

# MOH-SHEOC

## Regional NSW Far West LHD

### Wilcannia Demployment – 2021



**HNELHD - Aboriginal Health Unit Staff**  
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# Acknowledgement to Country

We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners for allowing us to work and travel through the lands of the Barkindji, we also acknowledge we are all meeting on Aboriginal Land today and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and all colleagues on this webinar.



# Hospital in the Home Model of Care

- ✓ clinical care that reduces the length of stay in hospital
  - ✓ provide health care within a home

## *Caring in their homes has been identified to*

- improve patient care
- remain comfort within the home
  - more accessible
  - culturally appropriate
- eliminates clients/families to organise transport to appointments
- eliminate financial stress
- sometimes hospital admission altogether

# What did the team consist of?

## **3 Staff Members**

1 Mental Health Worker/Clinician

1 Registered Nurse/Clinical Nurse Consultant

1 Aboriginal Health Worker





# What was conducted at home visits?

- Observations
- Taking Client/Family pulse rate, & oxygen levels
- Record COVID symptoms
- Provide medical advice to on how to manage symptoms whilst isolating at home
- Cultural Support
- Social & Wellbeing Yarn
- Mental Health Assessment
- Coordinating Accommodation & Transport
- Risk Assessment for Domestic Violence & Children at Risk/Harm
- Delivering Food & Household essentials
- Delivering or making referrals to local Aboriginal stakeholders or services

# Warrawong Confirm Cases Accommodation



- Not Culturally Appropriate
- Not Family Friendly for families who had heaps of household members
- This accommodation was always at capacity
- Only had 2 families cabins to accommodate Aboriginal Families



# Challenges along the way with conducting HITH- home visits

- Remote – unable to find addresses due to lack of repairs and maintenance to home (no numbers on mailboxes, or no mailboxes at all) Wilcannia Community not getting the support for repairs to their homes
- Overcrowding houses families/clients advising unable to isolate safety or no COVID19 safety plan due to much family within home
- Some clients frequently changing location to house to house which lead to HITH team to locate and drive around to still be able to preform health care to client/families
- Homes not culturally appropriate built, no community consultation with developing of homes initially , no fans, no air conditioning, or heating at some households.
- Extended family come down initially for family funerals and were stuck in Wilcannia for 4-8+ weeks

# Major Health Concerns/Impacts

- Mental Health
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Chronic Diseases
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Overcrowded Houses
- Lack of Services example; Dentist, NDIS Support
- Lack of access to Nutrition and household essentials
- Cost Effective for Living and Needs

# Far West COVID19 Cases Timeline

**15/09/2021:** First case reported on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2021.

- Bringing total numbers to 176, 45 in Broken Hill and 130 in Wilcannia and 1 in Balranald.

**22/09/2021:** Updated figures to 208. 62 in Broken Hill, 145 in

- Wilcannia and 1 in Balranald.

**1/10/2021:** Updated figures to 262. 109 in Broken Hill, 152 in

- Wilcannia and 1 in Balranald.

**04/10/2021:** Updated figures to 273. 119 in Broken Hill, 152 in

- Wilcannia, 1 in Balranald and 1 in Menindee.



# Community Supported Accommodation

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- 34 Campervans for the new community support accommodation (at the Victory Park Caravan Park) arrived on site during 4-5 September to further assist close contacts of people with COVID-19 to isolate safely. options for people, helping to protect their loved ones and reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.
- Risk identified– Elders were not consulted about arrangement of CSA- Concern raised fences were a barrier for family to feel culturally safe.
- CE approved vans to be turned around, fences removed to be able to cater for large families.



Staff on the ground 24/7 to support the families

# Cultural Safety

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- AHW meet and greet family on arrival
- Assist Police deliver NSW Health orders on site
- Assist staff at morning and evening welfare checks.



