are needed, staff work closely with clients and families to connect them with the most appropriate health, aged care or community services, ensuring care remains coordinated and responsive.



Kerry Stack at Wisdom of our Elders Event March 2026.

Transition Care Program (TCP)

The Transition Care Program continues to deliver positive outcomes for clients following hospital admission. The Allied Health team works closely with Aboriginal Health teams within local hospitals to identify suitable participants and support a smooth transition into the program.

Through culturally appropriate rehabilitation and support, clients are assisted to improve their strength, confidence and independence after illness, injury or hospitalisation. The team also works collaboratively with Bindjareb Aged Care Services to provide additional cultural support where required.

Strong relationships with local health providers and community services have helped create familiarity and trust between clients and SWAMS. By supporting people to regain functional independence, the TCP helps clients remain in their homes longer while reducing the need for more intensive support services.

Statistics

During 2025–26 the Bindjareb Aged Care Service delivered significant support across the Bindjareb region:

174
Clients received services

26,500
Hours of NATSIFACP services provided

1,316
Attendances at group sessions and activities

These figures highlight the ongoing demand for culturally appropriate aged care services in the Bindjareb region and demonstrate the important role the service plays in supporting older Aboriginal people to remain connected, independent and well supported within their community.

Importantly, over the past six months the team has observed a reduction in the level of support required by some clients. This suggests many individuals are building greater independence at home and within the community, reflecting positive outcomes from the support provided.

Another encouraging trend has been the consistently positive feedback received from clients and families. Community members continue to highlight the caring nature of staff, the quality of services delivered and the strong sense of cultural safety they experience when accessing support through SWAMS.

Bindjareb Aged Care (cont.)

Looking Forward

Over the coming financial year, the Bindjareb Aged Care Service aims to continue expanding its reach across the Bindjareb region in response to growing community demand for culturally safe aged care services. We recognise that many older Aboriginal community members require support to remain living independently while maintaining strong connections to family, culture and community. As awareness of our services continues to grow, we anticipate increasing client numbers and broader engagement across the region.



CASE STUDY

Reconnecting Through Care

For Aunty Maria, aged care support has provided much more than practical assistance at home. It has helped her reconnect with family, culture and a sense of belonging.

Aunty Maria was forcibly removed from her family at 12 years of age and spent decades without contact with many of her relatives. After returning to Mandurah and experiencing increasing health challenges, including regular dialysis treatment, she contacted SWAMS to learn more about aged care support.

Through SWAMS Aged Care Services, Aunty Maria now receives assistance with domestic tasks, shopping and transport to appointments, helping her remain independent and comfortable in her own home.

However, one of the most significant outcomes came through her participation in social support activities. During a group activity, she unexpectedly met extended family members and discovered connections she never knew existed.

"It had been over 30 years since I'd seen or heard from anyone. Then, I had the biggest shock, I met one of my family members at a group session right here in the centre. We discovered that our mothers were sisters, and I got to meet four family members I'd never even met before"

With ongoing support from the team, Aunty Maria has continued building her family tree, strengthening connections and learning more about her family history. She describes the aged care service as more than a support program, saying it has helped her reconnect with family, community and her identity.

South West Aged Care

Our focus is on promoting independence, safety, wellbeing and meaningful connections to community, enabling clients to remain living comfortably and confidently in their own homes for as long as possible.

The SWAMS Aged Care Services Team continues to support clients and older Aboriginal community members across the South West through the Transition Care Program (TCP), Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program (NATSIFACP) and Support at Home services.

We provide a broad range of services tailored to each person's individual needs, goals and aspirations. These include allied health services, nursing care, domestic assistance, transport, home and garden maintenance, individual support and group social activities. Together, these services support not only physical health but also social and emotional wellbeing by reducing isolation, encouraging participation and strengthening connections to family, culture and community.

At the heart of our work is a commitment to listening. We recognise that our Elders are the keepers of knowledge, culture, stories and wisdom that have been passed down through generations. By taking the time to hear their voices, experiences and aspirations, we continue to strengthen our understanding of what culturally safe and respectful aged care truly means.

We are committed to delivering services that honour the resilience, strength and contributions of our Elders while respecting their choices, independence and cultural identity. Through genuine partnerships with clients, families and communities, we strive to provide compassionate, person-centred care that supports people to live well, remain connected and age with dignity and respect.

Supporting Elders to Remain Independent

The SWAMS Aged Care Team supports clients across a broad range of care needs, from short-term rehabilitation through the Transition Care Program to ongoing support through CHSP, NATSIFACP and Support at Home services. Working closely with clients, families, healthcare providers and community partners, the team helps ensure older community members can access the support they need while remaining connected to their homes, communities and culture.

Each service is delivered with respect, flexibility and a commitment to meeting the unique needs of Aboriginal people as they age. This approach helps support independence, wellbeing and quality of life while ensuring care remains responsive to individual circumstances and goals.

Looking Forward

Over the coming financial year, we will continue supporting the successful implementation and growth of the Support at Home program, ensuring older community members can access tailored care packages that reflect their individual goals and circumstances.

Our focus will remain on strengthening access to culturally safe and personalised aged care services that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to age well within their own communities.

We will continue advocating for improved service access, building stronger pathways into care and expanding opportunities for clients to remain independent, connected and well supported.



Marissa Cooper-Sims and Elder (Wombat) at the South West Aged Care outing.

Elder Care Support

The Elder Care Support (ECS) Team works across the South West and Wheatbelt regions to ensure Aboriginal people who are eligible for aged care services can remain living safely, independently and comfortably in their own homes.

Through practical support, advocacy and care navigation, the team walks alongside clients as they navigate the aged care system, helping to translate complex healthcare language, coordinate assessments and referrals, and connect individuals with the services best suited to their needs.

By meeting people where they are and respecting their unique stories and circumstances, the ECS Team keeps community at the centre of every decision. The service strengthens local support networks and reduces barriers faced by people living in regional and remote communities.

Through this work, Elder Care Support promotes dignity, independence and connection while helping Aboriginal people access culturally safe aged care services that support them to age well at home.



Program Highlights

The ECS Team continued to create opportunities for connection and social participation throughout the year by coordinating a range of community outings and activities for aged care clients.

Highlights included visits to the Capes Raptor Centre in Margaret River, Gnomesville in the Ferguson Valley and a variety of activities at Koolambidi Woola (Bunbury Youth Precinct). Many of these outings brought together clients from both the South West and Bindjareb regions, providing valuable opportunities to reconnect with family members, strengthen friendships and participate in enjoyable social experiences.

These activities help reduce social isolation and strengthen social connections.

The ECS and SWAMS Access teams also hosted a community morning tea in Narrogin, bringing together aged care eligible community members for a social gathering and information session. The event provided an opportunity to share information about SWAMS services and available supports.

Looking Forward

Over the coming financial year, the Elder Care Support Team will focus on building a strong and sustainable foundation that enables aged care eligible clients to transition smoothly from My Aged Care registration and assessment into ongoing support services.

This includes strengthening pathways into CHSP and Support at Home services, ensuring clients receive the support they need to remain living safely and independently at home. The team will continue working closely with individuals, families and service providers to deliver culturally safe support that promotes wellbeing, dignity and choice for older Aboriginal people across the South West and Wheatbelt.







CASE STUDY

Supporting a Client Through the Aged Care Journey

One client was referred to the ECS Program by the SWAMS clinic ahead of major surgery that was expected to significantly impact their ability to undertake daily activities. An ECS Connector contacted the client, arranged a home visit and commenced the onboarding process for both SWAMS and the ECS Program.

During this initial engagement, the Connector assisted the client to register with My Aged Care and arranged an assessment to determine eligibility for aged care support services. Recognising that assessments can often take four to six weeks, the Connector also explored interim support options, including referral pathways to the Transition Care Program (TCP), to ensure support would be available following surgery.

Once the client was approved for aged care services, all relevant documentation and assessment information was transferred directly to the SWAMS Aged Care Team to complete onboarding and arrange service delivery. The client now receives ongoing support through SWAMS Aged Care Services.

