Warning: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples are warned that this Annual Report may contain images of deceased people.

VACCHO wishes to acknowledge and pay respect to all community members who have passed away in Victoria and communities throughout Australia this year.

Message stick front cover - clockwise from top left:

Daria Atkinson (Minajalku Women's Group Facilitator) and Jon Wilson (VACCHO) prepare to paint at the launch of *Welcome to our Journey* | Super deadly Uncle Jack Charles who generously yarned with us the stories of his life during NAIDOC Week | Carolyn Briggs - Boonwurrung Elder, Welcomes to Country national and international guests and delegates to the Djamabanna Ngargee Birrarung Marr: Indigenous Peoples Networking Zone as part of the AIDS 2014 Global Village | March to remember colleagues on Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 and attend the World AIDS Day candlelight vigil | VACCHO Certificate IV Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice students Brian Harrison, Deanne King and Kelly Britten | Victorian Premier The Hon. David Andrews MP being interviewed at the Closing the Gap event at Parliament House by Dylan Clarke (VACCHO).

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The internals of this Annual Report are printed on 100% recycled uncoated paper

Contents

04 Message from the Chair

06 Message from the CEO

08 Strong culture, thriving communities

10 Our strategic objectives

12 Goal 1: Aboriginal cultural qualities

13 Goal 2: Quality workforce

16 Goal 3: Quality services

17 Goal 4: Quality infrastructure

20 Goal 5: Quality policy and advocacy

21 Goal 6: Quality partnerships and networks

22 Goal 7: Sustainability

23 Our Members

25 Our Partners

27 Financials

Message from the Chair

In our last *Annual Report* I talked about using the collective of our sector to help us grow and thrive in a complex reform environment. The reforms proposed by the Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) have altered accessibility to public health services and medications for our mob. The unintended implications of the changes to these schemes threatened to further complicate an already difficult system. VACCHO lobbied heavily to have the most harmful of these proposed measures revoked, such as the GP Co-payment that was going to hit those most in need the hardest. VACCHO used its networks to garner lobbying support and the gathered momentum paid off. The success was a proud moment for VACCHO and its Members, demonstrating Community's increasingly powerful political influence.

The increase of influence emphasises the importance of VACCHO's leadership role as the peak body for Aboriginal health in Victoria. It is now more important than ever to continue to build on VACCHO's representative role. We will continue to build VACCHO's network to further empower Community voice and its ability to make informed decisions regarding the future of Aboriginal health in Victoria.

The successes of our continued efforts on appropriate accessible healthcare has been reflected through an increase in funding and our reputation amongst key stakeholders. Our partnerships have given us strength, confirming our ability to influence political policy. This then reinforces the integrity in our *Strategic Plan* and as a result our capacity to fight for a holistic approach to health.

Over this year, our efforts have expanded to include aged care, disability and child welfare as these are the sectors in need of immediate attention. With significant reform underway, we are determined to highlight the importance of the issues in the greater context of public health care.

The arrival of *The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Implementation Plan* is imminent and will demonstrate the Commonwealth's agenda and health directions between now and 2025.

We are looking forward to taking a lead role in many of the initiatives that will improve Aboriginal health outcomes in Victoria.

Jason B. King
Chairperson

NAIDOC March

Message from the CEO

VACCHO continues to build on the strong achievements of our strategic goals through the activities in our operational plan. We have continued to attract increasing amounts of funding from a more diverse range of sources and we believe that this is evidence that our reputation is continuing to grow as the peak body for Aboriginal Health in Victoria.

I have had a significant increase in the number of requests to attend meetings and events from Ministers, corporations, organisations and a growing range of government agencies. This is resulting in greater advocacy outcomes for our sector as we are able to inform and have a positive influence on a broad range of discussions.

We are having more opportunities to influence a cultural renaissance in Victoria. Historical policies and practices took culture away from Aboriginal peoples in Victoria and we need to ensure Aboriginal Victoria is visible as a vibrant, constantly evolving, deeply valuable culture. Embracing our culture and our identity serves to strengthen inclusion, understanding and health. Connecting individuals, families and communities to Victorian Aboriginal culture is a key to achieving health equality for our peoples, improving understanding in the broader community and reducing racism.

This year has been another year of constant and positive change. VACCHO's reach is moving more into the social determinants of health, as they affect health equality for Aboriginal People in Victoria. We have seen a higher level of work in justice health and mental health than previous years. The *Yarnin' Health* radio program has been an outstanding success and is attracting local, interstate and international listeners.

Two additional responsibilities for VACCHO this year are the Secretariat and Policy functions for both The Victorian Aboriginal Children and Young People's Alliance (The Alliance) and The Victorian Committee for Aboriginal Aged Care and Disability.

Evidence based planning and service delivery design is critical when allocating sparse funds to address the most complex of our clients' needs. Using data to inform strategic planning, continuous quality improvement, service delivery models and client care pathways to ensure the improved health of a community, is critical. Much of the national data used for policy and funds distribution does not include Victorian data. This is a situation that cannot continue to occur if we are to close the health gap. We must be able provide evidence of need and evidence of success. This year VACCHO has developed and implemented a state-wide data strategy.

