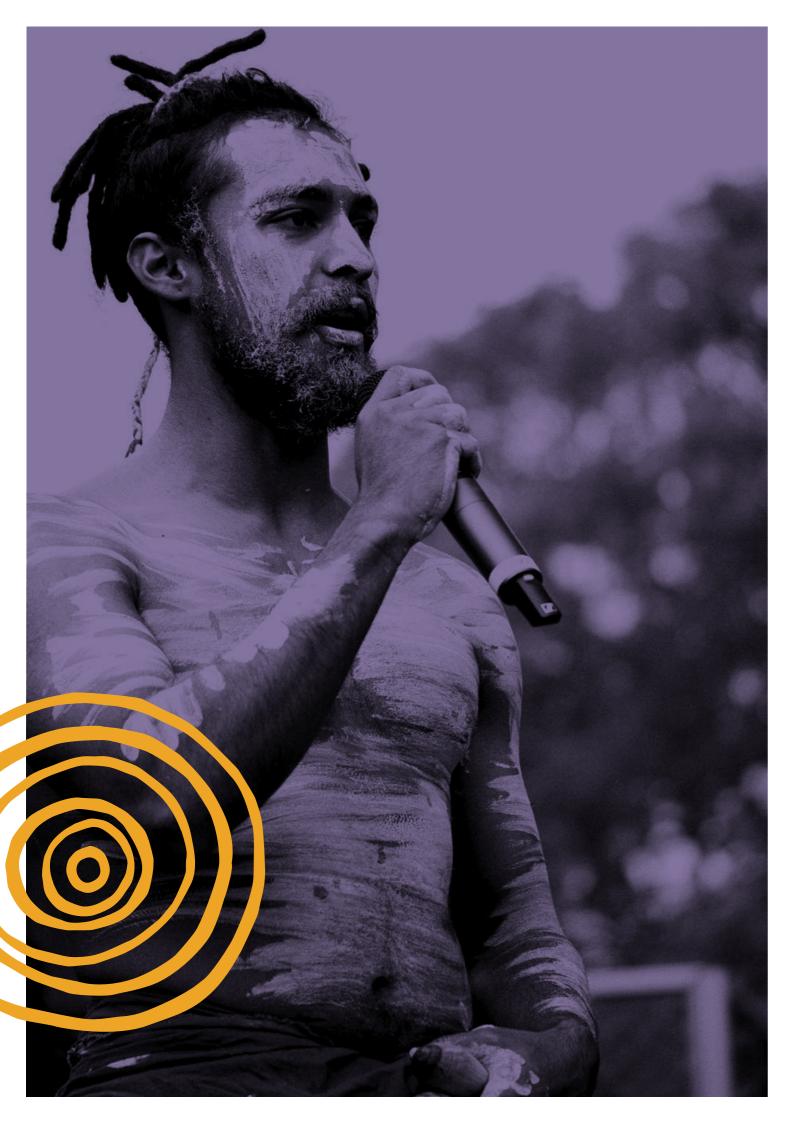






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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services would like to acknowledge that we operate and function on the lands of the Darkinjung people.

We pay respect to these lands and all that they provide for us.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the ancestors that walked and managed these lands for many generations before us.

We acknowledge and recognise all Aboriginal people who have come from their own Country and who now call this Country their home.

We acknowledge our Elders, past and present, who are our knowledge holders, teachers, and pioneers.

We acknowledge our youth who are our hope for a brighter and stronger future and who will be our future leaders.

We acknowledge and pay respect to our community members who have gone before us and recognise their contribution to our people and community.

OUR NAMESAKE AND HISTORY
PURPOSE, VISION, VALUES



Statement of Purpose:

Empowering the Aboriginal community on Darkinjung Country.



Vision Statement:

Inspiring strong, healthy, long lives.



Values:

Cultural Connectedness

Integrity

- Justice

- Accountability

- Empowerment

- Belonging
- Capability
- Resilience

Excellence

- Innovation
- Leadership
- Self-Determination





ELEANOR DUNCAN

The Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Centre was named after the remarkable local Aboriginal woman, Eleanor Duncan. Eleanor was born in 1937 on the land of the Gomeroi people in Moree. She went to school at the local mission and studied nursing at Newcastle. She went on to become one of the first registered Aboriginal nurses in New South Wales.

Eleanor worked at the Narrabri and Moree District Hospitals, providing specialist health services to the Aboriginal community in a culturally safe manner. After marrying and moving to the Central Coast, Eleanor continued to be actively involved in the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. She was passionate about health care and helping her local community.

We work tirelessly to continue Eleanor's legacy and are inspired by her to keep striving for improved health outcomes for Aboriginal people.



CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Yaama Maliyaa,

Firstly I would like to acknowledge and pay my respect to the traditional owners of the land on which we meet the Darkinyung people. I would also like to recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of all Aboriginal people from the many nations living and working here on the Central Coast. I pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future and look forward to being able to empower Aboriginal people living here on the Central Coast, Darkinjung Country.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I am again pleased to be presenting the Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services Chairperson Report for 2022/2023.

Over the past several years, the Board, Chief Executive Officer and broader Executive Team have worked tirelessly, fought endlessly and advocated loudly to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community living on Darkinjung Country. I am proud to have had the privilege to support, navigate and watch the expansion of the service.

Throughout the 22/23 financial year, Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services surpassed 100 staff for the first time; of these, 73% are Aboriginal. We have expanded our existing services and gained new services, resulting in the delivery of 35 funding contracts, providing much needed services to our community. What an accomplishment!

