

Newsletter



August 2026



From the CEO

The opening of the new Manayingkarirra Public Health Centre was a resounding success; having Marion Scyngour, member for Lingiari, Paul Burgess, NT Chief Health Officer and Christine Connors, former NT Chief Health Officer was a delight and signified quite clearly the importance of the occasion; there were at least 200 people in attendance at the opening.

A special thankyou to Jessica Gatti, Manager, Primary Health Care for her commitment and resolve in securing the funding required for the new site. Take a look at more of the celebrations on page 3.

The busyness of the clinic over the past financial year is reflected in the amount of Medicare that was generated; \$2.2M was generated, this is the first time that we have exceeded the \$2M mark; Medicare funding is utilised to support new programs, the employment of additional staff and the acquisition of equipment; the community certainly benefits from the Medicare funds generated.



We have received \$76,000 from NACCHO for a Diphtheria response support program; in addition, we have received \$114,000 from NACCHO to deliver health promotion and community engagement activities linked to the National Lung Cancer Screening program.

Our funding for Primary Health Care funding is to be increased by \$6.2M over the next two financial years, this is a windfall for the corporation and reflects the high incidence of patient contact we have at the clinic; we have the reputation for being the busiest clinic in remote NT.

Mala'la is working with other agencies in the community to establish the Maningrida and Homelands Regional Authority, when established, it is anticipated that the company will provide social and economic benefits to Maningrida and surrounding homelands.

Please note the Aged care facility is to be open from 9:00am to 6:00pm on a daily basis; visits to the clinic will be restricted to this time frame.

Maningrida Men's Program Feasibility Study: Mala'la has received \$119,000 for this project, the study will deliver a structured feasibility cost benefit analysis to inform decisions about establishing a men's wellbeing program in Maningrida; it will complement Mala'la's current program. The study will confirm need and service gaps and assess the social cultural outcome a men's well-being program could achieve, the project will also test value, affordability and delivery options.

Ray Matthews
CEO

Staffing updates

Aileen Bell, our Manager of Corporate Services, has now relocated to our Parap office in Darwin, she will visit Maningrida on a monthly basis to assist with Human Resource matters; staff will be required to liaise with Aileen via electronic media in relation to any employment matters.

Welcome to Callen Free, who has been appointed to the position of Coordinator, Maintenance Operations at the clinic. We wish Callen well in his new role.

Employees of the Month

Congratulations to our staff members Zephariah Taylor (Aged Care), Kammi Pascoe (Clinic) and Dianne Soloman (NDIS) for their nomination as employee's of the month, their contribution to Mala'la is greatly appreciated.

Medicare

Mala'la achieved its highest Medicare earnings of \$2,294,247.90 in 2025–26, reflecting continued growth and strong claiming performance across the year.

In addition, the highest monthly revenue figures were recorded between August 2025 and January 2026, as well as in June 2026, demonstrating improved billing consistency during these periods. This strong performance is likely attributable to increased GP availability and successful outreach programs, which generated a significant amount of additional funding through Medicare billable services. These achievements highlight the team's commitment to maximising opportunities while maintaining a focus on compliant and effective claiming practices.

Staff acknowledgement

During my recent site visits, it was noted that Therese Moran, Louise Los, Joseph Cummins Ashmead and Sarah Scott consistently demonstrated a positive attitude. They were approachable, proactive, and always willing to assist and become involved wherever needed. Their teamwork, commitment, and supportive approach make a valuable contribution to the workplace and are greatly appreciated. They have taken on feedback and information on Medicare and implemented the necessary changes with ease.



As I will be on leave for part of July, the focus has been on ensuring that all incoming GPs and RANs are well supported and familiar with Medicare claiming requirements and recent AOB compliance processes. This helps maintain consistency, accuracy, and confidence in claiming practices across the team during this period.

Strategic Planning 2026 – 2030



Staff met with Danny Keep, facilitator to develop a strategic plan for the corporation for the next four years, 2026/2030; key priority areas were identified that will assist in achieving set targets that will benefit the community via Mala'la's service delivery.

The CEO and Managers will be responsible in ensuring established targets are met over the four year journey; the Board of Directors will be provided with regular updates as to how the plan is progressing.

