It is now more than a year since I wrote to then Attorney-General, Mr Gordon Ramsay and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith with a request that the ACT Government establish, as a matter of urgency, an independent inquiry into all aspects of the ACT justice system, including the AMC.

In that letter I said, among other things: ‘As you would be aware the ACT has the highest rate of increase in the incarceration of Aboriginal men and women in Australia and the highest age standardised rate of indigenous incarceration in Australia.

It is clear that the policies and procedures purportedly in place in the ACT to address the disproportionate level of contact of Aboriginal peoples in the ACT with the different arms of the justice system, whether it be the police, courts, prison, throughcare, community corrections or parole are quite simply failing to address the causes of the grossly disproportionate levels of Indigenous incarceration.

I am writing to ask that you initiate a detailed, comprehensive and independent inquiry into the effectiveness of all these arms of the justice system in their contact with and response to members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.’

In response to my request for an independent inquiry both the Governing Parties, the ALP and the Greens committed, before the ACT election last September and on numerous occasions since their re-election to Government, to such an inquiry.

Indeed at a round table of Aboriginal leaders and community members convened by the Government, following the election, to discuss the preferred form of such an inquiry it was agreed, on the recommendation of Government Ministers, that I would convene a meeting of local Aboriginal leaders to finalise the preferred form of inquiry. I accordingly convened such a meeting which resolved unanimously that the preferred form of inquiry was a Royal Commission.

The Government, however, on receipt of that advice has advised that it has ‘reservations’ about the Aboriginal communities recommended model of inquiry. I have sought clarification from relevant Ministers, including most particularly Attorney-General and Greens leader Mr Shane Rattenbury and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith of the Government’s position, but to no avail.
It appears, increasingly, that when the Government says, as it did in this case, that it will listen to the voice of First Nations people and be guided by their experience and their wisdom, that what it means is it will listen to First Nations people when they say what the Government wants to hear.

So much for truth telling.

To be fair, I did recently speak with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, while she was taking talk back calls on ABC radio, and asked her why the Government was refusing to make a decision on this matter and she replied, in effect, the decision was not just up to her but dependent on other Ministers including the Chief Minister, whom were yet to decide what the Government’s position was.

In an interesting coincidence the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in its latest report on Aboriginal incarceration rates, published after I first approached the Government for an inquiry, revealed that an Aboriginal woman in Canberra is 67 times more likely to be imprisoned in the ACT than a non-Aboriginal woman. This rate of incarceration of Aboriginal women is the highest in Australia and more than three times higher than the average across all jurisdictions. I believe it is almost certainly the highest rate of incarceration of Indigenous women in the world.

I have arranged for the latest ABS table on Aboriginal incarceration rates in the ACT and across Australia to be published on page 14 of this newsletter. I am sure you will be as appalled as I am at the extent to which the needs of Aboriginal peoples in Canberra are clearly being ignored.

On a more positive note I wish to join with the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs the Hon Ken Wyatt in acknowledging the posthumous award of the Order of Australia Medal to my dear friend the late Ethel Baxter. Aunty Ethel was a most wonderful person and rendered through her life enormous service to the Aboriginal and broader community in her fostering of Aboriginal children and advocacy, most particularly for improvements in educational opportunities for Aboriginal children.

The award of the OAM to Aunty Ethel was well deserved and while she did not have the honour and pleasure of receiving it in person I know how much it will mean to her family that she has been rightly recognised for her service and dedication to her community.

I have published the letter I received from Mr Wyatt at page 4 and I sincerely thank him for his courtesy in publicly recognising Aunty Ethel.

On the subject of courtesy I was genuinely disappointed that at the NAIDOC Day celebrations held for Aboriginal detainees at the AMC there was no representative from the ACT Government, Labor or Green, in attendance. I have been unable to decide if they were simply too embarrassed to be seen at the AMC, recognising what an embarrassment the AMC has become or if they simply couldn’t be bothered because (a) there were only Aboriginal peoples in attendance a majority of whom were prisoners; and (b) there was no media in attendance so why make the effort.

While I have included a COVID-19 update in this Newsletter I also wish to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the staff at Winnunga AHCS for their consistent devotion to keeping our community safe and in particular all they are doing by their presence here in a front line health service to combat COVID-19. I cannot thank you enough for all you do.

I am also urging every member of our community to ensure that you continue to do everything you can to stay safe and that you call us at Winnunga to discuss your vaccination options if you haven’t already done so.
Dr Shabaz Hussain recently commenced at Winnunga AHCS in the role of Senior Medical Officer. Dr Shabaz is Originally from Windsor in the UK and qualified as a doctor from Imperial College in London in the UK.

