



PORMPURA AW NEWS

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ALL WORK AND
WALK TOGETHER
ON ONE PATH
OF HEALING,
LEARNING, CARING
AND SHARING,
CREATING A SAFER
ENVIRONMENT
AND COMMUNITY



PPAC moving forward

PPAC as an organisation is moving forward in a very positive way writes PPAC Chair Vanessa Deakin...

I feel the training we've been undertaking, especially in leadership and governance has been a big step forward.

I think the time is right for me to come on 'Board', it's very exciting for us right now.

I was asked if I wanted to come on again because of my experience, and I decided to just do it.

I have plenty of experience with different work places in the community and I understand how it works.

Now I understand a lot more about how this organisation can and should work too.



I can see a lot of good things happening on the ground with the staff and with all the tools.

I can actually foresee that this is going to be good in all the government circles.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter and we hope there will be many more to come.



Walking 'on country' as part of the Women's Group activities is an holistic approach to increasing wellbeing, and reducing stress which can reduce family and domestic violence. During this time women talk with each other about issues arising in their lives. More on page 10...

Pormpuraaw News was edited by Liz Pearson, written and designed by Christine Howes.

Photographs by Christine Howes, staff and community.

Logo design by Shaun Edwards..

From the CEO's desk...

Pormpur Paanthu has undergone many changes since November 2013 writes Liz Pearson...

It has increased its workforce, established empowering practices, provided training to staff and the Board, applied continuous improvement to its internal communication systems, and continues to apply Participatory Action Research and solution-based practices across all service areas. Its frameworks include vertical integration and place-based approaches as a platform for increasing wellbeing, promoting learning environments, early intervention and prevention strategies; and working towards changing behaviours in empowering ways.

Our Vision is to provide culturally appropriate place-based approaches as a platform for the delivery of a more integrated suite of services to support an holistic response to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – women, men, children and young people – at risk of or affected by domestic and family violence; and to promote community action and intolerance to violence to achieve a happier and safer community.

Our Principles are:

- To provide an holistic and consultative approach in the delivery of services to build sustainable social and lifestyle changes for individuals, families, men, women and the community overall;
- To provide place-based approaches to enable the targeting of people experiencing multiple and inter-related forms of disadvantage and a platform for the delivery of a more integrated and holistic suite of services and supports;
- To provide safe, accessible and reliable services that are culturally appropriate, competent and ethically accountable;
- To ensure the provision of appropriate preventative health promotion initiatives;
- To coordinate culturally secure activities in partnership with all stakeholders; and,
- To create supportive environments.

Our Corporate Vision is:

- To apply reflective, empowering practices and emotional intelligence to increase Pormpur Paanthu's wellbeing as an Organisation;
- To deliver 'on Country' programs in all service areas to contribute to social and emotional wellbeing enhancement, and personal and professional growth;
- To develop and maintain a co-operative and mutually respectful environment;
- To ensure Pormpur Paanthu is funded appropriately to guarantee adequate facilities, equipment and supplies so staff can provide best practice services in a timely and appropriate framework.

By staff and the Board working together they have a deeper understanding of separation of powers - knowledge is empowering.

I have just come back from the National Family Wellbeing Round Table, having been involved in delivering the Family Wellbeing Program as a tool for engagement and empowerment for about 10 years.

I look forward to being involved in a National Research Project and the continued delivery of the program as a vehicle for change in Pormpuraaw.

The Corporation has strong partnerships with the Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council and JobFind, the local Remote Jobs and Community Program, and we are working together to host a Youth Summit from 22-26 September.

Save the dates and watch out for invitations and notices in the coming months in our next newsletter (June/July), or on our Facebook Page or Twitter!

Liz Pearson, CEO



Planning for a strong future



Empowering the organisation by empowering its staff was the rationale behind several days of clinical and non-clinical training; including additional training in leadership, Family Wellbeing, conflict resolution, understanding emotions, crisis, loss and grief; and the Protocols and Growth Empowerment Measurement (GEM) Tools training workshops throughout February.

All Board and staff members were taken through their paces leading to a better understanding by everyone as to how different protocols work to deliver the best service possible to clients.

