



Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Annual Report 2019-2020

Our VISION for the future

A healthy, self-determined and respected Tasmanian Aboriginal Community

Our central PURPOSE

To improve the circumstances and pursue the rights and interests of the Aboriginal community in Tasmania

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2017-2020

1. *Strong, safe, resilient community*

A group of stylized human figures in various colors and sizes, representing a diverse and inclusive community.

2. *Land, heritage and culture*

A black silhouette of a turtle on the left, and a group of stylized human figures on the right, representing land, heritage, and culture.

3. *Business and economic development*

A stylized person standing next to a presentation board with a pie chart and a speech bubble containing a dollar sign, representing business and economic development.

4. *Strong, well-functioning TAC*

A stylized person pointing at a bar chart, representing a strong, well-functioning Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC).

5. *External profile and influence*

A collection of stylized buildings, including a hospital, a police station, and a government building, representing external profile and influence.

The Year in Review

Responding to the COVID pandemic

- Art and activity packs provided to children and families at home
- Food or prepared meals delivered to housebound community members
- Hand sanitiser provided to community members, especially older people
- Changing work operations to mainly working from home
- Switching to phone rather than face to face consultations
- Use of laptop computers and mobile phones rather than office bound equipment
- Postponement or cancellation of major events

Services

- The only service discontinued was the school holiday program where we had neither the staff nor the funds to continue during COVID-19
- Health and related services continued with less face to face consultations
- Direct support to people and families in need was upscaled to cater for lockdowns

Advocacy and Policy

- Our Public Health Medical Officer, Dr Maureen Davey, represented our interests at the State and national levels with her expert advice on preventing the spread of COVID-19
- We continued to be part of the national Aboriginal community controlled health sector through our membership of NACCHO with Raylene Foster being our NACCHO Board member, and our role as the National Affiliate organisation
- Public representation on topics of concern to the Aboriginal community was primarily the responsibility of the CEO of TAC, Heather Sculthorpe, who continued press and media during the COVID-19 lockdown
- Senior staff continued advocacy for the Aboriginal community through participation on Boards and in meetings of organisations like TasCOSS and Alcohol and Other Drugs Council
- TAC participated in the development of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap designed to eliminate the gap in life expectancy between Aborigines and others in Australia. This work is led by the National Coalition of Peak Aboriginal Organisations of which TAC is a member organisation represented by our CEO

Community and Governance

- TAC Branch meetings continued to be held to ensure Aboriginal community input into our operations and policy
- Community input and feedback continued through our services provided statewide
- TAC Board met its governance obligations to oversee the operations of our organisation
- TAC acquired all relevant accreditation and was fully compliant to all Standards

Our Organisation chart



Board of Directors

Chairperson

Carla Jennings

Directors

Annette Peardon

Michael (Smokey) Beeton

Greg Brown

Lucas Maynard

Thomas Riley

Branch delegates

South - Douglas Mansell

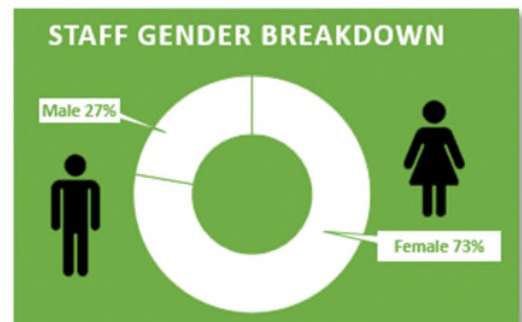
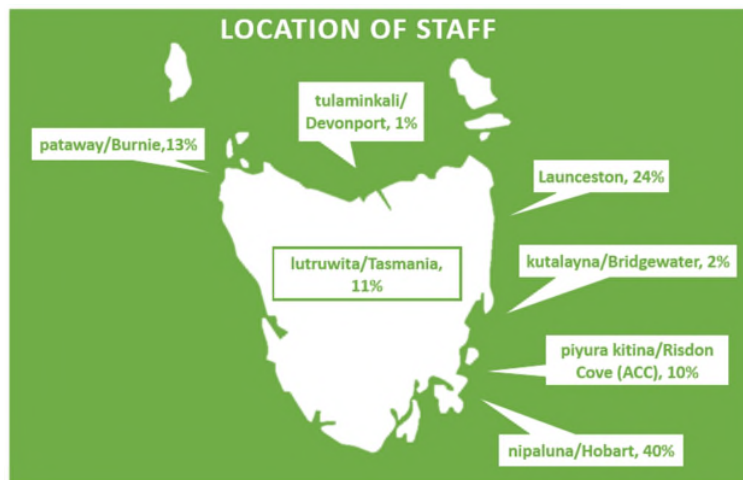
North - Bianca Templar

