

Circular Head
Aboriginal
Corporation

Annual Report 2019-2020



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of the Northwest Nation of Tasmania;

The Tomme-ginner people of Table Cape

The Parper-loi-hener people of Robbins Island

The Pennemuker people of Cape Grim

The Pendow-te people of Studland Bay

The Pee-rapper people of West Point

The Ma-ne-gin people of Arthur River

The Tar-kiner people of Sandy Cape

And the Pe-ter-ni-dic people of the Mouth of the Pieman River.

These people were the carers and fire farmers of the land and sea that surrounds us, I would like to take the time to acknowledge the pain and suffering that these people endured in the time of invasion and for many years after, I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contemporary custodians of this land we stand on today. I acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Tasmania Aboriginals believe we belong to the land. This belonging carries out responsibilities, as well as rites and ceremonies.

Without experience and application, traditional practices stay a theory. We have to experience our practices, test them out and live them, only then will we have something to relay and pass on to our children. We can create the understanding that will add to our Indigenous knowledge of what needs to be maintained to sustain ourselves and our communities.



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Section of artwork kindly donated by Faye Grey, local Aboriginal artist

CHAC Mission Statement

Creating a sustainable organisation by developing our future from the wisdom of the past, healing, nourishing, reconstructing our spirit, our land, our culture and to transfer the knowledge gained, to the young Aboriginal community to pass onto future generations.

The Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation provides facilities and services to:

Create a future for young people



Reconnect, care for and nurture the land

Rebuild and celebrate the spirit of individuals



Facilitate and promote reconciliation and empowerment

Health Services and Family Support Services



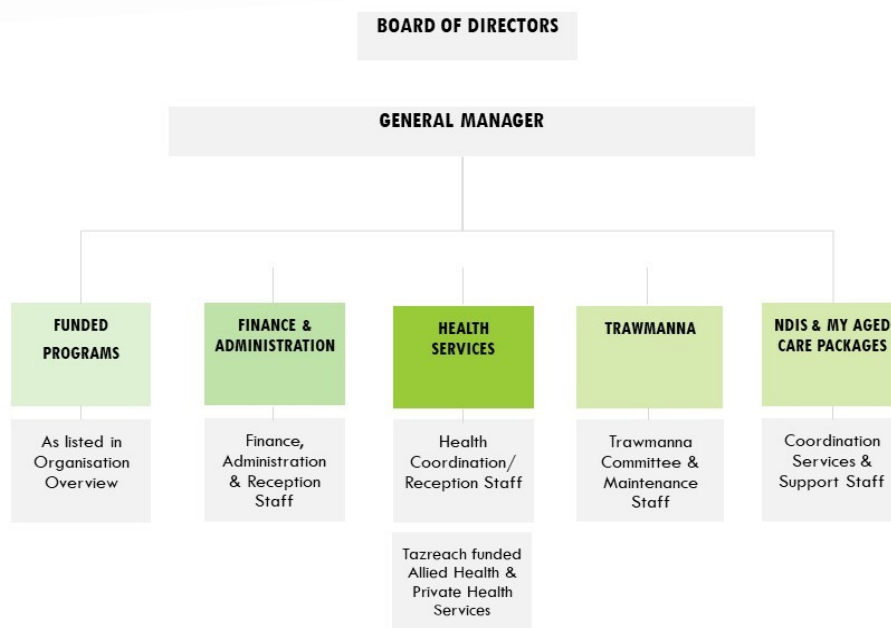
Reconstruct and celebrate our culture and language

Uphold and utilise the wisdom of the Elders

Organisation Overview



CIRCULAR HEAD ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



CIRCULAR HEAD ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation (CHAC) was originally formed by a small group of people for the purpose of gaining cultural knowledge and recognition. CHAC became incorporated on the 13th of March 1994. The organisation delivered two programs, (Drug and Alcohol) and (Family Support) from the rear of the dentist building in Smith Street, Smithton, with two staff and several volunteers. It wasn't long before CHAC outgrew the building because the support of the community became very strong. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) funded a new building, the premises that CHAC resides in today, 10 King Street Smithton.


CHAC has grown over the years due to the needs of the community. CHAC now operate a Health Centre located in Nelson Street. CHAC purchased the premises in 2011. The grounds at 73 Mella Road, Trawmanna, which means (Our Place) was divested to CHAC in 2012 by the Indigenous Land Corporation. In 2018, CHAC also purchased the building adjacent to the main building in King Street, Smithton. Administration offices and Cultural Information Centre accommodate these premises.

CHAC is registered with **ORIC (Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations)** and is governed according to the **Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait) Act 2006 (CATSI)**.

CHAC operates services from the Circular Head premises at 10 King Street, Smithton, Tasmania. Operating hours are Monday – Thursday 8.30am – 5.00pm and Friday 8.30am – 3.00pm. 10 King Street, Smithton became CHAC's home premises in 2002 with 5 staff members and 5 programs operating under its banner. The programs were Youth, Culture, Recreation, IDDI and HACC. By 2009, CHAC was successfully running 9 programs with 11 staff members.

The key priorities which CHAC aims to address are: education opportunities; education and awareness of health related issues; accessibility to services as a priority to Aboriginal community members; awareness of services that are delivered on an outreach basis and to assist the community to address their health and well-being needs. Education and Awareness of culture is also a main focus for CHAC as lost history is evident, therefore the importance of recovering history and language is a priority for the next generation.

CHAC strives to obtain a healthy and positive connection with the community to provide empowerment and quality services to aid in a healthier community.



CULTURE & CAPABILITY

This program will endeavor to engage the whole Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) community of Circular Head in cultural activities and youth leadership programs. The project aims to identify, preserve and develop a wide spectrum of ATSI culture essentially around the transmission of knowledge and skills across generations, with the object of: Maintaining ATSI culture through community involvement. Increasing public awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture - including through the preservation, presentation and exchange of culture. Supporting new forms of ATSI cultural expression - working with men, women and young people. Supporting the sustainable development of community activities and events involved in transmission of culture across the community as a whole. Enable the Circular Head Aboriginal community to become more aware of the history that is attached to the Circular Head municipality and to empower them to embrace the knowledge and to transfer their newly gained skills to future generations. Enable leadership skills within local youth, engaging the youth in the development of whole community activities.

CHILDREN & SCHOOLING EARLY CHILDHOOD PLAY, SCHOOL & SPORTS

The Early Childhood Program endeavors to engage the whole Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) community of Circular Head in activities that build the strengths, safety and well-being of families and their young children. The program promotes positive interaction between parents and children by: Parents engaging in a supported playgroup environment which compliments activities undertaken through post natal & ante natal programs. Improving parents or caregiver's knowledge, skills and capacity for parenting, positive lifestyle behaviours and sustaining family wellbeing. Educate and promote positive parenting. Educate and promote motor and cognitive skill activities within early childhood. Promote community connectedness through workshops. School engagement program aims at engaging participants in early childhood, school sports and school engagement programs designed to provide strategies for regular and consistent routines for the family unit. Provide assistance with basic life skills. Engage families in health and wellbeing related activities.

CHILDREN & SCHOOLING SMART, STRONG & PROUD

The Smart, Strong and Proud Program will endeavour to engage the whole Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) community of Circular Head in activities that build parenting skills; parent and student engagement with schools, empowering both parents and students. This program aims to promote positive interaction between parents and high school aged children within their family unit, schools and community by: Convening parent groups to provide support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) parents with high school aged children. Assist in the setting up support groups in specific areas of need. Engaging parents in activities that build on parenting skills; support day to day needs of children and assisting in supporting school work. Develop activities that engage parents and/or students after school and through school holidays. Engage parents with positive relationship development with schools and community. Assist parents develop and build on their personal literacy and numeracy. Provide one-on-one support for high school aged children to enable higher attendance rates.