Dr Shabaz completed his GP training with the Oxford Deanery in the UK gaining Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners (MRCGP) in 2008, following which he emigrated to Australia. He has a wide range of General Practice experience in the UK and Australia and enjoys the management of chronic disease.

Dr Shabaz has gained a number of qualifications including MRCGP (UK), Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP), Diploma in Child Health (DCH), Diploma of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (DRCOG), Diploma of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health (DFSRH) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Medical and Dental Education (PGDMDE). He also has a degree in Management from Imperial College, London.

In his spare time Dr Shabaz enjoys reading, swimming, travelling and spending time with his family.

Dr Shabaz is very much looking forward to working at Winnunga to deliver culturally safe and holistic health care services to the Aboriginal Community in the ACT and surrounding region.

We warmly welcome Dr Shabaz to Winnunga and are pleased to have a Senior Medical Officer of his caliber join our team.

Fact: Chronic disease is one of the main factors behind the gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians (health.gov.au).
Ms Julie Tongs OAM
On behalf of the late Mrs Ethel Baxter OAM
Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services
63 Boolimba Crescent
NARRABUNDAH ACT 2604

Dear Ms Tongs

I would like to add my voice to the many who will have been celebrating your former colleague and friend, the late Mrs Ethel Baxter OAM for the honour she received on the Queen’s Birthday for her service to the Indigenous community of Queanbeyan.

The Order of Australia is the premier way that we honour the hard work and dedication of people in our community who are exceptional and move our country forward. I trust your local community will see this recognition as acknowledgement that our country appreciates Mrs Baxter’s outstanding efforts and distinguished service.

It is through the commitment of people like Mrs Baxter that we see improved life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the changes we want to see in our country. Mrs Baxter’s invaluable service will leave a lasting impact on our nation, inspire the next generation, and create a brighter future for our people.

Please accept and pass on my most heartfelt condolences to Ms Baxter’s family, colleagues and the broader community for their loss. The legacy of Mrs Baxter is something to be proud of and serves as inspiration for future leaders.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians

Reference: MB21-000331

Received
2 JUL 2021
Winnunga Nimmityjah AHCS
Progress Report on Justice Issues

One couldn’t help thinking, as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community patiently await a decision from the ACT Government on the request made of it by the Aboriginal community for a Royal Commission into all aspects of the justice system, including the AMC, that events occurring in Canberra, on an almost daily basis, resemble an episode of the Keystone Cops with a bit of Bonny and Clyde and Fawlty Towers thrown in for good measure.

The following is a brief summary of just some of the recent goings on:

* The Human Rights Law Centre reveals based on data provided to it under the FOI Act that in the period since Mr Mick Gentleman became Minister for Corrections following the last election that women detained in the AMC were being strip searched at the rate of approximately 1 a day or 30 a month but in the seven month period under review only three were found to be concealing contraband;

* The Minister responded by releasing an additional year of data relating to the period when his predecessor, Shane Rattenbury was Minister for Corrections which revealed things were much worse under Mr Rattenbury when closer to 50 women were being strip searched every month;

* The Chief Executive of Sisters Inside, which advocates for incarcerated women, described the industrial scale strip searching of women at the AMC as: ‘Its legalised sexual assault allowing this violence to be perpetrated against women in prison, and its predominantly against Aboriginal women because of their mass incarceration. Its nothing more than sexual assault by the State.’

* In his response to the release of the strip search data Minister Gentleman advised that on 30 June 2021, 52% of the women incarcerated on that day were Aboriginal. The most recent census data indicates Aboriginal people constitute 1.9% of the ACT population.

* The data released by Minister Gentleman is consistent with that of the Australian Bureau of Statistics which advised in its most recent report on incarceration rates across Australia, based on data from 2019-20, that in the ACT the crude rate of incarceration of Aboriginal women was 632.7 and of non-Indigenous women was 9.4 and that the ratio was therefore 67.3. In other words an Aboriginal woman in the ACT is 67 times more likely to go to prison than a non Aboriginal woman.

* The ratio of Aboriginal women incarcerated in the ACT is more than 3 times higher than the national average and is, for example, 6 times higher than the Northern Territory and 12 times higher than Tasmania.

* A petite young woman wearing designer glasses drove an ACT Corrections vehicle condemned a year ago as not fit for purpose, off the road and calmly drove away from the scene with her boyfriend.