North West - Caleb Nichols-Mansell

Our staff


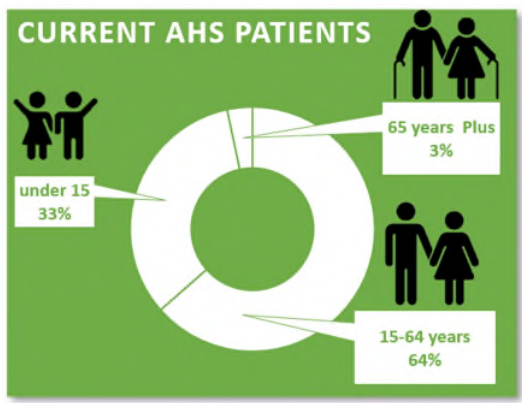
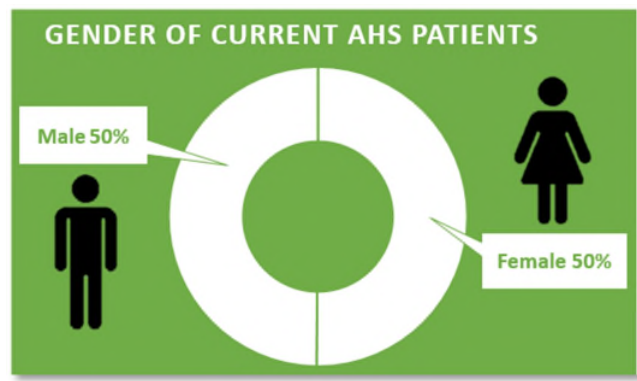
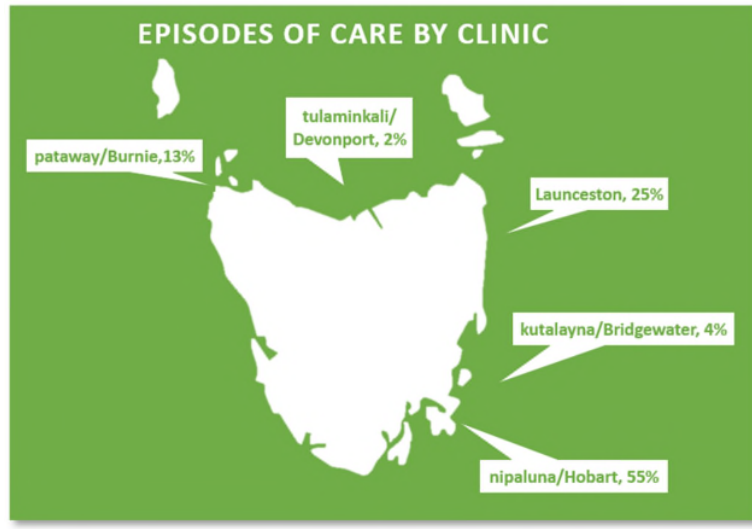

We employ **161** staff across the state

43 staff are full time, **77** are part time, **41** casuals



Health

Our Aboriginal Health Service provides a comprehensive suite of primary health care services to Aboriginal people and their families throughout the state. Our knowledge of health conditions affecting Tasmanian Aboriginal people is deepened by what we have learnt through CPHC services across Tasmania over the last 30 years. We provide direct care to individuals, families and community groups, and promote all aspects of social, emotional, cultural and physical wellbeing. We aim to improve antenatal and child and maternal health, provide preventative health education and to manage chronic diseases for Aboriginal people.