Work undertaken included brainstorming leadership qualities, breaking into smaller groups and working together to provide ongoing feedback. Brainstorming for leaders who had inspired the group came up with several staff and Board members' names alongside Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa and others.

The idea was to break down corporate, community and personal leadership qualities

into human qualities, to develop an awareness of the influence of others, past and present, and to further develop an understanding of how the influence of beliefs and attitudes, roles, judgment, decision-making, learned behaviours, value systems and respect formed the basis of each staff and Board member's contribution to the organisation.

PPAC Service Integration Manager Teresa Gibson said the end result was a better understanding of how the organisation then moves forward with the sum of each person's contribution making up the whole.





Josie (Positive Parenting) I enjoyed it because I've done Family Wellbeing and Family Support training before.

Doing that training and seeing it from that perspective of how we fit into the organisation, through the corporate, staff and our own side, and how that flows into the community.

We all need to make sure that we are taking into consideration our attitudes and our beliefs and not letting them get in the way of our decisions that we make during work hours.

Esmay (Family Violence Support Worker)

It was the first time I've done this kind of training, it's helped me a lot and I learned a lot.

David (Board) I thought it was very good because all the staff and Directors interacted together and they engaged well together.

All the different little projects that we had to do, going off in little groups, it was good for team-building.

I had seen people here and there in my trips in the community, but this was an opportunity to actually build relations as well.



Above: On the far left is Edward Natera (CEO of Pormpuraaw Shire Council) and on the far right is David Hooten (Victims Assist Lawyer) two of our non-member expert Directors on the Board workshoping here with Josie and Esmay.

For me, I thought it was a very good experience. It was good working with the people; you actually got to know people a little bit better, so overall I thought it was fantastic, the subject matter was great.

And I was learning something new - becoming aware of different people's beliefs, that kind of thing and all the different values that people have. From that you could see the importance of everybody bringing their own special values and their own special experiences to the table so the group, as a whole, becomes a much stronger team.

Miss Gibson said GEM Tool training was also part of an ongoing process of skills development for Board and staff.

"Checking for change is an integral part of the service to the community," she said.

"The pathways show how health care needs to be embedded in an empowerment and community development framework that fosters individuals and groups to re-establish healthy norms and provide a capacity for change.

"All of our work here has grown from more than a decade of researching and developing empowerment tools such as the Family Wellbeing Program, and putting into place what this community has been asking for, and taken ownership of through this organisation.

"Everything we're doing here fits that vision and is in line with current Government Closing the Gap clearinghouse priorities.

"It's exciting to see that vision slowly coming to fruition and critical that we are able to continue with this very important work."

Fine-tuning PPAC processes through the use of 'Protocols for the Delivery of Social and Emotional Wellbeing/Mental Health' was about applying new approaches to primary health care and putting '5 C' principles into practice across all service areas – the Women's Shelter, the Healing Centre and AOD; the Playgroup and Early Childhood learning environment, and now the Youth Development Unit.

'5 C' refers to delivery of effective treatments and interventions informed by Consumer and Carer Focus; Context of Community; Continuity of Care; Checking for Change; and, Considered Clinical Care (see page 6).

PPAC CEO Liz Pearson said inclusive practice was the key to empowerment.



“All of our work here has grown from more than a decade of researching and developing empowerment tools such as the Family Wellbeing Program, and putting into place what this community has been asking for, and taken ownership of through this Organisation.”

Teresa Gibson



Frank (Youth Development Team leader) *I got a lot out of the training because I enjoyed seeing a lot of input from a lot of the staff, and I quite enjoyed the idea of having both staff and Board members in one training room.*

It has given me a new perspective of reinforcing, I suppose, what I should be doing in my work because I'm working with youth who are looking to me as a mentor and leader, and probably going to replicate what I do in the future.

So it really helps me make sure I do lead by example which effectively should spread right across the organisation.

Maggie (Family Violence Support Worker) *My position is to advocate for our clients so we are there to give help and support our people. It's good to understand what's happening in PPAC and how we are moving forward.*

“PPAC staff do this using Participatory Research Action (PAR), a reflective practice of inquiry; and engaging regularly with the whole family,” Ms Pearson said. “Fly In, Fly Out (FIFO) services cannot meet this brief due to the time limits in community. PPAC provides the opportunity for inclusive practices that are empowering.

