

GRIFFITH ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE



WEAVING WORKSHOP

On Friday 23rd January the Griffith AMS hosted a Weaving Workshop that was facilitated by Melissa Cummings. Thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a special day!

YOUTH BLACK EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026

We proudly celebrated our young people at the Youth Black Excellence Awards 2026 in January, marking two years of Griffith AMS Youth Services. The youth-led evening recognised Aboriginal young people aged 12–24 across Griffith AMS, Murrin Bridge AHS and Hay AMS Youth Services, with 20 nominees across seven categories.

Congratulations to our 2026 award winners:

- Cultural Pride: Braelan Williams
- Community Champion: Lomani Judd
- Leadership & Team Spirit: Foday Kamara
- Sports Achievement: Sosaia Finefeuiaki
- Creative Arts: Lijanah Philp
- Academic Achievement: Jarra Harrison
- Youth of the Year: Marcus Williams



AOD & YOUTH MEET & GREET MORNING TEA

On the 23rd February we welcomed community members, partner organisations and service providers to a Meet and Greet Morning Tea at the new Youth Services and AOD building at 5 Wiradjuri Place. The event was a fantastic success, with over 40 attendees coming along to connect with our teams, explore the space and learn more about the supports available for Aboriginal young people (12–17) and adults accessing Drug and Alcohol Services. It was a great opportunity to strengthen partnerships and showcase the important work happening in this new space.



FAREWELL JASVEEN

On the 30th January we unfortunately said goodbye to our lovely Psychologist, Jasveen. There were a few tears shared as we farewelled her and we just want to say thank you for all the care, compassion and dedication she's given to our community. We will truly miss you Jas and wish you all the best in everything that's ahead!



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST!

Something new is cooking in Griffith! Our Community Breakfast launched on Wednesday 18th February, offering a free breakfast for all each week from 8am - 9am. With the rising cost of living, this initiative provides a welcoming space to grab a nutritious meal, start the day right and connect with community. Locations rotate across Griffith each week. Keep an eye out on Facebook for updates and come along to join us.



MINHI MINGAAN WOMEN'S GROUP

A lovely little trip out to Lake Wyangan for our Minhi Mingaan Women's Group on Friday 23rd Feb. They spent the time gathering natural resources for making outfits, coming together for a yarn and a feed and just enjoying each other's company. To top it all off, they were greeted by some special visitors at the end of the day, two dinawans came over to say hello. A special little moment to wrap up the outing.



SUN SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

Throughout February, GAMS proudly delivered a range of Sun Safety Awareness activities across our community. From handing out free hats and sunscreen at the local pool, to sharing zooper doopers and sun safety resources with tradies around town, our team made sure the message reached mob of all ages. We also visited several local schools, yarned about Slip, Slop, Slap and donated bucket hats to help students stay protected. A big thank you to everyone who supported and participated in helping keep our community sun safe this summer.



SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming lessons started back up for our Marrabinya Mother's Group, with families enjoying time at the pool building water confidence and essential safety skills. It's been wonderful to see mums and little ones learning together in a fun and supportive environment. For further information about our Marrabinya Mother's Group please contact our Child & Maternal Health Team on 69620000.



RIVERINA REGIONAL DRUG & ALCOHOL NETWORK MEETING

On Thursday 26th February, the GAMS AOD Team hosted the first Riverina Regional Drug and Alcohol Network Meeting for 2026, bringing together regional partners to strengthen collaboration and culturally safe support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults across the Riverina.

For more information, please contact Program Manager Vickie Louise Simpson on 6962 0000.



YOUTH FRIDAY NIGHT DROP INS

Our first Friday Night Drop In of the term kicked off with making chocolates and chocolate covered strawberries, sharing sweet treats and good yarns.

The Drop In runs every Friday from 4pm - 8pm at the Youth Safe Space for Aboriginal young people aged 12 - 17.

AUNTY JEANS BEAT THE BOONDAH

Michaela, Glen and Jess attended the Griffith Aunty Jean's group on Wednesday 24th Feb at Griffith TAFE to run the Beat the Boondah program. They had a great yarn about smoking and how it has changed over the years and vaping & the effects it is having on our communities now. They also played a game of Smoking BINGO! It was a deadly program.





MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

We're pleased to welcome two new team members to our Family Wellbeing Team. Paris Owen has joined GAMS as our new Provisional Psychologist and is available Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4pm. Lily Setu has also joined the team as a Counsellor and is available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.30am to 4pm. We look forward to the valuable support they will provide to individuals and families in our community.

