

## WENTWEST'S JAMIE MATTHEWS NAMED NAIDOC BLACKTOWN CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**Thursday 18 July 2019**

Each year, during NAIDOC Week, Blacktown City Council celebrates the contributions of members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. It is with great pleasure that we wish to announce that our Aboriginal Health Manager, Jamie Matthews has been awarded this year's NAIDOC Blacktown Citizen of the Year for his contribution to the community and his work in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Jamie was awarded the prize on Tuesday at the Blacktown City Council NAIDOC event which was held at the Blacktown Showground.

WentWest CEO, Ray Messom acknowledged this significant honour.

"Jamie's fellow team members have shared with me their deep respect and admiration for all that he has achieved. As our Aboriginal Health Manager, Jamie is responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of culturally sensitive programs, project initiatives and the contract management of relevant commissioned services designed to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Jamie has worked in the Aboriginal Health sector for over a decade and has played a key role in service transitions, continuity of care and stakeholder engagement, particularly with government bodies. Along with his wife Belinda, he has worked tirelessly to improve the health of their community, with a focus on early childhood. On behalf of everyone at WentWest, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to Jamie," said Mr Messom.

Jamie is a Gamilaraay man from his mother's people and Dhungutti from his father's people. He also has connections to family from the south western corner of Western Australia, from Geraldton on the west coast, to Esperance on the south coast as his mother's father was a Noongar (Wudjari) man. He has spent his life on Darug land in Western Sydney since his grandmother moved the family from their traditional lands to Mount Druitt in the late 1960s.

Along with his dedication to the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Jamie is also an accomplished artist and you can find a gallery of his work on his [website](#).

### About the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WentWest Ltd)

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) are a federal government health initiative, established with the key objectives of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes and improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place, at the right time.

In its role as the Western Sydney Primary Health Network, WentWest focuses on addressing national and regional health priorities in consultation and partnership with local GPs, Allied Health Professionals, consumers and community bodies and the broader health sector.



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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WentWest would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We value their culture, identity, and continuing connection to country, waters, kin and community. We would like to acknowledge and give our respect to Elders past, present and future. We are committed to making a valued contribution to the wellbeing of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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Progressing Health Now. Western Sydney Primary Health Network is operated by WentWest.