SAFETY & WELLBEING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & FAMILY VIOLENCE

This program endeavours to engage the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) community (12-25 years) of Circular Head. With a focus on case management for youth in need of support to assist them in following their mental health plans. Supporting clients in medical appointments with GP's, Psychologists & Counsellors. Providing transport when required, both in and out of Circular Head. Coordinator runs programs in both the High School and Primary Schools around life/social skills and anxiety/depression. This program also has a component of addressing family violence and the effects it has on youth and their families. The program aims to spread awareness of supports available in the area, and will assist clients when making the first steps to leave the situation they are faced with. Referrals to correct supports are provided by Coordinator.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING (SEWB)

The Mental Health program will provide a program for up to 8 weeks (1 day a week) for up to 6 participants which will be made up of community members and CHAC staff. The program delivers a suite of activities based on mindfulness and strategies to understand preventative measures for addressing mental health. Participants take home many tools to work with and the staff are gaining new skills to work within a group environment.

ILLCIT DRUG DIVERSIONARY INITIATIVE

The program endeavours to provide support, drug education, assessment and treatment via brief interventions to individuals. The program aims to: Provide drug education, assessment and treatment via brief interventions to individuals diverted by the Tasmania Police under this initiative. Instead of going to court for minor offences the police can at their discretion divert through this program to avoid criminal records being received. Accept referrals from the Alcohol and Drug Service Diversion Worker and provide the individuals with a brief intervention.

SAFETY & WELLBEING DRUG & ALCOHOL AWARENESS & SUPPORT

The prime purpose of this project is to work in the Drug and Alcohol Awareness program providing, education, referral and advocacy to the Aboriginal clients of Circular Head. The program aims to provide (ATSI) clients with a safe, confidential environment to refer and support clients and their families that are affected by addiction. The program: Aims to increase the level of awareness of the impacts of drug and alcohol abuse. Build capacity to avoid drug and alcohol abuse within men, women and young people., provide a provision of support services to clients and their families, referring clients to appropriate voluntary programs and initiate proactive programs to address the needs of the community.

STRIVE TO DRIVE – LEARNER DRIVER MENTORING PROGRAM

The program assists learner drivers to gain the required supervised on-road driving hours to allow them to progress to their provisional license. A number of learner drivers in Circular Head don't have access to a suitable car or supervisory driver to allow them to obtain their licence. The program allows the drivers access to a vehicle and suitable mentor to teach them the on-road driving skills.



INTEGRATED FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

The program will endeavor to provide support services to families where risk factors to the welfare and development of children is present. Services will address identified issues of concern and work to build on families' capacity to self-manage risk factors associated with their intake to the service.

The implementation Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line, replacing the former Gateway service, assists in seeking and providing support services to families where risk factors to the welfare and development of children is present, using a community support approach where possible.

Integrated Family Support Services provides access to a network of community sector supports and services for vulnerable children, young people and their families. Increase the capacity of the community sector to provide secondary level support services. Provide an improved service capacity for families who may not come into contact with child protection services. Reduce the number of families notified to child protection services by improving access to and responsiveness of community-based services.

SAFETY & WELLBEING ADULT THROUGH CARE (ATC)

The Adult Through-Care Program provides intensive support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Adults at risk of receiving a prison sentence, incarcerated and post release with the aim for a smooth reintegration back to family and community while supporting their family members and children at home. The ATC ensure Court appearances, Bail, Parole conditions are met. Working on individual goals and future plans, improve social outcomes, life skills and enhance employment opportunities. Provide encouragement with social, emotional and wellbeing involving Families & Children. Work collaboratively with involved services to achieve positive outcomes for a crime free future.

INDIGENOUS YOUTH JUSTICE PROGRAM (IJP)

The program is aimed at providing prisoner rehabilitation and post support to clients and their families and youth diversion support to young people across the North West and West coast of Tasmania. The program aims to provide support to clients and their families that are affected by the judicial system by developing and undertaking projects that will help respond to the urgent challenge of the accelerating rate of Indigenous offending and incarceration as well as support the realisation of safer communities. Act as a prison support and rehabilitation officer to implement a pre and post prison release support and rehabilitation program for Aboriginal people across Tasmania not just for the Circular Head community. Provide intensive through-care support, reducing levels of engagement within justice system for offenders, youth and their families. Reduce the amount of Indigenous community members entering the justice system, reducing court appearances and levels of reoffending. Break down barriers between clients and uniformed statuses, encouraging better relationships. Provide early intervention support to youth across the North West and West coast.



ABORIGINAL LIAISON OFFICER

The Aboriginal Liaison Officer provides consultation to the Advice and Referral Line (ARL) this is a universal service for everyone with a concern about the wellbeing or safety of a child: prescribed persons, concerned relatives, friends or neighbors. Families and children can also call the ARL and seek assistance.

The Aboriginal Liaison Officer provides;

- Local Knowledge - Support Advice and Referral from staff with local knowledge regarding families and available service provider options or capacity.
- Local Consultation Point – Available for consultation with local service providers, government departments and schools regarding the Advice and Referral Line or local Child Safety Services.
- Local Child Safety Connection – Ongoing collaboration with local Child Safety offices and conduit for information into and from the department.
- Family Visits and conferencing.
- Collaboration and Inter-Agency Approach – We contribute to a number of joint agency initiatives that look to support families via information sharing and collaborative interventions.
- Community Education – Ongoing conversations regarding the role of Advice and Referral Line and broader Child Safety Service system and;
- Integrated Family Support Services – Facilitate allocation of families to specific service providers while providing ongoing support to workers regarding the efficacy of their intervention.

COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM (CHSP)

The aim of the CHSP is to help provide low level support service to frail older people aged 65 years and over (50 years and older for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) who need assistance to living independently as possible – with a focus on working with you, rather than doing for you. It is about working on your strengths, capacity and goals to help you remain living independently and safely at home.

CHSP services are delivered on a short term or ongoing basis with a strong focus to consumer direct care (CDC), Health and wellbeing. The services that CHAC provides;

- Social Support
- Home Maintenance
- Garden Maintenance
- Transport (Medical /Non-Medical)
- Specialised Support Services;
 - Vision
 - Hearing
 - Continence
 - Dementia
 - Client Advocacy



HOME CARE PACKAGES (HCP)

A home care package is a coordinated package of care and services to help you to live independently in your own home for as long as you can. Some people receive services through the Commonwealth Home Support Program and are then assessed for a home care package. Others will start with a home care package.

The benefit of a home care package is that your home care provider will work with you to:

- Choose care and services that best meet your needs and goals and
- Manage your care and services.

There are four levels of home care packages to help meet the different levels of care needs. During your aged care assessment, your assessor will discuss your current care needs and determine the best level to meet them.

It is expected that more people will be assessed as eligible for a lower level package, with a smaller number being assessed as needing higher level packages.

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (HACC)

The Tasmanian HACC Program provides funding for basic community care services that support persons who are under 65 years or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged less than 50 years of age living with disabling conditions and their carer. Services are targeted towards people who live in the community and whose capacity for independent living is at risk, or who are at risk of premature or inappropriate admission to long term residential care.

CHAC provides these services to eligible HACC Clients:

- Social Support
- Home Maintenance
- Garden Maintenance and
- Transport (Medical /non-Medical)

Health organisations and key personnel to attract referrals and to assist in the dissemination of information to the client group. Develop/implement a work plan for service delivery in accordance with the organisation's funding agreement. Provide early intervention for school aged children.

INTEGRATED TEAM CARE (ITC)

The integrated team care program (ITC) is designed to support individuals that identify as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander that have a chronic illness, to manage and understand their condition. Through ITC you have access to a registered nurse that can provide guidance and support in a team arrangement with your chosen general practitioner. ITC can arrange and coordinate appointments as well as transport and support you during them. ITC will advocate and help you navigate the complexities of the health system. ITC will work with your GP to get a management plan/team care arrangement plan done on regular basis. ITC also can conduct health assessment and education in line with the general practitioner. ITC can assist to source required medical equipment and instruct on correct use. ITC have a weekly men's group at Trawmanna to support health and wellbeing, a small meal is provided and all ITC services are free to the consumer.



INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PROGRAM NEW DIRECTIONS/CHILD & MATERNAL HEALTH

This program will endeavor to engage the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) community of Circular Head with a focus on parents and their children to be active in child and maternal health. The program aims to promote child and maternal health within families by: increasing access to antenatal care for ATSI women. Provide information about baby care for mothers of ATSI children. Increase monitoring of ATSI children's weight gain, immunisation status, infections and early developmental milestones for 0-10 years by a dedicated primary care service. To provide practical advice and assistance with breast feeding health and nutrition information and parenting skills for mothers of ATSI children. Provide testing, early detection and referral for timely treatment of ATSI children's hearing, sight, speech and other development issues before starting school. To make a continuous effort to improve the quality of services being delivered through this funding and across the whole community.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PROGRAM OUTREACH WORKER


The program will endeavor to engage the ATSI community of Circular Head to be active in utilising health services increasing the number of identifying community members. The program aims to promote health services and self-identification within the community by: Establishing links with ATSI individuals within the community to encourage and support the increased use of health services and continue to promote the services through various networks that are already in place. Continue to work collaboratively with all stakeholders. Identify and record barriers that may impact on people accessing health services and health checks by engaging with the community. Provide practical assistance to community members to undertake health checks and to access other health services as required. Overcome problems that may be restricting community members' access to health services.

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) program provides support for Australians, their families and carers with disabilities, the NDIS supports people with a disability to build skills and capability so they can participate within their community and to assist in engaging with employment opportunities.

HEALTH CENTRE COORDINATOR/RECEPTIONIST

This position was created to ensure the community is made aware of the health services provided to us and to create new health services in a remote area and also support the visiting outreach specialists. The position will endeavor to provide clients efficient and professional access to the services associated with CHAC's health building through coordination and reception duties.



Visiting Specialist to the Health Centre

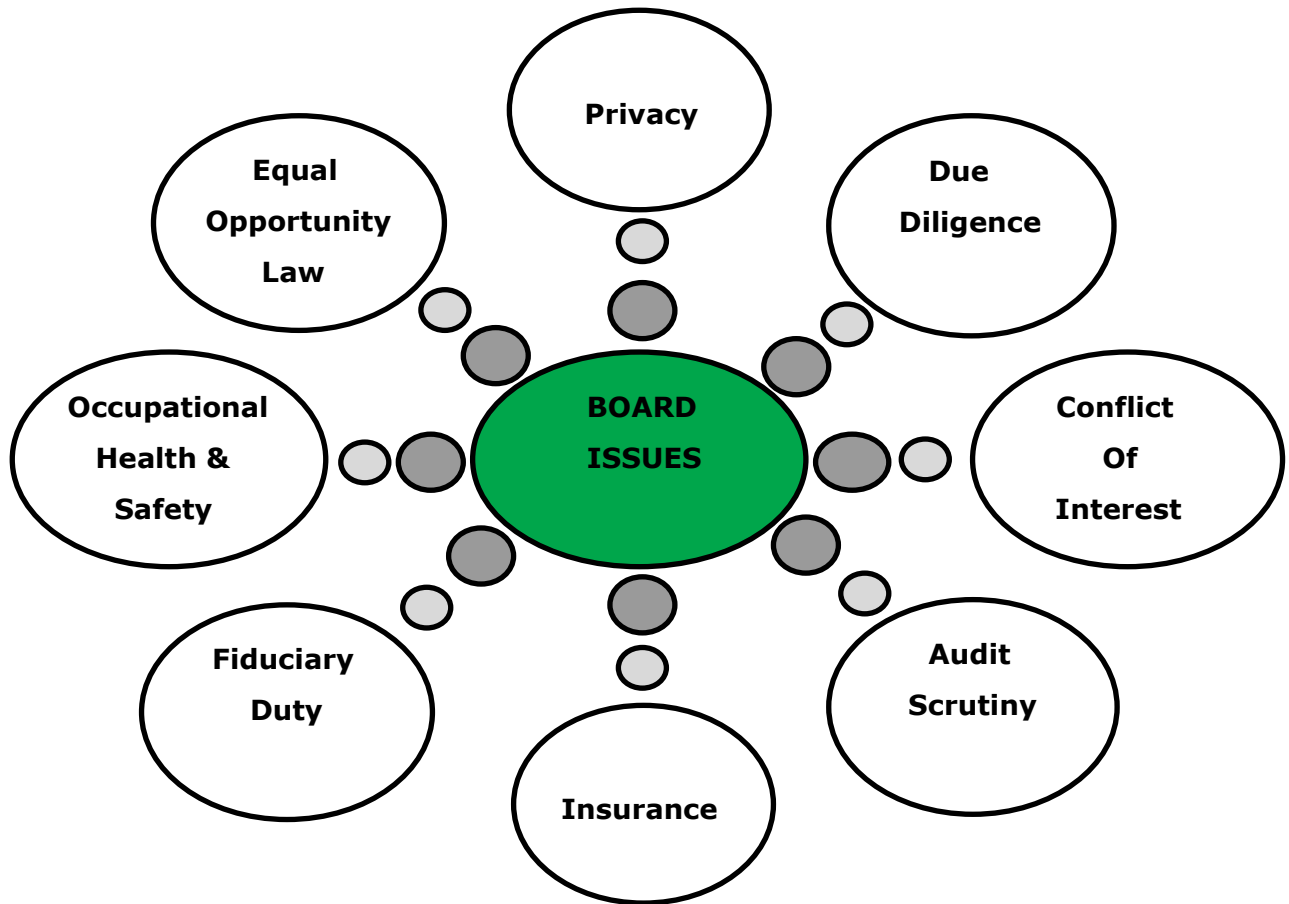
- Psychologists
- Pediatrician
- Dietitian
- Dermatologist
- Podiatrist
- Exercise Physiologist
- Counsellors
- Cancer Council Tas
- Eyelines
- Australian Hearing
- National Hearing Care
- Chiropractor
- Royal Flying Doctor Services/Dental
- St Giles Speech Therapist
- Ulverstone Physiotherapy
- Relationship Australia counselling
- Royal Flying Doctors – Mobile Dental Service
- Youth and Family Community Connections Drug and Alcohol counselling 3 days per week

OTHER OUTREACH SERVICES

- Centrelink 1 day per fortnight
- Community Corrections 1 day per fortnight
- Mission Australia 1 day per month disability employment services

For more information or referral please contact CHAC Reception on 03 64521287 or email chac.reception@chac.com.au

Board Compliance



ATTACHMENT COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Fiduciary Duty

This imperative applies to every decision a director makes in the exercise of power in their position. A fiduciary is enshrined in the Corporation Law and Common Law. It binds the director to exercise power in good faith for the benefit of the organisation. It does not allow a director to profit from a decision made and it is this legal obligation that underpins the conduct of all office holders.

Due Diligence

Due diligence is the proper exercise of fiduciary duty. It has as its standard, the diligence one would expect to be applied to one's own affairs. It insists that decisions are made after careful and thorough investigation. If a director has not applied due diligence to a decision then they are liable at law.

Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest occurs where a director has a personal interest in an issue at hand that could create an apprehension of bias from an independent observer. The standing procedures in the Board meetings of CHAC insist that any conflict be declared and that the person declaring the conflict abstain from discussion and voting on a decision, and will not be present during any discussion or voting.

Board Compliance



Occupational Health and Safety

Occupational Health and Safety legislation has evolved to ensure both safe work practices and a safe work environment. It requires that staff representation must be to management on such issues and that regular meetings take place to deal with anticipated problems and issues as they arise. This compliance issue is governed by State legislation.

Equal Opportunity Law

Equal opportunity law is both State and Federally based and covers issues of discrimination and racial vilification. This discrimination applies to both employees and clients, and includes such issues as racism and discrimination against people because of their gender, religion, mental capacity, marital status, age, race or disability and harassment.

