

24 July 2018

Celebrating generations of inspiration

South Western Sydney Local Health District staff will recognise the contributions of generations of Aboriginal women at a special NAIDOC Week event.

Aboriginal staff members will speak about the Aboriginal women who have inspired them and shaped the direction their lives took.

Ms Karen Beetson, Deputy Director, Aboriginal Health, said this year's NAIDOC theme, *Because of her we can*, had resonated with staff at the District.

"Every one of us has someone, or many people, that have given us the inspiration, the courage, the education or the determination to achieve something that was important to us," she said.

Ms Beetson said an online book filled with stories of inspirational Aboriginal women will be launched at the event, which will include personal tales from our District staff members.

"To be able to acknowledge these women publically is very important as it draws attention to the unsung heroes in our communities," she said.

"These are the women who have raised us, cared for us and educated us for generations and we owe them everything."

One of the women who will be telling her story at the event is Alisha May White, the Female Aboriginal Liaison Officer at Liverpool Hospital.

"There are so many inspirational women that I look up to and it was hard to choose just one, so I have chosen five," she said.

She chose her grandmothers, Margaret Anderson and Beryl Ah-Sam, her Great Aunt Muriel Brandy, her mother Francis White and her sister Kristy-Lee White as 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.

"I would like to thank all of them for believing in me and pushing me because if not for them I would not be here today."

The event will include cultural performances and will conclude with a morning tea of traditional Aboriginal food and a cooking demonstration.

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.

Event details:

What: NAIDOC Week event

When: 10am Thursday, 26 July 2018

Where: The Dreaming Garden, Liverpool Hospital

If the media would like to attend please contact the Media Unit on 8738 6848 or swslhd-media@health.nsw.gov.au.