Primary Health Care

Grand Opening – Manayingkarirra Public Health centre

On Thursday, the 18th of June 2026, we officially opened the newly completed Manayingkarirra Public Health Centre, which will provide additional space for visiting services, staff training and various community health programs. After the official opening and speeches, everyone was invited to tour the new facility. Take a look at the celebrations below.



National Lung Cancer Screening Program

Heart of Australia had its inaugural visit to Maningrida with their mobile lung cancer screening truck, complete with an onboard CT scanner, as part of the National Lung Cancer Screening Program. The team worked alongside Mala'la and local health and clinic staff to provide lung cancer screening to eligible community members. Screening was available for people aged 50 to 70 who currently smoke or have a history of smoking.



On the first day, we held a BBQ to engage with community members and to create a welcoming atmosphere. Of course, being Mala'la, we made an event of it!



Alongside the lung cancer screening, community members were able to access TB screening, catch-up immunisations, health checks and blood tests, bringing a range of important health services together in one welcoming and supportive space. Everyone got involved, with goody bags, sandwiches and other prizes for community members to enjoy throughout the event.



The Lung Cancer Screening Week was a great success, and we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Heart of Australia team, our Mala'la staff, CDC and everyone who helped bring 'Every Breath Matters' to life. Your combined efforts helped create an engaging, accessible and positive health experience for the community.



Diphtheria vaccination drive

There is currently a national outbreak of diphtheria with remote communities across the Northern Territory among the most affected. The best way to protect yourself is by getting vaccinated. The goal is for more than 90 per cent of people in Maningrida to be vaccinated against diphtheria by December 2026. Mala'la is helping by running vaccination drives and offering vaccines at our public health events. Our recent diphtheria drive was well supported with many community members choosing to get vaccinated.

If you have not had your diphtheria vaccine, or you're not sure if you're up to date, come to the clinic. We can check your records and give you the vaccine if you need it.

Murnun Men's Shed

As part of Malala's Youth Week celebrations in early June, the Murnun Men's Shed hosted a two-day spear-making workshop supporting the Healthy Culture theme. More than 25 men and young people participated strengthening connections to culture, community and one another. Careful preparation, and quality equipment helped make this year's workshop run smoothly. As a result, most participants completed a finished spear in around three hours. The spears made were of an exceptionally high standard, and the pride shown by participants was evident throughout the event. Youth Week also provided an opportunity to promote men's health in a culturally safe setting. Malala's male nurses attended the workshop to offer health checks to males aged 14 years and over, this included blood tests. By bringing together culture, practical skills and health care, the event reflected Malala's commitment to supporting the wellbeing of young people while celebrating the strength of culture and community.



An additional shipping container has been relocated to the Men's Shed area, providing much-needed secure storage. The container was transferred from Malala Aged Care and will support current and future Men's Shed activities and assets.



Several Murnun Men's Shed staff completed their annual CPR and First Aid refresher training, ensuring they maintain the knowledge and practical skills needed to respond confidently in an emergency. Regular refresher training helps staff keep their lifesaving skills current while reinforcing the Men's Shed's commitment to providing a safe environment for participants, volunteers and visitors.



The Murnun Men's Shed continues to engage men and young people through regular weekday and weekend bush excursions. These on-Country activities remain central to our work. It strengthens cultural identity, supports social and emotional wellbeing, and creates opportunities for mentoring and positive engagement. Where appropriate, seafood caught during these activities is also shared with clients and their families, supporting food security and ensuring the benefits extend more broadly across the community.

Aged Care and Community Services

Reconnecting with Culture through Elder Care Connect Initiative

We continue to explore creative ways to ensure our clients receive support that is both relevant and tailored to their needs.

This month, our Elder Care Connect (ECC) team worked closely with clients to design activities that strengthen their connection to country and culture. Through collaborative planning, participants identified meaningful experiences that reflect their traditions and way of life.

Clients were taken to local outposts to bring these ideas to life through activities such as fishing, gathering bush tucker, weaving with pandanus leaves and sharing stories over open-fire cooking.

