



**ABN 813 656 07437**

## **Annual General Report**



**2007 – 2008**

## Chairperson Report

On behalf of the Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative Board of Directors I am pleased to submit the 2007/2008 Annual Report to the Membership.

Upon reflection the financial year was a year of both highs and lows. Let me confirm that the Cooperative was extremely close to losing funding from our main funding agency The Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), bearing in mind that this was funding in excess of over one million dollars. The Department of Human Services (DHS) also indicated that they were close to withdrawing funding. If this scenario was to occur it would have effectively closed our organisation, our organisation that has been here for the past 27 years.

Due to the commitment, dedication and hard work of the current Board of Directors and particularly our Staff, I can assure the members here today that we have effectively met and completed our reporting requirements and obligations laid out by the various funding agencies. BUT be rest assured, we still have a long way to go.

I expect that Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative will face some demanding challenges in the year ahead, but as they say, without challenges how can we make changes?

We must keep in mind that we can only succeed if we all pull together and achieve our organisational goals in the short term (12 months) and long term (5 years). These goals are soon to be captured in our new Strategic and Business Plans

For to long past Boards have been involved in the day to day management of the cooperative and because of this the current Board of Directors have effectively separated division of functions powers and responsibilities, leaving operational day to day management to be rightfully controlled by the CEO. This has been a long time coming and well overdue but it is the basic principle of Governance in a business sense. Because of this I believe that the role of being a director will be simplified and concentration will be better focused on setting a new vision and direction thereby ensuring that ultimately, the community continues to benefit from the existence of Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative and protecting the interests and reputation of the organisation also.

The Board have also drafted and finalised for rollout our new Policy and Procedures Manual. The Board are also in the process of developing a new Strategic and Business plan for Gunditjmara to set our short term and longer term goals. Interestingly the last time this had occurred was 14 years ago back in the year of 1995.

I wish to offer my personal thanks to the dedicated staff of Gunditjmara for their efforts through this tough period of change.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the current Board of Directors, who each brought a unique set of strengths and expertise to the table.

I want to express a special thanks to Leanne Miller for her trusted support, enthusiasm and advice whilst acting CEO. Her appointment was crucial at a difficult time of change in the organisations practices, staffing and governance.

I wish the incoming Director's all the success for the year ahead and thank our funding partners and in particular, I thank you, the members of Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative for your input and participation throughout this year on a number of levels thereafter helping to improve the health and general wellbeing of our community. Because after all Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative is nothing without it's members.

Finally I look forward to working with you all in solidarity over the next financial year. I am looking forward to the challenges that lay ahead.

Marcus Clarke  
Chairperson

# **Annual General Meeting 2008**

## **Chief Executive Officer's Report**

During the financial year ending 30 June 2008 Gunditjmara Health Service clients totalled 325. Adult Clients between the ages of 15 – 54 years. With the 55 years plus clients total of 35. Client numbers overall who regularly utilising our service total 360. Gunditjmara provided services for Clients which equated to 9,839 Episodes of Care. An increase of up to 700 episodes of care from the previous financial year. Health program increases in the following area Child immunisation (59). Health program will target for the coming year Adult Health checks and Immunisation.

### **Health and Community Care Program**

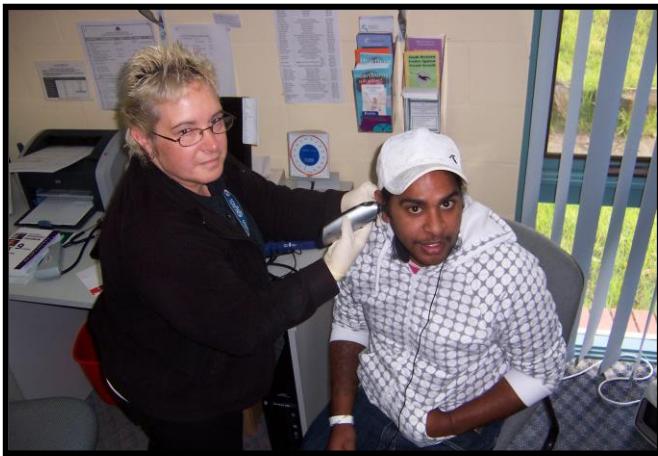
Elders luncheon 23 elders in Port Fairy, Terang, Colac & Warrnambool. Elders outings have included excursions to Werribee Zoo and Healesville. The team is

### **Healthy for Life**

During the year Staff attended workshops in Melbourne, National Healthy for Life Conference and Cardiac Conference. Organised and facilitated the Life Course in Chronic Disease Self Management run onsite. Held five session on women's health information sharing. Activities program exercise group, water aerobics, walking and tai chi sessions.