Privacy

From 21 Dec 2001 amendments were made to the *Privacy Act (1998)*, concerning the manner in which private sector organisations use, collect, store and disclose personal information.

CHAC must always respect privacy and treat any information that is collected and stored, confidentially. CHAC is committed to complying with the requirements of the Act by informing clients of the privacy policy.

Insurance











While not a legislative requirement, adequate insurance for directors and the assets of the fund is essential to protect the interests of the members.

Director's insurance insulates the fund against litigation only to the extent that there is no negligence on the part of the individual director involved.

Audit Scrutiny

Independent advice is a key element in the prudent management of the organisation. It is incumbent on all directors and staff of CHAC to ensure that accurate and timely information is supplied to auditors and that the audit reports are closely scrutinised. This will ensure that the audits are as accurate as possible and give some confidence to the Board that the financial position of the organisation is accurately reflected in the figures presented.

Board Members 2019-20

<p>Dianne Baldock <i>Role: Chairperson</i></p>  <p>Di is an Aboriginal woman born in Tasmania. Di is passionate about the health and well being of the Aboriginal community of Circular Head. Di also has a position as a director on the newly formed Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Services. Di operates her own business as a consultant and spiritual healer.</p>	<p>Sam Cleland <i>Role: Vice Chairperson</i></p>  <p>Sam's career has been of science and public service. After 18 years as a Darwin meteorologist, climatologist and lover of outdoors, Sam moved to Circular Head in 2009 to manage the Bureau of Meteorology's Cape Grim Baseline Air Pollution Station, a globally significant observatory that measures changes in atmospheric composition that drive climate change. He soon realized much of his early education of Tasmanian Aboriginal history had been misleading, so wanted to learn more and contribute.</p>
<p>Aaron Robertson <i>Role: Treasurer</i></p>  <p>Aaron is originally from a small rural town in the South Island of New Zealand and has been a part of the Circular Head community for over 20 years now. He came to Smithton to be part of the VDL dairy conversions and is now a partner at a local accounting and advisory firm, Findex.</p>	<p>Luke Grey <i>Role: Director</i></p>  <p>Luke has worked in Tasmania mostly as a painter, but also part time as a person who enjoys working with horses. He has also worked as a masseur and in Queensland, Northern Territory, Kimberley's and NSW on cattle stations with horses and cattle.</p>
<p>Andrea Ollington <i>Role: Director</i></p>  <p>Andrea was raised and educated in Smithton. Andrea has worked in Oral Health sector for over 28 years. A passionate advocate for Health Services for our community, mindful of culture and country and a strong interest in Disability Services and Health Care. Affiliated member of- NDIA Participant First Team, Health Consumers Tasmania, Children Young People with Disability (CYDA), National, Aboriginal @ Torres Strait Island Health Workers Association (NATSIHWA)</p>	<p>Robin Searle <i>Role: Director</i></p>  <p>Robin was born and bred in Circular Head and worked on Woolnorth for most of his life. He is passionate about our community and the local environment. He is a commercial fisherman/diver who lives in Stanley.</p>
<p>Krista Mills <i>Role: Director</i></p>  <p>Krista is a Registered Nurse with a background in Aged Care and community care. She has lived in Smithton her whole life and has strong networks within the community. She describes herself as down to earth, non-judgmental person who enjoys a challenge, especially academic.</p>	<p>Gypsy Draven <i>Role: Director</i></p>  <p>Gypsy is an National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Social worker. She is also a Bundjalong artist, fashion designer, writer, mediator and a mother of 6 children.</p>
<p>Judy Brooks <i>Resigned</i></p>  <p>The Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation thanks Judy for her 2 years of time and commitment to the Board.</p>	

Chairperson's Message



My role as Chairperson has been one of mixed feelings, totally different than what I expected. I have done my utmost best to represent CHAC on many occasions and at many events and throughout many interviews.

I would first like to thank my fellow board members for their commitment and loyalty to their roles. Board meetings via 3CX conferencing certainly have not been easy for some members but we managed to get through them.

CHAC is growing fast and that could not be possible if it wasn't for the dedicated team of staff and the guidance of the General Manager Tony Smart. CHAC is in a healthy position at present and this is due to the hard work of the Finance officer Bev Blakemore. Bev has worked tirelessly to ensure CHAC's finances are all in order which has been proven by another unqualified audit report.

The community has struggled immensely with COVID19 restrictions and the staff worked hard to ensure community member's needs were met. The staff, I believe, initially struggled with the isolation and working from home arrangements but nevertheless kept doing their roles the best they could to ensure service delivery of some sort could continue. Staff became very creative. Programs delivered educational fun packs to families of young children, meals were delivered and are still being delivered to clients across the community, cultural videos were made and placed on CHAC's Facebook page so that community could still feel that connection to their country etc. These are just some of the creative ideas that staff developed and distributed. A big congrats to all staff. I can't name you all as there are too many.

I must not dismiss the volunteers who play a big part in CHAC's success, thankyou especially to those who volunteer for the Strive to Drive program. Your precious time has given many people within the community an opportunity to gain their hours for them to obtain their licence.

There has been many opportunities over the past 6 months to have input into Land returns, government policies, language, dual naming, cultural burning, Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance and the newly formed entity Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service. CHAC is certainly on the map, not only from a state view but from a national view also. CHAC placed 7 names up for Dual Naming of significant sites on Woolnorth property and just recently were given the opportunity to showcase the sites to the Surveyor General, DPIPW and ABC. The proposed names were recorded in the primary language. The process for the Dual naming is a complex one but the day out on country with CHAC staff, Surveyor General, DPIPW, ABC and Aunty Patsy Cameron was one of celebration.

At the beginning of my message I made comment on CHAC's growth but let us not lose sight of what CHAC was originally set up for. To embrace our cultural connections and maintain community spirit, to meet the identifying needs of Aboriginal community members and to create a culturally safe space for community members. Quality service delivery is vital for a healthy community so let's hope real soon those doors can be open for community to come back through.

Once again thankyou to all staff, volunteers and especially the community.

Circular Head community is the foundation to CHAC's success.

Di Baldock

General Manager's Message



Welcome to the Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation (CHAC) Annual Report for the 2019-2020 financial year and I trust that my message will provide you with a snapshot of CHAC's operations.

When I reflect on the past year, I am extremely proud of what has been achieved and how as an organisation we went about the business through both normal and very testing times, what this tells me is that great results are achieved when people are committed, valued and inspired by a positive working environment and that our people have a passion to help others.

My recognition of all staff and volunteers that provide our organisation with such dedicated service across all domains is made with sincerity and I wish to thank you all for the dedicated and professional manner that you represent the organisation whilst carrying out your duties. Again, I have been advised from within and out of the community of the great service you provide. Well done.

I would like to acknowledge the service for those who have left the organisation during the year, Mr Rodney Marthick at Trawmanna, Mr Jake Marshall, Children & Schooling and Ms Vicki Barker, Finance.

The range of programs and services provided by the organisation face ongoing challenges with additional demands confronting our people on a daily basis. This is challenging to all, including the funding bodies on how we can meet demands.


Reporting is increasing as we aim to meet Key Performance Indicators within all programs and in many cases we may exceed this with figures not being captured or portrayed within the reporting due to the program limitations.

Our year commenced in July with a visit from the newly appointed Commissioner for Children & Young People, Ms Leanne McLean who came to CHAC and held discussions with staff to provide her with issues that young people are facing in the community, the Commissioner advised that the information staff provided was extremely helpful towards her aim to provide the children and young people of Tasmania with a strong, impartial and dedicated voice informed through a broad understanding of their health & wellbeing, hopes & dreams.

Roger Jaensch MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Housing and Minister for Human Services met with staff in August where he was provided with our concerns regarding the lack of Emergency Accommodation for those who face crisis issues. Staff were able to provide the Minister with a picture that hopefully will assist with the momentum for future actions to assist the community.