By assisting with My Aged Care registration, assessment coordination and service connection, the ECS Program created a seamless pathway into aged care support. Being able to transition directly to SWAMS further reduced delays and barriers to care.





Ngala Kaaditj Community Impact Team

Through its integrated approach, Ngala Kaaditj CIT continues to strengthen community connections, influence systemic change and support healthier, stronger and more empowered Aboriginal communities.

The Ngala Kaaditj Community Impact Team (CIT) works to improve the health, wellbeing and self-determination of Aboriginal communities across the South West, Wheatbelt, Great Southern and Bindjareb regions. Through culturally centred programs, community engagement, health promotion, research and partnerships, the team supports communities to identify priorities, strengthen local capacity and improve access to services.

Guided by Aboriginal ways of Knowing, Being and Doing, the team works alongside community members, Elders, partner organisations and stakeholders to ensure community voices drive planning, decision-making and service delivery. This commitment to community-led approaches helps reduce barriers to services, strengthen trust and create opportunities for Aboriginal people to achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes.

Over the past year, the Ngala Kaaditj Community Impact Team achieved several important milestones that strengthened community outcomes while further establishing SWAMS as a leader in Aboriginal community-controlled innovation and service design.

Key achievements included establishing the Waalbiirniny Research and Knowledge Council (WRaKC), strengthening cancer screening participation, advancing nationally recognised disability support initiatives and strengthening community engagement across a large regional footprint.

In the coming year, the Ngala Kaaditj Community Impact Team will continue to strengthen community-led approaches that improve health, wellbeing and self-determination outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities.



Key priorities include expanding research governance through WRaKC, strengthening preventative health initiatives, increasing participation in cancer screening programs, advancing the Aboriginal Disability Liaison Officer model and continuing to deliver meaningful engagement activities across the region.

By working in partnership with community and embedding Aboriginal ways of Knowing, Being and Doing into all aspects of service delivery, the team remains committed to creating lasting change and supporting healthier, stronger and more connected Aboriginal communities for future generations.

Suicide prevention staffer Danielle Ellis at Crab Fest.

Access

During the year, the team supported individuals and families to navigate complex service systems, access supports and connect with services that met their individual needs.



Bernadette Hill and Maitland Humphries at Back to School community event information stall.

Through strong community relationships and ongoing outreach, the team continued to increase awareness of available supports and connect more people with services that met their needs.

Guided by the principle of Community First, Community Always, our team is committed to placing community at the centre of all we do. Our team serves as a central point of connection, supporting individuals and families in navigating complex service systems and identifying available resources and supports that meet their unique needs.

We strive to build and maintain strong relationships within communities, schools, local service providers, other organisations and key stakeholders such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Through ongoing engagement, we ensure that community voices, experiences and aspirations inform our work, service delivery and outreach activities.

Through this community-led approach, our team fosters trust, strengthens partnerships and creates meaningful opportunities for collaboration. Our work has contributed to increased community engagement, warm referrals, improved access to NDIS and community-based supports.

These outcomes support better service coordination, earlier identification of support needs and continual improvement for better accessibility to more community services.

Program highlights

Our work focuses on strengthening access, connection and capacity through a range of community centred activities, including:

- Supporting individuals and families to understand and navigate the NDIS and broader community support systems.
- Providing culturally responsive information, advocacy and guidance.
- Delivering community outreach through visits, information stalls and collaboration activities.
- Facilitating connections between individuals, families, service providers and community organisations.

Strong community engagement and relationships have resulted in an increase in referrals from individuals requiring support to better understand and maximise the use of their plans. We have collaborated closely with Support Coordinators while advocating for participants to ensure their needs, goals and preferences remain central to decision making.

NACCHO Cancer Project

The NACCHO Cancer Project works to reduce the impact of cancer on Aboriginal people, families and communities through prevention, early detection, supportive care and system improvement.

Working alongside community, health services and partner organisations, the project helps improve access to culturally safe cancer screening, education and support services. Through community-led engagement and advocacy, the team addresses barriers to participation and promotes earlier detection and improved outcomes.

Program Highlights

During the 2025–26 reporting period, the NACCHO Cancer Project worked in partnership with South Metropolitan Health Service to secure grant funding for initiatives aimed at improving access to holistic, culturally safe cancer care.

This work was informed by ongoing community consultation, ensuring lived experiences, community priorities and identified barriers shaped service planning, development and advocacy for more culturally appropriate approaches to care. The team coordinated community screening days and cancer education sessions across the region, increasing awareness of cancer prevention, available support services and the importance of early detection.

Screening Program Outcomes

The project has already demonstrated significant improvements in cancer screening participation among eligible SWAMS clients.

Screening Program	November 2025*	May 2026
Breast Screening	10.5% screened	49.7% screened
Cervical Screening	583 women screened within five years	590 women screened within five years (55% up to date)
Bowel Screening	15.8% screened	27% screened

*Benchmark statistics collected prior to commencement of the Cancer Project and based on SWAMS clients eligible for screening.

Participation increased across breast, cervical and bowel cancer screening activities, demonstrating the impact of culturally safe engagement and education.

Looking Forward

In 2026-27, the NACCHO Cancer Project will focus on implementing initiatives funded in partnership with SMHS, increasing participation in cancer screening programs and strengthening culturally safe cancer care pathways. The project will continue working alongside Aboriginal communities to ensure community voices inform service planning and improvement while reducing barriers to care and supporting better cancer outcomes.



SWAMS staff at a NACCHO education session.

Engagement

Working alongside community, the Engagement Team promotes healthy lifestyles, strengthens social and emotional wellbeing, and supports stronger connections to culture, family and community

The Engagement Team delivers the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) Suicide Prevention, Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) and Strong Spirit Strong Mind (SSSM) programs, helping to strengthen the health, wellbeing and resilience of Aboriginal people and communities across the South West, Bindjareb, Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions. Through culturally safe education, outreach, advocacy and community engagement, the team builds trusted relationships and supports people to access information, services and opportunities that improve health and wellbeing.

A key focus is increasing awareness of the harms associated with smoking and vaping while empowering people to make informed choices about their health. Through practical support, health promotion activities and community-led engagement, the team contributes to healthier futures for individuals, families, communities and the next generation.

Operating across a large geographical footprint, the team engages with Aboriginal people in urban, regional and remote communities. By working closely with local organisations, schools, community leaders and service providers, the Engagement Team ensures community voices remain central to program planning, delivery and outcomes while fostering stronger, healthier and more connected communities.



Community Liaison Officer Clintin Watson at End of Year celebration community BBQ.

Program Highlights

Over the past year, the CLO, TIS and SSSM programs continued to strengthen community wellbeing through youth empowerment, suicide prevention initiatives, smoking and vaping education, and community-led planning.

Across the South West, Wheatbelt, Bindjareb and Great Southern regions, the team connected thousands of Aboriginal people with information, support and opportunities to improve health and wellbeing, while ensuring community voices remained at the centre of program design and delivery.

Key achievements included:

- Reaching more than 20,000 people through smoke-free media campaigns.
- Engaging more than 2,000 young people through interactive education activities.
- Delivering the In School Program, including Lunch Time Yarns, Deadly Thinking and Wariny Koop Bidi Marts.
- Hosting and supporting 39 events across the region, including the SWAMS NAIDOC Family Fun Day, regional NAIDOC celebrations, Crab Fest and the Donnybrook Apple Festival.
- Partnering with Binar Futures to support the delivery of regional Basketball Carnivals and community engagement activities.

Engagement (cont.)

During 2025–26, the Engagement Team delivered significant outcomes through community events, school-based programs, health promotion campaigns, training activities and strategic partnerships.