<p>4,069 current patients </p>	<p>43% under 20 years of age</p>
 <p>CURRENT AHS PATIENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-64 years: 64% under 15: 33% 65 years Plus: 3% 	 <p>GENDER OF CURRENT AHS PATIENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male: 50% Female: 50%
 <p>EPISODES OF CARE BY CLINIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> nipaluna/Hobart: 55% Launceston: 25% pataway/Burnie: 13% kutalayna/Bridgewater: 4% tulaminkali/Devonport: 2% 	<p>5 clinics  across the state</p> <p>47,295 episodes of care*state-wide</p> <p>*An episode of care is a contact between an individual client and service, with one or more staff, to provide health care within one calendar day. All contacts on the one day are treated as one episode of care</p>
<p>17,130 GP client contacts, 15% Increase</p>	
<p>1,527 Dietician client contacts, 4% increase</p>	

99% of children 12-72 months of age are immunised

71% of pregnant women receiving their first antenatal check in the first trimester

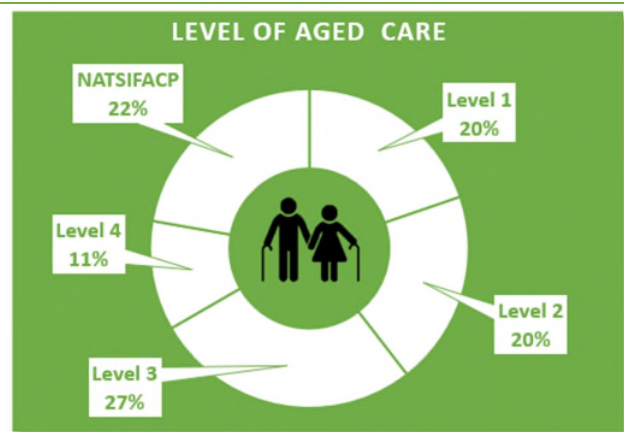
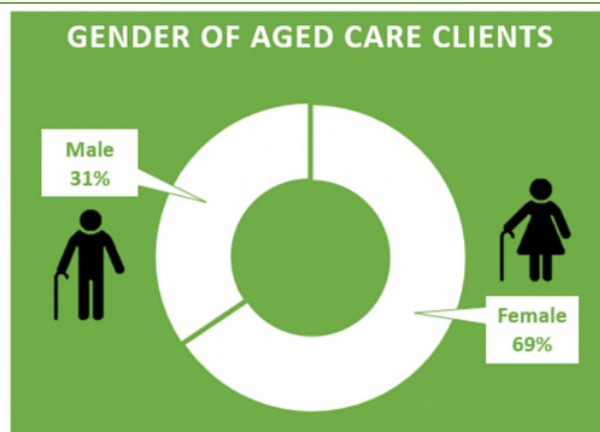
67% of clients over 50 year of age received the influenza immunisation

76% of adults over 55 years of age received a Health Check (Item 715) in last two years

Aged Care Program

The Aged Care Program is a provider of the Commonwealth Government's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program (NATSIFACP) and the Home Care Packages. This year we have seen many clients move to receiving individualised care under the Home Care Package Program with benefits ranging from level 1 to level 4 depending on need.

Aged Care Program supported **81** members of our community to live independently



18 Elders group activities held, with average **14** Elders attending each group activity

63 Elders transitioned to the new Home Care Packages

72 years– average age of our Aged Care clients

Training Services

407 people undertook training across **108** training events covering **57** different subject areas with **15** of these being accredited training courses

4 participants graduated with Certificate IV Alcohol and Other Drugs

16 staff began training in Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.	
25% more staff received training this year	35% of training was online
85% of training was delivered in Tasmania	24% of training was accredited/recognised

Cultural Awareness Training



197 people in **12** courses delivered across the state undertaking required and/or developmental training opportunities. Decrease from last year due to COVID-19 shutting our door

92% feedback from sessions received “good to very good” ratings

Aboriginal Children’s Centre – piyura kitina (Risdon Cove)

The Aboriginal Children’s Centre is a childcare subsidy approved childcare centre in Southern Tasmania. The Aboriginal Children’s Centre remains focused on connecting children with country and ensuring the children are immersed in culture daily.