“There are three basic ingredients that contribute to the process of Considered Clinical Care – they are experience, knowledge of an individual and their family, and knowledge of the broader relationship between consumer and community.” Miss Gibson said it was about holistic growth. “It was and is about growing an organisation from the staff and Board, and then across to the community,” she said. “All PPAC services are underpinned by those principles of empowerment, which was what staff training was all about.

“A corporation is just an entity, it has no substance in itself, so it’s about what the staff and Board bring as individuals to the corporation that underpins the whole way of being, knowing and doing, and applying a philosophy, an empowerment philosophy, in working together.

“Each of them share a value and each of those people who are working together are sharing set of values. Human qualities, leadership qualities, skills and professionalism - respecting each other and making decisions together - is what everyone who makes up the organisation brings to the table.

“A corporation is governed by legislation but individuals bring their own selves to grow it and apply those human qualities, those leadership qualities of working together in an empowering way.”



* The 5 Cs are:

Consumer and Carer Focus: Consumers, family members and carers also have the skills and knowledge to contribute to service planning, implementation, evaluation and research. Their involvement encourages personal growth and assists in the quest for recovery and health.

Context of Community: Culturally valid understandings must shape the provision of services and must guide assessment, care and management of Indigenous people's health.

- Maximise engagement and involvement of people from the local community in the overall service structure and in care pathways and processes; Gain an understanding of kinship structures of local communities;
- Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander models of emotional and social wellbeing and the importance of family and appropriate cultural and linguistic support in assessments, decision-making and care planning;
- Use language and communication that is culturally and linguistically sensitive; and,
- Understand the interactions between cultures, notions of mental health and mental health problems or mental disorders and appropriate interventions.

Continuity of Care:

- Acknowledge and encourage clinicians, services or advocates who understand the appropriate cultural and linguistic issues to provide assistance and/or care and treatment with the consumer's consent;
- Understand techniques for developing respectful and empathic working relationships with consumers, family members and/or carers that demonstrate a commitment to cultural appropriateness;
- Find out from the consumer and their family what kinds of activities they enjoy and point out the importance of continuing them as part of recovery;
- Understand early warning signs and risk factors and triggers for relapse; and,
- Provide services that engage consumers in continual planning and regular review that includes (as appropriate): discharge planning from in-patient facilities; ongoing relapse prevention; crisis plans and support of home care.

Checking for Change: It is imperative that Indigenous consumers are accurately identified in the system and outcomes assessment is done as reliably, consistently and accurately as possible. It is important that the Indigenous mental health and/or primary health worker provide not only a more detailed picture of how the consumer has been over the assessment period, but also a cultural understanding that often visiting clinicians will not have.

Considered Clinical Care: Promoting employment of evidence-based practice, best practice guidelines and clinical protocols are widely advocated in the health care environment today. Emphasis should be also placed on a relationship between the health professional/worker and the consumer and family to provide optimal decisions and care for that consumer. Decision making in clinical practice is crucial in the day-to-day scenarios we encounter and is enhanced with ongoing experience. Our judgment processes should continually be improving as we reflect on what worked and what didn't work.

* PROTOCOLS FOR THE DELIVERY OF SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES: Guidelines for health workers, clinicians, consumers & carers, University of Queensland & Queensland Health





Meredith (Family Violence Support Worker)

The training sessions went well, and helped to upgrade my skills. It was very important for all of us to participate. Around my work it's important, and I do have my cultural and Christian beliefs.

Gwenneth (Trainee Youth Worker) *The training was very good. I did pick up a few things and learned a lot. It was good to know about all these different types of feelings and different types of qualities about how to be in a workplace and good to know that we can always have a safer place.*

Vanessa (Board) *It was good training and it was good to be with the staff and doing things together. It was a good, friendly atmosphere and I hope to have more of the training, staff and Board together because I think it's a good experience for everyone.*

Erin (Playgroup & After Hours School Care Coordinator)

I thought the training was very empowering. It made me step back and actually look at my own beliefs and my own attitudes and see how I may be affecting my clients as they're walking in the door - how I might be able to change my attitudes towards people, to make it a friendly environment.