31,500
People reached through education sessions, media campaigns, partnership activities and social media engagement across the South West, Wheatbelt, Great Southern and Bindjareb regions

90 Community Engagement Activities Delivered

- **20** Community activities
- **24** Public education initiatives
- **39** Community events
- **7** Training activities

27
Community and stakeholder meetings facilitated to inform suicide prevention planning and support community-led approaches

1,500+
Meaningful interactions with Aboriginal community members through SWAMS information stalls and community events

58
Partner organisations engaged, including schools, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), sporting clubs and local service providers

984
Aboriginal people engaged through smoking and vaping education initiatives

- **631 young people aged 12–24 years**
- **353 others**

800 People connected to quit support pathways

- **50 referred to Quitline**
- **750 connected to alternative cessation and support services**

32 Smoke-free and vape-free community events delivered across the regions

These outcomes demonstrate the team's ability to engage community at scale while maintaining a strong focus on culturally safe, community-led approaches that improve wellbeing and strengthen local capacity.

Looking Forward

Over the next year, the CLO Program will lead the community-informed redevelopment of the South West Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Plan, working alongside community, the Waalbiirniny Research and Knowledge Council (WRaKC) and regional partners to strengthen culturally responsive suicide prevention, early intervention and wellbeing initiatives across the region.

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program will implement a more targeted, place-based approach across the Wheatbelt, Great Southern and Bindjareb regions, strengthening partnerships and delivering tailored smoking and vaping prevention and cessation activities that respond directly to local community priorities.

Both programs will continue expanding their reach through the development of a regular podcast, stronger collaboration with local governments to support Public Health Plans, and the promotion of smoke-free and vape-free homes, workplaces and community spaces.

By continuing to place community voices at the centre of planning and delivery, the Engagement Team remains committed to building healthier people, stronger families and more resilient Aboriginal communities across the regions.

CASE STUDY

Supporting a Young Person to Seek Help

During a Tackling Indigenous Smoking community education activity, a young Aboriginal person engaged with the team to learn more about the harms associated with smoking and vaping.

Following that interaction, the young person later attended the SWAMS clinic seeking support to quit vaping. This experience highlights how culturally safe education, trusted relationships and clear pathways to care can empower young people to make positive decisions about their health and wellbeing.

Community Voices

Community voice remains central to the success of the CLO, TIS and SSSM programs. Through consultations, school-based activities, yarning opportunities, research projects and health promotion initiatives, community members continue to shape program delivery and ensure services remain culturally safe, meaningful and responsive.

One reflection from the Deadly Thinking program noted:

"The Tree of Hope often sparks conversation around being healthy, more culturally connected and having a strong family unit."

A person involved in Wariny Koop Bidi Marts shared:

"Because of what I learnt in this program, I was able to recognise when my nephew was struggling, and I was able to support him through a difficult time and help connect him with support."

Community members also highlighted the benefits of Tackling Indigenous Smoking activities, with parents, carers, Elders and community stakeholders reporting that the sessions encouraged meaningful conversations about healthy lifestyles, smoking, vaping and access to support services.

Research

At SWAMS, research is undertaken with, by and for community. The Research Team plays a vital role in ensuring the voices, experiences and priorities of Aboriginal people remain at the centre of decision-making, service design and continuous improvement.

The SWAMS Research Team continues to grow in strength and influence through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) funded Knowledge + Innovation = Power project, delivered in partnership with the University of Western Australia. This work is grounded in the principles of Aboriginal Data Sovereignty, recognising the rights of Aboriginal people and communities to determine how information about them is collected, used, stored and shared.

By valuing cultural knowledge and lived experience alongside data and evidence, the team helps ensure programs and services are responsive, culturally safe and aligned with what matters most to Aboriginal people and families.

The team supports the Waalbiirniny Research and Knowledge Council (WRaKC), a community-led governance group comprising 16 members who guide and influence research activities across the organisation. Formerly known as the Community Advisory Panel, the group was formally established in June 2025 and recently selected its new name and logo design. Meeting fortnightly, WRaKC alternates between reviewing research applications and leading its own research priorities, including identifying local health and wellbeing issues. Working alongside the SWAMS Research Advisory Group, WRaKC helps ensure all research activities are accountable to community, align with organisational priorities and deliver genuine benefits.

The Research Team also participates in a range of strategic research partnerships, including WARRIA, RHOMP, the South Regional Research Forum and a developing partnership with Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services (EDAS) in Queensland, where SWAMS contributes to Aboriginal governance discussions and broader sector development.





Program Highlights

Establishment of the Waalbiirniny Research and Knowledge Council (WRaKC)

One of the most significant achievements this year was the formal establishment of WRaKC to provide Aboriginal cultural governance and community oversight of research activities. The Council represents a major step forward in ensuring research remains community-led, culturally accountable and focused on local priorities.

Inaugural SWAMS Research Forum

SWAMS hosted its first Research Forum at Edith Cowan University Bunbury in collaboration with the University of Western Australia and the University Department of Rural Health. The event brought together 65 participants, including community members, researchers, staff and partner organisations, creating a platform to share knowledge, celebrate achievements and strengthen relationships. The forum reinforced the importance of community-led conversations about research priorities and outcomes.

Leadership in Aboriginal Data Sovereignty

SWAMS has continued to strengthen its leadership in Aboriginal Data Sovereignty through the development and implementation of the SWAMS Aboriginal Data Sovereignty Policy and associated research governance procedures. This includes research application processes, assessment tools and partnership agreement templates that ensure research remains ethical, culturally safe and accountable to community.

Research (cont.)

Embedding Community-Led Research

The Research Team worked alongside WRaKC to develop and submit a Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Consumer-Led Research funding application. WRaKC members determined both the research topic and project design, with six members participating as Chief Investigators and a further six as Associate Investigators. This project demonstrates a strong example of Aboriginal community leadership in research.

Building Organisational Capability

The team has continued to strengthen research and evaluation capability across SWAMS through mentoring, partnership development and practical support. This work has increased the organisation's ability to undertake its own research, generate evidence for advocacy and funding applications, and support continuous service improvement.

Currently, six internal "Deep Dive" projects are underway across:

- Aged Care
- Maternal and Child Health
- Cultural Safety
- Suicide Prevention
- Access to Disability Services
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing

These projects are helping programs strengthen frameworks, policy development, operational practice and evidence-informed decision-making.

Research Governance and Knowledge Sharing

During the reporting period, the SWAMS Research Advisory Group and WRaKC reviewed 15 research applications and expressions of interest, ensuring all projects align with community priorities and organisational values. Most applications remain under assessment, with one proposal not progressing through the governance process.

The team also shared knowledge nationally and regionally through presentations at the Rural Health West Aboriginal Health Conference (2025) and the AHCWA Conference (2026). Team members attended a range of research and evaluation forums, including Our Collaborations in Health Research Convocation and Wungening's Decolonising Data, Evaluation and Research workshop.