Throughout the year we have represented along with Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA) at Heads of Agencies meetings where concerns for the people in communities are able to be discussed directly with those people heading the departments. These meetings are proving to be very successful with changes that are now beginning to show working with the departments.

Culture learnings and understanding has been developing further through the Smithton High School with the assistance from Dr Ian McFarlane who provided a series of mini lectures that covered Historiography, Colonialism, Language, People of the North West tribes, Religion – spirituality, Racism, Robinson, The Friendly Mission, and the VDL Company. These mini lectures provided three staff members who attended the opportunity of learnings that they may never have been able to obtain, as well as working in partnership with the Schools is developing our Culture greatly into the community.



During March, Culture Officer Ms Sonya Searle with staff members Ms Camilla Woolley and Ms Cindy Schuurung who work within the Children & Schooling program, Ms Selina Maguire, Youth Mentor along with 2 students from the Smithton High School were invited to meet On Country at Sundown Point with Mr Jason Jacobi, General Manager, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Services with his team members, Mr Jarrod Edwards, On Country Coordinator and Aboriginal trainee rangers from across the state, Elders and grandchildren.

The day was aimed at building relationships for future work together with CHAC and the community.

A smoking ceremony was performed by two rangers and two Elders who invited our staff to be involved in providing a special occasion and experience for them along with the students who are working in Aboriginal research of this community.

We look at this day as the beginning of greater opportunities for our people to be involved and to build on knowledge that can be passed to younger people learning from other Aboriginal people working in the community.

A submission has been made to the Aboriginal and Dual Naming Panel for the renaming of significant sites in the community. The *Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy (ADNP)* provides for the preferential assignment of Aboriginal names to previously unnamed features or places.


The following submission has been placed to panel from CHAC for this community

Cape Grim	Kennaook (kenar-ook)
Doughboys	Kar.ner.noo.tong (Outer Island) Kaninerwidic (Inner Island) Koindrim (Collective)
Trefoil	Tademer
Woolnorth Point	Temdudheker
Suicide Bay	Taneneryouer (Cliff)

Language, our telephone message when you call into the office now greets in Language that has been greatly acknowledge by many people calling in. I wish to acknowledge and thank Dianne Baldock for her words recorded in language.

An exciting opportunity came along where our organisation was provided the opportunity to appoint an Aboriginal Liaison Officer to work with Mission Australia across the North West and West Coast as a Child Safety and Wellbeing Aboriginal Liaison Officer. Following expressions of interest for the position Ms Maxine Horton received this appointment and now works in a team across both Burnie and Smithton offices servicing the areas. This is an opportunity that arose that CHAC should be very proud to part of.

Queen Victorian Museum Art Gallery (QVMAG) and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) house and display Petroglyphs from this community that are being considered to be returned to the community. CHAC was provided the opportunity to have consultation with both organisations. In these conversations we proposed the concept on behalf of the community suggestion to them that the Petroglyphs or at least an amount of them be relocated into the new museum that is to be built in Smithton with an Aboriginal gallery for a period of time allowing for community members to have the opportunity to learn the history of them and into the future allow for the possible digital replication along with the story of the Petroglyph.



Our business like the world changed very soon in to the 2020 year when the COVID 19 virus came upon us, as an essential service we were required to change the way we were to continue to operate and managed our staff with the majority of them working from home. This was for a period up to 18 weeks and during this time we development ourselves as an organisation that can adjust to meet challenges quickly, this was demonstrated how we went out to the community groups and kept contact in the way of electronic media. As we return to COVID normality it is important to recognise that whilst we maintain working with safe working restrictions in place for our programs we continue to assist our clients in various ways through this time. I wish to acknowledged all self-challenges, work and dedication of my staff on how they operated through this very difficult time and the care that was provided to our people in the community at all hours of the day and night. On behalf of everyone, I thank you.

Our year ahead we will be bringing to life NAIDOC Week and Tunnerminnerwait celebrations in November, building our Volunteers base and continue to work with Reconciliation Tasmania to obtain a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) with the Circular Head Council.

Tony Smart



General Manager

Program Achievements

New Directions Program – Kristy Ollington, Julie Scott & Yvette Buckby

The New Directions Program currently has 85 families signed up.

Below are examples of our daily tasks:



- Home visits
- Ladies lounge running fortnightly activities include: Aboriginal & Torres Straight Children's Day, mini health checks, safety awareness, craft days, day excursions, pamper days, budget & healthy eating workshops and cultural trips whilst providing a safe base for mums to feel comfortable, supported, be connected and make new friendships
- Midwife clinic support for clients to get to SDH & NWPH and working closely with CHAPS Nurse Rose to ensure children get their scheduled checks
- New parents groups - 7 week course running twice a year using professional speakers and New Directions staff to facilitate
- Supporting women with PND with referrals to General Practice, Psychologist/ Counselling
- Weigh-in clinics by appointment
- Child Safety support for families, assisting families to reach goals
- Being involved in community programs to support health outcomes in the community
- Gathering of statistics/surveys for future funding/management
- Appropriate referrals to other allied health professionals
- Developing flyers/ brochures/monthly newsletter and overseeing FB page to invite and make clients aware of what's happening in the program

COVID-19 has made our time with families very stressful and challenging as we could not personally present our support and care. Through COVID-19 we verbally supported families the best way we could, we also created kids activity packs and delivered to homes to designated drop off points.

The New Directions program is continuing to build connections in the community, staff are very well respected amongst

Indigenous Australian Health Program – Outreach-Niki Hunter

The Covid-19 outbreak in our local area had a significant impact on the overall health and wellbeing of our community bringing confusion and fear about being able to access essential medical services, medication collection and performing everyday living requirements. Due to restrictions being in place the availability of transports to medical appointments was greatly affected but supports were offered via assistance with Telehealth appointments, medication & grocery collection and phone well-beings checks. Once restrictions started to lift many clients needed to reschedule appointments and the health worker has been very busy helping clients to appointments, relearning new essential hygiene protocols within the health sector and everyday living.

The Outreach Program has helped many clients with chronic health conditions to improve their health outcomes by assisting in the following areas

- Transport to medical appointments, free service
- Support and advocacy at medical appointments
- Help to navigate the health system

- Promote and assist with Closing the Gap (715 health checks and PBS Co-payment) registrations
- Perform basic health checks ie, blood pressure/ glucose, weigh /BMI
- QUIT Smoking advice and referrals
- Health Screening referrals (Blood Donations, Mammograms, Cervical Screenings & Bowel Testing kits)

Niki and Cheryl Marshall from the ITC Program have continued their studies in Indigenous Health Worker Training, this has also been affected by travel restrictions but a new online portal will have the ladies being able to complete their studies. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers (ATSIHWs) provide primary health care in a culturally appropriate manner. They play a vital role in the primary health care workforce, reducing communication gaps, improve follow-up practices, help with medical advice for individuals, families and community groups.



Health Centre – Keryn Brockman & Yvette Buckby

The Health Centre has recently undergone a revamp in the reception area with a new reception counter being installed, this was made possible by a successful application for funding via TAZREACH from Covid-19 relief funds. The new counter allows for adherence to Covid-19 policies such as social distancing and limiting unnecessary contacts. The added benefits in the design process is that it allows for easier disability access, a designated wheelchair service counter and a functional office design for the reception staff.

There has been an overall increase in services within the last year with some services increasing visits and services being fully booked at every clinic, this is great for our community as it increases the availability of Allied and Mental Health Services locally and that are provided in a culturally safe environment.

The TAZREACH Aboriginal Outreach Services have been fully utilised and were managed when Covid restrictions were in place by implementing telehealth appointments, many of these clinics were still held at the Health Centre which required intense hygiene protocols to be implemented and maintained. This was done successfully as private clinics choose to continue visiting due to the high level of compliance being achieved. There are currently 3 allied health private practices that hire rooms and administrative services, 4 room hire agreements and the Tazreach ATSI funded clinics.

