



Mala'la Health Service Aboriginal Corporation

# Newsletter

June 2026



## From the CEO

Delilah Yirringillie from our Family & Community Wellness team and Theo James from Aged Care have been nominated as Employees of the Month for April. Congratulations to both staff members for their ongoing hard work and the significant contributions they make within their respective work areas.

In other staffing news, we would like to warmly welcome Angellani (Lani) Manu, who has recently commenced as the Receptionist and Administration Support Officer at the Primary Health Care office. Lani has stepped into a very busy role, and we encourage everyone to make her feel welcome as she settles into the team.

We are pleased to announce that the new clinic extension has now been completed. An official opening ceremony will be held on Thursday 18 June at 10:00am, and all community members are warmly invited to attend.

Mala'la has also received excellent news regarding funding for the Primary Health Care clinic, with the Federal Government increasing annual funding by more than \$3 million per year commencing in the 2026 financial year. This outcome clearly recognises the increasing demand and busyness of the clinic and reflects the confidence the funding body has in the important work being delivered.



In further positive news, funding for the after-hour clinic has been extended for an additional two years. This extension highlights the strong performance of the service and the high level of support it continues to receive from the community. Patient numbers and feedback demonstrate the value of the program, and the afterhours service model delivered by Mala'la is now being recognised and adopted by other services across the Territory.

We are also hopeful that concreting of the driveway surrounding the clinic will be completed prior to the next wet season. Work is currently underway to consolidate available funding for the project.

## Chairlift at Maningrida Airport

An aisle wheelchair and chairlift have recently been added and installed at Maningrida Airport.

The aisle wheelchair is an ultra-narrow, specialised wheelchair designed to fit down the narrow aisles of airplanes. The wheelchair and chairlift are used to assist passengers who have difficulty accessing aircraft via stairs, improving accessibility and comfort for community members and visitors.



I attended the Indigenous AFL Round in Sydney alongside Charlie Gunabarra (Chairperson), James Woods, Edward Watts, and David Freier, where the Sydney Swans played Collingwood. During the visit, we were given access to the players' team meetings, training sessions, and post-match celebrations. The Sydney Swans continue to be strong supporters of our Tackling Smoking program and have been proactive in promoting positive health messages throughout the West Arnhem region about the benefits of quitting smoking. As in previous years, a number of Sydney Swans players are expected to visit Maningrida and surrounding communities in November this year to continue supporting health promotion activities.



**Ray Matthews**  
CEO



### Celebrating a Remarkable Milestone

On 11 May 2026, we proudly celebrated a very special milestone for two of our team members, Joseph Rood and Katrina Villaflores, who officially became Australian citizens.



The citizenship ceremony, held at the West Arnhem Regional Council, was officiated by Mayor James Woods and attended by our Chairperson, Charlie Gunabarra and several of our staff members who were honoured to share in such an important occasion. For Joseph and Katrina, the day marked the culmination of a long and meaningful journey, making the achievement even more significant and memorable.

Becoming an Australian citizen represents not only a legal milestone, but also a celebration of belonging, commitment, and community. It was a proud and emotional moment for the couple as they took their pledge and officially became part of the Australian family.

To continue the celebrations, the Clinic team hosted a special afternoon tea later that day. Staff gathered together to congratulate Joseph and Katrina, sharing stories, laughter, and well wishes as everyone recognised the dedication and perseverance that brought them to this important moment.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Joseph and Katrina on this wonderful occasion and thank them for allowing us to be part of such a meaningful day. We look forward to celebrating many more milestones together in the future.





## AMSANT Medicare Workshop

The inaugural AMSANT Medicare Workshop in Darwin brought together Medicare officers, policy specialists, and ACCHO representatives for a collaborative couple of days of learning and knowledge sharing. Participants valued the opportunity to hear from experts such as AH&MRC, AMSANT's Policy team, Services Australia, and AMSANT CQI team, whose presentations covered Medicare processes, policy insights, and continuous quality improvement, topics central to strengthening service delivery across the Northern Territory. The workshop aligns with AMSANT's broader mission to support Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services through advocacy, workforce development, and high-quality primary health care initiatives.