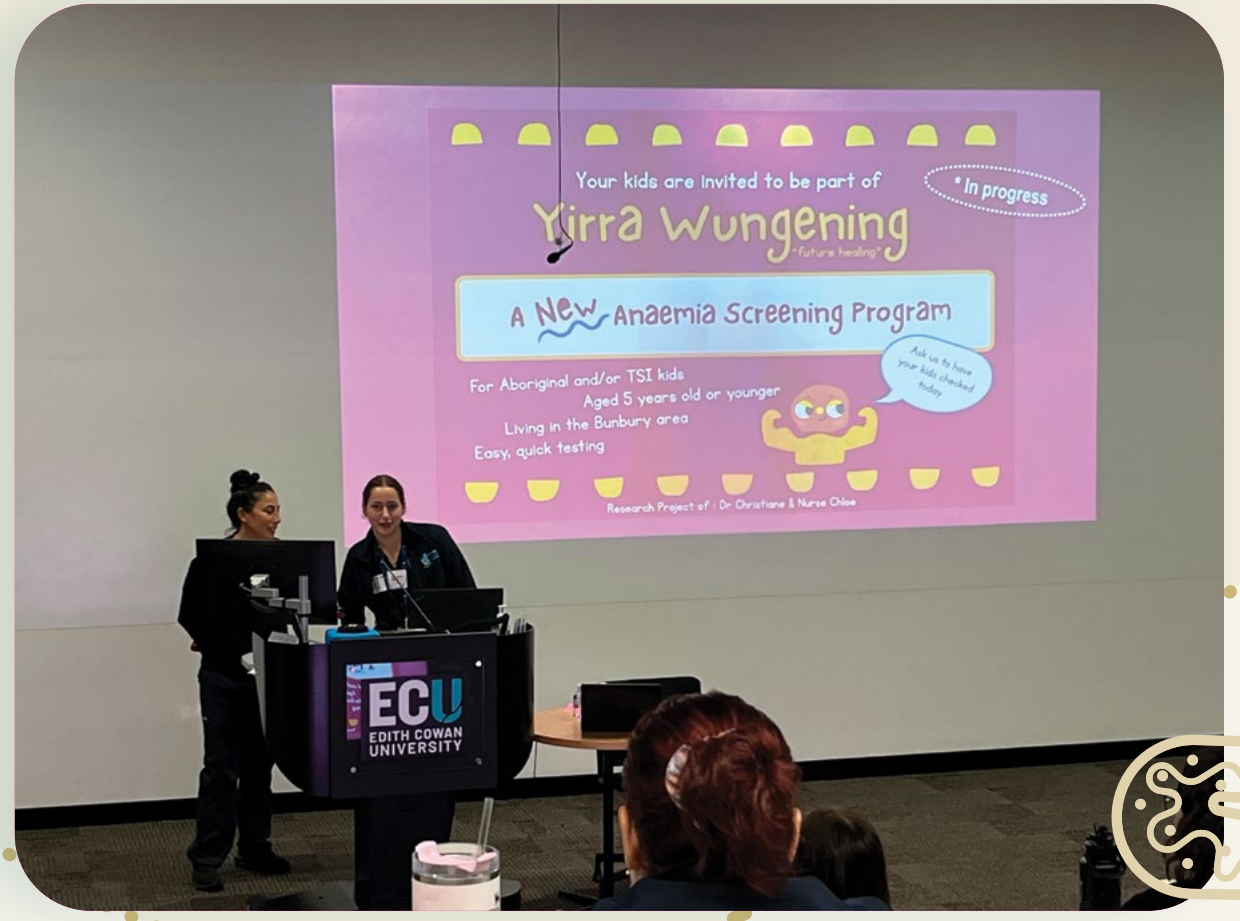
A particular highlight was the publication of the Moordidjabiny Moort (Stronger Families) Program: "We Sat Together as One Family", showcasing the impact of community-led approaches to family wellbeing.

Looking Forward

In 2026–27, the SWAMS Research Team will continue strengthening community-led research, evaluation and knowledge governance across the organisation. Building on the foundations established through WRaKC, the team will create further opportunities for community voices, lived experience and cultural knowledge to guide research priorities and decision-making.

Aboriginal Data Sovereignty will remain a key priority through strengthened governance processes, ethical data practices and ensuring Aboriginal people retain ownership and influence over how information is collected, interpreted and shared. The team will also continue supporting the translation of research into practice, working alongside SWAMS programs and clinics to ensure evidence informs service delivery and positive change.

Through the Knowledge + Innovation = Power project, the Research Team will continue to support both internal and external projects that are grounded in Aboriginal ways of Knowing, Being and Doing, including initiatives such as the Youth Empowerment Project, organisational Deep Dive projects and other community-led solutions that build stronger futures for Aboriginal people, families and communities.



Recognition and Representation

Industry Recognition



Noel Bennell

Members Excellence Award

Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia

SWAMS Transport Driver Noel Bennell was recognised with the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) Members Excellence Award, an honour celebrating his outstanding contribution to Aboriginal community-controlled healthcare and more than 25 years of dedicated service.

As the longest-serving member of the SWAMS workforce, Noel has held a variety of roles throughout his career, consistently demonstrating reliability, professionalism and a deep commitment to community. His extensive knowledge of SWAMS history, people and culture has made him a valued source of guidance and support for both new and long-standing staff.

In his current role, Noel helps ensure clients feel safe, welcomed and respected from the moment they engage with the service. His warmth, kindness and genuine care contribute significantly to creating a culturally safe and positive experience for community members.

Known for his humility, good humour and willingness to help others, Noel leads by example every day. His long-standing commitment to SWAMS and community continues to make a lasting difference and reflects the spirit of the Members Excellence Award.



Dr Clare Willix

WA Rural Health Long Service Award

Rural Health West 2026

Dr Clare Willix was recognised with a WA Rural Health Long Service Award in 2026, honouring more than 20 years of dedication to rural healthcare in Western Australia. The award acknowledges doctors who have made a lasting contribution to improving health outcomes in regional and remote communities.

A General Practitioner with SWAMS since 2011, Dr Willix has provided compassionate, culturally safe care to Aboriginal people and families across the South West while also contributing to the broader rural health sector.

Alongside her clinical work, Dr Willix has played an important role in medical education through the Rural Clinical School of Western Australia and the University of Western Australia, helping train and mentor future generations of rural doctors.

Her long-standing commitment to patient care, community wellbeing and rural medicine has earned the respect of colleagues, students and patients alike. SWAMS is proud to celebrate Dr Willix's achievement and thank her for the exceptional service and leadership she continues to provide.



SWAMS Maternal and Child Health Team

Health Team of the Year Finalist

Rural Health Excellence Awards 2026

SWAMS Maternal and Child Health Team was recognised as one of only three finalists for Health Team of the Year at the Rural Health Excellence Awards 2026, highlighting the team's outstanding contribution to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal children and families across the South West.

The nomination recognised the team's culturally secure, coordinated and compassionate approach to care, ensuring families can access the support they need close to home. Through strong collaboration and careful coordination of referrals, appointments, transport and follow-up care, the team helps connect children with specialist and paediatric services in a timely and culturally safe way.

The team's outreach work in Collie and Katanning has further strengthened access to care, while its focus on engagement and continuity of support has helped improve developmental and health outcomes for children and their families.

The recognition also reflected the team's success in achieving the highest Aboriginal childhood immunisation rates in the region and its collaborative work with General Practitioner Dr Vivienne Manessis to deliver quality child health care. While they did not win the award, being named among Western Australia's top three teams was a significant achievement.

Sector Engagement and Representation



Mariah Yarran and Stephanie Riley

AHCWA Youth Committee

The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) Youth Committee brings together Aboriginal young people from across the state to advocate for the interests and aspirations of First Nations youth and contribute to discussions that shape health and wellbeing initiatives.

Since joining the AHCWA Youth Committee in March 2025, SWAMS Elder Care Support Officer Mariah Yarran (pictured third) has helped support Aboriginal young people through conferences, training opportunities, consultations and monthly meetings.

In June 2026, SWAMS Aboriginal Research Assistant Stephanie Riley (pictured first) joined the committee, strengthening South West representation and contributing her own experiences and perspectives.

As Youth Committee members, Mariah and Stephanie contribute to discussions on issues affecting Aboriginal young people and help inform programs, policies and initiatives designed to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. Mariah has also worked with INDIVIGERSE to support the development of creative resources addressing important topics including sexual health, vaping, smoking and lateral violence.

Both are passionate about ensuring Aboriginal young people's voices are heard and represented in decision-making processes. Through their involvement, they continue to advocate for positive change, promote culturally safe outcomes and serve as positive role models for future generations.

SNAICC National Conference 2025

Meanjin (Brisbane)

October saw SWAMS representatives attend the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) National Conference 2025 in Meanjin (Brisbane), joining more than 2,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, advocates, practitioners and service providers from across Australia.

Recognised as the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander conference ever held in Australia, the event provided an opportunity to learn, share knowledge and contribute to national conversations about the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Across three days, delegates participated in presentations, workshops and discussions exploring child wellbeing, cultural connection, self-determination and community-led solutions. The conference brought together diverse voices committed to strengthening outcomes for children, young people and families.

Participation enabled SWAMS staff to build relationships with organisations and professionals from across the country, gain insight into emerging priorities and share experiences from the South West. The conference reinforced the importance of culturally strong, community-driven approaches that place children and families at the centre of decision making while celebrating the resilience, leadership and strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



Sector Engagement and Representation (cont.)