I want to express our deep appreciation to the incredible community we serve for their unwavering understanding and support during the ongoing shortage of general practitioners (GP's). The Board and Executives recognise the challenges that arise due to the scarcity of GP's, and we want to assure you that we are persistently advocating for more GP's to meet the growing healthcare needs of our community. Your patience and resilience during these trying times have not gone unnoticed. Together, we are committed to finding solutions to ensure everyone has access to quality, culturally responsive primary

healthcare. Thank you for standing by us as we strive to prioritise the health and wellbeing of our community.

I would like to congratulate Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services on receiving full accreditation, being re-accredited and gaining registration through Office of the Childrens Guardian as an Out-of-Home Care Provider, Quality and Safeguards Commission for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the National Regulatory System Community Housing Provider.

It is with great honour and pride that I share our extraordinary triumph in becoming the first Aboriginal Community Controlled organisation to deliver a Core and Cluster program for women and children escaping family and domestic violence. This accomplishment signifies not only a significant milestone for our community but also a beacon of hope for the countless women and children who will seek refuge, support, and empowerment within its walls. This success is a testament to the unwavering dedication, resilience, and vision of our Chief Executive Officer and leaders who have worked tirelessly to create a safe and culturally responsive space where Aboriginal women and children can find comfort, healing, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives. This achievement is a source of immense pride and inspiration for all of us, as it marks a step forward in our journey towards equity, justice, and a brighter future for all Aboriginal women and children.

I want to thank my fellow board members for their dedication, commitment, and

exceptional leadership that each one of you has demonstrated. To our CEO, Belinda Field, your unwavering support and determined efforts have been the driving force behind our achievements. Together, we have navigated challenges, embraced opportunities, and charted a course towards excellence. The Executive Leadership team, your leadership has not only inspired me but has also had a profound impact on our organisation's success. I thank all of you for your remarkable contributions and unwavering commitment to our shared vision. I look forward to the continued collaboration and success that the future holds for us.

The Board of Directors and the Executive Leadership Team are excited about our upcoming planning of our organisation's next strategic plan. Together we will be charting a clear and purposeful course for the future, aligning our objectives with the ever-evolving landscape of our communities needs. Through collaborative efforts and a thoughtful, data-driven approach, we aim to identify key priorities, set ambitious goals, and craft a comprehensive roadmap that will guide our organisation towards continued growth and success. This strategic planning process will engage the collective wisdom of our Board Directors, CEO and Executive Leadership team, ensuring that we remain agile and responsive to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. We look forward to this journey of strategic exploration, confident that it will propel our organisation towards new heights of achievement and impact.





Vickie Parry - Chairperson

Vickie Parry is a proud Gomeroi woman from Moree NSW, who moved to the Central Coast when she was just a little girl.

Vickie is also the current Executive Director of Barang Regional Alliance and the current Co-Chair of the New South Wales Coalition of Regional Alliances.

Vickie has a Bachelor of Education (Secondary), as well as multiple tertiary qualifications in Community Services. Vickie's primary focus is to empower Aboriginal people through access, education, training, employment and participation.

Vickie is a powerful advocate for Aboriginal people through her work, participation and involvement in our local community.



walambayiwa yadhawi

It is my honor to present the 2022 – 2023 Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services Annual Report. As we reflect on the past year, we are proud of the advances we have made in delivering high-quality health, social, emotional and wellbeing services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities we serve on Darkinjung country.

This year has been one of both challenges and successes, and I am proud of the progress we have made together as a community.

At Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services, our purpose is to provide culturally responsive and holistic health, social, emotional and wellbeing services that meet the unique needs of our community. We believe that everyone has the right to access quality, culturally safe services regardless of their circumstances. Our teams of dedicated professionals work tirelessly to ensure that our patients and clients receive the care and support they need to live strong, healthy, long lives.

Over the past year, we have expanded our range of services provided to the southern end of our communities in Umina, Woy Woy and surrounding areas. At the same time as continuing to deliver all 42 services across the entire Darkinjung Country.

We have also invested in new technology and infrastructure to improve our ability to deliver care and support to our patients and clients. We did this by utilising our talented staff who have expertise in this area as well as investing in innovative software.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering commitment from our staff, students, volunteers, and community. Every day, they show up ready to give their best, their commitment to excellence is reflected in the quality of their work. Staff's diligence,

attention to detail, and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty, are all qualities that make each and every person an invaluable member of our organisation.

I appreciate their willingness to take on new challenges! All of your individual and collective hard work does not go unnoticed, and I want each of you to know that it is deeply appreciated.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our goal of improving the health and wellbeing outcomes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities we serve. We will continue to innovate and improve our services to ensure that we are meeting the evolving needs of our patients, clients, and the wider Aboriginal community.

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to our Board of Directors for all that you do to ensure the success of our organisation. Your solid dedication, guidance, and support have been instrumental in achieving our goals and making a positive impact in our community. Your leadership and vision have set us on a path of growth and success, and I am truly grateful to be a part of this team.

To our Board Chair, Vickie Parry - I appreciate your hard work and commitment to excellence, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside you as we strive towards even greater success. Thank you for your tireless efforts and for being an inspiration to us all!

dandayawa ngurabiyn





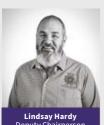
Belinda Field is a proud Wiradjuri woman, raised on beautiful Darkinjung Country. As a high-level CEO of an Aboriginal community-controlled, health and community services organisation, she is priveleged to contribute to the betterment of our community and the advancement of Aboriginal health and wellbeing.

Her life has been deeply rooted in cultural heritage, which has shaped her values, perspectives, and aspirations. She is a firm believer in embaracing cultural identity and empowering Aboriginal people to overcome the challenges faced, and building a brighter future together.