- **AHW connection with mob helped form family relationship and trust.**
- **AHW - knowledge translator between family, staff and community to access supplies.**
- **Health Literacy – culturally appropriate.**

**Importance of Cultural Knowledge and Connections.**  
 Understanding of transgenerational trauma, neglect, lack of services and complexities of working outback

- **Staff allowing flexibility ensuring family felt culturally safe/supported**
- **Establish relationship and build trust with family.**
- **Shared decision making**

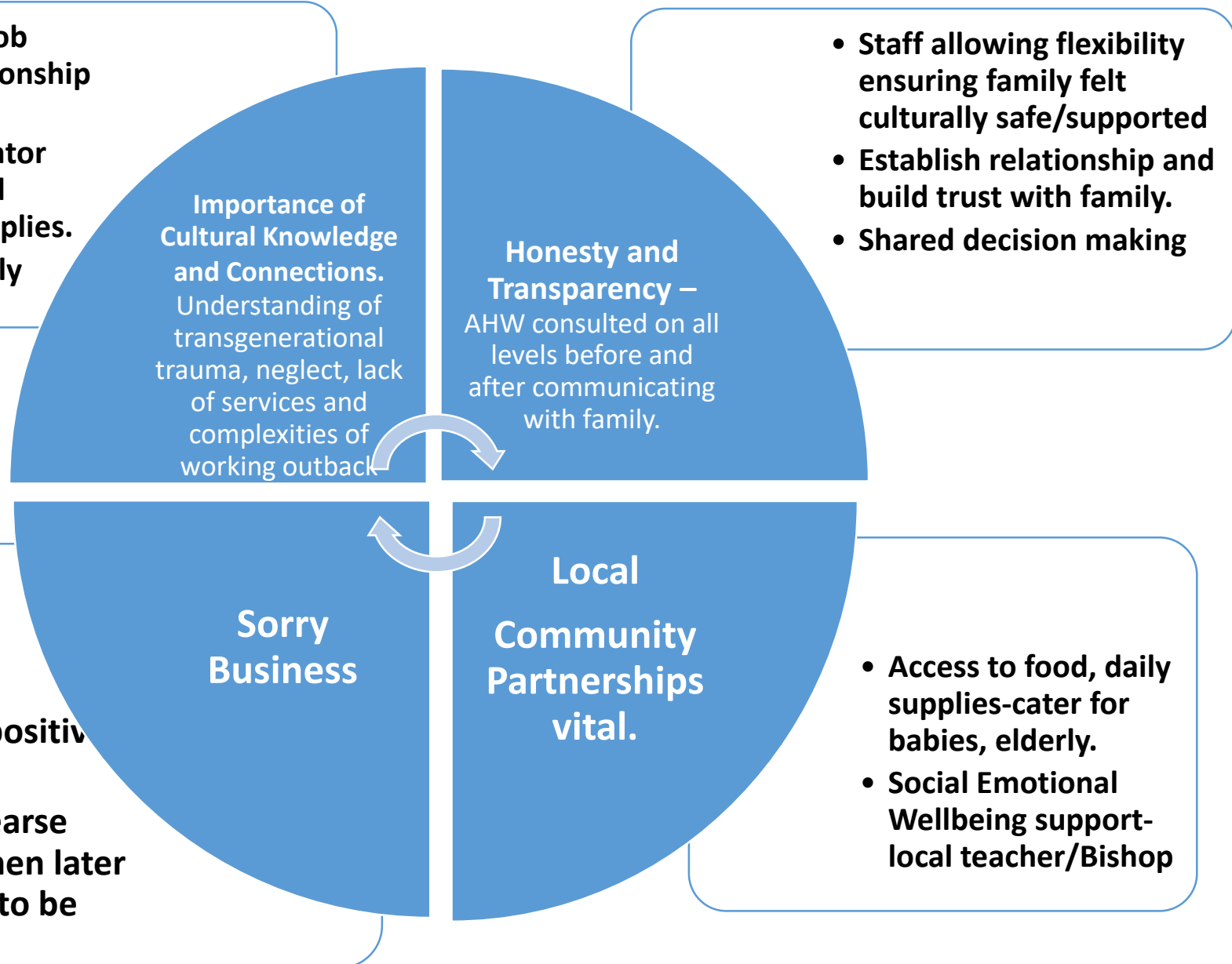
**Honesty and Transparency –**  
 AHW consulted on all levels before and after communicating with family.

- **Contingency plan implemented-family positive unable to attend.**
- **Contacted funeral –hearse drove through CSA. Then later escorted to cemetery to be with loved ones.**

**Sorry Business**

- **Access to food, daily supplies-cater for babies, elderly.**
- **Social Emotional Wellbeing support-local teacher/Bishop**

**Local Community Partnerships vital.**



# Great Achievement for Barkindji Community and Mob ....

- The last reported case in Wilcannia was 23 days ago
- There are now no known active cases in Wilcannia.

**Statistics from Local Health District – Far West Local Health District**