The Health Centre has also just recently had the Integrated Team Care program move permanently into the building, this was only possible due to a renovation in the Dental Sterilising area that has seen a dividing wall, window, upgraded electrical, hard floor surface and hand washing facility installed. This renovation has given use to an area that was otherwise unusable, with the renovation completed it allows for the dental equipment in the Health Centre to be moved to that area and opens another clinical room to be accessed by services.



Integrated Team Care (ITC) Chronic disease management and Care Coordination - Krista Mills & Cheryl Marshall

Integrated Team Care have provided services throughout the year to support those with chronic disease, to receive coordinated and holistic management of their illness. ITC services have assisted many clients to become informed and take better control of their health and wellbeing. ITC advocates and ensures communication between health teams takes place, to ensure strong linkages and coordination across sectors. ITC has been able to form relationships with several GP services, specialists, mainstream services and allied health providers. These linkages act as a catalyst to getting management plans and health assessments conducted and followed up. ITC continues to provide transport and support with medical appointments and assistance with complex forms and instructions. ITC are able to conduct health checks clinical procedures in line with the GP management plan. ITC prides its service as being holistic and person centered in its approach to chronic disease management.

Outreach worker services 386

Care Coordinator services 453

Supplementary services 52



Integrated Team Care Men's Group

Integrated Team Care have created a Men's Group that meets weekly at our property Trawmanna at 73 Mella Road. The group is to assist with social isolation, health education and provides the opportunity for story sharing and mentoring each other. Much time is spent yarning around the open fire about old times and the history and culture of our community. Some aspects of health are discussed and guest speakers are invited on occasion to give advice on a relevant health topics. We have a garden that some of the group are involved in growing vegetables, which we then share and cook together. Other small woodwork and repair, mechanical and craft projects are conducted together. The participants share knowledge and skills with each other during projects and some act to mentor the younger members. We enjoy being able to encourage all individuals and ages to our group, and encourage reconciliation, respect, trust and positive relationships between wider community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The group continues to evolve and grow, the feedback from our clients has been excellent, from comments such as "It gives me a reason to get out of bed" and "I am so pleased to know I have somewhere to go and people to talk and joke with".



For more details contact :

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Aboriginal Mental Health Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) - Kelly Burke and Sonya Searle

The SEWB program aims to combine a wide variety of supports based on individual participant's requirements. This includes mindfulness activities, cultural connections, history and practice, wellness strategies, hobbies and craft activities, up skilling and life skills, as well as the provision of information and referrals to participants in a culturally safe and appropriate manner. SEWB aims to take a holistic approach to mental wellness, enabling program growth and flexibility to meet the differing participant's needs, and the changing restrictions and requirements in place due to COVID-19.

COVID-19 provided our SEWB program with some very new and unexpected challenges. The fact that the program has been so flexible and adaptive made overcoming these barriers a little easier. Coordinators already had pre-established social media pages in place, as well as regular phone, messaging and texting contact. All of these contacts were stepped up during COVID, with one-on-one walking and fishing groups established and maintained by the Culture Coordinator. Activity packs were regularly put together and passed out (as a one off per person) to socially isolated community members and staff working from home. Zoom/ Microsoft Team Viewer meetings were also utilised for training and meetings.

As COVID restrictions eased our community partnership workshops have begun again. The main benefit of these partnerships is that we are able to include family members and friends of our Aboriginal participants, building bridges, breaking down barriers within the community and create a feeling of community inclusion, reducing social isolation, boosting mental wellness while reducing the impact of COVID.

Friendships and strong support networks have been created for participants, information, knowledge and skills are being shared. One of the ways this has happened is by the establishment of a one day per-week over four week's tool workshop for women called Empowering Women with Power Tools. The SEWB program along with the Wedge Street Community House were fortunate enough to attract the interest of the ABC network with this program and the EWWPT program featured in a short story as a result.

<https://www.facebook.com/abcnorthtas/videos/3300073970078311>



Youth Mental Health & Family Violence Program – Kelsie Kearnes

Program Coordinator started the new year off as normal. Preparing for the upcoming year and awaiting school to resume to get back in and meet all the new students. Then along came March and the Covid-19 Outbreak. Coordinator spent the next 14 weeks working from home. Home schooling and working from the dining table became the new normal.

During this time the coordinator was able to pre plan two school programs. One being for Forest Primary - working with grade 5/6 female students who have presented with anxiety issues, and the second being at Smithton High - working with 7 female students who require support with life & social skills. Coordinator was able to collate information to put in their 12 monthly report. It saw a new way of communicating and connecting with clients. Lots of messages, phone calls, Zoom and social media. After the first 3-4 weeks of working home, coordinator struggled with the isolation and not having her work mates there to bounce off for idea's and suggestions to help her clients. It was lonely, so staff made sure they had regular phone calls to keep each other supported.



Youth Mental Health & Family Violence Program , Continued

During this 12 month reporting period, coordinator worked with a total of 71 Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people. 47 Female, 24 Male.

Some of the activities included - the I Am Project, Speak Up Stay Chatty session at the Circular Head Christian School, Where's your head @, I Am Inspired ladies night, Smithton High What's Up program, Out of the shadows walk, family violence information handouts/posters to local youth centre, Smithton Medical Centre & Mothers Group, Mental Health week Barbeque & Information stall, 7Up study sessions for disengaged students, Stronger Together Group (a group of people willing to talk to community members struggling with issues during COVID).

Both school programs are up and running currently, and are getting positive feedback. Coordinator is being approached to provide one on one support for late primary school and high school students. Other activities starting soon.

Alcohol and Other Drug Program – Maree McMullen

The Alcohol and Other Drug program is operated by one worker for 24 hours per week to provide a safe and culturally appropriate opportunity for clients to engage with an array of services whilst receiving support and education relating to dependencies on alcohol and other drugs.

The aim is to work alongside clients to improve their lifestyle choices and therefore enhance their wellbeing with a holistic approach.

In addition, family members of the client can be given support and knowledge on how to achieve a positive outcome. Outreach appointments and transport for clients are supported with referrals made to doctors, specialised counselling, Centrelink, legal appointments, community groups, job network agencies etc. These services would otherwise be inaccessible to the clients. Our region has limited access to public transport which isolates many clients, hence the demand for transport assistance.

During the past 12 months the program was involved with a community expo titled "Where's Your Head At" attended by approximately 300 people of all ages. This is an example of networking within the community, other service providers and CHAC programs to service a variety of people.

The program is involved with the youth Drop in Centre '7UP' and information sessions at the high schools in collaboration with another service provider.

Positive interactions and professional relationships have been developed with clients, community members and service providers. One of which is with visiting Community Corrections Officers. The worker maintains networks by attending regular information sessions and training to update skills and professional knowledge. The worker has completed an "Alcohol and Other Drugs Diploma".

During restrictions from the pandemic, the program continued to make regular contact with clients via telephone and assist where appropriate.

Commonwealth Home Support Program & Home and Community Care – Joanna Carson, Narelle Perry and Kelly Burke

The start to 2020 has come with many challenges, as a team we have come together and learnt to think outside the box to be able to assist and keep contact with our vulnerable community members.

During March to May our community were lonely at home due to COVID restrictions, to prevent feelings of isolation we started and have continued welfare checks via phone to ensure everyone was doing ok and if they were in need of anything. This provided an essential service of grocery or medication pickups or just a chance to have a chat.

At the beginning of COVID restrictions it was decided that Katie's Corner couldn't go ahead because the community area is not large enough to hold the meal and comply with social distancing requirements. By the end of May we decided to set up and deliver our meals to the community, we managed this by obtaining Emergency Meals Funding which has allowed for the employment of two people to prepare and deliver the meals. Our first meal was delivered on the 5TH June and by mid-August we could see a demand for more meals and are now delivering the service twice a week, Wednesday and Friday.

