

VISION STATEMENT

“To Provide and improve health outcomes for our local Aboriginal community with a range of culturally appropriate, flexible, reliable, professional and viable health and well being services, to strengthen, nurture, enhance and maintain the overall quality of life of our community members.”

HISTORY

AWAHS is a non-profit organisation that was developed and set up to cater for the primary health care needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families.

Albury Wodonga is a designated Aboriginal resettlement area, in the late 1960's and early 1970's the government of the day designated Albury Wodonga as an Aboriginal resettlement area, highlighting that Aboriginal families would have greater access to education, health, employment and other essential services.

Over the past 30 odd years the local Aboriginal community of Albury Wodonga which is made up of over 50 different language groups, who lobbied various governments for the establishment of a community owned Aboriginal Health Service.

In 2001 a joint partnership between Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation, Wandoo Aboriginal Corporation and Woomera Aboriginal Corporation was established. This enabled these organisations to undertake a project to establish what the gaps in Aboriginal health were. The final document produced was the Koori Cross Border Health Plan 2001, which highlighted the fact that an Aboriginal Health Service was needed to address the appalling health statistics for Aboriginal people.

From this report a steering committee was formed and along with the guidance of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW the Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service was created.

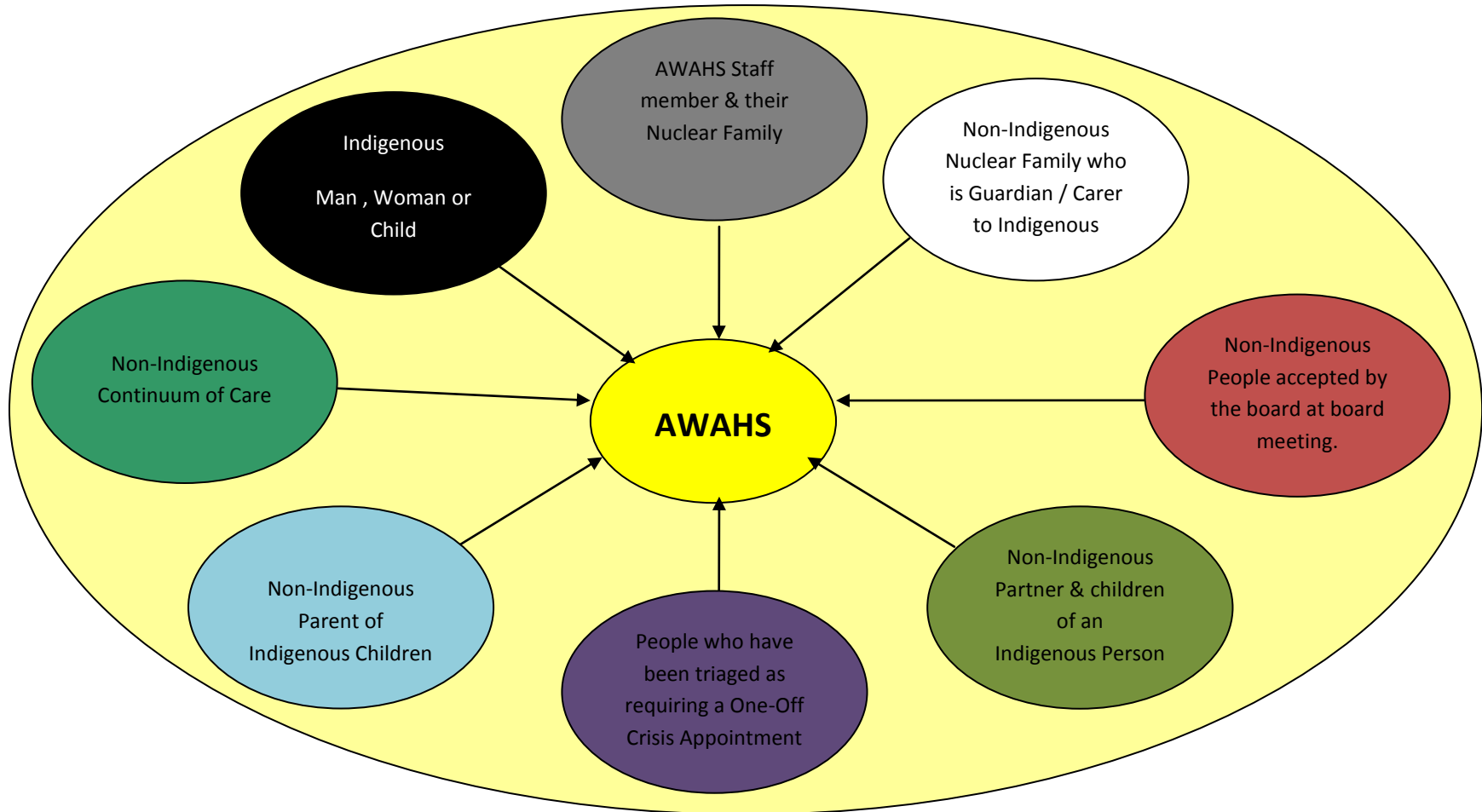
The Health Service was incorporated in September 2003 under the New South Wales Incorporations Act after nearly 32 years of lobbying by various Aboriginal community member and community groups. The Health Service commenced full operational service on the 27th June 2005.

