



Frequently Asked Questions

Nidjalla Waangan Mia project to become Aboriginal Community Controlled

What is an ACCHO?

An ACCHO is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation - a health service that is owned and run by the local community through their membership of the organisation and by local directors on the board.

Why do we want an ACCHO in our region?

A local ACCHO has the potential to expand the services currently being provided by Nidjalla Waangan Mia through increased funding opportunities and to provide job opportunities for Aboriginal people. An ACCHO will likely lead to better health outcomes as the local community can design programs that work for them.

What will the new organisation be called?

It is anticipated that GP down south will transfer the Nidjalla Waangan Mia name to the new organisation, allowing the service to continue to be known by the same name that the community elders originally gifted for the local health service.

What will the new organisation provide to the community?

It is anticipated that the primary Health Services currently provided by GP down south from Nidjalla Waangan Mia, is likely to transition to the new ACCHO from 1st July 2025. GP down south is committed to supporting the ACCHO to ensure there is no interruption in services to mob in the transition. GP down south supports the return of 'Aboriginal Health to Aboriginal Hands'.

Will the ACCHO employ Aboriginal People?

The ACCHO will be committed to maintaining the current highly skilled staff of Nidjalla Waangan Mia while also increasing the opportunities for Aboriginal employment through traineeships and a wider range of services available in the region.

How will the new ACCHO contribute towards self-determination for the local community?

The service and its funds would be managed by a local Aboriginal Board of directors elected by local members. Through local membership the community will have a say in who manages the organisation and how services are prioritised in the region. It is hoped that this will help achieve Closing the Gap targets.

Who are we?

The Steering Committee is a group of eight local Aboriginal champions supported by the Peel Development Commission, City of Mandurah, GP down south, and Lavan Law Firm.

How long has Nidjalla Waangan Mia been running?

Nidjalla Waangan Mia has been the health and wellbeing centre for the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Bindjareb region since 2010, providing culturally appropriate services.

Comments and feedback from the local community

- “A local service will know the needs of our community, build confidence in Aboriginal people accessing the health services for themselves and their families, improving health outcomes for Aboriginal families.”
- “Nidjalla Waangan Mia needs to be a community led organisation that makes decisions based on local knowledge and experiences.”
- “Nidjalla already deliver a good service and have good rapport amongst our community. Having Nidjalla as an Aboriginal led organisation would be the best option for our local stakeholders.”

Supporting this project will give the Bindjareb community self-determination over its health service delivery.

How can you support this transition?

- Put these points on the agenda of yarning groups, meetings and gatherings you attend.
- Invite a member of the Steering committee to attend a question-and-answer session (contact governance@nidjallawm.com.au)
- Share this flyer or start a conversation, share links on social media ([Nidjalla Waangan Mia facebook page](#)).
- Expressions of interest to be a member: contact governance@nidjallawm.com.au

When will it start?

We are currently in the process of registering as a corporation. The next step will be to apply for membership to the Aboriginal Health Council of WA and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

If successful, we will be ready to start growing our health service from July 2025.