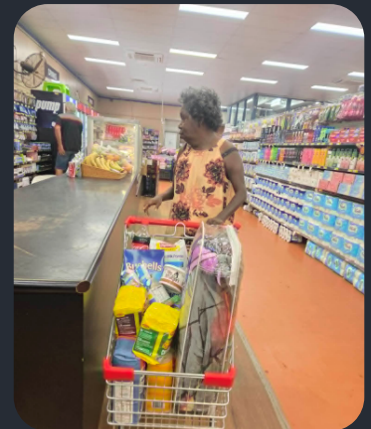


Guided by ECC Coordinator Kim, the outing provided a safe and enriching environment for reconnecting with nature, reviving cultural practices and strengthening identity and belonging. Participant feedback continues to inform our future planning, ensuring our support remains culturally meaningful and responsive to those we serve.

Fostering independence, empowerment and self-sufficiency

Lorraine, aged 46, is one of our NDIS clients. Although she is non-verbal, she is confident, capable, and actively engaged in her daily activities. We focus on each client's individual strengths, building on their abilities to support them in living independent and meaningful lives. Lorraine's confidence is reflected in the way she participates in everyday tasks with encouragement and support from our team.

In this activity, Lorraine is supported by Assistant Manager, Mere during a shopping trip, where she takes the lead in identifying her grocery needs, selecting items, and completing her purchase at the counter. While it may seem like a simple task, it plays an important role in fostering independence, decision-making and self-sufficiency. This support is grounded in trust and strong relationship-building between our staff and clients ensuring that each individual feels empowered, respected, and capable in their daily lives.



This initiative ensures that our services to residents and clients remain consistent and reliable, regardless of environmental challenges. By building staff capability in off-road driving, we are better positioned to maintain access to communities and continue delivering high quality care. The training also supports the professional development of our local workforce. Participants gained valuable skills, increased confidence, and a recognised competency that will benefit them both professionally and personally. This program reflects our ongoing commitment to staff development, safety and delivering dependable services in all conditions.

Strengthening Connections: NDIS and Aged Care combined activity

Our social community access activities bring together our NDIS clients and Aged Care residents in a shared and inclusive environment. Activities are carefully planned based on individual community access hours and are developed with input from both clients and residents to ensure they are meaningful, engaging and responsive to their interests and needs. This collaborative approach supports participation, choice and a strong sense of community among participants.



Access to various country activities provides valuable opportunities for clients and residents to reconnect with nature, their way of life and their cultural identity.

Through practical outdoor experiences and relaxed conversations, participants are able to reminisce about their upbringing and share stories in a supportive setting.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the program's impact in fostering connection, wellbeing and the revival of cultural practices, while enhancing overall quality of life.



Promoting Choice and Independence.

Hmish enjoyed shopping at the local store, where he was supported by our staff to choose his own groceries he wanted to purchase. This reflects our commitment to promoting choice, independence, dignity, and the rights of older people under the Aged Care Act 2024.



Strengthening our operations through Workforce development

On 27–28 June 2026, our staff member Nate attended a forklift training course in Darwin, delivered by All-Global Training. The program provided hands-on learning and practical experience in safely operating a forklift, strengthening both his skills and confidence in handling equipment in real work settings.



This training addresses a key operational need on the ground, particularly with the regular arrival of supplies by barge into our community. With a staff member now fully trained and competent to use a forklift, we have the capacity within our team to efficiently offload goods, ultimately improving workflow and reducing delays.



We remain committed to upskilling our workforce and creating professional development opportunities where possible, ensuring that we continue to deliver high-quality services to our clients and residents in the Maningrida community and surrounding homelands.



A night to remember for Gabriel and Kingston

On the 1st of July, in celebration of Territory Day, Gabriel and Kingston were treated by our staff to an exciting evening of fireworks. This annual event, organised by West Arnhem Regional Council, brings together the local community and is always filled with anticipation, energy, and celebration.

For Gabriel and Kingston, the experience began with the simple joy of being picked up by staff and driven to the oval, building excitement as they joined others gathering to enjoy the night's festivities.

As the fireworks lit up the sky, both Gabriel and Kingston watched with enthusiasm and delight, making it a truly memorable outing. The experience provided not only entertainment but also an opportunity for social inclusion and community participation.

We are committed to ensuring that everyone — regardless of their gender, age, or ability — has access to meaningful experiences that enhance their quality of life. Moments like these highlight the importance of creating opportunities for our residents and clients to engage, connect, and enjoy everyday living in a supportive and inclusive environment.

