



Awabakal Ltd Newsletter | November 2016

Message from the CEO

It has been a very busy 12 months here at Awabakal and whilst there have been some changes to our organisation, my team and I are confident that these changes are going to mean better services and more opportunity for our community.

As part of our new direction we have worked on developing the below key points which will drive the organisation into the future.

These points explain exactly what Awabakal's priorities are moving forward and will help you in understanding the new services.

Awabakal is:

- *Adapting to change*
- *Preparing for the future*
- *Providing for our community members*
- *Acting in the best interest of our community*
- *Empowering an Aboriginal Leadership team*

Awabakal has always been, and will continue to be, committed to providing the highest quality services to our community and these points will ensure we can continue to achieve this.

Looking to the future, we have some exciting new projects in the works for 2017 including the roll out of our Cultural Integrity Plan and our Tackling Indigenous Smoking initiative.



We are also thrilled to be able to offer a second pre-school site in the new year which means we can cater for more children and families.

There will be many more new things happening as of next year and the team and I are eager to share these with our community.

From Awabakal's Board, staff and myself I would like to thank everyone for their support throughout 2016, it has been a busy year and one that has seen the organisation grow and thrive.

We wish everyone a safe and happy festive season and hope everyone enjoys some time off with their family and friends. Here's to an incredibly successful 2017.

Raylene Gordon
Chief Executive Officer

Notice of AGM

Awabakal is pleased to be hosting our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 22 November at Cardiff RSL – 45 Macquarie Road Cardiff from 5:30pm.

All Awabakal members are invited to attend the evening.

Community Development

Cultural Integrity Plan

Over the last 12 months, Awabakal has been in the process of developing a Cultural Integrity Plan which will be implemented throughout the organisation.

The aim of the plan is to develop a culture of respect for Aboriginal people and culture within Awabakal.

The plan will help guide behaviour that is consistent with the right for Aboriginal people to self-determination and has been designed to facilitate positive relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and stakeholders and non-Aboriginal people, to ultimately achieve better program outcomes.

Awabakal has dedicated resources to the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan.

Over the coming months and throughout 2017, Awabakal staff will undertake an online introductory training element as part of the Cultural Integrity Plan.

Following the two hour session, Awabakal's plan is to host a cultural orientation for staff which will involve visits to significant sites to gain an understanding of Aboriginal cultural history.

Tackling Indigenous Smoking

Awabakal is proud to be implementing a new action plan aimed at tackling Indigenous smoking.

The program will assist with raising awareness on the harmful effects smoking can have on an individual's health.

As part of the program, Awabakal will be developing an organisational policy for a smoke-free environment at both work sites and at events.

This strategy has been developed to help encourage individuals to quit smoking, with increased support for those looking to quit or reduce through Awabakal's medical services, referrals and staff.

To find out more about the Tackling Indigenous Smoking plan, contact the office.

Indigenous All Stars Sponsorship

Awabakal is thrilled to announce that we have come on board as a Major Sponsor for the 2017 Indigenous All Stars. The Indigenous All Stars team will be taking on the World All Stars in the annual match up in February next year, with the game to be held at McDonald Jones Stadium. This is a great opportunity to support our local community and we encourage everyone to get down to the game. Tickets are now on sale.

All Stars Performers Wanted

If you are interested in being a performer as part of the 2017 All Stars Week, please contact flance@nrl.com.au for an application form.



Staff Health Challenge

Maintaining good health is something that the team at Awabakal takes very seriously. The services we offer to our community revolve around keeping people healthy which is why we are leading by example with our Staff Health Challenge.

The Staff Health Challenge aims to get people moving and with each staff member being given a Fitbit to track their daily activities, we have seen a little bit of friendly rivalry around the office.

The program kicked off in October with weekly winners announced based on different challenges. We would like to congratulate everyone for their participation and look forward to announcing more winners as the challenge continues.

The winners so far – most steps completed: Jo Smith and Ron Robinson, best results combined team: Medical Services Team.

