



## Annual Report 2023

Orana Haven is overseen by a Board of Directors working behind the scenes to ensure the provision of a safe and effective delivery of drug and alcohol services to our local and surrounding communities both in the residential rehab and AOD Outreach services.

Orana Haven Rehabilitation Centre continues to provide an ongoing 90 day residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation program to suitable applicants. Orana Haven delivers the 12 Step Minnesota Model of Care program encouraging and supporting clients recover while remaining abstinent from mind altering substances. On completion of the program residents may exit to return home or are given the opportunity of extending their stay.

Orana Haven's CEO is a Board Director with both ADARRN the Aboriginal Drug & Alcohol Residential Rehabilitation Network and Bila Muuji Aboriginal Corporation Health Service.

In working with external services and accessing support for clientele, Orana Haven has established working relationships with external service providers that work collaboratively throughout the journey of recovery during and after rehab. Services include Brewarrina and Walgett Aboriginal Medical Services, Armajun Aboriginal Health Service, LHD Community & Mental Health, Psychology services through Brewarrina AMS, Charles Sturt University Oral Health & Dental Care, Legal Aid NSW and Aboriginal Legal Services also private Legal Services, Corrective Services, Community Corrections, Local, District and Supreme Courts, Police NSW, Royal Flying Doctor Services Mental Health, Well-being and Oral Health & Dental Care, Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Centre (AH&MRC) and TAFE NSW.

Throughout the program trained staff have delivered the Smart Recovery Program, Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid (AMHFA) and Red Dust Healing. Residents have attended on a regular basis, group therapy sessions, and individual one on one counselling and case management sessions. While residents engage with staff their journeys are their own, areas of concern are identified with sifting through and prioritise needs. TAFE courses are scheduled at the beginning of each year and delivered on availability of teaching staff. Residents are given the opportunity of gaining new skills and or improving on skills already held. TAFE courses include Statement of Attainment in Quads & Two-Wheeled Bikes, Statement of Attainment in Excavator Operations & Capabilities, Statement of Attainment in Chainsaw Operations (Trim & Cut), Statement of Attainment in Café Skills, Statement of Attainment in Construction Skills, and Certificate II in Outdoor Power Equipment. This year Orana Haven residents participated



in a Remote Learner Support Project delivered by TAFE NSW, residents enjoyed the project, worked well and commended for the effort given by each.

Orana Haven residents benefit greatly from the cultural aspect of our program and the local knowledge which involves spending time in the bush, learning how to identify and collect different types of and cutting timber also identifying traditional bush foods and medicine. Residents attend excursions to significant Aboriginal



cultural sites within the local and surrounding area of Brewarrina. The objective of Orana Haven's cultural program is to reengage Aboriginal residents with their culture in the hope that they will feel a sense of belonging



reinforce pride and improve their self-esteem. Furthermore, to educate residents on the reasons why Aboriginal culture survived for thousands of years prior to colonisation. Enhancing the success of recovery requires the resident to restructure their lives and instil a routine that will allow them to remain abstinent from drug and alcohol use.

During the 2022/2023 financial year Orana Haven received 274 applications and referrals with a total of 52 applicants accepted as suitable and entering into the program.

Of the 52 residents in house, 25 clients completed the program while 2 remain in the program as requested by resident for extended stay.

With the remaining 25 residents, 12 were house-discharged due to non-compliance with the program while 13 residents self-discharged to return home to community and or family.

Overall Orana Haven's intake was at 52.23% for 2022/2023.

While 274 applications were received Orana Haven has recorded 82 applicants with no further contact after the initial application was completed, 77 suitable applicants failed to arrive due to other unforeseen circumstances, and 63 applicants deemed as unsuitable.

Throughout the year Orana Haven has felt the after effects of the Covid19 Pandemic, which has not only impacted Orana Haven's intake but other service providers' referring clients in for care and support in overcoming addiction. During the year unpredictable weather events caused a major impact to the service with Orana Haven having to close doors for a short period; expected clients were unable to enter into the program and were referred to other available services.



While Orana Haven is geographically located in a rural and remote area we endeavour to provide an ongoing supportive service to our consumer, our communities and surrounding areas. Thank you for your continued support.



Tracy Gordon Orana Haven CEO



## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

2023 has been an eventful year for Orana Haven Hub. We have had ups and downs but hopefully the year ends with a bang.

Our service delivery took on a few changes with PHN funding being decommissioned. We made the difficult decision to cease our services in Walgett and Forbes but continue to provide outreach and support to Bourke and surrounding areas.

We spent the first part of year reestablishing and reintroducing our service to the Bourke community, by attending and collaborating on community events in Bourke and doing lots of community consultation and consultation with stakeholders in Bourke to form working partnerships.

One of our major successes this year was taking on Bourke's Naidoc Community event. We saw that there was a gap and although some community sporting events had been planned, there was no community gathering planned for Naidoc week. A few weeks before Naidoc, approached the Bourke interagency at a scheduled meeting, to offer to plan and coordinate the Naidoc event. We explained that we were happy to do the planning and coordination but unfortunately as it was last minute, we hadn't applied for funding, so did not have the funds to contribute. All the community services contributed, particularly Maranguka who funded most of the event and we ran a very successful and well attended Naidoc gathering, "For our Elders", where we gathered, had a feed and a yarn with community members and services. Orana Haven rehab residents and staff attended the event and some of the boys even sold some woodwork. Everyone reported that they enjoyed the event.



Last year we were successful in gaining funding to upgrade our hubs. Our vision when applying for these funds, was to turn our hubs into a drop in centre for our clients and community members. We have had major barriers in getting our drop in centre up and running, due to lack of rental property in Bourke and recruitment. We have now signed a lease agreement and look forward to having the drop in centre operational by the end of October. The drop in centre will provide a culturally safe space for our clients to drop in have a cuppa and yarn about their desires, goals or problems. We have purchased some wonderful equipment and AOD resources, such as pool table, computer, coffee

machine, amongst other items. We are hoping that the drop in centre will encourage the community to come forward and take steps in improving their life and the lives of those around them. We look forward to our grand opening and beginning to operate from the drop in centre.

We are gradually building up our case loads and have made plans for our outreach into the communities of Goodooga, Weilmoringle, Engonnia, Cobar, Brewarrina and Walgett. We will be holding SMART recovery group sessions, which will assist our clients in setting small, manageable goals for any problematic behaviour. We hope to get good attendance when the support group begins and look forward to showing up in these communities each fortnight to show our support to the community members.

We have made many working partnerships with Community service providers in Bourke and now receive referrals from and work with NSW Community Corrections, Catholic Care, Mission Australia, Brewarrina, Walgett and Bourke AMS (official MOU's), Interrelate, Birrang, Redi, Outback division and Wellways.

Report by:

Danielle Caruana

Acting Orana Haven Hub Manager