People are willing to attend and I can explain more about why we're doing what we do, and how that will benefit the children. It's also made me think of how we can be a good role model for our children.

I feel I can be quite a strong role model to the children and to the young women of the community too..



Miss Gibson said while the AOD Service has been using the Protocol and GEM Tools since 2009, one of the primary purposes of training all PPAC staff in their use was to build knowledge and skill to administer the GEM tool across all service areas and to systematically collect data for monitoring population change and service provision.

“The process further enables clients to track their own social and emotional wellbeing development which is why PPAC has developed the Wellbeing Passport, which enables them to self-manage their change,” she said.

“Outcome measurement tools such as the Kessler and the Indigenous Risk Impact Screen (IRIS) is pertinent to risk management for social and emotional wellbeing, self-harm/suicide risk, alcohol consumption and drug use.

“Raising awareness and engaging clients to be involved in the development of individualised Stay Safe Plans and Stay Strong Care Plans to take greater control and responsibility for their own health and wellbeing is the desired outcome. “PPAC needs to be funded appropriately to ensure it can keep moving forward into the future.

“Data already shows there is a huge caseload for our counsellors.

“Clinical governance - documentation and reviews - is something everyone in the organisation now has a clear understanding of.

“The end result is everyone is well-informed about what's going on and feedback from the group within the system is not overly-complicated.”

She said manuals, tools and further training were available to all staff, Board and visitors.



Jobs focus for young people

Career pathways for young people is what the PPAC's youth focus group will be all about, Youth Development Officer Frank Motton says.



He leads a team of four trainees - so far - and they're all loving what they do.

Mr Motton said keeping young people occupied, happy and motivated was an important part of putting together the program PPAC wanted to see developed.

"At this stage, I'm currently working on establishing a Youth Reference Group with agencies who work with young people outside of the community," he said.

"The Group will be a resource the community can utilise, for example some youths may be comfortable speaking to someone that's not here in the community.

"It potentially opens up career pathways as well, if they are interested.

"I'd like to think it's useful for the kids that dropped out of school, and it may give them ideas of doing something different.

"I'm hoping to help those that are currently at our primary school here too as well.

"We've got to be able to keep our children and the community occupied, happy and motivated. "PPAC wants to try and get different things going in the community, like a youth-driven social enterprise; and other regular projects and activities.

"In the past government has funded short term, one-off projects and they have started and stopped, started and stopped.

"No wonder kids don't have an established work ethic.



Trainee Youth Coordinator Gwenneth Clark says she really enjoys her job.

"I've learned a lot from our supervisors, and it's been going good since I started," she says.

"Hopefully I'll stick to this job and make a better future for myself, and I hope I get to make something good for the community as well."



Family Support trainee Esmay Deakin says she also likes her job.

"I'll keep doing it," she says.

"I go around helping families and supporting people."

Former Groundsman and Maintenance worker Duane Hobson says he's really happy. "I feel I was one of the lucky ones to get the position," he says. "Things have come good for me, and now I have a job with Main Roads and I will try hard."



"We've got to be able to keep our children and the community occupied, happy and motivated." Frank Motton

"So there are things PPAC wants to establish to try and keep children and young people busy and occupied, so they stay out of trouble and don't do anything they shouldn't be involved in."

Mr Motton said part of his role was to liaise and work with young people through the Youth Focus Group in conjunction with all other areas of the Corporation, including After School and Vacation Care and the Integrated Healing Services, who work with young people.

"I work closely with the Jobfind, the local RJCP and talk with Youth Corp members about training and employment opportunities during youth focus groups," he said. "Making sure young people are work ready is a key to success. Of our two male trainees, one has a job with Main Roads and the other has landed a full time position after some mentoring and work readiness training with PPAC.

"Gwenneth is my offsider; she's a trainee female youth worker and I am still searching for a male youth worker.

"We will eventually find him but he's still hiding in the community right now.