<p>ABORIGINAL CHILDREN’S CENTRE LICENCED PLACES</p> <p>4 5 20 25</p> <p>Nursery Toddler room 3 to 5 Years room Vacation Care</p>	<p>Care runs daily in three rooms for 29 children</p> <p>Most rooms are consistently filled, with the 3 to 5 year room averaging 14 participants.</p> <p>There is a wait list for Nursery and Toddlers room</p>
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52 care packs (numeracy/literacy/cultural activities) sent to families during COVID-19

19 families impacted by cancelling the cultural school holiday program due to COVID-19

Family Support

Our community support team offers a range of services to Aboriginal families throughout Tasmania

3,944 contacts with families by Family Support Workers

126 livings skills group activities held, with a focus on cooking and nutrition

43 school children supported by Preparing for Success at School workers

22 playgroup sessions in Burnie with average **18** parents and children each week

5 youth (aged 11-15) participated in the yearly mutton bird monitoring with the TAC's Land Management crew on Big Dog Island.

50 Launceston community members attended **4** family holiday On Country trips to tulampanga & Mole Creek Caves, Lagoon of Islands, narawntapu & Greens Beach, and Oura Oura & Liffey Falls.

rana, payngana, paliti rrala

Our rana, payngana, paliti rrala (Strong in body, mind and spirit) program is designed to meet the social, emotional, spiritual wellbeing needs of our community. Part of our team is made up of qualified Counsellors who provide culturally appropriate counselling services and mental health support. Also, we have community based social and emotional wellbeing workers who ensure that the community is connected and engaged in community and well-being activities.

109 groups and community events

12 community commemorative, celebratory & educational events

19 'virtual' group activities in response to COVID-19

60 activity kits and **300** arts and crafts kits delivered during lock down

takamuna pakana

takamuna pakana (recreational and sporting assistance) enables Aboriginal community members to have equitable access to sports participation in club and representative sport through the financial assistance of memberships and equipment.

129 participants

31% participants engaged in ball sports

23 elite athletes (AFL, basketball, swimming, BMX, athletics & karate)

Integrated Team Care ITC

The Integrated Team Care (ITC team) provides care coordination to help community members who have chronic health conditions. We support patients with better access to health specialists as well as providing access to resources that normally would be inaccessible due to cost or wait-list times.

213 patients: **90** Males and **123** Females

96 clients assisted with transport

rrala milaythina-ti (Strong in Country) project



rrala milaythina-ti project assisted Aboriginal community members to spend time on milaythina (country) around the state. Community were provided with opportunities to connect with milaythina to improve their social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.



92 participants on **6** strong in country camps

11 day trips

10 short films produced

704 Facebook followers

17,580 Facebook visits

Oldest participant **73** years of age and youngest **20** months

Land Management



TAC has land management crews across lutruwita/Tasmania including on the West Coast, the Furneaux Islands and in the South. Much of the work is weed eradication, with infrastructure maintenance and heritage protection the other important tasks.

10,650 hectares of land managed

4 land management crews

12 Aboriginal rangers

 Badger Island			 lungtalanana			 Chappell Island/ Hummocky		
Cultural and Heritage cyclical maintenance plans completed			52.96 hectares burned			64.13 hectares of boxthorn pushed up and burned		
5 hectares within the fenced area of airstrip maintained			2 isolated spots of gorse treated			1.7 hectares of slashing for the runway		
2 isolated spots of boxthorn treated			47.5 kilometres of tracks slashed			3.7 km of tracks maintained and cleared		
Badger Island Heritage Walk established			3.2 hectares of slashing for the runway			Cultural and Heritage site report completed, and an annual inspection plan established.		
 piyura kitina			 putalina			 Preminghana		
12 areas of periwinkle, bridal creeper and boneseed treated			0.42 hectares of isolated area burned			23.8 hectares of gorse sprayed		
2.16 hectares of isolated burns conducted			2 isolated spots of blackberries treated			2 hectares of gorse mulched		
5.6 hectares of land slashed over the year.			13 radiata pine trees removed			39.5 hectares burned		
 Kings Run			 trawtha makuminya					
Tracks on property improved			39.5 hectares burned					
 Babel Island								
Mutton bird monitoring survey completed			3.04 hectares of boxthorn burned					
1 historical mutton bird shed stabilised								
 Big Dog Island								
17.4 km tracks slashed and cleared			21 incidents of boxthorn treated					
44.96 hectares burned in partnership with shed bosses			312 incidents of mirror bush treated.					
Mutton bird monitoring survey completed, including two shed bosses, truwana rangers and youth camp								

palawa kani

Our language team continued their efforts in reviving our language and sharing their knowledge with community members. We also tried to educate politicians and the broader community about how we do our language work in order to promote the authenticity of our language.

