



WAPHA
WA Primary Health Alliance

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PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,
COUNTRY WA
An Australian Government Initiative

Media Release

Personalised support for Kimberley people exiting residential rehabilitation

4 September 2017

For the first time in the Kimberley, people exiting residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation can access a comprehensive support service to keep them well in their own community.

The program addresses a significant gap in the East and West Kimberley and has been made possible by Australian Government funding of more than \$1 million.

It recognises that people returning to their homes and families following residential treatment need active support and follow up to have the best chance of a sustained recovery.

Minister for Indigenous Health, Ken Wyatt AM, said the post-residential rehabilitation program would support people recovering from mental illness and drug and alcohol dependence as they re-entered their communities

“Once people have finished live-in rehabilitation programs, there is often a fragile balance between maintaining their new lifestyle and relapsing in the days, weeks, months and years ahead,” said Minister Wyatt.

“This program provides personal care plans tailored for each individual, which identify risk factors in each person’s home and community environment, how they can be protected and any interventions required to enhance their recovery.”

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) has commissioned Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation in Broome to lead the service in partnership with Ngnowar Aewah Aboriginal Corporation in Wyndham.

WAPHA's regional manager Andy McGaw said the service will focus on a whole of family approach, as without the family's understanding and support, the person is more likely to relapse.

"Family participation is proven to have a significant influence on long term outcomes, and helps repair family structures, roles and relationships that may have been damaged during the period of addiction."

Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation chief executive officer Andrew Amor said the organisation is delighted to be delivering this service across the entire Kimberley region.



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"We will be reaching out to people who, with our support, can overcome the significant challenges they often face when returning to their community and continue their healing.

"And with most of our case workers being Aboriginal, they will be able to deliver a service that is culturally secure, which will also assist greatly with recovery.

"We also know that mental ill health often goes hand in hand with problematic alcohol and other drug use. Working in partnership with Boab Health Services, clients will be supported to maintain their health and wellbeing," Mr Amor said.

Chief executive officer Ngnowar Aewah Stanley Nangala said, "We are very supportive of the new program and are confident it will add enormous value to the work we already do in the residential rehabilitation setting."

The program will start working with clients this month and expects to treat about 200 people a year.

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