BACK TO SCHOOL MINI HEALTH PASSPORT

On Thursday 12th February our Mini Health Passport Day helped Aboriginal young people aged 12 to 17 start the school year feeling healthy and supported. Participants moved through a range of mini health check stations including blood pressure, eye checks, height and weight, mental health and alcohol screening and smoking and vaping information, along with free school kits and a lucky door prize. Thank you to our GAMS teams and partners who helped make the day a success.



CLOSE THE GAP MORNING TEA

Join us at 5 Wiradjuri Place on Thursday 19th March from 9.30am to 11.30am as we come together for National Close the Gap Day and Kidney Cancer Awareness Month. Enjoy a cuppa and a yarn, connect with community and grab a free coffee from the van on site. Wear orange and stand with us as we continue working towards closing the gap in health outcomes for our mob.



The poster features a dark background with intricate Aboriginal dot patterns in shades of brown, orange, and yellow. At the top center is the Australian Coat of Arms. Below it, the title 'CLOSE THE GAP MORNING TEA' is written in large, bold, orange capital letters. Underneath the title, smaller text reads 'Coming together for National Close the Gap Day and Kidney Cancer Awareness Month'. The main body of text, in orange, invites people to join for a cuppa and a yarn, mentions a free coffee van, and lists the date and time: Thursday 19th March 2026, 9:30am - 11:30am, at 5 Wiradjuri Place, Griffith. It also encourages wearing orange. At the bottom, it states the event is hosted by the Griffith AMS Programs Team and provides contact information for Jacinta: 0269620000 or joakley@griffithams.org.au. The bottom of the poster shows two hands holding white mugs of coffee. The mug on the left has the Australian flag, and the mug on the right has a yellow ribbon, symbolizing kidney cancer awareness.

**CLOSE THE GAP
MORNING TEA**

Coming together for National Close the Gap Day and
Kidney Cancer Awareness Month

Join us for a cuppa and a yarn.
Free coffee van on site
Everyone is welcome!
Thursday 19th March 2026
9:30am - 11:30am
5 Wiradjuri Place, Griffith
Show your support by wearing orange.

Hosted by the Griffith AMS Programs Team
For any enquiries, please contact Jacinta
0269620000 or joakley@griffithams.org.au



CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

Protecting the privacy and rights of our clients and individuals within our community is a priority to the Board of Management and Staff of the AMS. There are strict guidelines and safeguards in place to ensure that this happens. Any breach of AMS policy in regard to this matter will result in swift disciplinary action against any AMS Board or Staff Member.



MARRABINYA MOTHERS GROUP

COME ALONG FOR LOTS OF FUN

TUESDAYS

(NOT DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS)

11AM - 1:30PM AT GAMS

ALL MUMS WITH ABORIGINAL BUBS AGED 0-4 YRS WELCOME TO COME ALONG

MORNING TEA & LUNCH INCLUDED

WHAT WE DO AT GROUP:

- ARTS & CRAFTS
- GUEST SPEAKERS
- DEVELOPMENTAL & SENSORY PLAY
- SUPPORT WITH PARENTING

UPCOMING TUESDAY DATES:

10 TH FEB	10 TH MAR
17 TH FEB	17 TH MAR
24 TH FEB	24 TH FEB
3 RD MAR	31 ST MAR

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE CHILD & MATERNAL HEALTH TEAM ON 6962 0000



AUNTY JEANS GRIFFITH

COME ALONG EVERY TUESDAY FOR SOME GENTLE EXERCISE, HEALTHY LUNCH & A YARN

AT GRIFFITH TAFE (CAR ACCESS VIA BENEREMBAH ST OPPOSITE THE OLD NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE BUILDING)

FROM 10AM - 2PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE MLHD ABORIGINAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER CANDY ON 0436856358

Murrumbidgee Local Health District



BIDGEE BOYS

ABORIGINAL YOUNG MEN'S GROUP

EMPOWERING BROTHERHOOD, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY FOR YOUNG ABORIGINAL MEN AGED 12-17

EVERY WEDNESDAY FOR TERM 1 2026

4:30PM - 5:30PM

YOUTH SAFE SPACE

5 WIRADJURI PLACE

TRANSPORT HOME PROVIDED

DON'T GET PLAYED BY VAPES.



Quitline 13 7848