ORGANISATIONAL

STRUCTURE























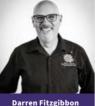


ntegrated Team Car



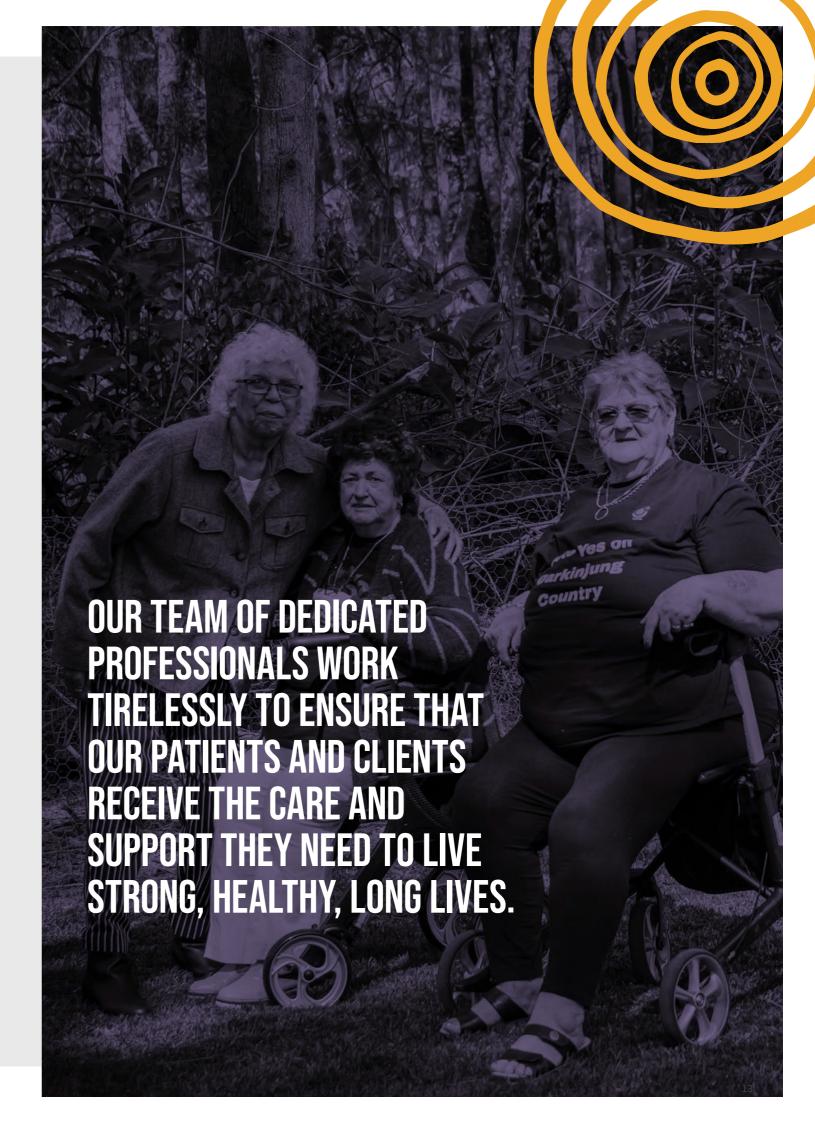








Risk and Quality







DR ELLY WARREN WITH CANCER NAVIGATOR AND PROUD GOMEROI WOMAN, JESS CAIN-WESTAWAY

Cancer mortality in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has increased by 12% over the last decade. The death rate for other Australians has declined by 10%. Sadly, the gap is getting wider.

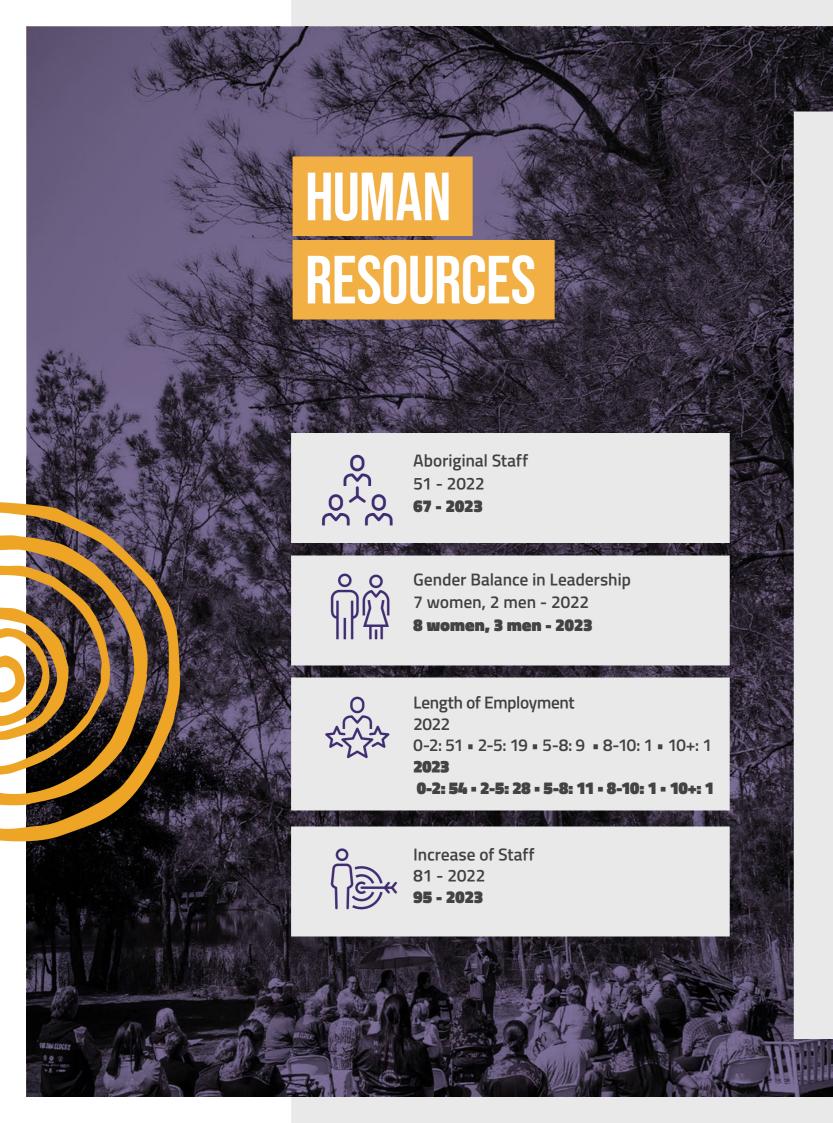
Jess is improving access for the Darkinjung community at every stage of their cancer journey, from screening to diagnosis, treatment and survivorship.

Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services' gurayibiyn yadha (you mob are well) groundbreaking Aboriginal Cancer Navigator program stands as a beacon of sector excellence in the realm of healthcare support for our Darkiniung community. This advanced initiative is the first of its kind, reflecting a profound commitment to ensuring that our people facing cancer receive comprehensive and culturally responsive assistance throughout their challenging journey. By integrating physical, mental, and cultural support, the program addresses the unique needs and perspectives of Aboriginal patients.

Eleanor Duncan's dedication exemplifies a transformative approach to healthcare, steering in a new era of equity and inclusion in cancer care, where the holistic wellbeing of our people is at the forefront. Our organisations dedication to the community, has illuminated a path toward a brighter, more supportive future for our cancer patients, marking a significant milestone in the ongoing journey to closing the healthcare disparities.

Sector excellence is vividly exemplified through our Yadha Muru post-suicide program, where innovation and cultural responsiveness meet to redefine the landscape of mental health support. At the heart of this initiative lies a reimagined approach to Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT), one that weaves cultural nuances into its very fabric. This modern program links individuals who have experienced the depths of despair and tried to unburden themselves from life with a comprehensive support system that encompasses physical, emotional, social, cultural, and spiritual wellbeing. By seamlessly integrating these elements into the healing process, Yadha Muru creates a holistic and nurturing environment that not only mends fractured souls but also strengthens their cultural identity, fostering resilience and empowerment in the journey toward renewed hope and purpose. This is a testament to sector excellence, where compassion, innovation, and cultural understanding intersect to create a transformative impact on individuals and our communities.





POPULATION DATA

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census:

- 17,047 people identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander on the Central Coast, which is the largest Aboriginal population in New South Wales by local government area.
- Aboriginal people on the Central Coast are 55% more likely to suffer a mental health condition (including depression or anxiety) than the non-Aboriginal population on the Central Coast. The stress is compounded by racial discrimination, injustice and the demands of acculturation to the beliefs, values, and norms of 'white Australia' that is so at odds with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait way of respecting, knowing and being.
- 14% of the Aboriginal workforce in Central Coast were unemployed compared to 6% of the non-Aboriginal workforce which

disproportionately impacts community's independence and ability to participate in economic life

• Cost of living pressures are forcing vulnerable families to move out to areas with less transport infrastructure, increasing isolation. Only 2% of housing in the Central Coast LGA is accessible for very low-income households and there was a 19.5% increase in median rent in 2021. 6.9% of Aboriginal households reported that need one or more extra bedrooms compared to 1.9% of other households.



GROWING DISABILITY GAP

Aboriginal people had 29% higher disability rate than non-Aboriginal people on the Central Coast across all age groups. 9% of the Aboriginal population reported that they had a severe or profound disability with 27% (423 children) aged between 5-14 years old.

17,047

PEOPLE IDENTIFIED AS
ABORIGINAL OR TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER ON THE
CENTRAL COAST.

Largest Aboriginal population in NSW by local government area

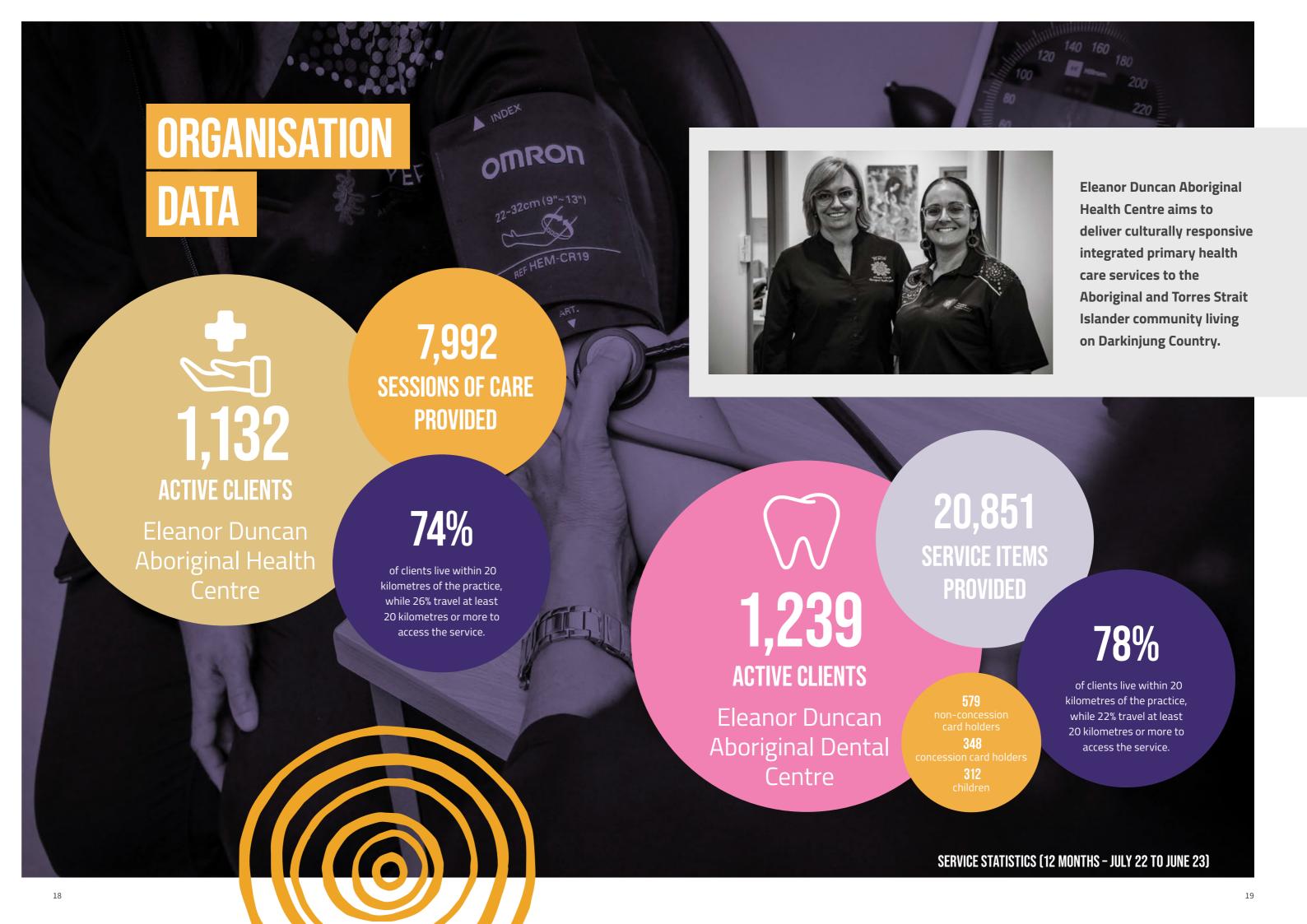
There are three critical demographic variations from the mainstream population that require targeted intervention:

