

# CONNECT

Issue 2

# with RESPECT

## ENHANCING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Eastern Health is committed to making itself an employer of choice for Aboriginal people in Melbourne's east.



*CAREER OPPORTUNITIES: Aboriginal Employment Co-ordinator Kalina Morgan-Whyman provides support to Eastern Health's Aboriginal employees.*

Aboriginal Employment Co-ordinator Kalina Morgan-Whyman said her main tasks were to provide support to Aboriginal employees at Eastern Health and increase opportunities for community members and potential candidates interested in working at Eastern Health.

"It's about ensuring Eastern Health is a culturally safe workplace, creating connections and building relationships with Aboriginal staff and the community."

Although Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represent three per cent of Australia's population, Kalina said they had disproportionately greater health needs.

"A strong and diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce has a key role to play in Closing the Health Gap. It's important we make services more culturally appropriate and accessible by bringing a unique understanding

to health delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people."

Eastern Health's renewed Aboriginal Employment Plan builds on the success of its earlier plan, working towards growing, developing and sustaining a talented and versatile workforce of Aboriginal staff.

"Initiatives are being put in place to improve and sustain employment and training opportunities, and build a service that is culturally responsive," said Benaifer Sabavala, Human Resources Director of Organisational Development & Workforce Planning.

The beginning of 2017 has seen the creation of four Aboriginal identified roles within Eastern Health, two of which provide those employees with an opportunity to undertake further training through a certificate qualification.

**i** To find out more about Eastern Health's Aboriginal Employment Plan and employment opportunities visit [www.easternhealth.org.au](http://www.easternhealth.org.au) or contact 9095 2491.

## FAMILY FUN AT HEALESVILLE



*COMMUNITY FUN: Eastern Health is set to host its fifth Closing the Gap Family Sports Day on March 5.*

**Aboriginal sports hero Nova Peris will be a special guest at Eastern Health's Closing the Gap Family Sports Day on Sunday, March 5 in Healesville.**

Now in its fifth year, the event will feature some of the best Aboriginal sporting talent in the region challenging Eastern Health staff in a football match and netball tournament.

Nova was the first Aboriginal Australian to win an Olympic gold medal, representing her country with distinction in hockey and athletics. She will assist with children's running races on the day.

Other family entertainment will include face painting, a petting zoo, jumping castle, art competitions, showbags and giveaways. The day will also feature a traditional Welcome to Country, with community health information also available.

Eastern Health Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer Jo Voce said the event played an important role in breaking down cultural barriers. "It is a great way for Eastern Health to inform the local Aboriginal community about the wide range of services we have on offer."

*The Eastern Health Closing the Gap Family Sports Day will be on Sunday, March 5 at the Don Road Sporting Complex in Healesville from 9.30am to 3.30pm.*



Eastern Health is committed to achieving equality in health status between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-indigenous Australians.

# HEALTH MATTERS

Eastern Health's dedicated Aboriginal Health Team works hard to deliver quality care to Aboriginal people.



**COMMUNITY CARE:**  
Megan Prout and  
Gail Crozier are part  
of Eastern Health's  
Aboriginal Health Team.

The team offers a range of services, including screening and monitoring of health issues; and supporting people to access medical services.

It also provides counselling and emotional support, practical assistance with domestic duties and property maintenance, as well as community activities and events.

Team leader Andrew Kaias said although the Aboriginal Health Team was based in Healesville, it provided services across the eastern region.

He said it was important that Eastern Health had a dedicated Aboriginal Health Team, to ensure Aboriginal people in the region had access to specialised services.

"It is important we have a service that will help us to achieve the aims of our Closing the Health Gap strategy, and create equal access to services," Andrew said.

"A lot of the work our team does is about advocating and brokering for existing health services to provide

care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in a culturally respectful manner.

"It is about having an entry point to the health system that is safe and accessible for Aboriginal community members."

The Aboriginal Health Team has a diverse staff, which reflects the importance of providing quality, localised care for Aboriginal people in Melbourne's east. One of its main objectives is promoting Aboriginal employment, with more than half of its staff identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

"It's great having a mix of health professionals from a variety of backgrounds – including Aboriginal health workers, nurses, social work, psychology and community development workers - as well as a mix of non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal staff," Andrew said.

"It means we can provide a service that is both clinically and culturally informed and suits the particular preference of the person accessing the service."

**“It's great having a mix of health professionals from a variety of backgrounds – including Aboriginal health workers, nurses, social work, psychology and community development workers - as well as a mix of non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal staff.”**

– Andrew Kaias

## ABORIGINAL HEALTH TEAM

Eastern Health's Aboriginal Health Team is a community-based service based in Healesville that is accessible by Aboriginal people and their families living anywhere in Eastern Health's catchment.

It provides a range of services that are available on-site in Healesville and through home visits and outreach support. These include:

- Ⓞ **Primary health care:** health checks, nursing support and general health information and education.
- Ⓞ **Case management and advocacy:** care planning, case management, referral and advocacy for other services.
- Ⓞ **Social and emotional wellbeing:** counselling services, school-based programs and education support.
- Ⓞ **Home and community care:** domestic assistance, property maintenance and social events.

**i** The Aboriginal Health Team is located at 305-307 Maroondah Highway, Healesville and is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm. Phone **5957 1100** or email **AHTIntake@easternhealth.org.au**



# **CLOSING THE GAP FAMILY SPORTS DAY**

**Sunday 5 March 2017**

**9.30am-3.30pm**

**Don Road Sporting Complex, Healesville**

**Melway: 278 H5**

As part of Eastern Health's commitment to closing the health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-indigenous Australians, we are hosting our fifth annual community sports event. Eastern Health staff will play netball and football against some of the best Aboriginal sporting talent in Melbourne's east. The event will help to bring the community together and raise awareness of local health services.



**Connect with respect**

**Special guest:**

**Nova Peris**

**Aboriginal sports star and Olympic gold medallist**

**Highlights include: netball competition, football match, Aboriginal dance, Welcome to Country, interactive health information stands, face painting, petting zoo, jumping castle, running races, giveaways and showbags. Food and drink available.**

**Join us for a great family day out!**

**Details: Ph 5957 1100**