Fact: The ratio of Aboriginal women incarcerated in the ACT 6 times higher than that in the Northern Territory.
Progress Report on Justice Issues 
(cont’d)

* ACT policing, silently acknowledging that with ACT Corrections transport vehicles either at the wreckers or otherwise unfit for purpose, have appealed to a young detainee released by mistake by Corrective Services from the AMC to do the right thing and return to prison under his own steam. It is hoped that if he accedes to the polite request to return to jail that his taxi fare will be paid.

* The Minister for Housing has conceded that the much touted ‘Bail House’ and Justice Housing initiative are a train wreck but that the millions of dollars committed to the initiative have somehow not been wasted.

* NAIDOC day was celebrated at the AMC but no one from the ACT Government felt the need to attend.

Fact: ‘NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is celebrated by all Australians and is a great opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.’ (www.naidoc.org.au)
The Winnunga AHCS’s Hearing and Ear Health Team is a small but effective collaboration consisting of Aboriginal Ear Health worker Thomas Williams and Audiologist Brooke McIntosh.

Thomas works full-time and Brooke is available on Mondays and Tuesdays. You do not need a GP referral to see us, just call reception on 6284 6222 to book in for an appointment.

We provide hearing tests, ear health checks and reports for any Winnunga AHCS client regardless of age. We see babies to grandparents and everyone in between.

For people who need further support we can help organise referrals to GPs, Ear Nose and Throat Doctors, Nurses, Speech Therapists (through ACT Child Development Service), Hearing Australia (for hearing aids) and additional social support if required through the Winnunga AHCS Social Health Team.

As part of our regular school visit program, we have attended many ACT Government Primary Schools and Koori Preschools already this year. During 2021 we conducted our usual school hearing surveillance and testing and were able to inform family, carers and schools of any hearing issues identified and providing appropriate follow up care. Families appreciate the convenience of this model of service and the advice and follow up we provide.

This year Thomas and I have both enrolled in the new EarTrain course run by TAFE NSW. The certified course will assist Thomas in gaining further skills in hearing tests, middle ear health and ‘looking’ in ears.

Please call us or book in if you have any questions or concerns about your ears and hearing. We would love to be able to help you out!

Fact: Otitis media refers to all forms of inflammation and infection of the middle ear, sometimes known as ‘glue ear’ or ‘runny ears’, causing hearing loss and communications problems.
Reconciliation Week: We Are Called Upon To Be Better People

Canberra Times, 1 June 2021

Elizabeth Kikkert

I recently had the privilege of sitting down for nearly an hour to listen to a senior Aboriginal leader. I asked him to explain to me what reconciliation means to him personally. His first response: telling the truth.

He then shared with me difficult historical accounts that are important to him. Nothing can get better until we know the facts, he said. And while it is essential to know what happened in the past, a commitment to truth-telling means it is equally important to know what’s happening in our own time and place.

His second response: genuinely listening. As he explained, this means finding out what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people would do if they had their way - and then helping to make it happen. For far too long, decisions have been made on behalf of Indigenous Australians, instead of by them or with them. But when it comes to matters that impact their families and their communities, no one knows better what they need. A genuine commitment to self-determination requires action - especially when community desires conflict with other agendas.

I accept these principles of reconciliation as explained by my esteemed Aboriginal friend. Accordingly, I fully support the unanimous request by community leaders that a formal board of inquiry investigate and respond to "the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT in touch with the criminal justice system or incarcerated". Indigenous Australians in Canberra have every right to ask that the facts be investigated and reported. Their voices should be heard, and their request should be honoured.
Going forward, the principles of reconciliation need to shape all government decision-making. This is essential for the wellbeing of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, which in several important areas experiences more disadvantage in the ACT than in any other jurisdiction. For example, while Indigenous Australians are proportionally the most incarcerated people on the planet, those living in Canberra are nearly 20 times more likely to be locked up than non-Indigenous people - the highest ratio in the nation.

In their essence, the principles of reconciliation should characterise all human interactions. Embedding these principles will benefit all of us. An inspiring example of how this can occur comes out of Aotearoa New Zealand. Like Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Canberra, Maori children had long been overrepresented in that nation's child protection system. Reports throughout the 1970s and 1980s highlighted issues of institutional racism, and one in 1986 recommended a "substantial ideological change" that would "cater to Maori needs".