In 2007 AWAHS was successful in receiving funding to build a purpose built facility through a joint venture between OATSIH and NSW HEALTH.

On Wednesday 26th August 2009 AWAHS officially opened its new building to the public. Since 2005 the service has continued to grow and expand, offering new services to the community.

Who Can Attend the Service?

Whilst we are aware that other services treat this issue differently, this is the position that AWAHS have taken in relation to who can attend the service.



Definition: "Nuclear Family" - A partner, a wife/mother, a husband/father, and the dependent children living under the same roof.

MEMBERSHIP

AWAHS is governed by a Voluntary Board of Aboriginal Community members.

If you would like to have your say as to how the organisation is governed then you need to become a member of the organisation.

Members;

Members have attendance, speaking and voting rights at Extraordinary General Meetings and Annual General Meetings of the Association.

Associate Members;

- (i) Associate members have both attendance and speaking rights at Extraordinary General Meetings and Annual General Meetings of the Association but are not entitled to vote nor stand for election as office holders of the Association nor hold office as members on the Executive Committee.
- (ii) However, associate members can be in attendance at Executive Meetings of the Association to provide advice but cannot participate in any vote of the Executive Committee upon which such advice has been given.

How to apply for Membership or Associate Membership

Membership.

A person is qualified to be a member of the AWAHS if, but only if:

- (i) the person is a natural person;
- (ii) the person is a member of the Aboriginal community;
- (iii) the person has attained the age of 18 years;
- (iv) the person has been nominated for membership of the Association.
- (v) the nomination form has been lodged with the Secretary of the Association;
- (vi) the person resides within the boundaries of the *Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service Inc.*
- (vii) the person has been deemed to meet the criteria for membership of the Association by the Executive Committee;
- (viii) Notwithstanding the pivotal nature of Aboriginal culture explicit within this *Constitution* wherever mention is made throughout this document to Aboriginal persons nothing should be construed to mean the exclusion of Torres Strait Islander peoples and membership provisions apply to members of the Torres Strait Islander community living within the boundaries of the area serviced by the *Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service Inc.*

Associate Membership

A person is qualified to be an associate member of the *Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service Inc.* if:

- (i) the person is a natural person;
- (ii) the person has attained the age of 18 years;
- (iii) the person has been nominated for associate membership of the Association
- (iv) the nomination form has been lodged with the Secretary of the Association;
- (v) the person resides within the boundaries of the *Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service Inc.*
- (vi) the person has been deemed to meet the criteria for associate membership of the Association by the Executive Committee;
- (vii) the nomination has been recommended by the Executive Committee to be considered by members at a General Meeting of the Association; and
- (viii) associate membership has been approved by members at the said meeting.

Processing of Membership and Associate Membership Applications

- (i) The person nominated must be over 18 years of age residing within boundaries of the *Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service Inc.*
- (ii) be lodged with the Secretary of the Association and in the manner prescribed in Appendix 2 of the Rules.
- (iii) As soon as practicable after receiving a nomination for membership the Secretary must refer the nomination to the Executive Committee which shall determine whether the applicant meets the criteria for membership or associate membership and whether it approves or rejects the nomination and whether it recommends that the application proceed for consideration at a General Meeting of the Association;
- (iv) Where the Executive Committee determination is not to recommend that a nomination for membership or associate membership proceed for consideration at a General Meeting or Annual General Meeting the Secretary must notify the nominated person in writing of that determination within 21 days;
- (v) Following consideration of a membership or associate membership nomination by members at a General Meeting or an Annual General Meeting the Secretary shall notify the applicant in writing within twenty one (21) days of the meeting advising.
 - acceptance as a member or associate member of the Association; or
 - unsuccessful nomination as a member or associate member of the Association; or
 - deferral of decision;
- (vi) Upon acceptance into membership or associate membership the Secretary must, subject to Clause enter the nominee's name in the register of members and, on the name being so entered, the nominee becomes a member or associate membership of the Association; and
- (vii) Upon a nominee being accepted into membership or associate membership the Secretary shall request \$2 sum payable outlined in Rule 14 within the period of 28 days after receipt by the nominee of the notification.

Members at a General Meeting or an Annual General Meeting of the Association, and Executive Committee members in the course of their

duty, may at their discretion refuse any nomination for membership deemed not to have met the criteria for membership or not recommended that it proceed for consideration at a General Meeting and the Association need assign no reason for such refusal;