

2014 will be a big year for Gurriny!

Big plans will be in the making for Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services early next year as the organisation's three-year business plan winds up and is ready to be reviewed.

Board members and staff – from our doctors to our drivers – have been involved in the process of setting events and activities around the review. Gurriny CEO Sue Andrews said it was an exciting time for everyone.

“Every year we have a Planning Day, or sometimes it goes over two days,” she said. “Primarily it's about us doing the planning for what services we deliver and when and how we deliver them, what our outcomes will be, what our targets are for the following year.

“Our planning for each 12 months has got to come from the three year strategic plan that the Board have already set and we also have a three-year business plan.

“We've actually now on the tail end of the three-year business and strategic plans, so we'll be doing some more planning in the new year.

“We also use the time to reflect on what's been working well and what we've found are challenges, so we do spend some time talking about that and we think about what

resources do we need to be able to do the work next year. “We do great things in primary health care, so this is something really exciting for us.”

Transition Manager Ruth Fagan said next year would be a big year.

With transition occurring and we especially would like to acknowledge some of those staff who have been working for Queensland Health for a very long time and let them know we value their contribution.”

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!





Board induction and Christmas

Board members have been attending induction workshops over the past few days, taking as the organisations winds down for the Christmas and New Year break.

Transition Manager Ruth Fagan said inductions happened every year and were about introducing new Directors into understanding the business of Gurriny and governance training.

“The type of things that we cover in the Board Induction are things around managing conflicts of interests as a Board member, understanding the liabilities as a Director and understanding the planning processes

and also the relationship between a Board, who sets a strategic direction, and the relationship with management who implement those strategic directions on behalf of the Board,” she said.

“We spend a fair bit of time talking about those relationships because the CEO and the managers and the staff at Gurriny are doing the day to day service delivery and the Board sets the strategic directions and has their hands firmly on the tiller but not in the engine room so to speak.

“And a really big part of that is about trust and the relationship between the CEO and Board, and the authority that the Board provides to the CEO to be able to take on board and do that business side of running the organisation.

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Christmas parties!

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Board Member Sharmaine Stafford

I was born in Innisfail, the third eldest in our family of four sisters and six brothers.

I can only remember bits and pieces of growing up – going to Gordonvale primary, catching the train to school and playing in the cane fields.

We moved to Darwin where I eventually met my husband, Ernest Wayne, who took me back to Yarrabah when I was 16 and I have been here ever since. Ernest and I have nine children and during that time I did many jobs including prawn factory, journalist, librarian, counsellor... I got into health more through

my work with Gurriny as a Life Promotion Officer.

We saw a lot of health issues, mental and physical, and I became more interested as we got more active in our Social and Emotional Wellbeing unit. As you get older in life you take a longer look at things in front of you, even your own health. I would like to think that people put me on the Gurriny Board because with the others we have good input into addressing and bettering our



community health issues.

I have been on the board previously, and am on other boards, which has given me a lot of understanding of governance and the business around Gurriny Health.

New Board Member Lucy Rogers

I was born in Cairns and grew up in Yarrabah.

I have been the Coordinator for the Womens Resource Centre for more than 20 years.

In the past I have worked for different organisations in Brisbane, Sydney and Seattle (USA). These jobs were mostly to do with clerical, data and computer work. I have worked with government and non-government organisations.

I believe we are born into an environment where health plays an important role as Indigenous people. As Indigenous people, in

the past and present, our health is the most important aspect of our lives as it goes hand in hand with culture. It is part of our growth in being Indigenous people of this land.

I decided to come onto the Gurriny Board to focus on the general health and wellbeing of everyone. Slowly things are progressing but Gurriny has had a lot of positive outcomes for our community and our people. My passion is to make sure we've got gardens happening



and we're growing our own food. I believe we need to be sustainable in our own ways and enrich our people in governing their own health.

I want to ensure our people are key players in decision-making regarding our health and all other issues concerning our growth, literally from the ground up.

COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

- What's next!
- Transition update
- Board and staff profiles and pics