White Ribbon March

Busselton

SWAMS staff participated in the annual White Ribbon March in Busselton on 25 November 2025, joining community members, school students and local organisations in a shared commitment to promoting respect and helping prevent family and domestic violence.

The march made a powerful statement as participants walked along Queen Street, with traffic temporarily halted and police assisting to ensure the safe passage of the large crowd through the town centre. The event concluded at Mitchell Park, where community stalls, information sharing and speeches highlighted the importance of creating safer communities for women and children. The day marked both the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the beginning of the 16 Days in WA campaign.

Representatives from the SWAMS Family and Domestic Violence team and the Ngala Kaaditj Community Impact Team provided information, support and giveaways to community members attending the event. Their presence created valuable opportunities to raise awareness of available services, encourage conversations about respectful relationships and strengthen community connections.



Elder Care Support State Yarning Circle

Broome

SWAMS Elder Care Support staff members Mariah Yarran, Stephen Donnet-Jones and Isaiah Tuaana attended the Elder Care Support State Yarning Circle in Broome in April 2026, joining Elders, members of the Elder Care Support workforce and key stakeholders from across Western Australia.

Hosted by the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) in partnership with Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services, the three-day gathering provided an opportunity to share knowledge, strengthen connections and discuss the future of aged care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The event focused on culturally safe, community-led approaches to aged care, with participants exploring ways to better support Elders and older community members to navigate the aged care system and access care that respects culture, community and individual choice.

Discussions highlighted the importance of listening to older community members' voices and ensuring they remain at the centre of planning, decision making and service delivery.

Attendance at the State Yarning Circle enabled SWAMS staff to learn from communities and organisations across the state, share local experiences and bring valuable insights back to the South West. The gathering reinforced a shared commitment to supporting our older Aboriginal community members to age with dignity, connection and cultural strength.

ADLO National Forum Representation

Canberra

Members of the SWAMS Access Team within the Ngala Kaaditj Community Impact Team represented the organisation at the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) Aboriginal Disability Liaison Officer (ADLO) National Forum in Canberra in June 2026.

Team Coordinator Ruiha Bishop, alongside Teleigha Ellis, Mosiah Brown and Sasha Oliver, joined Aboriginal Disability Liaison Officers from across Australia to share knowledge, strengthen professional networks and explore ways to better support First Nations people navigating disability and community support systems.

During the forum, the team proudly showcased the work of the SWAMS Access Team, presenting their ADLO Journey Mapping Project and highlighting the importance of delivering culturally safe, community-led engagement, information and support. Guided by the principle of Community First, Community Always, the team helps community members and families understand their options, navigate complex service systems and connect with available supports.

The development of the ADLO Journey Mapping Project attracted national interest and was presented to NACCHO and the National Disability Insurance Agency as a potential blueprint for the future development of ADLO and Remote Community Connector programs across Australia. The project demonstrated the strength of community-led design and SWAMS' leadership in Aboriginal health innovation.





Corporate Services

Cultural Committee

The Cultural Committee provides cultural leadership and guidance across SWAMS, ensuring Aboriginal culture, cultural safety and community perspectives are embedded in organisational decision-making.

The Committee advises on the cultural implications of policies, programs, projects, recruitment processes, community engagement activities and organisational initiatives, while also supporting Aboriginal staff leadership and workforce development opportunities.

Keeping community at the centre is fundamental to the Committee's role. Through advocacy, cultural consultation and representation of Aboriginal voices, the Committee helps ensure services, programs and organisational decisions reflect the needs, values and priorities of the communities SWAMS serves. The Committee also works to strengthen cultural safety across the organisation, support culturally responsive services, promote local Noongar culture and language, and create opportunities for Aboriginal people to influence decisions that affect their health and wellbeing.

Key Achievements

During the year, the Committee led the review and implementation of an updated Terms of Reference, strengthening governance, accountability and Aboriginal representation in organisational decision-making. The revised framework created clearer pathways for cultural perspectives to be raised and considered across SWAMS, helping ensure cultural considerations are embedded in planning, policy development and organisational initiatives.

The Committee continued to provide cultural guidance across a range of organisational activities, including policy development, recruitment processes, organisational communications, Health Hub planning and cultural protocols. The Committee also advocated for Aboriginal career pathways, leadership opportunities and workforce development initiatives, including support for local Aboriginal Health Practitioner training pathways.

Regular Noongar language sessions delivered by Aunty Charmaine, along with ongoing cultural learning activities, strengthened staff knowledge of local culture, language and history. These initiatives increased cultural capability across SWAMS and helped create a more welcoming and culturally safe environment for community members accessing services.

While the Committee does not provide direct client services, it plays an important role in supporting community outcomes through cultural leadership, governance and advocacy. These activities help ensure Aboriginal voices remain central to organisational decision-making and contribute to culturally safe services, programs and workplaces.

Looking Forward

The Cultural Committee will continue to strengthen cultural leadership across SWAMS, promote cultural safety and support opportunities for Aboriginal staff to influence organisational decision-making. The Committee remains committed to expanding cultural learning opportunities, supporting workforce development and helping ensure services remain culturally responsive and aligned with community priorities.



Learning and Development



Belinda Bartlett and TAFE lecturer Leisa Prangnell.

By investing in the growth of our people, SWAMS is building a skilled, confident and culturally responsive workforce that is well positioned to meet the needs of Aboriginal people and communities across the South West.

This year, the Learning and Development Team continued to strengthen workforce capability, career pathways and succession planning through training, qualifications, professional development and student engagement initiatives.

A key focus remained the development of Aboriginal Health Practitioners (AHPs) through traineeships delivered by Marr Mooditj Training in Perth. This nationally recognised program equips Aboriginal staff to become qualified AHPs through a combination of formal study, self-paced learning and supervised clinical placements within Aboriginal health settings.

The importance of this work was further reinforced during the year through continued investment in Aboriginal Health Practitioner workforce development, including the establishment of an Aboriginal Health Practitioner Coordinator role to provide leadership, mentoring and professional support across the organisation.

Longstanding SWAMS employees Ella McLean, an Outreach Worker and Practice Support Officer with the Chronic Conditions Team, and Ashlee Humphries, an Indigenous Outreach Worker with the Maternal and Child Health Team, completed the final stage of their AHP training in June 2026 and are scheduled to graduate in December. During their training, they participated in a clinical placement at Fiona Stanley Hospital, gaining valuable insight into the role of Aboriginal Health Practitioners in a hospital environment and strengthening their ability to deliver culturally safe, holistic care.

Reflecting on her training journey, Ella said the program helped build her confidence and strengthened her ability to support clients through culturally safe, holistic care, reinforcing the important role AHPs play in improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Belinda Bartlett, a proud Wiradjuri woman and Community Support Worker with South West Aged Care Services, commenced Aboriginal Health Practitioner training at the end of the reporting period, reflecting her commitment to lifelong learning and culturally safe care for community members.

Earlier in the year, Belinda was recognised with a Certificate of Excellence at the South Regional TAFE Student Awards for her outstanding results while completing a Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing). Her diverse career has included roles in mining, horse racing, Aboriginal education, and her achievement reflects the dedication and talent within the SWAMS workforce.

Staff also continued to pursue qualifications across a range of disciplines. Molly Thomas, from South West Aged Care, progressed towards completing a Certificate IV in Business, supporting the development of administrative and organisational capability.

SWAMS continued to support student and emerging professionals through placements across a range of service areas, helping build future workforce capacity in Aboriginal community controlled health.

Through ongoing investment in learning and development, SWAMS continues to strengthen workforce capability, support succession planning and create meaningful career pathways for staff. These investments contribute to stronger services, improved health outcomes and a more sustainable Aboriginal health workforce for the future.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Team supports the people who make SWAMS strong.

SWAMS is committed to improving outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities, and Human Resources plays an important role in achieving this goal by creating meaningful employment opportunities and supporting a workforce that reflects the communities we serve. The team works to ensure SWAMS remains a culturally safe, welcoming and supportive workplace where Aboriginal people can build rewarding careers and develop professionally.

