



Welcome Message from CEO

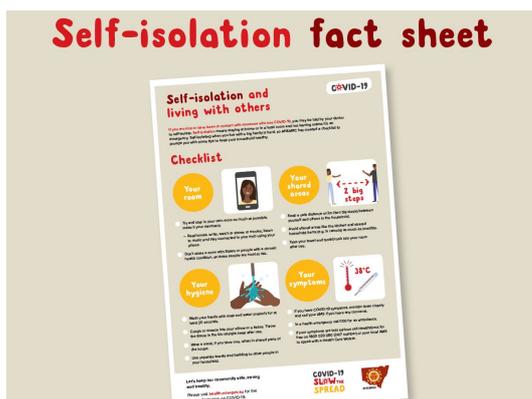


It has been a busy two week as AH&MRC's new CEO. I have felt very welcomed and had the opportunity to meet with AH&MRC's passionate team and some of our key industry partners. I have worked for over 20 years in Aboriginal Medical Services in Queensland, New South Wales and the Northern Territory. My most recent role was as CEO of Biripi Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, and I know firsthand the challenges that we face. However, I am very excited about this organisation, what we can do for our Members and the future ahead of us. I will be an active voice in government discussions to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people across New South Wales. I firmly believe that collaboration is the best way forward for our sector. Working together we will continue to affect positive change in our community and grow our knowledge and skills as Aboriginal Health professionals.

Thank you for everything you have done, and for your continued efforts to make a real difference to the lives of Aboriginal people. I look forward to working with you.

Yours in Unity,
Robert Skeen

AH&MRC Updates



[AMS COVID-19 Resources](#)



[Helping Member Services secure food for](#)

The AH&MRC is working hard to create resources including posters, fact sheets, videos, checklists and more for our Member Services to educate and inform community members on COVID-19. To download, visit the related content section of our [COVID-19 page](#).

The AH&MRC has also created a [Pandemic Toolkit](#) to assist healthcare professionals, community leaders, and decision-makers to enhance preparedness and lessen the impact of a severe pandemic in your community.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to basic food items has been identified as a high need in Aboriginal communities across NSW. The Centre for Aboriginal Health (CAH), in collaboration with the AH&MRC, have worked together to ensure food security for communities. Through this partnership over 23 organisations and many individual community members across the State have received Woolworths Basics Boxes. [Read more.](#)



[Telehealth information for Member Services](#)

On the 13th of March 2020, COVID-19 Temporary Medicare Benefit Scheme (MBS) Telehealth Services were introduced to enable patient access to a variety of healthcare providers including GPs, Nurse Practitioners, Aboriginal Health Practitioners, Mental Health professionals, Allied Health professionals and some medical specialists, through the use of video or telephone calls. For more information read our [Telehealth Factsheet](#) or visit the [MBS website](#).



[Surgical Mask Considerations for Member Services](#)

Due to the global shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) including surgical masks, it is important to ensure these are given and used appropriately to minimise wastage. Surgical masks are not currently recommended for general use by the community. Regular handwashing, coughing safely (covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or into an elbow) and practising social-distancing is essential to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For more information read our [Surgical Mask Factsheet](#).



Australian Government
Department of Health

[Department of Health - Telehealth Funding](#)

AH&MRC is offering financial assistance and support to its Member Services to enhance their telehealth capabilities. This is in accordance with the expanded COVID-19 telehealth MBS items released by the Department of Health. For more information please contact:
Richie Garcia rgarcia@ahmrc.org.au or
Dean Wright dwright@ahmrc.org.au

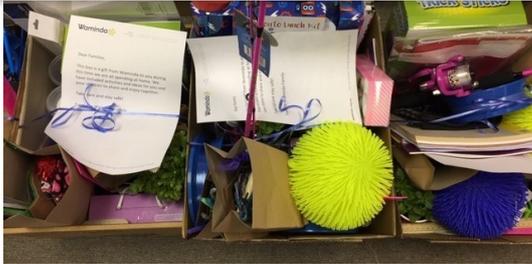


**Aboriginal
Health & Medical
Research Council
of NSW**

[Ear Health Artwork - Expression of Interest \(EOI\)](#)

The AH&MRC is seeking EOIs for an artwork exploring the theme of ear health. The selected artwork will be used for promotional material, resources and uniforms for the AH&MRC Ear and Hearing Coordination Program. The Ear and Hearing Coordination Program has been created in partnership with the Rural Doctors Network. [Find out more.](#)

Member Service Updates



[Waminda SEWB Wellness Packs](#)

The Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) packs have been created through collaborative discussion with women at Waminda in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our beautiful packs are boxes of items and activities that help people feel better in uncertain times. They are as tailored as they can be to each family and person in Community. [Read more.](#)



[Wellington AMS gives 500+ flu shots to Community.](#)

Within a week of receiving supplies of the annual flu vaccination, the Wellington Clinic provided over 520 vaccines to the local community.

Clinic doctors and staff worked above and beyond to administer the 500+ vaccines. The clinic opened on Good Friday to assist people working full time to find time outside the regular clinic hours to get their flu shot. [Read more.](#)

Sector Training



[ADHA - Electronic Prescribing](#)

The ADHA will be hosting an information session on **Electronic Prescribing.**

Electronic prescribing provides an option for prescribers and their patients to have a digital prescription and has been prioritised as part of the COVID-19 national health plan.

This session will be held on Monday, 18 May (1.00-2.00pm AEST). [Find out more.](#)

[Asthma Australia - Free Accredited Training.](#)

Asthma Australia has partnered with Reed Medical Education to create accredited asthma education for GP's and other health professionals.

The Accredited Learning Module (ALM) is called **Asthma in Australia: Practical Solutions for challenges in primary care**, and there are six modules. This free training is available on the Think GP website. [Find out more.](#)



[Communicare Training](#)

AH&MRC have been working with Communicare to organise the following training:

3 Day Super User Training Workshop
Tuesday 19th May – Thursday 21st May

Effective Data Management Course
Thursday 28th May

Please note that you do not need to attend both, if you would like them to attend one please only register for the desired session. [Register now.](#)

[ADHA - Advance Care Planning Training](#)

The ADHA will be hosting an information session on **Advance care planning e-Ordering for Path & DI, preparing GPs for electronic prescribing.**

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, having advance care planning information and pathology reports available in My Health Record is particularly pertinent.

This session will be held on 6 May (1:00 - 2:00pm AEST). [Find out more.](#)

[Rapid response to COVID-19 from Yerin](#)



CEO of Yerin, Belinda Field, said the organisation had to streamline non-essential services into telehealth very quickly to service their large client base. [Read more.](#)

[Bullet proofing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from COVID-19](#)



COVID-19 has forced us to drop almost everything else we do in our daily lives and focus on developing sensible responses to bullet proof our communities against this virus. [Read more.](#)



Got a story or information about your service you'd like to share on Message Stick? We'd love to hear from you!

Send your stories to:
LButler@ahmrc.org.au



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