Between then and now (4th September) we have delivered 399 Meals:

CHSP Consumer Meals – 219

HACC Consumers – 33

Vulnerable Community Members – 147

For the 2019/2020 financial year we have provided 527 meals

The meal consists of a nutritious main and dessert, for some this may be their only nutritious meal they have in a week. All new deliveries receive a fridge magnet on how to store delivered meals correctly, these were supplied by Tasmania Department of Health.

We have had great feedback about the meals and how it has brought some families and friends together.



Social Support / Specialised Support Services

When Covid restrictions started to lift, our team decided to use Trawmanna and start a small women's group to alleviate social isolation and with putting the correct social distancing measures in place we could invite 12 ladies to this group and have up to 5 support staff. We then invited some CHSP clients that live alone to join us and we have been playing Bingo which the ladies really enjoy, we also provide afternoon tea. At our first session it gave our team a great opportunity to have a conversation around social distancing, good hygiene practices, and answer any question around keeping themselves and others safe.

Home Maintenance

At the start of the 2019-2020 financial year the program purchased a new Zero Turn Mower. We have assisted 48 clients on a fortnightly or monthly basis with their home maintenance which includes lawns, gardening, pressure cleaning, window cleaning etc. to help them remain in their homes longer. We have completed 936 hrs of home maintenance in the year.

When we are out in the field performing the home maintenance it also has given us the opportunity to check in on clients during COVID restrictions and have a chat from afar, they all enjoyed a chat and catch up, during these chats the clients felt comfortable to be able to ask health and COVID-19 Information.

We also had the pleasure of StormCo., bringing a group of 16 teenagers from Hobart and Launceston to assist our community, they spent two days with us doing home maintenance.

Other services like supported grocery shopping, medical transports, cultural excursions and information workshops are provided as required or available.



Integrated Family Support Services – Kristy Heald

Integrated Family Support Services (IFSS), is a 12 month program that is run to support families through difficult journeys in their lives. The program is a voluntary service focused on increasing the well-being and safety of children, young people and families by providing support and resources to build family strengths, resilience and capacity.

IFSS provides early intervention for children and families at risk. The aim is to support a family around identifying, resolving and addressing issues to prevent any/further involvement with Child Safety Services.

As the IFSS coordinator, I am able to facilitate meetings with clients and address concerns such as parenting, children's behaviours, family conflict and breakdowns, mental health and substance abuse, linking other Support Services and help to establish a sense of community.

A large factor within my role is liaising with Child Safety Services, Police, Doctors and medical practices, schools, training facilities and Centrelink, to which I have been able to build strong working relationships with these services during my time with CHAC/Mission Australia.

The COVID-19 period has brought with it many extra struggles for families and services alike. A lot of learning, rearranging and creative planning has been involved to continue to deliver the IFSS service in its demanding capacity. This has been a time that has proven to be even more difficult for families and with limited to no services visiting the Circular Head area for a period of time made for a lot of extra work.

We have been very fortunate in establishing extra funded hours for the program and an outreach IFSS worker from the Mission Australia office which has enabled more capacity for families to utilise the program. Also with the appointment of the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer North West, for Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line has been immensely beneficial in assisting to support the families within our community.



National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIS) – Mike Fletcher

The National Disability Insurance Scheme provides support for Australians, their families and carers with disabilities, the NDIS supports people with a disability to build skills and capability so they can participate within their community and to assist in engaging with employment opportunities. When a person has access to NDIS they are in the scheme for life or until they feel that they no longer need NDIS assistance.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on services being provided through the lock-down period. But, CHAC have been able to overcome this impact putting some safe support strategies in place for participants and their support staff. During the lock-down CHAC were focused on meeting the immediate needs of the NDIS participants and maintaining a safe way of providing support.

The NDIS access requests are still being submitted for participants who are wanting to access the NDIS. CHAC is a registered provider and can assist in guiding you through the access request process to enable you to access supports.

CHAC will support NDIS participants to work towards achieving their goals, having choice and control over the supports they receive and linking with other supports in the community.

CHAC currently provide day to day supports to many people living in Circular Head, also providing Coordination of support to participants as far away as Strahan on the west coast. Coordination of supports is all about linking NDIS participants with Allied health services, Behaviour support specialists and other NDIS providers.

CHAC have 7 support workers that provide supports to 21 NDIS participants and Coordination of support to 10 NDIS participants. CHAC will continue to provide support services to the Circular Head community and are happy to take on new NDIS participants into the future.

Home Care Packages – Helen Busscher, Registered Nurse

The Home Care Package Program (HCP) is an initiative of the Australian Government to help older persons to live independently at home for as long as they can.

A person is assisted to work out the need for a package by a professional assessor. This is usually conducted by the Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT).

Once approved for a package, the information is placed in the national queue, and the person is notified when the package is assigned. They can then select a provider of their choice.

The program provides funds, called a subsidy to be used to put together a package of care, services and case management to meet individual needs.

There are four levels of packages that range from L1-L2 – Basic to Low level needs, and L3-L4- Intermediate to Complex Care needs.

CHAC provides the HCP at all Levels and currently services 11 packages. L1-3, L2-5, L3-2, L4-1. In addition, CHAC has brokering arrangements with two (2) other providers to provide package support to their clients. Approx 10hrs per week, and extra by arrangement.

The HCP program is managed with six (6) support workers, and RN Care Coordinator.

The HCP program at CHAC provides high quality care, tailored to suit, and respect the choices of the individual client.



Children and Schooling Early Childhood Program and Smart, Strong and Proud Program -

Cindy Schuurin, Camilla Woolley, Stephanie Johnston and Krystle House

The Children and Schooling team consist of the Early Childhood Program and the Smart, Strong and Proud Program. The two programs work together across all components of the agreement to ensure consistency in meeting the needs of the students, schools, parents and community.

Early Childhood Program and Smart, Strong and Proud Coordinators continue to build and strengthen relationships with the schools and the wider community. Early Childhood Program and Smart, Strong and Proud Coordinators support and mentor students at the schools in a variety of ways; support whole class groups and individual students inside and outside the school, assist on excursions, provide On Country trips, facilitate Warrior's Way, history talks and cultural activities, assist with Breakfast Clubs at local Primary schools, facilitate Seven Up, assist with GP support and provide referrals to Youth Mental Health Coordinator, councillors, psychologists and other services as required. Early Childhood Program and Smart, Strong and Proud Coordinators also work together to engage children aged 0-4 in activities such as Play Group, Play Gym, Little Learners and Pre Kinder.

Coordinators across both programs continue to undertake a variety of training to enhance their skill set and enable them to provide a well balanced and holistic approach to client service delivery.

Coordinators also continue to regularly attend meetings of the Early Childhood Advisory Group and Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA).


During the COVID – 19 pandemic Early Childhood Program and Smart, Strong and Proud Coordinators had to make some changes to the program delivery moving into the online world with videos, Zoom calls, Snapchat, Facebook, emails and individual Play Gym sessions for families.

In the last 6 months Early Childhood Program has serviced 156 clients which include 51 new participants. Of these 112 identify as Aboriginal. Smart, Strong and Proud have serviced 151 clients. Of these 96 identify as Aboriginal. These numbers are on par with the previous 6 month period.

Children and Schooling have facilitated a number of On Country Trips for a variety of students to a number of places— Cape Grim, West Point, Green Point and to view pieces of the Petroglyphs.

Children and Schooling have celebrated important events including National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day and Reconciliation Week. We are currently planning upcoming activities for NAIDOC Week and Tunnerminnerwait Day in November.

Despite the COVID—19 pandemic both Early Childhood Program and Smart, Strong and Proud Program have seen numbers remain consistent across all facets of the program.