THE AGE DEMOGRAPHIC

The Aboriginal community is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population, with a median age of 23 compared to 44 years. 53% of Aboriginal people are under 24 years old which is in contrast to the non-Aboriginal population who live longer. Aboriginal people die 10 years younger than non-Aboriginal people.

INCREASING LEVELS OF POVERTY

The median income of Aboriginal households in Central Coast is 18% lower than non-Aboriginal adults and is spread across 3.1 people, whereas other households on Central Coast have an income spread across 2.4 people.



1,122 CURRENT ACTIVE CLIENTS IN COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

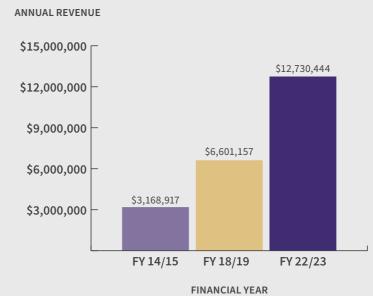
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS - CLIENTS

PROGRAM	CURRENT ACTIVE	TOTAL CLIENTS SEEN IN 22/23 PERIOD	
Yadhaba (Wellbeing)	417		
Psychology/Counselling	226		
Psychiatry	70		
Wellbeing Team	52	F00	
Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous Programs	28	586	
Wellbeing Group	12	000	
NAISDA Student Counselling	5		
Yadha Muru After Care	12		
Yadhaba Fit	12		
Gurayi-Biyn yadha (ITC)	321	388	
Self Managed (Supplementary Services)	176		
Intensive / Care Coordination	90		
Aqua Exercise	22		
Ganama Cooking	20		
Better Life	13		
Warbangali (Allied Health)	113	134	
ОТ	46		
Psychologist	24		
Speech Therapy	24		
Allied health Assistant	13		
Behaviour Support Therapy	6		
Cancer Navigator	84	85	
Cancer Remission	68		
Cancer Active Treatment	16		
Muru Bura (NDIS Support Coordination)	85	85	
Dhanggan Gudjagang	28	28	
Maliga Safer Families	24	78	
Buridjga	23	79	
Family Preservation	10	13	
PSP	60	23 CHILDREN 22 Carers	
Children	30		
Carers	30		