Staff joined the national public interest in watching Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's tabling of a national apology in parliament. Gunditjmara hosted the annual Sorry Day event - Shane Howard, Rob Bundle and

We are began an internal review of how we



## Gunditjmara Health Service

Well it has been a great year in the Heath Service. We have been able to open the clinic 5 days a week with the assistance of the doctors who we were lucky enough to have consulting on a regular basis. Our thanks go to Jamieson Medical Clinic for supporting us for the last two years by encouraging their registrars to gain experience in Aboriginal Health.

We now provide on site testing for Diabetic monitoring. This only requires a finger prick and results are instant. Ask the doctor or myself about this service

Our Chronic Health Nurses will try to increase the number of Health Assessments performed on all community members. These Health Assessments aim to identify manage and prevent Chronic Disease. Every indigenous person of any age can have a Health Assessment and in fact we encourage it.

Bernadette O'Brien will be working with us she is a trained Diabetic Educator. If you have any problems or questions regarding your diabetes please contact Medical Reception and an appointment can be arranged for you with her. Bernadette works one day every week.

Next Year will be exciting as our new medical building is shaping up after all this time of lobbying .This will provide a better equipped medical service and also relieve the overcrowding in our present building. We will work very hard not to cause division in our service by remaining in close contact with all our departments and continue to participate in all community events where possible.

Gaye is now able to perform Pap Smears. Anyone wishing to have a Pap Smear can make an appointment with me through the Medical reception ladies. Next year we hope to run some women's and men's health sessions where we can address a range of issues. Please let us know if there is any special topic of interest that you would like us to address. Your input is of value to us in developing awareness.

In the near future training in the use of the eye camera will be on the list so we can recommence eye checks. Gaye can then train the Aboriginal Health Workers and support them to conduct regular eye check sessions for our community and the regional areas. Please contact our Medical Receptionist if you need to know more

Roma Gaye Morrissey (Practice Nurse)

## **Kalay Wartee Indigenous Mentoring Program**

Kalay Wartee means 'Sister Brother'

In 2008 the mentoring program continued to match young Indigenous people aged 8-18 years with adult volunteers to help them feel more connected to their families, the culture and their communities. Our partners Brophy, have matched and supported 14 young people with mentors, trained 24 volunteers, and secured funding from the Department of Justice for two more years.

