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CEO REPORT

I’m pleased to report that 600 people have had their COVID-19 vaccinations so far, but there’s still work to do as we encourage everyone to get their jabs. The Pfizer vaccine is now available for everybody aged 16 and over, with no appointment required if you attend the BRAMS clinic.

We will also be working with local organisations to do vaccination clinics around the community. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for updates on these.

BRAMS has been busy on a number of fronts, and a huge congratulation is owed to the Clinical Team for completing 1,289 health checks in the past six months. Well done!

BRAMS held an all-staff workshop on 23 July 2021 to review and complete a new Strategic Plan, and we look forward to sharing this with you when completed.

Cassie
Megan Thomas
Position
Clinical Psychologist in SEWB team

How long have been employed at BRAMS?
9 weeks.

What I like best about my job?
Working with my clients – it’s a privilege to be a small part of helping people work through their struggles. Also learning about Indigenous culture and how to be culturally appropriate in my work.

What are some of the things you like to do when you’re not working?
I’m a saltwater girl so I love the ocean. Plus, spending time with my dogs (and husband!), cooking and reading, and I enjoy yoga, too.

What do you like about Broome?
So many things! The beautiful Kimberley colours, the ocean, the weather, camping and the sense of community and amazing history.

Tell us your favourite quote:
“It’s a song lyric and it reminds us that we all need help sometimes – “When the sleigh is heavy, And the timber wolves are getting bold, You look at your companions and test the water of their friendship, with your toe.”

Random Fact
“I’m from South Australia but have also lived in Tasmania, England and the USA.”

Telithia Matthews
Position
Practice Team Leader

How long have been employed at BRAMS?
2.5 years.

What I like best about my job?
I enjoy helping people in my community to improve their overall quality of life by providing them with good care.

What are some of the things you like to do when you’re not working?
Spending time with my children, reading and writing, and getting lost in my music.

What do you like about Broome?
Being close to all my family.

Tell us your favourite quote:
“You learn more from failure than from success.”

Random Fact
“It’s impossible to say “good eye might” without sounding Australian!”
SOLID FIT

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking Team has been busy this month rolling out the Solid Fit Program across the community, attending the Deadly Sista Girlz Wirrpanda Foundation on Thursday mornings and Clontarf Academy on Thursday afternoons.

They’ve also been facilitating weekly sessions with Milliya Rumurra.
A hearty congratulations to Siobhan Ryan of KAMS and Dr Gemma Johnston of BRAMS for being recognised as the ‘Challenge Champions’ for June Jump Start!

In line with World No Tobacco Day 2021, the Kimberley Tackling Indigenous Smoking staff #KAMS, along with the support of #BRAMS, ran an in-house fitness challenge for all staff across both organisations.

The fitness challenge ran for four weeks and was dubbed the ‘June Jump Start’. Each session was based around the SOLIDfit model and consisted of three components - Boxing Fitness, Exercise Circuit, and Smoking Education.

It was great to see everyone get involved, push themselves hard with the training and listen intently during the education talks. Well done to all who participated!

Well done!
In recognition of Men’s Health Week, the male staff at BRAMS had a fabulous, stress-free afternoon out on country on Friday 18th June, reflecting and connecting to country as they enjoyed fishing, relaxing and sharing stories.
And while the ‘catch of the day’ was being cooked, they took the opportunity to have a chat about men’s health and wellbeing.

As demand continues to grow on our NDIS services, so does our NDIS team, and BRAMS is currently supporting 77 participants (44 Male, 33 Female).
The NDIS team has now relocated from the BRAMS Clinic to the Kimberley Supports Office, which is located at 2 Hamersley Street. It includes the following staff:

- Melanie Prewett – NDIS Manager
- Adam Wells – Support Coordinator
- Georgie Wells – Support Coordinator
- Vincent Lane – Support Worker
- Elaine Harris – Support Worker
- Taylor Howard – Family Support Worker
- Andrea Alves De Oliveria – Evidence and Access Coordinator
- Kristine Chadweek – Peer Support Coordinator
- Candice Purdie – Supported Play and Recreation Coordinator.
On 25 June 2021, the BRAMS team participated in the NAIDOC Reconciliation Walk. It was a great way to kick off NAIDOC Week celebrations by bringing all of the organisations and schools together as one.

We are jumping with joy that we now have our very own jumping castle! The jumping castle has been uniquely designed, and is sure to be a hit at future BRAMS community events.
HEALTH CHECK MONTH—GET YOUR FREE T

Fancy a funky new T for free?

BRAMS has designed our own health check t-shirts, which are being offered to everybody who completes a Health Check. Come in for yours today!

Speaking of health checks – well done to the BRAMS Clinical Team in their efforts to increase the number of people completing one, which saw them perform nearly 1300 health checks between January – June 2021.

ACHWA FILMING

A big thank you to AHCWA for visiting BRAMS and including our clinic in the filming for their new ear health resources. We look forward to launching the videos in September this year.
CAPACITY BUILDING FUNDING

A big thank you also to the Department of Communities for providing BRAMS with a capacity building grant. This funding will be used to provide further training and resources for our NDIS program.

COVID-19 VACCINE

Did you know that BRAMS is now offering the Pfizer vaccine for everybody aged 18 years and over?

About 600 people in the community have already had their jabs. The vaccine is safe, effective, and it’s free, and it’s the best weapon we’ve got in the ongoing fight against COVID.

Getting vaccinated protects you, your family, and the community.

Appointments aren’t required; come into the clinic daily between 8.30am - 3.30pm.

We’ll be happy to answer any questions or concerns you might have.
COVID-19 VACCINE-STAFF STORIES

Cassandra Matsumoto
Population Health Manager

“I got my COVID-19 Vaccine so that I can protect my family.”

Diandra Cox
Corporate Services Team Leader

“I got my COVID-19 Vaccine to protect my family.”

Johnathan Bundell
Senior Medical Officer

“I got my COVID-19 Vaccine so I can travel and visit my Mum in the UK.”

Dion Thompson
Administration Team Leader

“I got my COVID-19 Vaccine so I could be prepared in case COVID-19 comes to Broome.”

Mikka Poelina
SEWB Case Manager

“I got my COVID-19 Vaccine so I can continue to work with my clients.”
Tell us a little bit about yourself...
I’m a Yawuru Bard woman who grew up in Broome but lived across the Kimberley and NT. I worked as a nurse for over 30 years. While working with Fred Hollows I developed a passion for eye health. I have 5 kids and 14 grandkids.

How long have you been coming to BRAMS?
I was actually one of the original staff members of BRAMS back in 1978, and have been coming in since then.

How has BRAMS helped your health and wellbeing?
I come in for frequent check-ups to make sure everything is ok. I also attend the weekly BRAMS exercise and healthy lifestyle group.

Do you have any health goals for the future?
Be as healthy as I can by staying active, eating well and getting regular health checks.