WORKFORCE TRENDS

FINANCIAL YEAR	NUMBER OF STAFF
FY 14/15	21
FY 18/19	58
FY 22/23	100

INCOME TRENDS



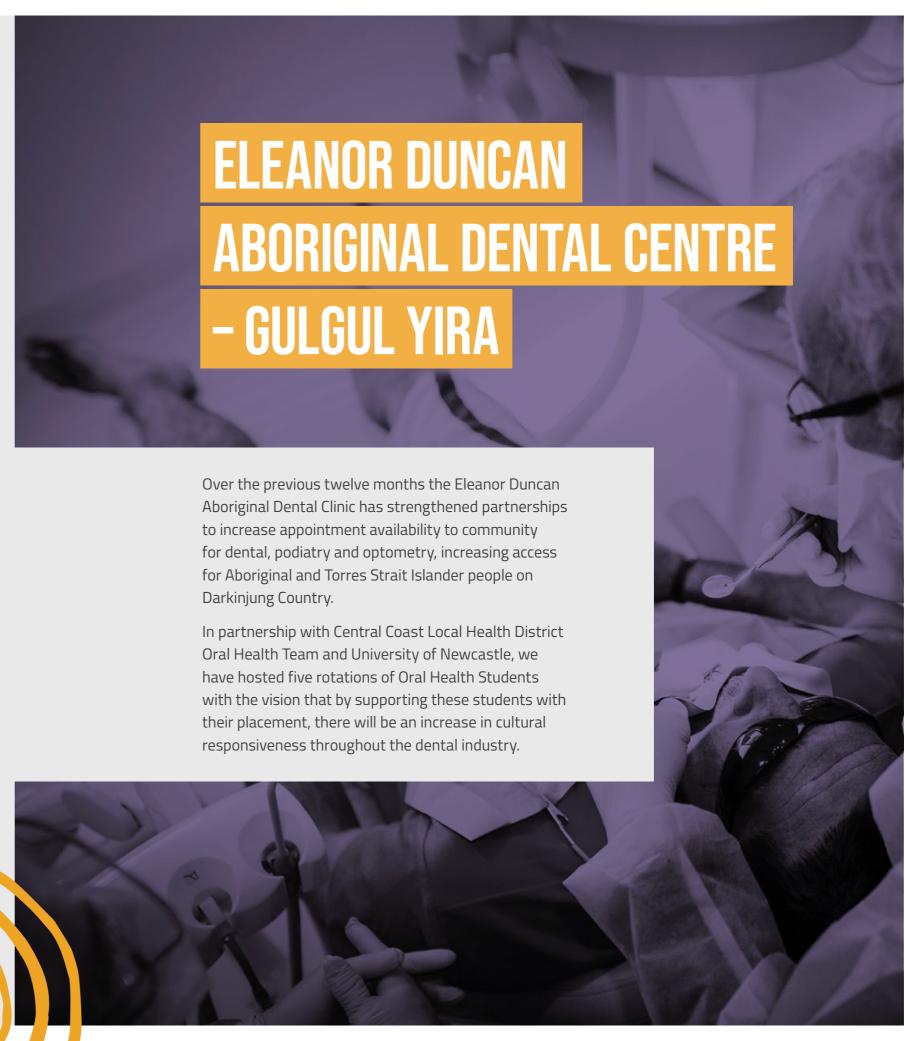


ABORIGINAL HEALTH CENTRE

The Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Centre has provided various education opportunities to our staff. The courses that staff have completed or are currently undertaking include Master of Nursing, Bachelor of Nursing, Aboriginal Health Practitioner Certificate, Nurse Immuniser and Early Childhood Nurse Certificate.

By supporting staff with higher education and professional development, the Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Centre is able to provide additional services to the community, increasing health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on Darkinjung Country.







Yadhaba and Ma-Guwag have had another successful year supporting our clients and community with culturally inclusive programs and supports. We have expanded our services and supports including Yadha Muru, our post suicide program, and Ngaya Yadha, our mental health promotion program.

Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services celebrates that Yadhaba is the first Aboriginal Medical Service registered for Aboriginal Alcoholics Anonymous in New South Wales. Our Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous programs are being a facilitated by a young man who has been through the recovery journey himself.

Aboriginal Affairs. These partnerships have allowed the ongoing delivery of food hampers and wellbeing packs to community

The Health Promotion Team also worked closely with Barang Regional Alliance and other opt-in organisations to organise events including our annual Community Christmas Party and National Sorry Day. These events had our highest ever attendance with over 600, and over 120 respectively.

Sexual Health

Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services Blood Borne Virus, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Sexual Health Program launched in July 2021. The Sexual Health Team has since established relationships with high schools and other not-for-profit organisations including NAISDA Dance College, to provide safe sex education to the community.

The Sexual Health Team celebrates the service development to now offer Dry Blood Spot Testing for HIV and hepatitis C, which will only require community to see a GP if further testing or treatment is required. This helps to provide prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases to our mob in a culturally safe environment.

Integrated Team Care

Gurayi-Biyn Yadha Integrated Team Care Program have thrived throughout 2022/2023 with the development and expansion of educational groups including: Aqua Exercise, Better Life, Ngnamus Bus, Too Deadly for Diabetes and the Ganama Cooking Program. The success of these

programs have resulted in clients having an increased community connection, positive lifestyle changes, increased empowerment for self-management and self-determination.





Empowering the Aboriginal Community on Darkinjung Country.

MURU BARA 'MAKING PATHWAYS'

Coordination of Supports and Access Program (NDIS)

During 2022 and 2023, Muru Bara underwent an extensive re-accreditation process; we now celebrate that Muru Bara NDIS has been successful in obtaining our accreditation for another three years. Over the previous year, the Muru Bara team has grown, now employing an Aboriginal Disability Liaison Officer, two Administration Support Workers and two fulltime and two parttime Support Coordinators.

The Muru Bara team has assisted 43 community members to access the NDIS and 85 participants through Support Coordination. It is through the hard work and dedication of the team that community can have increased health and wellbeing outcomes. Throughout the year, our Muru Bara team worked within our transdisciplinary framework to advocate for and obtain a mobility scooter a client through their NDIS plan.

Warbangali Allied Health

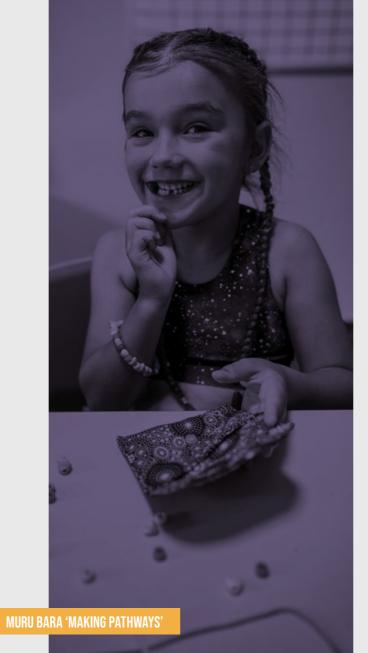
Warbangali Allied Health have increased staff from 4 to 11 over 12 months! We have arrangements with University of Newcastle, Charles Sturt University, Australian College of Applied Professions and TAFENSW to host occupational therapy, behaviour support students of Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Psychology, Counselling, Social Work and school students of Allied Health Assistants for work placement.