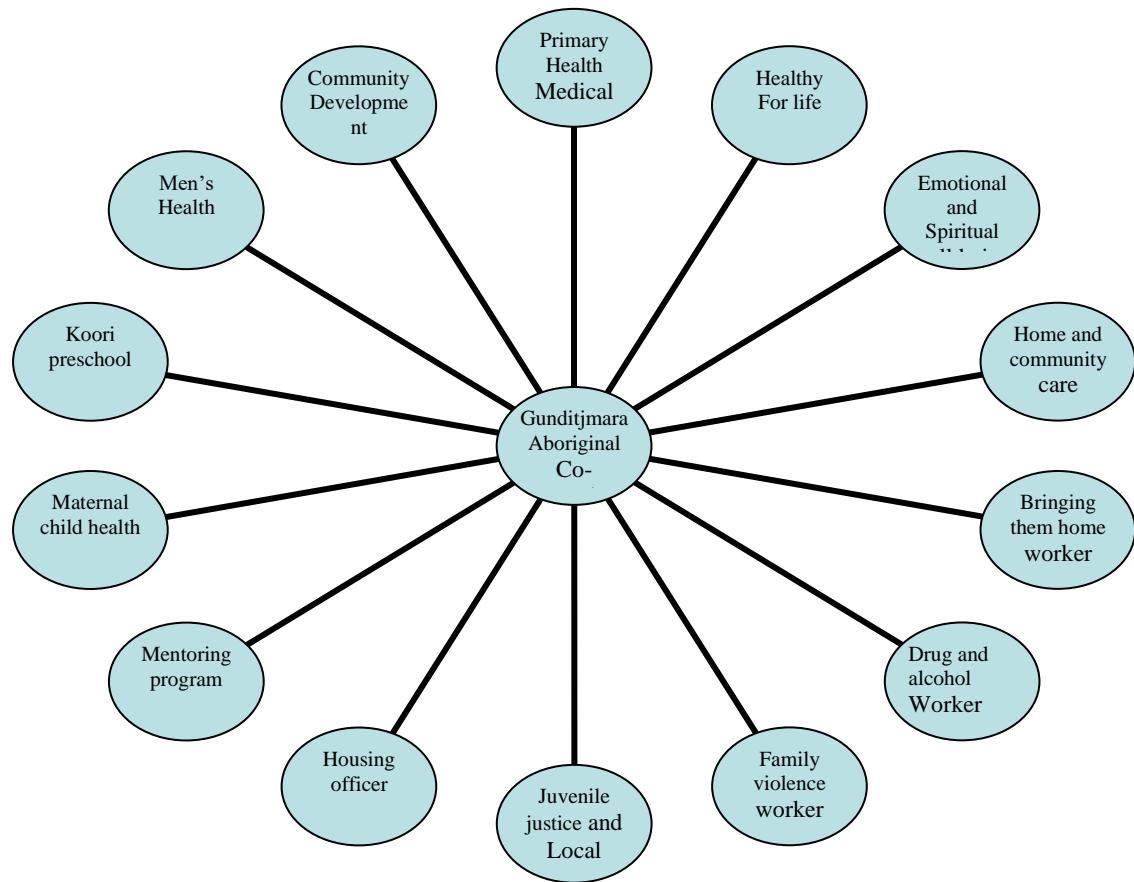
Mentees have achieved so much this year.

- Ranii Sturgess recorded her first song with the Tarerer-Gunditj music project.
- Andrew Fowler won the indoor soccer Best and Fairest, and has just completed his Year 12 studies with plans to study at University next year.
- Sandra Burrows, Colin Chivers, Katrina Henderson and Ranii all performed as part of the dance group at many ceremonies including performing for the Minister for Youth in Melbourne at the launch of Youth Mentoring Week and for the Governor and his wife on their visit to the Cooperative.
- Jonny Fowler helped erect the giant tent at the recent Tarerer Festival.
- Tash Douglas has been working on creative art and writing with her mentor Glenis.
- Julie Summers gave birth to a beautiful boy!
- David Wright continues to improve and progress at school, while Peter Belleville has been doing good work at a PowerMac and has secured a spot at the Technical College next year. Caitlin Kean is preparing for VCE.
- Ebonie Walker and Olivia Briggs both celebrated twelve months matched with their mentors Jennifer and Chelsea. Olivia was our official photographer at the art and cultural workshop we attended in April out at Kikkabush.

Kalay Wartee received a Department of Justice Youth Initiatives Recognition Award and was nominated for a Community Southwest Award. Adeline was asked to speak at the NRGize national Mentoring conference and YouthLink55 network meeting, and both she and Damien presented a session at the Community Southwest conference in February.

Congratulations to everyone for their achievements and we look forward to continuing the project with young people in our community.

'It's a privilege to be part of developing this program, which is being recognised by other communities as an innovative and effective way to engage young people, their families and others in the community to work together. We still have much work to do, but we look forward to the challenge.' Adeline McDonald (Mentoring Officer)



**THANK YOU .....THANK YOU..... THANK YOU .....THANK YOU.....**

The Board would like to recognise and thank those who worked with us and the staff during the Year:

Gary Wingrove, Guy Hedditch, Syd Fry, Barwon South West Region, Department of Human Services,

Andy Price, Ray Barber, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health  
Antoinette Gentile, Indigenous Issues Unit, Department of Justice

Petrina Hare, Barwon Youth

Damien Becker, Brophy

Faye Whitehead, Office for Youth

Daryl Rose., Barwon and South West Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee,  
Shane Keogh and Allan Miller, Victoria Police and  
Wathaurong Cooperative

South West Victoria Healthy for Life Consortium - Windmara Aboriginal Co-operative,  
Dhauwurd -Wurrung Elderly Citizens Association Inc, Kirrae Health Service, South West Healthcare,

Ottway Division of General Practice

Community Southwest Alliance,

Salvation Army Social Housing Services (Warrnambool Corps)

Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