Our role extends beyond recruitment and workforce administration. We recognise that employment creates opportunities not only for individuals, but also for families and communities. By supporting Aboriginal employment, career development and leadership pathways, Human Resources contributes to stronger communities and helps build a sustainable workforce for the future.

At its heart, Human Resources is about supporting people. We want SWAMS to be a place where staff feel respected, valued and connected to a shared purpose. By building a workforce that embraces Aboriginal culture, values and community leadership, we help ensure SWAMS continues making a positive difference in the lives of Aboriginal people and families across our region.

Program Highlights

Workplace health, safety and wellbeing remained a key focus throughout the year. SWAMS undertook an organisational psychosocial hazards survey to better understand workplace wellbeing risks and identify opportunities to strengthen support for staff. This work was supported by leadership development activities focused on identifying, managing and responding to psychosocial hazards in the workplace, helping create safer and more supportive working environments.

Significant progress was also made in developing training programs for current and emerging leaders across the organisation. Building leadership capability remains a priority as SWAMS continues to grow and adapt to changing service delivery needs. These initiatives help ensure managers and future leaders have the skills and confidence required to support staff, lead teams effectively and maintain positive workplace cultures.

The successful adoption of the SWAMS Workforce Strategy represents another important milestone. The strategy provides a clear roadmap for workforce planning, recruitment, retention and staff development, ensuring SWAMS is well positioned to meet current and future workforce challenges while continuing to deliver high-quality, culturally safe services to community.

Looking Forward

In the coming year, the Human Resources Team will continue focusing on workforce stability, staff development and leadership capability. A key priority will be strengthening retention initiatives while supporting career progression opportunities for both existing and emerging employees.

The team will also continue implementing the Workforce Strategy, with an emphasis on succession planning, Aboriginal employment and leadership development, workforce wellbeing and organisational capability.

By investing in our people, strengthening workplace culture and creating clear pathways for growth and development, SWAMS will continue building a skilled, engaged and culturally strong workforce capable of meeting the needs of Aboriginal people and communities across the South West for many years to come.

Workforce Snapshot

SWAMS continued to evolve its workforce throughout 2025–26, with a strong focus on capability development, leadership support and workforce sustainability.

256
Employees across the organisation

72
New employees recruited and successfully onboarded during the year

51%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce representation, an increase of 3% compared with the previous year.

5%
Workforce size reduced compared with the previous year

36%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation in leadership positions

23% to 30%
Staff turnover increased

These results highlight the importance of continued focus on workforce planning, staff development and retention.

While turnover increased during the year, SWAMS continues to maintain strong Aboriginal representation throughout the organisation and remains committed to building a workforce that reflects community and supports culturally safe service delivery.

SWAMS Workforce	23/24	%	24/25	%	25/26	%
Total Staffing	218	100	269	100	256	100
Female	165	76	201	75	192	75
Male	53	24	66	25	64	25
Turnover	57	26	61	23	79	30
ATSI Staff	115	53	130	48	131	51
ATSI Leadership	12	36	16	38	14	36
Tenure						
0 - 2	129	60	165	61	132	52
2 - 3	30	14	59	22	51	20
3 +	57	26	45	17	73	28
Age						
18 - 30	53	24	63	23	56	22
31 - 40	52	24	69	26	69	27
41 - 60	89	41	108	40	110	43
60 +	24	11	29	11	21	8

Quality and Compliance

During 2025–26, the Quality and Compliance Team continued to strengthen governance systems across SWAMS and embed quality, accountability and continuous improvement into everyday practice.

SWAMS operates within a comprehensive framework of quality standards and compliance requirements, including:

- Aged Care Quality Standards
- AGPAL National General Practice Accreditation (RACGP Standards)
- ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems
- National Standards for Disability Services
- National Standards for Mental Health Services

SWAMS is also continuing its work to align child safeguarding practices with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and strengthen alignment with the National Safety and Quality Mental Health Standards for Community Managed Organisations (NSQMH CMO Standards) 2022. Together, these frameworks provide the foundation for organisational quality, safety, governance and continuous improvement.

Strengthening Quality Systems

LogiQC is now fully established as SWAMS' central quality and compliance management platform. All controlled organisational documents are stored within the system, providing staff with a single source of approved and current information. The platform also houses funding and non-funding contracts together with associated compliance obligations, enabling improved monitoring, oversight and timely completion of deliverables.

Following the 2025 ISO mid-cycle audit, the team developed a new organisational document framework and implementation plan. The revised structure provides greater clarity around document development, approval and management, while making policies, procedures and supporting resources easier for staff to locate, understand and apply. Implementation has commenced and will continue progressively across the organisation.

Staff reporting of incidents, risks and feedback through LogiQC has continued to increase, providing stronger organisational intelligence to support risk-based decision-making and service improvement. External accreditation findings and audit outcomes are also recorded within the system, with improvement actions assigned, monitored and tracked through to completion, creating a robust closed-loop process for continuous improvement.

The internal audit program also continued to mature throughout the year. As procedures are reviewed and realigned under the new document framework, audit schedules will expand to provide increased assurance across programs and services, strengthen ongoing monitoring and support accreditation readiness.

Building Organisational Capability

Training and practical support remain central to the successful implementation of quality systems. The team continues to provide formal training, individual support and drop-in assistance sessions to help staff confidently use quality systems and understand compliance requirements. A monthly Quality and Compliance newsletter is also distributed across SWAMS, sharing achievements, key updates, compliance information and practical LogiQC tips.

Together, these initiatives have improved visibility of compliance obligations, strengthened document and contract controls, increased reporting and supported a more proactive approach to risk management. The continued development of LogiQC and broader quality systems is helping ensure continuous improvement remains embedded in daily operations while supporting the delivery of safe, effective, culturally secure and high-quality services.

In the coming year, the Quality and Compliance Team will continue implementing the new document framework, expanding internal audit activities and strengthening organisational capability to monitor compliance obligations, maintain accreditation readiness and support effective governance across SWAMS.



Communications

This year, the Communications Team actively focused on sharing stories that reflect the strength, culture and achievements of Aboriginal people and communities served by SWAMS.

Community-focused content continued to perform strongly across SWAMS digital channels. Analysis of social media performance showed the most-viewed content featured Elders, families, cultural celebrations, community events, staff achievements and updates from the SWAMS Board, demonstrating strong engagement with stories centred on connection, culture and leadership. Eight of the ten highest-performing Facebook posts during the financial year were published in 2026, highlighting a growing understanding of audience interests and the content that resonates most strongly with community.

Facebook engagement continued to grow across all key measures, with page visits, post interactions and follower numbers reaching record levels. During 2025-26, SWAMS content reached a cumulative Facebook audience of more than 880,000 people.

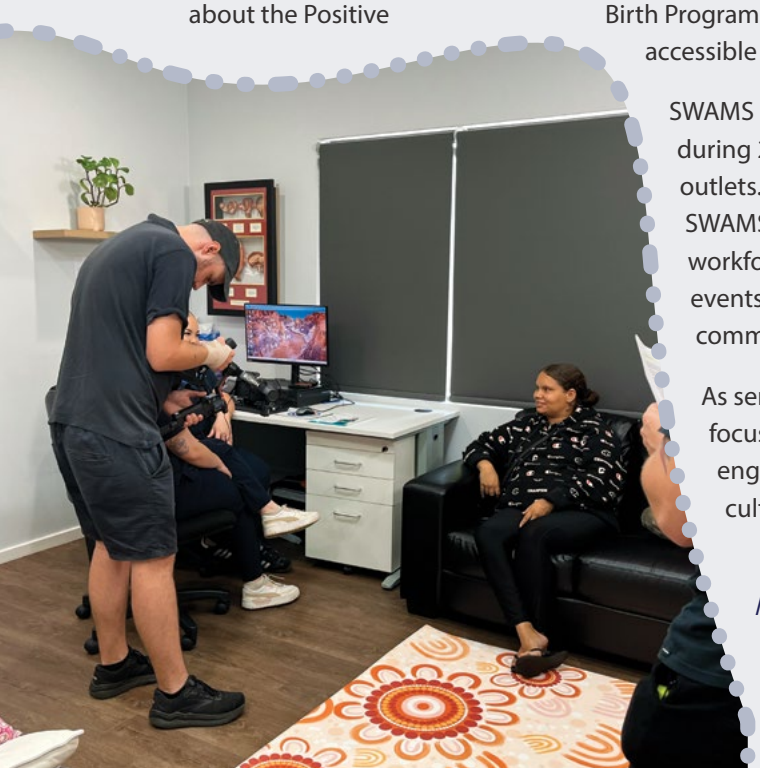
Throughout the year, communications supported the promotion of a wide range of services, programs and events, including Tackling Indigenous Smoking initiatives, Aged Care activities, Maternal and Child Health programs, NAIDOC celebrations and major milestones in the development of the future SWAMS Health Hub. Strong partnerships with community organisations, educational institutions, government agencies and event organisers helped extend the reach of SWAMS messaging and showcase shared achievements across the communities and regions served by SWAMS.