Attendees highlighted how meaningful it was to connect with colleagues from across the sector, reinforcing the collective commitment to improving community health outcomes.

Overall, the workshop fostered stronger relationships, deeper understanding of Medicare systems, and renewed motivation to continue delivering culturally safe, community-driven care services reflecting AMSANT's ongoing efforts to build capacity and collaboration across its member services.



# Primary Health Care

It has been a busy time for our primary health care teams.

We held our scheduled Flu Vaccination week, going door-to-door as well as offering walk-in vaccinations at the clinic. It was great to see strong community participation as we work together to keep everyone protected as we head into the cooler months.



We also partnered up with Menzies School of Health Research to run a Diphtheria Vaccination Outreach Drive due to the current diphtheria outbreak across Australia. The teams visited workplaces and organisations, delivering booster vaccines around the community, as well as at our vaccination stand at the clinic.

## Community Events

An exciting development has been the introduction of our new community events calendar, which is helping keep both staff and community informed about upcoming health programs and activities. Take a look below to see what's on in the coming months!

In June, our focus will be on Youth Week activities and events across Maningrida aimed at engaging young people and young adults who do not regularly attend the clinic for health screenings. This will provide an opportunity to connect with this group in a fun and welcoming way.

EVENTS 2026

JANUARY

Rainy season

FEBRUARY

Rainy season

MARCH

HEALTHY SKIN WEEK

9 - 13 March

APRIL

Easter

MAY

FLU VAX WEEK

5 - 8 May

JUNE

YOUTH WEEK

1 - 5 June

JULY

Mobile lung screening

6 - 17 July

AUGUST

TB

Community screening for TB

10 - 21 August

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MILLIE PINK BUS SCREENING

WOMEN'S HEALTH CHECKS

25 Aug to 4 Sep

SEPTEMBER

MILLIE PINK BUS SCREENING

WOMEN'S HEALTH CHECKS

25 Aug to 4 Sep

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HEALTHY SKIN WEEK

7 - 11 September

OCTOBER

Men's Health

NOVEMBER

KICK THE HABIT FOOTY FESTIVAL

DECEMBER

Christmas

25 December



## MALA'LA EVENTS CALENDAR 2026

# Murnun Men's Shed

## Maritime Training

The Murnun Men's Shed has welcomed Jade Francis to the team. Jade was a Maritime VET trainer at Maningrida College for the last 4 years and is currently on study leave. Jade is helping the Shed part-time to get our first cohort of men licensed with their Coxswain Grade Two. Welcome to Mala'la Jade!

## Men's Shed Certificate II in Rural Operations

In April, the Men's Shed welcomed Murray Lauritsen from CDU to deliver training in Small Machine Maintenance and Operations. These units are always popular with the men, as they provide hands-on opportunities to work on lawn mowers and whipper snippers while learning the fundamentals of small engine maintenance. A key lesson was understanding the main areas to check when something goes wrong: air, fuel and spark. The Malala clinic maintenance team also joined us for one of the days of training as we serviced their lawn equipment.



## 4WD Training

Whilst most of the Murnun Men's Shed team had already completed 4WD training last year, a smaller group of men were yet to complete this. They therefore recently joined Mala'la Aged Care staff, and one staff member from the Women's Community Wellness team, for two days of 4 wheel drive training.

Since introducing the training in 2024, a growing number of Mala'la staff have now completed the course, helping build safer and more confident drivers across the organisation.

# Aged Care and Community Services

## Building a safer Centre through Trauma First Aid Training

On 22 April, two of our staff members, Dee and Marliesha, participated in a one-day Trauma First Aid training. The training was delivered by CareFlight, an air-medical evacuation organisation based in Darwin, alongside more than 20 participants from various organisations across Maningrida.

The intensive session strengthened their ability to recognise and respond to emotional, psychological and physical trauma. These skills are important in our work at Mala'la, where residents and clients often face complex challenges that can also affect their relationships and overall wellbeing.