This has allowed us to successfully deliver 15 groups and offer services across nine schools whilst continuing to offer therapies to our clients including speech therapy, therapy, psychology and play therapy.

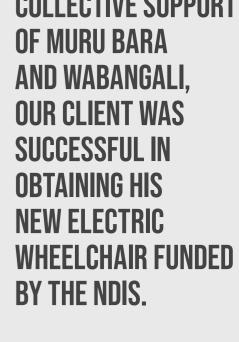
Respite

The Muru Bara Respite property has continued to service Specialised Substitute Residential Care (SSRC) and Respite through the Out-of-Home Care, NDIS and fee-for-service models through a culturally responsive, transdisciplinary framework.

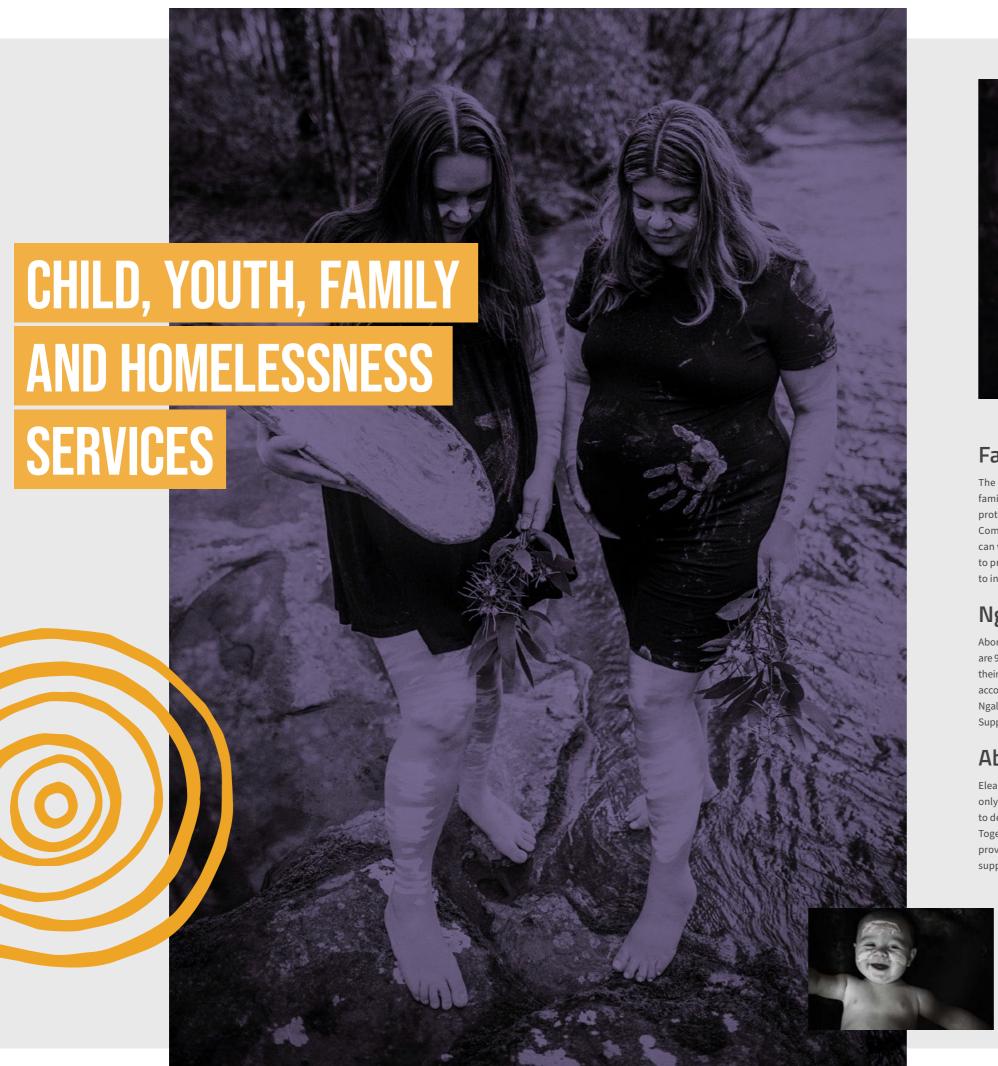
This service is delivered in a community owned property that has been recently renovated and is delivered by 25 committed staff who continue to support our gudjagangs on Darkinjung Country.



THROUGH THE **COLLECTIVE SUPPORT OF MURU BARA** AND WABANGALI, **OUR CLIENT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING HIS NEW ELECTRIC** BY THE NDIS.









Family Preservation

The Family Preservation team works with families who currently have an open child protection case with the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). The team can work with the family for up to 2 years to provide wrap around support services to increase safety and decrease the risk

of harm. We have supported 13 families throughout the previous twelve months; three of which have successfully met case plan goals to exit the service, while the other ten families remain engaged with Family Preservation.

Ngaliya Out-of-Home Care

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are 9.7 times more likely to be living away from their families than non-Indigenous children according to the Family Matters Report 2020.

Ngaliya Out-of-Home Care Permanency
Support Program celebrates the successful

restoration of three gudjagang into the care of their biological dhanggan. We are proud of our staff, carers, kin and children to have worked towards this phenomenal outcome in ensuring we keep our families together.

Aboriginal Together Home Program

Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services is the only service provider in the state, funded to deliver the Aboriginal led model of the Together Home Program. This service provides intensive case management to support Aboriginal people who have a

history of long term homelessness into stable accommodation. We celebrate, in partnership with Home in Place, that we have housed a total of 35 clients since program launch, with 24 of these being housed this financial year.





Empowering the Aboriginal Community on Darkinjung Country.