A new approach to internal communications was introduced, with a Communications Officer regularly embedded within the Bunbury clinic. This strengthened collaboration between service areas, improved the identification of stories and achievements, and supported more effective information sharing across the organisation.

Beyond digital communications, support was provided across media engagement, website management, recruitment campaigns, event promotion, publications and organisational reporting. This included production of newsletters and the SWAMS Annual Report, development of promotional materials and media releases, and support for a series of Maternal and Child Health videos designed to share information about the Positive Birth Program and early parenting in a culturally appropriate and accessible format.

SWAMS secured 28 items of mainstream media coverage during 2025-26 across regional, state and Indigenous media outlets. Coverage highlighted initiatives including the future SWAMS Health Hub, Kwaba Bidi activities, Aged Care services, workforce achievements, award recognition and community events, helping raise awareness of services and celebrate community success.

As services continue to expand, communications remains focused on sharing authentic stories, strengthening engagement and ensuring information remains accessible, culturally grounded and responsive to community needs.



Maternal and Child Health film shoot.



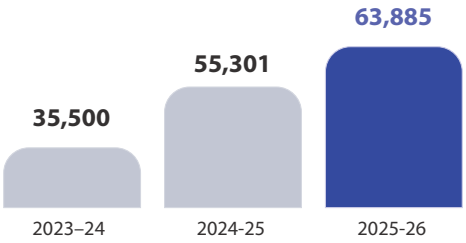
Social media performance 2025–26

880,000 People reached on Facebook

Total people reached during 2025–26

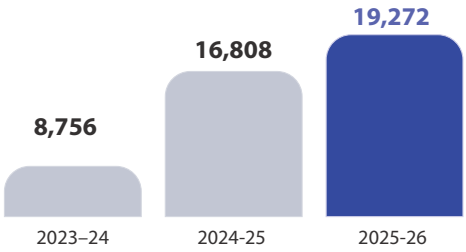
Facebook visits

+74% in two years



Facebook interactions

More than doubled in two years



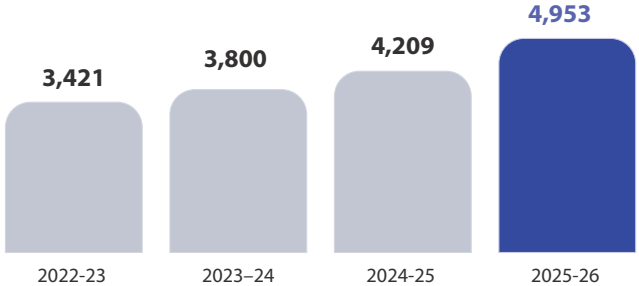
Facebook Followers

As at 30 June each year

+744

new followers in 2025–26

Up 45% since 2022–23





Youth Advisory Group

The SWAMS Youth Advisory Group (YAG) members volunteer for the committee while also undertaking their roles across the organisation.

Members during 2025-26 were Mariah Yarran (Chairperson), Stephanie Riley, Maitland Humphries, Kiesha Beasley, Malachai Bell and Kira Mackay.

Throughout the year, YAG focused on engaging young people through community events, leadership development and cultural activities. Early initiatives included supporting Newton Moore Senior High School's NAIDOC celebrations, participating in Back to School Day activities, and delivering drop-in sessions and interactive games with students.

In October 2025, YAG members delivered a series of drop-in sessions with Newton Moore Senior High School Living and Leading classes. Through yarning circles, surveys and interactive activities, students were encouraged to share their views on the activities, opportunities and supports that contribute to positive social and emotional wellbeing. The feedback provided valuable direction for future youth-focused initiatives.

Building on this engagement, YAG delivered weekly Living and Leading sessions with Year 10 students throughout February, March and part of April 2026. The sessions focused on leadership development, confidence building, personal growth and strengthening positive social and emotional wellbeing.

Youth-led mural project

Following the sessions, students and YAG members collaborated on a mural project that became a highlight of the year. Students played an active role in the design, preparation and painting of the mural throughout April and May 2026.

The artwork reflected students' identities, aspirations and the factors they believe contribute to strong social and emotional wellbeing. Working alongside YAG members, students explored storytelling through art and the use of Noongar symbols, creating personal symbols that reflected their connections to culture, community and identity.

The mural was officially unveiled in June 2026, bringing together students, stakeholders and SWAMS staff to celebrate the project's success. The completed artwork stands as a lasting representation of youth voice, creativity, cultural identity and community connection.

The 2025-26 year provided a strong foundation for the Youth Advisory Group, creating opportunities for Aboriginal young people to connect, develop leadership skills and contribute to their communities.



Finance

Profit, Loss and Comprehensive Income

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2026.

	2026	2025
Income	**$**	**$**
Grant revenue	30,654,085	27,827,899
Capital grant revenue	7,476,308	1,698,006
Other revenue	4,871,152	6,085,497
Expenditure		
Personnel expenses	(23,621,450)	(21,230,920)
Wages and salaries	18,886,449	16,924,643
Superannuation expense	2,397,315	2,045,364
Other personnel expenses	215,458	230,853
Leave entitlement expense	2,122,228	2,030,060
Total personnel expenses	23,621,450	21,230,920
Administration and program expenses	(7,302,334)	(6,146,318)
Board expenses	(942,587)	(406,369)
Consumables, materials and small items of equipment	(395,264)	(481,818)
Write off work in process	(4,707,665)	(8,288)
Interest expense on lease liabilities	(221,423)	(191,038)
Interest expense on other liabilities	(354)	(3,527)
Depreciation expense	(294,176)	(273,329)
Depreciation expense on right-of-use assets	(1,523,746)	(1,344,746)
Motor vehicle expenses	(545,401)	(309,786)
Occupancy expenses	(1,042,188)	(957,843)
Fair value adjustment to financial assets through profit or loss	(49,652)	50,875
Profit for year	**2,355,305**	**4,308,295**
Total comprehensive income for the year	**2,355,305**	**4,308,295**

Capital Grant Funding - Health Hub Project

During the year ended 30 June 2026, the Company commenced construction of the Health Hub project. Capital funding received in prior years for this project had been recognised as a liability in accordance with the requirements of AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities, reflecting the Company's obligation under enforceable funding agreements to construct a specified capital asset.

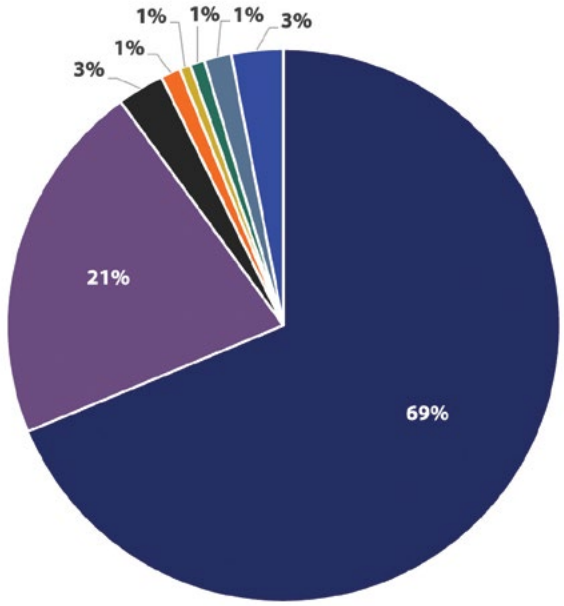
As construction of the Health Hub commenced and progressed during the year, the Company satisfied a portion of its obligations under the funding agreements. Accordingly, $7,476,308 (2025: $1,698,006) of funding has been recognised as income in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, with a corresponding reduction in the liability.