"Esmay is our Family Violence Support Worker who will be working with the counsellors, looking after their reception and daily appointments with clients and the community.

"They also form a part of the Youth Development Unit, which I manage."

Frank said part of his job was to help to secure these young peoples' future.

"It's about trying to give them more responsibilities as well," he said.

"It makes them feel important and it builds on increased self esteem.

"It makes them feel like they're needed and they are useful, and that's what the main aim is."



Behavioural Change Programs & Support

Qualified Domestic Violence (DV) and Alcohol and Other Drugs (AODs) counsellor Dianne Lewis says a new set of boundaries is helping to ensure safe places such as the Women's Shelter are available for crisis intervention in the community.



“We’re not a sobering-up centre,” she said. “PPAC work with local police and clinic staff to identify potential risks and manage them collectively. “It’s now about crisis intervention, which is working.” She said in terms of behavioural change, PPAC had organised Women’s and Men’s Recovery Support Groups. “So, there are men actually doing programs and counselling with us in all different stages of behaviour change, ready to accept change but in need of some support,” she said.

“As a service PPAC counsellors have done a lot of education with men, women and young people on having the courage to seek support, give support and how to receive support.

“It’s going really well, this is all about a journey with clients, to get them from compliance and dependence to self respect and self actualisation. “It’s about making sure we are moving people forward rather than keeping them stagnant.

“I’m really excited about behaviour change. “I’m always working with the concept in an empowering way; using the Staying Strong Plan that’s in our Wellbeing Passport; and the PPAC safety planning and counselling processes all support change.

“For example the Men’s Recovery Group is about providing a safe place for men who want to change; and to do that they discuss their problems openly and safely with one another.

“It’s about how you manage crisis and it’s working out solutions and implementing strategies as part of crisis management techniques.

“So staff have been having a lot of family meetings, not just mediation but working out safety plans with the whole family to keep children, women and the men safe.

Originally from Lockhart River, Deborah Hobson has held a range of jobs at PPAC since 1992. Her current position is Women's Shelter coordinator, a position previously held by Dianne Lewis.





*“It’s going really well, this is all about a journey with clients, to get them from compliance and dependence to self respect and self actualisation.”
Counsellor Dianne Lewis*

“Sometimes we meet with the whole family and police to prevent an escalation of violence between families before it happens.

“For example we had a family meeting one day about school bullying because we knew it might continue after hours, so we ended up with the families - about 15 people - at the service talking about what had happened that day.

“The CEO facilitated the process; everyone talked openly about the bullying from both families and they all went off happy with one another because they sorted it out together.

“Now that PPACH has the Service Integration Manager, Family Therapist, the other AOD Counsellor and myself, our team of four is making a huge difference.” CEO Liz Pearson, who established the first family-based residential rehabilitation Centre in Cape York as well as Pormpuraaw’s community-based AOD Service, said she was looking forward to seeing greater outcomes.

“Clients already say when they come here they are angry, when they leave they go away happy, at least at the time,” she said. “Families supporting families is what we want as part of healing and this is happening. It’s a process.”





Above: Staff education to encourage smoking cessation

Right: Pormpuraaw Women's Group with their Photovoice - a tool they have used to tell their stories - Photographic exhibition (more pics next page)



Best practice in governance is the standard PPAC model

“With the GEM Tool, the Family Wellbeing Program and the AOD’s Oolong program (see page 14); and including the strengths, experience and education of our community-based counsellors, PPAC leads in empowering and innovative approaches as ways of closing the gap, and tackling the issues arising in Pormpuraaw,” CEO Liz Pearson said. “I believe that the Social Health Team model supported by the FIFO Service staff is holistic and enables PPAC to reach the critical mass empowering community people to become agents of change.” She said the DATSIMA Pormpuraaw Community Data Sheet showed that since PPAC established its community-based AOD Service the statistics:

- have decreased in alcohol-related harm; and,
- there has been a drop in reported offences; and,
- the rate of hospitalisation for Pormpuraaw people for alcohol-related mental and behavioural conditions has dropped.

“Any spikes and changes during this time we monitor as part of trends in domestic violence, temporary accommodation or homelessness,” Ms Pearson said.

