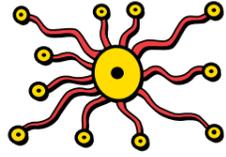




# Nganampa Health Council

## Annual Report 2011

*Nganampa Health Council is an Anangu controlled community health organisation delivering comprehensive Primary Health Care to all Anangu resident or visiting the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in South Australia. It aims to improve the health status of Anangu through the provision of high quality clinical and preventative health care services delivered in culturally appropriate ways.*



## Nganampa Health Council Annual Report 2011

<b>Contents</b>	
Management Report	2
UPK – Public and Environmental Health Programs	4
Information Technology	6
Finance	16
	17

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Cyndi Cole and other staff.

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# Management Report

**Jamie Nyangu**  
Chair of the Board

**John Singer**  
Executive Director

**Paul Torzillo**  
Medical Director

**David Busuttill**  
Health Services Manager

The Board met on eight occasions during 2011 and continued to maintain an oversight of key strategic and operational issues. A new three year Strategic Plan was approved, reflecting the diverse and complex nature of the challenges and opportunities confronting the Health Council in the coming years. Managing risk and identifying and tracking appropriate continuous quality improvement processes has become increasingly important in an environment of increasing regulation and public scrutiny of Aboriginal health organisations.

Nganampa Health Council's clinical services are due for reaccreditation in 2012 and, through a separate process, the Aged Care Program will be subject for the first time to accreditation as part of a national quality framework for flexible Aboriginal aged care services. The Board is planning to ensure that the organisation is well prepared for these events.

The Board welcomed two new members during 2011, Ms De Rose from Iwantja community and Mr Schilling from Mimili community. A formal presentation was made to Mr Peter DeRose, outgoing Anangu Public Health Officer, in recognition of his long and valuable service.

Mr John Singer, Executive Director, continued his work as a South Australian representative on the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Board, on the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia Board, and as a ministerial appointee on the South Australian Health Performance Council, as well as actively participating in the new National Aboriginal Congress. The Medical Director Paul Torzillo continued his work as a ministerial appointee to the National Indigenous Health Equality Council.

During 2011, the Health Council entered into a five-year capacity development partnership with The Fred Hollows Foundation, with an emphasis on improving coordinated care for adults with chronic illness, the timely eye health review and follow up of clients and maintaining high quality maternal and child health services. A particular emphasis of this outcomes focussed partnership is to ensure that the work of the Health Council's Medical Officers is more securely embedded in supportive administrative and clinical systems that thereby enhance their capacity to 'value add' to clinical care. This project is closely monitoring the revenue raising capacity of the Health Council through Medicare billing and the Health Council's capacity to self-fund the project beyond the life of the existing partnership arrangements.

Through a grant from the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency, the Health Council has employed a Chronic Disease Program Manager to oversee our chronic disease management work including coordinating and assisting with some specialist visits. This position has resulted in a significant increase in the number of completed adult health checks and management plans. For example, 285 adult health checks were completed in 2010/2011 compared with only 46 two years earlier. The Health Council will report in detail on this important work in the next annual report.

During the year, the Health Council was awarded funding through the Department of Health and Ageing Health and Hospitals Fund to construct four additional nurse houses on the APY Lands. This project will proceed during 2012 under the Board's direction and on the advice of its Capital Works Program Manager, Mr Paul Pholeros. Housing for additional Aged Care Program staff, including a Registered Nurse and Personal Care Assistants, is currently nearing completion at Pukatja community. The Health Council secured additional rental office space at its Wilkinson Street campus in Alice Springs allowing for the consolidation of its professional staff team there.

The poor quality and unreliability of essential services on the APY Lands continues to be a focus of lobbying with the South Australian State Government. Of particular concern is the absence of any formal system in communities for monitoring and reporting on the safety of airstrips. Despite lobbying vigorously about this issue over the past fifteen years, the Health Council believes that the current arrangements to provide for the inspection and reporting on airstrips are less satisfactory than at any time since the early 1990s, exposing Health Council staff and patients to unacceptable levels of risk. Due to frequent and sometimes lengthy interruptions to power supply at some communities on the APY

Lands, the Board has commissioned a study into options for back up electricity supply at clinics, offices and the aged care facility.

With funding from the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program, the Health Council was able to commission a new mobile dental surgery. The Health Council acknowledges the support of the South Australian Dental Service in the planning and equipping of the new surgery that provides a more reliable oral health outreach service across the APY Lands. The new surgery affords a level of comfort, safety and quality of care well in advance of that previously available. The Hon Warren Snowdon, Minister for Indigenous Health, officially opened the mobile dental surgery at Pukatja in July.

The Board and management team wish to thank all of the staff for their contributions throughout 2011, including a number of administrative and clinical staff that operate largely off site or in a fly in/fly out capacity. The Board will continue to canvas innovative and flexible employment arrangements into the future so as to retain the best possible expertise and technical support in the delivery of high quality comprehensive primary health care services to its Anangu members on the APY Lands.