Adult Through Care – Kristy Wilson, Jarrod Farrelly and Mike Fletcher

After 18 months of consultation and training around the Nation, the new model for Adult Through Care began in January 2020, with the focus being on pre and post release to incarcerated clients while supporting the family members and children left at home. The new model's principles are based around being client led, strength based, cultural connection, connection to Family, Kin & community, gender specific, flexible and well-coordinated. Professional relationships with the Offender Management Team and Aboriginal Liaison Officers at Risdon Prison has improved immensely over the past 12 months with custody notifications shared and information on programs incarcerated clients have and haven't done, release dates and parole conditions. Majority of clients live with numerous socio economic impacts such as;

- Substance use & abuse
- Low literacy & numeracy levels
- Lack of education
- Unemployment
- Health/Wellbeing
- Poor social skills
- Housing
- Little Family support / connections
- Different abilities / disabilities
- Multiple & complex needs
- Intergenerational learnt behaviours

Our Aim

Build a trusting relationship with client & family.

Provide intensive cultural support & case management to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, youth & families at risk of offending, re-offending or incarcerated pre / post release.

Ensure participants meet all Court, Bail, Parole Orders & Community Correction directions in place.

Develop strategies to reduce number of court appearances and levels of offending.

Work collaboratively with other involved services.

Improve social outcomes by re-engaging with family / community.

Increase & enhance employment opportunities.

Identify & refer to appropriate internal / external services, visiting Specialist's etc.

Provide empowerment with life skills, housing, physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

Work on individual needs, achievable goals and future plans.

Aim / encourage to achieve positive outcomes in all areas.

The length of any case management depends on the individual needs of the client, we offer continuity care and don't set a time on management/ enrolment.

Indigenous Youth Justice Program – Greg Baldock and Sonia Nicholson

The program is aimed at providing prisoner rehabilitation and post support to clients, their families and youth diversion support to young people across the North West and West Coast of Tasmania. The program aims to provide support to clients and their families that are affected by the judicial system by developing and undertaking projects that will help respond to the urgent challenge of the accelerating rate of Indigenous offending and incarceration as well as support the realisation of safer communities. Act as a prison support and rehabilitation officer to implement a pre and post prison release support and rehabilitation program for Aboriginal people across Tasmania not just for the Circular Head community. Provide intensive through-care support, reducing levels of engagement within justice system for offenders, youth and their families. Reduce the amount of Indigenous community members entering the justice system, reducing court appearances and levels of reoffending. Break down barriers between clients and uniformed statuses, encouraging better relationships. Provide early intervention support to youth across the North West and West Coast.

An increase in needed supports over the COVID-19 time space has identified the need for a second Youth Worker to come on board. This positions main focus is on Intervention Prevention and Diversion. Supports are provided to school students that require a redirection to their pathways of behavior and reconnection to culture and country. These are provided by the Youth Worker making initial contact and then setting the student up with Volunteer Mentors who can connect with the individuals to provide a continuous safe person to connect and grow with. Age appropriate talks are also given to classes around risky behaviors that can get them in trouble with the law and what those consequences can look like. A Youth Task Force is in the process of being implemented for servicing the West Coast, Tullah, Rosebery, Queenstown, Zeehan and Strahan. This is a much needed service for the area which has seen a rapid decline in services available to them in their area over the past 18 months.

Learn to Drive Mentoring Program (LDMP) – Krystle House

Since taking over the LDMP Coordinator position on the 27th of July I have worked hard to reach my targets for the required minimum driving hours within each month.

The required minimum hours are 60 hours a month, at the moment we are having 15 to 18 hours in car driving hours per week, I received a phone call from Garry DMT State coordinator last week to congratulate me on reaching program targets. We have 14 active drivers in the program and 26 on the waiting list and potential to have more as Sonia and I conduct Learner tests each week. The program has had two clients pass their provisional driving test in the last 7 weeks and has more booked in for the upcoming weeks.

The program has been implementing all the COVID-19 safety plan as required. Since taking over the position the program has signed up 4 new mentors, so now we have 6 mentors in total.

**DRIVER
MENTORS
NEEDED!!!**

Learner Driver Mentoring Program

Worthwhile
Community Opportunities
Rewarding

CONTACT KRYPSTLE HOUSE
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Tasmanian Government State Growth CHAC

Culture and Capability – Sonya Searle

This is a 16 hours a week role. Project description consists of;

Supporting Indigenous Australians in the Circular Head region to discover, learn and maintain their culture with a focus on intergenerational transmission of knowledge, delivering capacity building activities and encouraging participation.

This year started off very busy, making connections with the Working on Country Rangers from Parks and Wildlife to plan strategies on how CHAC can be involved with upcoming projects on country, in our local area, also involved is the NRM (Natural Resource Management).

Kelp and reed collecting commenced in mid-February ready for Tunnerminnerwait day. February and March was extremely busy as it was all systems go to get ready for this big event. It was so disappointing after all our hard work that this event had to be postponed due to COVID-19.

Lock down began, boy was that a shock.

New ways of reaching out to people meant different strategies had to be put in place, like a new Facebook page for culture to keep people connected. Meeting with people one on one to go On Country, lots of phone calls, and video conferencing became the way for meetings to happen.

On the return to the office in July things started to get busy once again, the reorganising of NAIDOC week and Tunnerminnerwait Day are underway again.

Once a week on country walks with social distancing have been a great way for people to connect to country and unwind.

Hutchins Boys School from Hobart are planning 3 excursions on the NW coast this year, myself and Camilla will be hosting them on some On Country adventures.

Connections with schools to help educate children about Aboriginal history and culture are ongoing.



CULTURE & CAPABILITY

Linking Community through Cultural Activities and Youth Leadership

This project aims to identify, preserve and develop Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander culture throughout the community by sharing knowledge and skills across all generations.

- Cultural excursions on country
- Cultural arts and craft groups
- Sharing local cultural knowledge and history within the community at events and activities
- Support youth leadership within the community
- Support and protect local cultural sites and communities access to country



Sonya Searle
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Trawmanna – Shannon Blake and Jared Evenhuis

Rodney Marthick finished up at Trawmanna after a successful planting season and Jared Evenhuis came into the role in late January, the garden was absolutely flourishing. However with some weeds up to 5 feet high at that time of year, there was not too much time for looking and a whole lot of work to be done.

Estimation of produce:

- 200-300kg potatoes
- 85 pumpkins
- approx. 300 cobs of corn
- 30-40kg green and butter beans
- Enough garlic for sale at the market plus seed for this years plant
- Onions for 6months of market plus seed for the new year
- Zucchini, squash, tomatoes, capsicum and chilli's in abundance

Now with the garden partly dormant and a lot sown just in these last weeks, our hope is to not fill the garden quite as much through this summer to allow for vacant ground ready for a late summer plant out of various varieties to carry a larger range of winter veg in the new year. We have just de-commissioned the old potting shed and hope to sow that down to lawn and perhaps in time construct a small shelter and seating, to provide a place for people to come and enjoy being in the veggie patch.

The Community Veggie Market is proving to be a great success, our Thursday morning market between 10am-12pm has sold hundreds of dollars of veggies to the public over the last 6 months. It has been a wonderful opportunity for anyone to come and tour the veggie garden, to be a part of watching all the various stages, hopes and plans for the patch. It has developed a wonderful positive atmosphere of social interaction in front of the open fire in the Trawmanna hut and purchasing fresh veggies often only an hour after harvesting. There have been many discussions during the market about veggie cooking, ideas and experience shared from a range of cultures and backgrounds. Friendships have been made between regular customers and the benefits of sharing this time together has certainly gone beyond simply the supply of fresh vegetables.

Veggies have also been supplied to the ITC Men's Health group at their weekly group, to CHAC's 'Katie's Corner' Friday community meal and during the summer our surplus over and above this was sold to the local fruit and veg shop 'Country Market'.

This year's focus for Trawmanna was for overall maintenance and garden restructure, these are on target and the property is looking good. There has been consistent attendance of small groups using Trawmanna as a gathering site when Covid restriction allow for it and a small refurbishment inside the shed. Installation and painting of a cultural Tunnerminnerwait project is still ongoing.



The Native Pepper yield for the year produced 54kg of high quality sought after pepper berries.



Fire Pot and Rest Area



Rock waiting for portrait of Tunnerminnerwait



Vegetable Patch