Recognition of income in the prior year related to preliminary expenditure for the Health Hub.

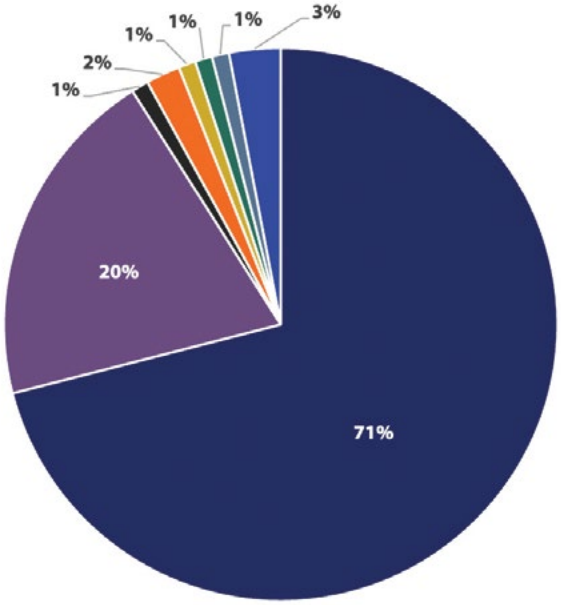
The Health Hub asset under construction is recognised within property, plant and equipment as work in process at 30 June 2026.

The funding recognised as income during the year is capital in nature and relates solely to the construction of the Health Hub. It does not represent funding for the Company's ongoing operations, service delivery activities or recurrent programs. The recognition of this income reflects compliance with the accounting requirements of AASB 1058 and does not indicate that the funding is available for general operational purposes.

Expenses 2026



Expenses 2025



- Total personnel expenses
- Administration and program expenses
- Board expenses
- Consumables, materials and small items of equipment
- Interest expense on lease liabilities
- Depreciation expense
- Motor vehicle expenses
- Occupancy expenses

Financial Position

Statement of financial position for the year ended June 2026

	2026	2025
Assets	**$**	**$**
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	15,983,409	18,388,871
Financial assets	1,484,990	1,534,642
Trade and other receivables	4,167,724	1,804,498
Other current assets	879,149	626,720
Total current assets	22,515,272	22,354,731
Non-current assets		
Property plant equipment	3,117,413	3,110,530
Work in process	6,106,252	3,353,188
Right-of-use assets	1,537,712	2,624,057
Total non-current assets	**10,761,377**	**9,087,775**
Total assets	**33,276,649**	**31,442,506**
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	17,470,510	17,034,789
Employee benefits current	1,978,828	1,963,759
Lease liabilities current	1,207,284	1,337,216
Other financial liabilities	-	24,791
Total current liabilities	20,656,622	20,360,555
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefits	418,497	309,379
Lease liabilities	434,455	1,360,802
Total non-current liabilities	**852,952**	**1,670,181**
Total liabilities	**21,509,574**	**22,030,736**
Net assets	**11,767,075**	**9,411,770**
Equity		
Retained earnings	11,767,075	9,411,770
Total Equity	**11,767,075**	**9,411,770**

Statement of Changes in Equity	2026 $	2025 $
Opening balance	9,411,770	5,103,475
Profit for the year	2,355,305	4,308,295
Closing balance	11,767,075	9,411,770

Statement of cash flow for the year ended June 2026

Cash flows from operating activities

Receipts from operating activities	4,166,683	3,469,069
Receipts from funding bodies	33,760,245	28,695,921
Payments to suppliers and employees	(31,532,432)	(30,459,877)
Interest received	467,273	726,789
Investment distributions received	76,534	53,898
Interest paid	(221,777)	(194,565)
Net cash flows from operating activities	**6,716,481**	**2,291,235**

Cash flows from investing activities:

Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	123,636	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(7,764,788)	(2,182,795)
Proceed from redemption of investment	-	495,139
Net cash used in investing activities	**(7,641,152)**	**(1,687,656)**

Cash flows from financing activities:

Payment of lease liabilities	(1,456,000)	(1,347,275)
Repayment of finance	(24,791)	(54,870)
Net cash used in financing activities	**(1,480,791)**	**(1,402,142)**

Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	**(2,405,462)**	**(798,563)**
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	**18,388,871**	**19,187,434**
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	**15,983,409**	**18,388,871**

AMD
Chartered Accountants & Advisors

AMD. Works for me.

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001
TO THE DIRECTORS OF SOUTH WEST ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE LTD

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and beliefs, during the year ended 30 June 2026 there have been no contraventions of:

(i) the auditor independence requirements as set out in the in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and

(i) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

AMD Chartered Accountants

MARIA CAVALLO FCA
Director

Bunbury, Western Australia Dated this 19 day of October 2026

AMD
Chartered Accountants & Advisors

AMD. Works for me.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
SOUTH WEST ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE LTD ("SWAMS")

Opinion
We have audited the financial report of SWAMS (the company) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, 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 Act 2001* and *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012*, including:

i) giving a true and fair view, in all material respects, of the financial position of SWAMS as at 30 June 2026, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended; and

ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022.*

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 SWAMS in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and 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
We draw attention to Note 2e to the financial statements which outlines the company's economic dependency, whereby to continue as a going concern the company is dependent upon continued receipt of Commonwealth and State grant funding. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

BKR INTERNATIONAL | INDEPENDENT MEMBER

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Other Information
Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in SWAMS's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026, 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.

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 Director's for the Financial Report
The directors of the company 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 3 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001, 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 company'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 company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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 company'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 company 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 FCA
Director

Level 1, 53 Victoria Street, Bunbury, Western Australia Dated this 26 day of October 2026

Sites and Addresses

Bunbury Administration

Unit 3/30 Wellington Street, Bunbury, WA, 6230

(08) 9797 8111

1800 779 000

Fax: (08) 9791 4621

Email: info@swams.com.au

Bunbury Clinic

Unit 5/51-55 Forrest Avenue, Bunbury, WA, 6230

(08) 9726 6000

1800 779 000

Fax: (08) 9791 7655

Email: records@swams.com.au

Maternal and Child Health Kwilenap

Eaton Clinic

1 Pratt Road, Eaton, WA, 6230

(08) 9726 6060

Bunbury Clinic

149 Spencer Street, Bunbury, WA, 6230

(08) 9726 6060

Bindjareb Aged Care Service

Mandurah

2/12 Sutton Street, Mandurah, WA, 6210

(08) 9514 5995

Djin Djin Mart

23 Sampson Road, Bunbury, WA, 6230

(08) 9760 1901

Kwaba Bidi

Child, Family and Kinship Services

Bunbury

8 Spencer Street, Bunbury, WA, 6230

(08) 9783 5008

1300 550 986

Busselton

Busselton Community Resource Centre
19 Cammilleri Street, Busselton, WA, 6280

(08) 9726 6072

1300 550 986

Busselton Clinic

88 Duchess Street, Busselton, WA, 6280

(08) 9726 6080

Collie Clinic

72 Steere Street, Collie, WA, 6225

(08) 9786 3003

Katanning Clinic

18-20 Austral Terrace, Katanning, WA, 6317

(08) 9837 2600

Manjimup Clinic

19 Brockman Street, Manjimup, WA, 6258

(08) 9785 8000

Narrogin Clinic

Shop 1/83 Federal Street, Narrogin, WA, 6312

(08) 9891 4600

SWAMS Service Locations and Footprint




South West
AMS
Aboriginal Medical Service
Our Health, Our Way