

MEDIA RELEASE

30th June 2016

Celebrating a new era in NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week comes as a new era for WentWest's Close the Gap team which will be formally known as the *Integrated Team Care* (ITC) program from August. As a celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, ITC will be engaging in a variety of activities within the western Sydney region.

Close the Gap has been operating in WentWest for six years and has worked closely with hundreds of locals to achieve better health in conjunction with other local Aboriginal organisations. The *Integrated Team Care* program will continue supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members by providing holistic support to those with chronic disease. The one on one consultations will assist patients in accessing appropriate health care services and programs within the area.

As of August, ITC will be based in the Sydney West Aboriginal Health Services offices located in Mount Druitt which will allow closer engagement with the community.

In commemoration of 2016 NAIDOC Week, ITC will be partaking in, and hosting a range of activities across western Sydney and encourages all to join in the following festivities:

- Saturday 2nd July, Blacktown City Council, [click here](#)
- Monday 4th July, Holy Family Parish Emerton, [click here](#)
- Tuesday 5th July, Mount Druitt, [click here](#)
- Wednesday 6th July, Doonside [click here](#) and Riverstone, [click here](#)

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For more information please contact:

Gemma Aborele

Marketing and Communications Specialist

E: gemma.aborele@wentwest.com.au

Twitter: @WentWest_Ltd

About WentWest

WentWest's focus on providing better health care in the community was strengthened with its appointment as a Tranche 1 Medicare Local in July 2011 to now operating as the Western Sydney Primary Health Network. WentWest has built on its experience as a Division of General Practice in supporting GPs and their practices, connecting health services to meet local needs, and striving for better health outcomes for western Sydney.

The population living in western Sydney is culturally, linguistically and socio-economically diverse, and we also have the largest urban Aboriginal community in Australia. WentWest works closely with doctors, allied health professionals, the Local Health District and many others to improve the coordination of local health and human services for these patients and their families.