“For example around 2010-2012 people started to cash in their QSuper and it became noticeable to us as an organisation as we were dealing with more community issues, including gambling and ‘humberging’ or what I refer to as a “cycle of indebtedness” - a new form of currency that is reciprocated across families.”

She said ‘Protocols for the Delivery of Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services in Indigenous Communities: Guidelines for health workers; clinicians, consumers and carers’, launched in May 2009, provided a suite of clinical and non-clinical tools that support best practice clinical governance.

“These are the standards PPAC as organisation is now working to,” she said.



A key program for encouraging behavioural change is the Oolong Program, an Alcohol & Other Drugs (AOD) Program delivered in groups as part of therapy and education sessions.

AODs Counsellor Wendy Cawdell-Smith said the program was a holistic approach to resolving behavioural issues such as drinking, drugs, violence and family issues.

“The Oolong program is made up of eight modules which include self-talk, feelings, motivation, relapse, recycle, strengths and solutions,” she said.

“People are involved with our service because of drinking, drugs and violence which is often an indicator that there can be family issues.

“A lot of our work is around communication and active listening which can help with family issues, relationships and fighting.

“We advocate on behalf of our clients and liaise between the various organisations and services.

“We receive referrals from Corrections, Child Services, the Clinic and other organisations in town as well as self-referrals.

“Self-referrals present because of family violence, relationship issues, drinking, drug issues and concerns about incarceration or Child Services. The people who participate in our services are working hard to manage their lives in a healthier way.”

Ms Cawdell-Smith worked in Sydney-based clinics and hospitals for 40-years before coming up to Pormpuraaw.

“I came here because most mainstream rehabs in this country won’t take couples, they only take one person and I really like the idea of being able to work with the family,” she said.

“They take the person with the problem, and sometimes their partner, but very rarely.

“They try and split them up, whereas I’ve always seen drug and alcohol issues as more holistic – it’s not just one thing.

“You can’t say somebody’s in trouble because of their drinking, there’s so many other things that cause it. You can’t work with one person and think that they will go home and everything will be okay. “Family and community issues don’t go away and they have an impact on that person’s progress.

“So I like the idea of working with the whole family rather than just one person and I’ve stayed because I love it up here.

“The people are wonderful; even people who have troubles with drugs and alcohol, they’re still wonderful people and I like working with our CEO, Liz Pearson, because she’s so client focused.”

New family therapist Lenore Little started April with PPAC

Lenore (pictured next page) worked in the Northern Territory for 11 years.

“I worked five and a half years at a rehabilitation facility in Darwin, run by Indigenous people for Indigenous people and I particularly liked the work,” she says.

“I like the idea of learning in community, being in the bush and the cultural experiences that I’d absorb - fishing, hunting, watching people dance.

“I also like the idea of assisting families to work through any issues and so forth so I can help make a difference in people’s lives.

“Opportunity knocked on my door and I opened the door and that’s why I’m here.

“I like being part of the solution, not part of the problem.”

“The people who participate in our services are working hard to manage their lives in a healthier way.” AODs Counsellor Wendy Cawdell-Smith





“The Photovoice project was about women telling their own stories in their own way. If we truly care for individuals, families and communities ‘upstream and downstream’ are part of one river – invest in community-owned solutions, don’t give up on community people and local services. As we work to eliminate health disparities and inequalities capitalising on local knowledge, expertise and passion improves the effectiveness of our efforts, as well as building community capacity and resilience.” Liz Pearson



Clockwise: Family Support Workers Maggie Koo’aga & Meredith Arkwookerum; Sandra Wason, Wendy Cawdell-Smith & Lenore Little



Community key to child care success

Coordinator of Playgroup and Outside School Hours & Vacation Care Erin Arthy says the key to their success is getting the community involved in their activities and education of their children.



“In Playgroup we’re running a number of programs the community gets involved in with more to hopefully come,” she said.

“We are looking to start an Active After School Program doing sports, which is in partnership with the school.

“We’re also in talks with the Council, Job Find (RJCP) and the Pormpuraaw Sports Club, who are all helping us to put together our Garden Project.