Dhanggan Gudjagang

Throughout the past year, Dhanggan Gudjagang has employed a community midwife to support the antenatal and postnatal care for dhanggan and gudjagang and their families on Darkinjung Country.

Through this service, we work with our dhanggan to ensure our gudjagang get the best start to life with culturally responsive clinical support of our midwife.



Buridjga has, over the past year, been through a transformational phase. We are excited to have reviewed, amended and planned for a HUGE 2023/24. The program target is to work with 65 young people. We celebrate this year that we have worked with 79 young people

who have successfully exited the program. We have been working with schools, youth justice, Headspace, Central Coast Youth Mental Health and CAMS to ensure that the needs of young people on the Central Coast

Maliga Safer Families

The Maliga Safer Families Program provides services specifically to the postcodes of 2256 and 2257 on the Southern Peninsula of the Central Coast. Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Services, through our membership into Barang Regional Alliance, identified a service delivery gap on the

Southern Peninsula, and are now delivering the Maliga Safer Families program from our Umina Community Hub. The service aims to improve child and family wellbeing, parenting and educational outcomes to those families referred to and accepted into the program.





In 2023 we again partnered with Trent Brailey of Forrest Buddy Creative to leverage the latest social media trends for enhanced engagement and to propel our communications to our community and beyond.

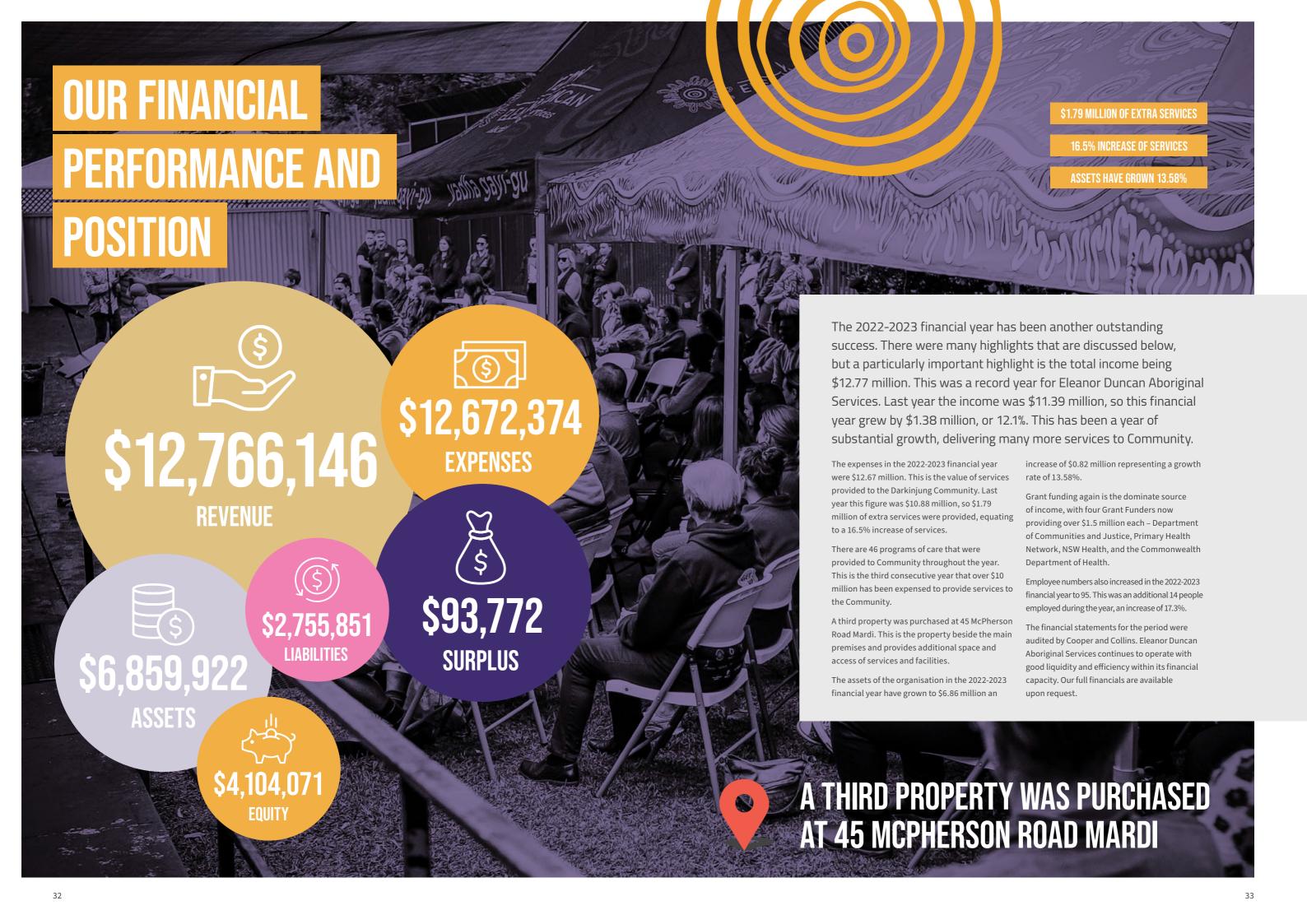
We adopted a visual-centric approach, featuring carefully curated photos and videos that resonated with our community, enriching our storytelling and increased participation to our events.

Through the expertise of Trent and his team, we achieved consistent branding across all mediums, making us instantly recognisable and reinforcing community engagement. We again continued to connect with our community through family photo shoots showcasing their stories and strengthening our bonds.

Looking ahead, we're geared to explore emerging digital platforms, continuing our mission to educate, inspire, and drive positive change, in alignment with the ever-evolving social media landscape.



22,317 MINUTES OF VIDEO VIEWED - UP 32%





Our Strategic Partners

































Memberships



















Accreditations











Inspiring strong, healthy, long lives.