Early Learning & Education

2017 Pre-school enrolments now open

Awabakal are now taking applications for 2017 enrolments at our pre-school sites. We are thrilled to be able to offer a new site at Wickham from 2017. A new site means that we are able to care for even more young children and families from our community.

Enrolments for 2017 are now open for both Glendale and Wickham. If you have a child aged from 3 years and not already at 'big school', we can offer an innovative, safe and culturally friendly educational experience. Our highly qualified and friendly team welcome your family.

For further information about the service and enrolments please contact the centre on 02 4918 6999.



Positions available – Assistant Principal

Awabakal is currently recruiting an Assistant Principal to oversee our Pre-school site at Wickham.

The position is a permanent, full time role and will suit someone with a Diploma in Early Education and appropriate management experience.

Excellent communication skills are also a must.

If you think this is the position for you, or know someone who might be interested please contact AES on 02 4939 4500 or email Akazee.Eguevoi.aes.org.au

Children's Christmas Party



DATE

Friday 16 December

TIME

10am – 2pm

LOCATION

Newcastle Tram Sheds
at the Foreshore

*Amusement
rides plus and
appearance from
Santa!*

Medical

Medical Centre Online Appointments

Patients will soon have the option to book their own appointments online, with Awabakal launching a web-based booking platform in the coming weeks.

Appointuit is an award-winning system, leading the way in online doctor appointment management and patient engagement.

It is a great tool to help communicate with our patients as we can contact you via email address using the platform.

Appointuit is an ideal way to inform patients of up and coming healthcare initiatives or keep patients updated with practice news, such as unexpected closure dates, promotions and celebrations.

'Training Hour' introduced at Medical Services

The Medical Services team have recently implemented a new 'training hour' into their working week to further develop their skills and enhance their professional development.

Each week, one hour will be blocked out for staff to undertake training seminars and sessions. As part of their 'training hour' over the next three weeks the Medical Services team will start their Cultural Integrity training with the online course element.

Awabakal is committed to the training and development of our staff and this new initiative is a great step forward for our organisation. More knowledgeable staff means better delivered services for our community.

Aged Care



Awabakal Aged Care Services – Information Session

Awabakal recently held a presentation day to discuss the new programs as part of the Awabakal Aged Care Services. Over 30 community members came to the day to learn about the new direction for our services and the improvements that have started to be implemented.

A big thank you to everyone who came, a great day was had by all and we received some valuable feedback about our services from community members. For more information on the Awabakal Aged Care Services, please contact 02 4907 8555.

Education & Training

Awabakal employees improving education

Awabakal is proud to acknowledge a number of staff members who are continuing their education through further study. There are currently over half a dozen employees engaging in higher education, including:

- Care Workers are undertaking Certificate IV in Ageing Support
- Jacqui Khan our Aboriginal Health Worker is studying a Diploma in Nursing
- Aged Care Service team members – Kerri, Cheryl and Lisa are undertaking Diploma in Community Services
- Clinic Coordinator Marook Perry has successfully completed her Diploma in Practice Management
- Children Services staff are currently completing their Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care

Notices

Rebranding

New times call for a new look and that is why Awabakal has recently decided to give the Awabakal brand an update. We will be giving you a sneak peek of our new logo during the Annual General Meeting and we are excited to share with everyone Awabakal's new brand for the future.

Christmas Closure

All Awabakal Services will be taking a well-deserved break over the Christmas holidays.

The shutdown period will commence from midday on Friday 23 December 2016 and will reopen with usual hours of operation from Tuesday 3 January 2017.

Awabakal Pre-school services will shut down from Friday 16 December 2016.

We would like to wish all our staff and members a very happy festive season and hope that everyone enjoys time with the family and loved ones during the break.

See you in 2017!

Contact details

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Medical Centre & Aged Care Services

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p. 02 4907 8555

Childcare

a. 5 Grey Street Wickham p. 02 4918 6999

Preschool

a. 509 Main Road Glendale p. 02 4918 6999