“That will include growing fruit, vegetables and bush tucker that is relevant to our community.

“This will get the community involved and get the Elders talking to the children about cultural ways and practices.

“The Garden Project will also get local men and fathers involved.

“They will actually build the base of the garden bed and bring in the soil and mulch for the kids to put the garden together from there.



Clockwise: Fundraising for the Garden Project; Kids in the Kitchen (packing in some healthy lunch ideas!)



Cultural stories and songs are a regular part of caring for Pormpuraaw kids



“Another program we want to start up is an Information Exchange, where the Elders come in and talk to the young children or we record the Elders talking and the children depict the knowledge the Elders shared in story books that the children will make,” Ms Arthy said.

“They’ll do the drawings and then they’ll write it into their own words and then we’ll have our own book for the community.”

She said it was an exciting time for her and her team as they waited for renovations to finish on the current building so Long Day Care could start by the end of September.

“We had a team of Architects and designers come in late January to look over the design,” she said.

“The corner shed where PPAC has After School Hours Care will have a brand new kitchen where we will be able to transfer cooking skills to young parents and children; and community members who want to participate. “The large office is going to be turned into a computer lab for the children.

“We’ll also have a couple of computers accessible for local community within our main activity space which will be refurbished for the Indigenous Knowledge Centre; equipped with Library resources and the HitNet Kiosk (see page 19).

“There will be various programs for the Community as a whole, running out of the Indigenous Knowledge Centre relocating under the auspice of PPAC.

“So we’re not just there for the children, we’re educating the parents as well.”

To that end Positive Parenting Coordinator Josie Szilagyi works closely with Erin in developing and delivering programs.

“We’re building interest in the community and showcasing to parents how important it is for them to be involved with their children,” she said.

“We’ve also been looking at other communities in the Cape to see what’s working and what’s not working.

“It’s about getting whole families involved.”



'Kids in the Kitchen' is an opportunity for kids to do basic cooking so they can use these skills when they're at home.



"We're not just there for the children, we're educating the parents as well." Erin Arthy



Corner Shed renovations ready to go

CEO Liz Pearson said renovations to the Corner Shed would be funded by DEEWR.

“With that funding we’re going to re-develop the kitchen into a multi-purpose kitchen for catering, positive parenting and healthy life style programs like ‘Kids in the Kitchen’ and ‘mums, dads and bubs’ working with other service providers such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Apunipima Cape York Health Council and Indigenous Health Workers,” she said.

“The computer lab will allow children to come over and work on little projects or just have access to the computers, printers and also iPads to support school work, or use as a Homework Centre.

“The larger area of the building will encourage community development and program activities with a cross section of community people; and we’re going to transfer the Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) resources, such as the library books and their computers to the Building.

“We’re also going to have a HITnet Kiosk which will showcase what we’re doing in our own community as well as others. Strategically, the integration of the HITnet Kiosk with the Queensland State Library’s IKC website will mean PPAC will be able to promote its programs and the health promotion education activities that we initiate from zero to eight and across all age groups to the elderly.

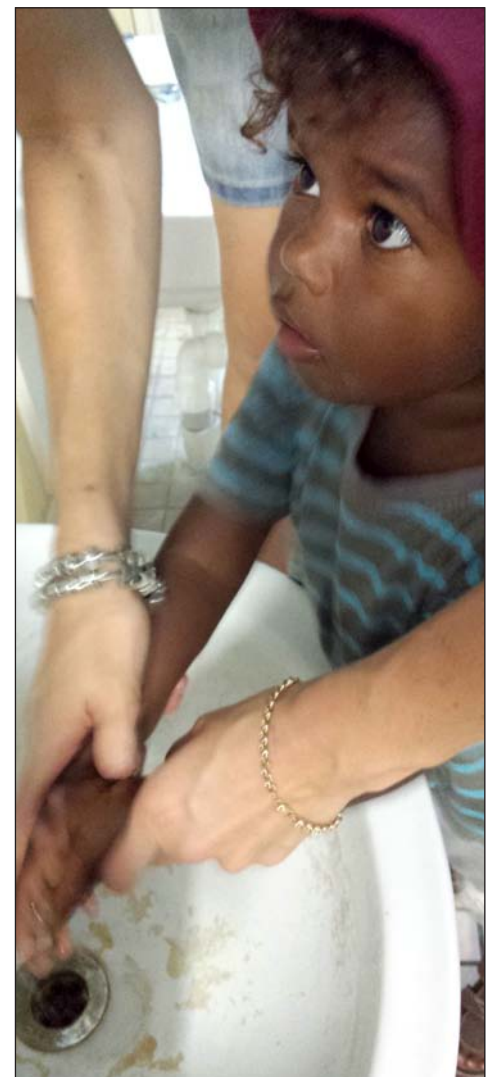
“The Queensland State Library has supported the resources coming over to PPAC to ensure that the facility and services will be open to the community.