The government's first response was to propose strengthening child protection teams - essentially doubling down on what it was already doing. A new minister, however, insisted on genuine reform, and in 1989 the Family Group Conference became law. This legal entitlement means that families are empowered and supported to solve child welfare concerns themselves before the government can seek a court order authorising child removal. As a result, the number of children in the care and protection system was cut in half, and Aotearoa New Zealand now has one of the lowest rates of children in care in the developed world.

As an act of reconciliation, this reform was intended to "cater to Maori needs", and it has done so. At the same time, all kinds of families have benefitted. Family Group Conferencing has even been described as "New Zealand’s gift to the world". It is for these reasons that Aboriginal elders in the ACT have been asking to have a similar legal entitlement in this territory - and why I have been committed for several years to seeing this reform happen. First and foremost, such reform will strengthen vulnerable First Nations families, and in doing so, it will strengthen all vulnerable families.

And because very few of us can directly impact government decisions, I also invite all Canberrans to thoughtfully consider ways that they can embed the principles of reconciliation in their individual lives. Part of this is being informed by knowing the facts about our own communities, both past and present. We also need to care enough about our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander neighbours to act whenever an opportunity arises. This may include calling out blatant racism or gently correcting false stereotypes. It may require no longer tolerating the kinds of statistics we have grown accustomed to hearing about in Canberra. It will certainly involve being better people; at its core, that is what reconciliation calls on us to be.

Elizabeth Kikkert is a Liberal MLA for Ginninderra and the opposition spokeswoman for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs.

‘...I also invite all Canberrans to thoughtfully consider ways that they can embed the principles of reconciliation in their individual lives.’
First Nations Women Stripped Searched at Alarming Rate at Canberra Prison

By Sarah Collard, Source: NITV News, 5 Jul 2021

Less than 1 per cent of the searches found any contraband, with advocates calling for an immediate ban on the ‘distressing’ practice.

Data has shown that more than half of almost 800 strip searches conducted in a Canberra prison over an 18 month period were on First Nations women. According to the latest figures obtained from the ACT’s Justice and Community Safety Directorate, 796 women were strip-searched between October 2019 and June 2021 at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, with 408 of those detainees Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

The prison in question is also at the centre of a legal challenge after a sexual assault survivor and Indigenous woman was forcibly strip searched in front of male detainees. CEO of the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service, Julie Tongs said the practice is very invasive.

"They will be feeling violated. They'd be feeling worthless and it re-traumatises them. It's distressing," the Wiradjuri woman told NITV news. ‘She said the revelations are disappointing, as the Centre is the only prison in the country specifically designed as a rehabilitation reform focus prison.

"This is what really concerns me, is that AMC was supposed to be human rights-compliant. This is where people were able to go to work, go and be rehabilitated. It's so far from that. It's just disgusting," Ms Tongs said.

Winnunga Nimmityjah provides health and wellbeing services to detainees at both the Alexander Maconochie Centre and the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. The Alexander Maconochie Centre is a minimum, maximum and remand facility for both men and women. More than half of all detainees identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Vast majority of searches found nothing

In the overwhelming majority of cases, the searches found nothing: out of the 796 searches, only a dozen detected contraband items, a hit rate of 0.015 per cent. Figures provided to NITV News revealed contraband was detected eight times when Indigenous women were searched and four times after searches on non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Ms Tongs is urging for the invasive practice to be urgently reviewed, saying strip searches should be eliminated or only used as a last resort if there are fears of self harm or risk to staff or other inmates.

Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service’s CEO Julie Tongs said strip searches should be largely eliminated (NITV News: Sarah Collard)
"It's a failure and should be abolished. "It's power over the powerless and it makes me feel sick that this is going on," Ms Tongs told NITV News. Ms Tongs said an urgent inquiry is needed but believes the system cannot reform itself as inquiries and investigations have not led to systemic changes. "I am sick of reviews and regardless of how many reviews they have [completed] nothing ever gets changed —They never implement anything."

"Sexual assault by the state"
Queensland-based organisation Sisters Inside advocates for incarcerated women and girls in Australia. Founder and chief executive of the organisation Debbie Kilroy knows the system well, having been incarcerated herself.

Debbie Kilroy told NITV News the correctional justice system disproportionately impacts and further marginalizes vulnerable women and girls. "It's legalised sexual assault allowing this violence to be perpetrated against women in prison, and it's predominantly against Aboriginal women because of the mass incarceration of First Nations women. "It's nothing more than sexual assault by the state," she told NITV news. "Their own figures prove this just doesn't work. You'll find the same across every jurisdiction, high numbers of strip searching and minuscule numbers on so-called 'contraband found.'"

