

# Innovative Models of Care (IMOC) Program – Yarning Spaces

Grand Pacific Health will deliver Yarning Spaces: Culturally appropriate multi-disciplinary primary health care services.

**Round 4: Grand Pacific Health (GPH) Yarning Spaces**

**Location:** Batemans Bay and Cooma NSW (MM4)

**Funding:** \$0.9 million over 4 years from 2024

The activity will deliver culturally appropriate multidisciplinary primary health care services in Cooma and Batemans Bay NSW. It will be delivered by a consortium of not-for-profit primary health providers, Grand Pacific Health (GPH), Katungul Aboriginal Health Corporation (Katungul), Directions Health (Directions) and Mission Australia.

“Yarning Spaces” will provide a range of primary health services, including assessments, treatment, and care navigation. This will ensure that individuals receive the support they need to achieve positive health outcomes. It will provide a place to talk about, prevent and manage chronic conditions, such as cardiovascular disease, cancers, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases, mental illness and alcohol or other drug related issues. The Yarning Space will also invite primary health service providers funded by State and Federal governments, to operate their services from the centre. This will employ a diverse team of healthcare professionals, including a nurse practitioner, allied health professionals, First Nation and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Health Workers and cultural liaison officers.

Yarning Spaces will utilise local First Nation stories to create health prevention and chronic condition management programs, fostering prevention, early detection and mitigation of chronic conditions utilising cultural activities. It will also utilise knowledge sharing, cultural collaboration, co-located service providers, internal referrals, visiting specialists, shared care sessions, nutrition, exercise and education initiatives.

The grant will support the recruitment of appropriate staff, use of cultural training, facilities, and systems. This will provide First Nation and CALD peoples and others with a place to discuss and manage chronic conditions, mental illness and alcohol or other drug related issues.

The evaluation of the project will consider the cultural competency assessments, continual feedback mechanisms including advice from community members, patients, and staff. In the first two years the evaluation will determine how effectively the service is reaching those who need it. Years two and three will focus on specific outcomes such as quality of life, symptom reduction and use of services. After year three the service will be reviewed to determine how best to implement the service model, any required adaptations and how the service can be sustainable in the future.

The project will be implemented by June 2024.

## **Background**

Katungul is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation dedicated to providing culturally safe and holistic healthcare services to Aboriginal peoples.

Directions Health Service has provided treatment and support to people and concerned others impacted by alcohol, drugs and other addictions for more than 40 years. Mission Australia provides gambling and financial counselling services along with homelessness services. The combined experience in delivering health services and other health-related programs has enabled strong connections within the Eurobodalla and Snowy Monaro regions.