“This will be a great partnership because the philosophical framework of IKCs is about cultural and knowledge transmission, which is important to us.

“In line with this framework is an exciting partnership with the Remote Jobs & Communities Program and a number of social entrepreneurs; so between us the community will have ongoing ‘on country’ activities that build on capacity, sense of purpose and pride; community ownership of solutions, and increased well being.

“The first activity hosted by the Youth Development Unit will be a Youth Cultural Camp which includes a range of local services and people.

“We hope to launch the HitNet Kiosk on the 25 September at the Cape York and Pormpuraaw Youth Summit.”





HITnet is a digital social enterprise that produces rich learning media for people marginalised by culture, technology and distance.

HITnet currently has 60 touchscreen kiosks (or Community Hubs) on a national network delivering culturally appropriate health and wellbeing information.

HITnet engages digital content that uses the art of storytelling, painting, music and dance to impart vital knowledge.

They are installed in health centres, schools and youth drop-in centres, in addition to correctional centres in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

HITnet works to break the cycle of social disadvantage by harnessing technology and partnering with the community to co-create the knowledge needed to build a vibrant healthy community.

The Community Hub provides ongoing access to autonomous learning experiences for all ages. By simply touching a screen, people can:

- Actively engage in learning through the familiar lens of Indigenous culture;
- Interact with educational stories featuring their own families, friends and communities;
- Learn how people in other communities are dealing with the same issues;
- Enjoy interacting with 'choice and consequence' stories, games, music with meaning, animations and personal stories of transformation;
- Download stories from the Community Hub to their own personal devices;
- Have their own voices heard by interacting with on screen surveys; and,
- Be actively involved in the creation of information, for the community and by the community.



GET INVOLVED!

Pormpuraaw Youth Summit

– save the dates –

22-26 September 2014



We are looking for In-Kind Support and/or Sponsorships for this massive event which will include:

- Career & Health Expos
- Workshop Forums: Issues facing young Indigenous Australians living in Cape York
- Information stalls about Secondary, Tertiary and Training Education and Scholarships
- Sport and various Arts workshops and clinics

We also have a Secondment Program...

Need a change of scenery?

Volunteers and secondees are welcome to get involved with PPAC by contacting:

CEO – Liz Pearson

e: ceo_ppac@outlook.com

m: 0429 773 433

direct: 0740 604 295

office: 0740 604 105

office fax: 0740 604 280

You can find us on Facebook @ Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation or Twitter @PormpurPaanth

Our website will be launched soon at www.pormpurpaanthu.com.au

PPAC welcomes partnerships with the philanthropic sector and the concept of Patrons who can champion the Organisation.

PORMPUR PAANTHU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION PLAYGROUP ACTIVITIES

Monday : 'Cooking with Kids' : nutrition and simple recipes families can do with their kids at home.

Tuesday : 'Healthy Me Healthy You' : looking at different hygiene practices such as nose blowing, washing hands, brushing teeth and active play.

Wednesday : Information and Communication Technology using iPads and a computer.

Thursdays : 'Cultural Stories and Songs' : Elders and local community members come in and do stories and songs with the children and their families.

Also on Thursdays After School Care runs 'Kids in the Kitchen', an opportunity for kids to do basic cooking so they can use these skills when they're at home. Kids in the Kitchen is run in partnership with Apunipima Cape York Health Council.