'Minimum force used': prison
The prison itself acknowledged that women who are incarcerated are far more likely to have lived through sexual assault, rape, abuse and family violence. A spokesperson for JACS said the government provides appropriate support for female detainees and that searches are conducted by two female officers.

"Staff are required to use the minimum amount of force that is reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances," read a statement to NITV news. "The government recognises that women offenders often have higher levels of complex trauma, family and sexual violence and disadvantaged backgrounds."

A 2019 report conducted by the independent ACT Inspector of Correctional Services detailed a number of concerns, including an unsatisfactory compliance with safety, rehabilitation, respect and dignity but said overall the prison was performing well. In line with a recommendation, the prison appointed a female Indigenous Liaison Officer to the Indigenous Services Unit in March 2020, with a focus on the welfare needs of Aboriginal and Torres strait Islander women.

The report raised concerns over record management, and in particular strip searches, which are recorded through spreadsheets and/or paper registers, which was labeled 'unsatisfactory'. It said a key function of independent review is access to registers and 'ineffective' records could hamper meaningful analysis of frequencies or trends.
Zachary Showing Us All How Cool It Is To Be Kind

Eight year old Zachary, a student in Year 3 at Jerrabomberra Public School is at a very young age showing us all how with determination and commitment we can contribute to a fairer and better society. Winnunga AHCS has recently received along with Louisa Domestic Violence and Vinnies Night Patrol some of 120 items of warm clothing which Zach has collected to donate to people who may be homeless or do not have enough warm clothing to beat off the cold.

Zach has also been involved in a number of other very successful programs including raising funds for Sleepbus and the Smith Family as well as working with Anglicare and the Salvation Army. Zach says he likes to support people who are less fortunate than he is in the community. He also said he wants to show people that it is ‘cool to be kind’ and that it is possible to help other people even when you are young.

Julie Tongs, CEO of Winnunga AHCS thanked Zach for his concern for other people in the community and for wanting to help them and said he was a great inspiration to all of us.

Laptop Donation

Doris Women’s Refuge recently donated three laptops to the Winnunga AHCS women’s group. The laptops will ensure women who need access to a computer and internet for writing documents, applications, resumes etc, will be able to do so while at Winnunga AHCS.

A huge thank you to Marluce and Doris Women’s Refuge for thinking of Winnunga with this very generous donation.

Marluce Silva Peters, Coordinator of Doris Women’s Refuge
Mick Dodson has without question been one of the most influential, important and successful leaders of and advocates for Aboriginal peoples in the last two hundred years, says Julie Tongs CEO of Winnunga AHCS.

Mick was, tragically, orphaned at an early age but nevertheless went on to achieve a good education and indeed became the first Aboriginal person in Australia to obtain a law degree. He was initially employed by the Aboriginal Legal Service in Victoria before becoming a barrister at the Victorian Bar and ultimately an expert in Native Title.

Mick is perhaps best remembered for the role he played as Counsel assisting the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and for his leadership, as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, of the Inquiry into the Stolen Generations and production of the Bringing Them Home Report.

More recently Mick was Chairperson of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Professor of Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University and Convenor of the ANU National Centre for Indigenous Studies.

Mick has at all times been a powerful, passionate and unapologetic advocate for justice for Aboriginal peoples.

In recognition of his impassioned and endless fight for justice for his people and the righting of the historical wrongs that to this day blight Australia’s reputation as a fair and just nation he was honoured in 2009 as Australian of the Year.

Mick’s unstinting pursuit of justice and service to his peoples has clearly not been easy for him. Julie Tongs, who has known Mick Dodson for more than thirty years and is proud to call him a friend, has long been concerned about the toll on his health from the trauma he undoubtedly experienced as a result of his leading roles in the inquiry into Black deaths in custody during which he devoted years listening to and supporting the grieving families of Aboriginal peoples who had died in custody, followed by the endless list of witnesses across the whole of Australia who appeared before him to give evidence about their grief and suffering consequent to their forced removal from their families or that of a loved one.

It has been reported that Mick Dodson has recently resigned, in unfortunate circumstances, from an appointment he held as NT Treaty Commissioner. Mick has publicly acknowledged that aspects of his personal behaviour in the lead up to his resignation were unacceptable.
Winnunga Stands With Mick Dodson - A Great Australian (cont’d)

Julie Tongs said that without condoning the behaviour that has apparently led to Mick taking the decision to resign this position, she and she hoped the Aboriginal community across Australia will never forget the enormous and unmatched contribution which Mick Dodson has made to the advancement and welfare of Aboriginal peoples in Australia.