2nd palawa kani episode of Little J & Big Cuz, muta prungi (Pilot Bird)	Launceston palawa kani and youth groups involved in MONA FOMA productions.
68 words retrieved and added to the palawa kani database	31 TAC staff trained in palawa kani
11 non-Aboriginal people trained for their programs working with Aboriginal people	
510 people from pregnant mums, preschool age children to elders participated in palawa kani activities across the state, including truwana Cape Barren Island.	
195 palawa kani place names uploaded to the pulingina lutruwita place names map https://tacinc.com.au/pulingina-to-lutruwita-tasmania-place-names-map/	
4 palawa kani PowerPoint presentations developed and delivered to government Ministers, local Councils and other interest groups	
7,500 people read and heard palawa kani in speeches, on social media platforms, TV reports and YouTube clips.	

COVID-19

Preventing the introduction of COVID-19 into our community has been our prime response, with plans also being developed to deal with any outbreak around the State. Making our health services flexible and responsive to changing circumstances has been at the forefront of our work.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander COVID-19 Advisory Group: participating in weekly meetings by teleconference and in the working group which developed guidance for urban and regional Aboriginal populations throughout the country.

Policy and resource development: including urban and regional guidance, vaccination prioritisation (for ATAGI working group), Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service involvement in contact tracing, input into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific COVID-19 training modules (developed by Australian National University), health care worker infections analysis and disability (First Nations Peoples Disability Network representation and inclusion in policy development).

Information sharing: involving national response updates (Department and AHPCC), updates on COVID outbreaks in Victoria, South Australia and youth detention services in Queensland, surveillance/epidemiology plans and updates, remote modelling updates, point-of-care testing program, mental health funding and communications, vaccine strategy updates, wastewater testing, aged care response and COVID-19 and disaster preparedness

Tasmanian Government: including participation in the State Planning Network, meetings with Public Health Services and Tasmanian Health Services

Aboriginal organisations in Tasmania: state-wide TAC services as well as emailing and phone liaising with other Commonwealth Health Department funded organisations across Tasmania

Partnerships

We work closely with many other organisations to achieve our goals, some went above and beyond, and we thank them. Our main partners included:

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council Tasmania
Tobacco Coalition
Salvation Army Bridge Program
Second Bite
Bob Brown Foundation
University of Tasmania Medical School
Tasmanian Council of Social Services
General Practice Training Tasmania
Breastfeeding Coalition
Children's Commissioner
Tasmanian Wilderness Society
Tasmanian Land Conservancy
Keogh Bay
Closing the Gap Partners
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and Affiliates

Financial Report 2019/2020

Income and Expenditure Statement

Income	
Grants	12,613,368
Gain on the Disposal of Assets	58,635
Fees & Other Income	3,734,402
Interest	208,275
Total Income	\$16,614,680

Expenditure	
Salaries and Employment Costs	9,963,246
Travel	336,257
Vehicle Costs	475,987
Resources, Materials, Supplies	760,492
Professional & Consultancy Costs	1,338,193
Miscellaneous Program Expenses	53,940
Utilities	576,691
Repairs & Maintenance	433,283
Insurances	137,156
Depreciation for the Year	418,020
Loss on Revaluation of Assets	0
Total Expenditure	\$14,493,265

Asset Revaluation Reserve Movement	
Revaluation Increments	1,627,651
Revaluation Decrements	0
Total Asset Revaluation Reserve Movement	\$1,627,651

Total Comprehensive Income	\$3,749,066
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Balance Sheet

Assets	
Current Assets	16,048,438
Non-current Assets	15,870,211
Total Assets	\$31,918,649
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	3,871,107
Non-current Liabilities	568,804
Total Liabilities	\$4,439,911

TOTAL INCOME
\$16,614,680

TOTAL EXPENDITURE
\$14,493,265

NET INCOME
\$3,749,066

