



STRONG MEN
Strong Culture
Strong community



Media Release

16 September 2024

Kimberley Aboriginal Men's Health Gathering Celebrates Success

The Kimberley Regional Aboriginal Men's Health Gathering, proudly hosted by the Kimberley Aboriginal Men's Health Sub-Committee of the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum, concluded successfully (on 12 September) after three days of critical discussions and collaboration at Djarindjin Campground on the Dampier Peninsula, Western Australia.

With the theme "**STRONG MEN, Strong Culture, Strong Community**," the gathering brought together over 40 men each day, representing various Kimberley communities, services, and organisations. The gathering focused on key health and wellbeing issues, including cultural safety, role models, the importance of regular 715 health checks¹, alcohol and other drugs, family and domestic violence, and chronic disease. The event provided a platform for men to connect, share their experiences, and work towards a healthier future for Aboriginal men in the Kimberley. It aimed to strengthen Culture throughout life, improve health and wellbeing, and promote the use of culturally appropriate health services.

Participants engaged in workshops over the three days, focusing on high-priority issues as identified by Aboriginal men. These workshops will contribute to the development of the **Kimberley Aboriginal Men's Health Strategy**, which aims to:

1. Build a sustainable Aboriginal male health and wellbeing workforce, including young men and emerging leaders in the Kimberley region.
2. Ensure all Aboriginal men in the Kimberley region have culturally appropriate access to annual 715 health checks.
3. Help local communities establish safe spaces, such as men's sheds, where Aboriginal men can access health and wellbeing services.

William Hunter, a Bardi, Yamatji, and Kokatha man, and Chair of the Kimberley Aboriginal Men's Health Sub-Committee, said,

“This gathering was a powerful opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to come together, discuss critical issues, and develop strategies for improving the health and wellbeing of men across the Kimberley. We are proud of the work achieved here and look forward to seeing the positive outcomes. Together, we are Deadly, we are undefeated.”

The gathering was facilitated by Scott Wilson, a Gooniyandi and Gajerrong man, who brings a wealth of experience across various fields including social emotional wellbeing,

education, and health, and co-founder of multiple initiatives, including the "INDIGIVERSE", the First Aboriginal Superhero Universe in Comics. Reflecting on the event, Scott said,

"This gathering was not just about discussing health issues, but about empowering Aboriginal men to take charge of their own health and wellbeing, while staying connected to Culture. By working together, we can create strong, culturally safe spaces and pathways for our men to thrive, now and into the future."

The Kimberley Aboriginal Men's Health Gathering was made possible through funding from the National Indigenous Australians Agency, and auspice by Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services. There was also significant in-kind support from the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia, Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service, Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation, Goolarri Media, Gurama Yani U, KRED Enterprises, Nindilingarri Cultural Health Service, Nirrumbuk Environmental Health and Services, The Kids Research Institute Australia, Western Australian Country Health Service, and Yura Yungi Medical Service. The event's success was driven by the dedication and commitment of everyone involved.

For more information about the Kimberley Aboriginal Men's Health Sub-Committee and their ongoing work, visit kahpf.org.au.

-ENDS-

Attachment:

Photo of participants Kimberley Aboriginal Regional Men's Health Gathering

About the Kimberley Regional Aboriginal Men's Health Sub-Committee

The Kimberley Regional Aboriginal Men's Health Sub-Committee is part of the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum. It has a collaborative purpose that aims to benefit all members and the communities they serve. The Sub-committee works together to identify strategies and activities to improve the health, wellness and mental health outcomes of Kimberley males; reduce incidences of self-harm, violence and alcohol and other drug use; increase the proportion of men who have regular health checks; support men's wellness groups; and build the number and the capacity of the male health workforce in the Kimberley region.

Current membership includes:

- Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia
- Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community La Grange
- Boab Health Services
- Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service
- Derby Aboriginal Health Service
- Garnduwa Amboorny Wirnan
- Gurama Yani U
- Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre
- Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services
- Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation
- Men's Outreach Service Aboriginal Corporation
- Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation
- National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Nindilingarri Cultural Health Service
- Nirrumbuk Environmental Health and Services
- Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- The Kids Research Institute Australia
- Western Australian Country Health Service
- Yura Yungi Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation

Formed in 1998, the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum (KAHPF) has grown to become the leading regional Aboriginal health and wellbeing forum in Western Australia's Kimberley region. The KAHPF Strategic Plan 2024–2028: *Together in Wellness* aligns with the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap* and represents a strategic and collaborative effort, drawing upon collective experiences and achievements, to ensure actions effectively address the diverse needs of Kimberley Aboriginal people, families, and communities.

For further media information contact:

Email: communications@kamsc.org.au
Phone: (08) 9194 3200

ⁱ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of all ages can get their free 715 health check at Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and bulk-billing primary health care clinics. This health check helps identify whether someone is at risk of illnesses or chronic conditions.