Julie also said she would be the first to acknowledge that she personally was in no position to cast the first stone, but she also challenged any person in Australia, especially those that have and continue to sit back and remain silent and do nothing in the face of the injustice, racism and disadvantage endured by Aboriginal peoples in Australia for the last two hundred and thirty years, to compare their contribution to the struggle for justice to that of Mick Dodson.

Aboriginal Women in Prison


Note: Aboriginal women in the ACT are 67 times more likely to be incarcerated than non-Aboriginal women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected characteristics</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>Vic.</th>
<th>Qld</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>WA</th>
<th>Tas.</th>
<th>NT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>Aust.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRUDE RATE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strait Islander</td>
<td>3,580.9</td>
<td>3,453.2</td>
<td>3,910.6</td>
<td>4,680.6</td>
<td>6,867.9</td>
<td>1,439.4</td>
<td>4,828.3</td>
<td>3,489.2</td>
<td>4,194.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Indigenous</td>
<td>285.4</td>
<td>231.2</td>
<td>271.0</td>
<td>312.8</td>
<td>374.3</td>
<td>233.7</td>
<td>352.3</td>
<td>192.3</td>
<td>277.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strait Islander</td>
<td>320.8</td>
<td>195.5</td>
<td>413.3</td>
<td>513.0</td>
<td>967.5</td>
<td>104.0</td>
<td>294.5</td>
<td>632.7</td>
<td>423.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Indigenous</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>67.3</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fact: Professor Mick Dodson was honoured in 2009 as Australian of the Year.
COVID-19 Update

Vaccination is a safe and effective way of preventing yourself, Elders and family members from becoming sick with COVID-19. Although COVID-19 vaccination is not compulsory, it is strongly recommended.

ALL Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 16 years and over are now eligible to receive a free COVID-19 vaccination at Winnunga. This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have not previously attended Winnunga.

Non-Indigenous people who are current clients of Winnunga can also receive a COVID-19 vaccination at our service. The online eligibility checker can be used if you are non-Indigenous and unsure if you are eligible in the current rollout phase:

Winnunga is providing both the Pfizer Cominarty vaccine (for people aged under 60) and the AstraZeneca vaccine (for people aged 60 and over).
Please call reception on (02) 6284 6222 to book your vaccination

More information on COVID-19 vaccinations
For the latest advice and updates from the Department of Health, visit: https://www.health.gov.au/ initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines

The Respiratory Clinic is still operating
The Respiratory Clinic has a separate entrance. Anyone who has a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath or sudden loss of taste or smell should go to this entrance. Nurses may direct you to the Respiratory Clinic after screening when you arrive. You will be asked to wear a mask while waiting at the Respiratory Clinic.

Please get tested if you have symptoms
It is really important to keep doing COVID tests even if case numbers are low. Outbreaks in other states have shown how easily COVID can spread, and the earlier we detect any cases the safer our community will be. If you or your children have a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath or sudden loss of taste or smell please attend the Respiratory Clinic for testing.

Telephone consultations
Winnunga doctors can still do telephone consultations. To organise a telephone consultation please call Winnunga on 6284 6222.

Social distancing and hand washing
Please maintain social distancing while attending Winnunga. Please do not gather in groups while waiting for services. Please use the hand sanitiser provided while waiting at Winnunga, before entering the clinic and on your way out.

More information on COVID-19
As the COVID-19 situation evolves Winnunga will inform clients and the community of any further changes to our service through our Facebook page, Instagram, our website and by email.
For the latest ACT advice and resources go to ACT Health: www.health.act.gov.au/novelcoronavirus
For the latest national advice, information and resources, go to www.health.gov.au
The National Coronavirus Health Information Line is 1800 020 080. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Staff Profile

What do you do on the weekends?
Spend time with my partner/family/friends, and get away to the coast as often as possible.

What is your favourite food?
Butter chicken.

What do you like most about working at Winnunga?
Helping my mob to close the gap and making lifelong friends with other staff.

My Favourite pet?
Bulldogs.

What is your pet hate?
Untrustworthy people.

Name: Sarah Jarrett

Position: Tackling Indigenous Smoking Officer

Who’s your mob?
Yuin.

Where’s your country?
Wreck Bay/South Coast.

Who is your favourite singer/band?
Sam Smith, The Fray.

What is your favourite song?
I’ll be missing you - Puff Daddy.

We’re on the web!
winnunga.org.au