

9 July 2018

## Women's contributions celebrated during NAIDOC Week

South Western Sydney Local Health District will celebrate its female Aboriginal staff members and their important contributions during NAIDOC Week.

The theme for NAIDOC Week, 8-15 July, is *Because of her we can* and Nathan Jones, Director, Aboriginal Health, said the District's staff were an inspiration to all.

"Our staff work very closely with Aboriginal communities in south western Sydney and do an excellent job of building important and lasting connections with those communities," he said.

"This NAIDOC Week we are honouring in particular the contribution of the women in our team as well as the women our staff members count as their personal inspirations."

The District will celebrate the NAIDOC Week theme at an event at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital on 11 July.

The NAIDOC Week edition of the District's magazine Thrive, which celebrates the different Aboriginal Health services available and the community partnerships, will also be launched at this event.

"Then, at a special event on 26 July at Liverpool Hospital the District will launch an online book that will tell the stories of the strong Aboriginal women who inspired our staff members," Mr Jones said.

"These are beautiful stories that show just how important it is to have female role models in the community.

"Many of our staff members talk about being inspired by more than one person and we are grateful our communities are now able to benefit from these invaluable contributions."

Alisha May White, the Female Aboriginal Liaison Officer at Liverpool Hospital is one of those featured in the online book.

Ms White said her grandmothers, Margaret Anderson and Beryl Ah-Sam, her Great Aunt Muriel Brandy, her mother Francis White and her sister Kristy-Lee White were her inspirations.

"These five strong women have been very influential throughout my life and I am blessed to have all of them by my side," Ms White said.

The NSW Government has allocated more than \$270,000 for the Aboriginal Community Health Centre at Bankstown, which will include chronic care, mental health, drug health and specialist and allied health outreach services.

More than \$270,000 has also been allocated to Budyari Community Health Centre in Miller. The centre provides a range of services including Aboriginal chronic care program, an Aboriginal men's group, early childhood clinics and women's health services.

**NAIDOC Week events:**

- Wednesday, 11 July, 10am, Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital
  - Event will include a smoking ceremony, recognition of the importance of the work the hospital's Aboriginal workforce does, celebration of the NAIDOC Week theme *Because of Her, We Can*
- Thursday, 26 July, 10, Liverpool Hospital
  - Event will include staff members discussing the Aboriginal women who inspired them, the launch of the online book featuring staff stories, cultural performances, traditional Aboriginal morning tea and cooking demonstration

If the media would like to attend please contact the Media Unit on 8738 6848 or [swslhd-media@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:swslhd-media@health.nsw.gov.au).