By deepening their understanding of trauma-informed care, our staff will be better equipped to support our residents and clients. Importantly, the knowledge and insights gained from this training help us to build a more consistent and supportive approach that fosters safety, trust and empowerment throughout our aged care facilities and services.



## Strengthening capacity through Medication Training

Our local staff recently undertook in-house training on the safe administration of medications for residents and clients. This initiative was introduced to help address ongoing staff shortages in this critical area. The training focused on building practical skills, confidence and understanding of proper medication procedures to ensure high standards of care are consistently maintained. This effort reflects our commitment to strengthening the capacity of our local staff while ensuring continuity and reliability in service delivery. By equipping more staff with these essential skills, we can better safeguard the wellbeing of our residents and clients ensuring that medication administration remains timely, safe and not affected by staffing shortages.

## Customised support for Our Clients

This month, one of our clients, Jasco, was supported with a personalised space within the residence, reflecting our commitment to tailored care.

Our local staff thoughtfully set up a dedicated area for him, complete with a table, iPad, and headphones, in collaboration with his public guardian. This arrangement allows Jasco to enjoy his own entertainment without disrupting other residents, particularly as he prefers exclusive use of the television. The initiative has not only enhanced Jasco's comfort and independence but has also contributed to a more peaceful and harmonious environment within the residence. In a positive and engaging development, Jasco has taken on the self-appointed role of "security guard," observing and greeting people as they enter and exit the Centre from his desk at the entrance. His story highlights how small, creative adjustments can make a meaningful difference in supporting individual needs while maintaining our care with the other residents and clients.



## 4WD Driver Training strengthens Staff capability

In our effort to strengthen service delivery in remote and challenging environments, three staff members recently completed an intensive two-day four-wheel drive (4WD) training program from the 16–17<sup>th</sup> of April.

Representing our Aged Care team, the staff joined participants from other service providers, creating a fun and engaging learning environment. The training equipped them with practical skills to safely navigate difficult terrains, including dirt roads, sand and water crossings, conditions often encountered in remote areas.



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.

## Community Access Activities promote Wellbeing and connection

Each week, our residents and clients take part in outdoor activities through our community access and social support program. These activities are designed to support mental wellbeing, encourage social interaction and provide opportunities to enjoy time outdoors.

In April, residents and clients enjoyed a relaxing picnic at Army Beach, while one client, accompanied by a staff member, spent time fishing as part of his hobby. These tailored experiences help ensure that our residents and client's preferences and wellbeing are at the centre of our services. The program also creates valuable opportunities for staff and residents to connect in a more informal setting, strengthening relationships beyond the Centre. By fostering these connections and promoting active engagement in the community, we continue to support a holistic approach to care and wellbeing.



# YOUTH WEEK!

1-5 JUNE

## DAILY EVENTS


### DEADLY HAIR DUDE



 **NJAMARLEYA MEETING CENTRE**  
10AM TO 6PM

### STREET DANCING



 **YOUTH CENTRE**  
2:30PM TO 6PM

### FASHION/ MODELLING



 **WOMEN'S CULTURAL HUB**

## DAILY SPORTS EVENTS

### MONDAY

1 JUNE  
BASKETBALL COURTS



**Basketball (U15s)**  
3pm to 5pm



**Basketball (young adults)**  
5pm to 7pm

### TUESDAY

2 JUNE



**Dodgeball**  
Basketball courts  
3pm to 5pm



**Softball**  
Near swimming pool  
5pm to 7pm

### WEDNESDAY

3 JUNE - BBQ  
MANINGRIDA OVAL



**Football (u15s)**  
4pm to 5:30pm



**Football (Women's)**  
6pm to 7:30pm



**Football (Men's)**  
8pm to 9:30pm

### THURSDAY BIG SHOW

4 JUNE - BBQ  
MANINGRIDA OVAL



**Performance**  
5:30pm to 6pm



**Football (Bombers vs Eagles)**  
6pm to 7:30pm



**Performance**  
7:30pm to 8pm



**Football (Bulldogs vs Tigers)**  
8pm to 9:30pm



**DAILY RAFFLE PRIZE!**

**GET HEALTH CHECKUP TO WIN!**