

MACUNITY

DEVELOPING A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO ABORIGINAL SERVICE PROVISION

What services, programs and activities does your service offer to support the Aboriginal community to achieve their goals?

- Community Support Referral Service (Muru Nanga Mai)
- Family Healing Program (Muru Nanga Mai)
- Community consultation
- Traditional practice
- Aboriginal Community Capacity Building Project
- Support / resource MacUnity
- Support Muru Nanga Mai's development / programs
- Email distribution
- Advocacy
- Focus on employment
- Preparation for real jobs
- Bringing whole of system together
- Focus on Aboriginal needs with business & the challenge in this
- Working with Aboriginal communities to develop sport / rec programs to address local issues.
- Fitness program, sports subsidy scheme
- Sports Training Program for Aboriginal people
- Safe secure housing
- Disability Employment Service
- Fitness program
- KOORI Flow
- Veggie garden for Mum's group
- Partnership between Aboriginal communities
- Work with schools to engage in learning
- Parents workshop
- Youth in garden

Where do you fit in the Aboriginal service system?

- Link between mainstream & Aboriginal community
- Peak body for all community services including Aboriginal work
- Advocacy
- Potential links
- Neutral Aboriginal service system development
- Link between employment system & jobs system
- Employment & education
- Service provider
- Generalist services – can work with Aboriginal people
- Across all service areas

What perspective could you bring to MacUnity to support a collaborative approach to service provision for the Aboriginal community?

- Aboriginal knowledge to assist mainstream service provision
- Knowing and understanding the traditional systems
- Neutral body driving collaboration

- Provide big picture approach – able to identify where Aboriginal community fits in this
- Connections to adapt services / programs to fit Aboriginal needs
- Try to focus on whole of government, whole of system approach
- Understanding of Sport & Rec issues
- Understanding of needs & barriers
- Partnerships – working with other providers to assist mental health clients
- Be open to work in partnership
- Overcome barriers to Aboriginal engagement
- Partnerships & engagement
- General community development focus covering Campbelltown LGA
- Links regionally with key decision makers for community
- Works across all target groups
- Neutral based organisation able to find direction / support

What barriers and gaps exist to prevent an Aboriginal young person and / or their families achieving their goals?

- Education including navigating the system
- Racism
- Lack of cultural identity & traditional cultural system
- Unemployment & knowing what is available
- Employment services
- Alcohol abuse
- Generational issues and system
- Linkages / connections
- Engagement
- Literacy / numeracy
- School retention
- Connections with Elders and older generations
- Engagement issues relating to employment, literacy and numeracy
- Lack of cultural awareness in mainstream services / organisations
- Aboriginal community not well prepared for jobs available
- Lack of role models
- Lack of sensitivity and understanding of the culture and needs of the Aboriginal people engaged in the services
- Lack of understanding of Aboriginal culture and how it works
- Lack of understanding in organisations about the culture
- Distrust of services
- Cultural connections

What organisations are missing from MacUnity to enable us to achieve a collaborative approach to service provision for the Aboriginal community?

- Education
- JSAs / employment providers
- Housing NSW
- Health
- Legal services
- Justice system
- Community reps
- Training / TAFE
- Juvenile Justice
- Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation

- Police
- Cultural awareness
- Working appropriately with the Aboriginal community

How has MacUnity benefited you and the services you provide to your clients?

- Networks
- Knowing my knowledge and the knowledge holders from different organisations / services – linking to them and being able to take this back to my clients
- Aboriginal perspective on service delivery, processes & development
- Service connections and understanding of Aboriginal needs
- Taking a slowed down approach – being ourselves
- Collaborative approach to tackling barriers and challenges to Aboriginal employment – synergy
- Collates deeper understanding of service system in Campbelltown
- Networking / links developed
- Collaboration and cross pollination of ideas
- Information sharing
- Provides contacts with other organisations to assist the provision of employment for Aboriginal clients
- Raise awareness of the services