The data strategy includes investment in infrastructure to undertake data extraction, analysis and reporting and house the data collected by our Members. The rich datasets being developed will, for the first time, enable Victoria's Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) to input high quality evidence based data that will clearly identify emerging and significant health issues.

Quite often, government policies are often made based on poor or inadequate datasets available. Our data strategy will ensure our Members and VACCHO can advocate for new or sustainable funding where the highest needs within our communities exist.

VACCHO's Health Evidence Team will continue to implement the strategy over the coming years to support our sector across the social determinants of health.

We have been actively responding to the *Members Sustainability Action Plan* and exploring business development opportunities to provide our Members with avenues of reducing back of house and consumables expenditure. Given the growth of our population and the fiscal environment we are experiencing, it's very important that we find ways to ensure as much funding as possible can be spent on front-line service delivery. Our business development work will ensure we can meet this need, diversify our income sources for our sustainability goals and generate non-grant income to reinvest in our Members. This will ensure that we can maintain effective front-line service delivery as the value of the dollar decreases.

Our achievements have strengthened our ability to ensure Aboriginal health outcomes in Victoria will continue to improve, and our Members continue to grow.

Jill Gallagher AO
CEO

Strong culture, thriving communities

VACCHO is at heart and by constitution an Aboriginal community organisation. With our Aboriginality being intrinsic to our identity, essential to our communities and part of our world.

Aboriginal culture is a spiritual and communal entity that thrives in environments of compassion, optimism, integrity, respect and empowerment. VACCHO strives to convey the integral role these qualities play in a healthy community. Aboriginal culture is ancient and contemporary, dynamic, strong, vulnerable and valuable. It is a knowledge and belief system in a contemporary and ever evolving setting.

VACCHO's embodiment of Aboriginality is constitutional and spiritual. It is present in the delivery of our policies and conveyed through the nature of our interactions. The cultural integrity of our practices and beliefs is intrinsic to our greater identity and the identity of the communities we represent. Our culture is rich in history and its impact on contemporary society is dynamic. It conveys strength and vulnerability simultaneously and lives within the vitality and endurance of the people who represent it proudly.

It is the ambition of VACCHO to look after the needs of the communities who share this inseparable connection with identity, culture and health. When our identity is compromised, so too is our health. When our identity is given the chance to thrive, so too do we flourish.

Our Members' cultural identities are an important source of strength and this informs our ways of working and our integrity. VACCHO stands for the rights of its Members to inhabit their identity and stands against the forces who oppose this right. VACCHO's Member base is made up of ACCHOs with a proud history of enabling Aboriginal people within their community to realise their potential as human beings by providing the resources for empowerment and self-determination.

VACCHO runs cultural safety training that provides insight into the significance of cultural identity in the health of Aboriginal peoples.

Why we are here

VACCHO is the peak body for Aboriginal health in Victoria representing 27 ACCHOs. VACCHO's Members serve as an advocate for their community and in turn, VACCHO serves as an advocate for its Members, championing Aboriginal identity as an inseparable aspect of a comprehensive healthcare system. VACCHO recognises the importance of education and pre-emption in effective healthcare implementation and exists to enable our Members to instil healthy attitudes and beliefs throughout their community.

This approach helps negate the many complex health issues causing a decline in the wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples by preventing serious illness.

Our determination to close the gap between the health equalities of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples is the driving force behind our approach. An important factor in the success of this outcome is our holistic approach to health that ensures that administered care is representative of Aboriginal culture. When healthcare is culturally safe the treatment is far more effective. Achieving mainstream recognition of this correlation is integral to securing the funding that will demonstrate the long term effectiveness of culturally appropriate healthcare.

VACCHO strives to convey that sickness does not only affect the physicality of Aboriginal peoples. When Aboriginal culture is dismissed it can cause damage to our social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Spirituality and physicality are inseparable in Aboriginal culture; that which affects one affects the other just as acutely. Unfortunately, spiritual healing can be difficult due to the general incompatibility of mainstream health services and Aboriginal culture. VACCHO recognises the importance of spiritual healing and its importance in improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people. By allowing Aboriginal culture to thrive, so too will its people. VACCHO advocates for Aboriginal health on two fronts: treating the physical illnesses affecting Aboriginal health and celebrating Aboriginal culture in a vibrant community.

> *'In respect to the goals and principles of community control within the Victorian Aboriginal health sector, it is essential to ensure that the services VACCHO provides meet the needs of its Members, stakeholders and ultimately the community which it serves.'*

VACCHO's leadership role involves building the capacity for community advocacy and workforce development by strengthening the support network of our Members. This advocacy takes place in a range of private, community and government agencies at a state and national level, recognising all issues relevant to Aboriginal health.

VACCHO represents the community controlled health sector nationally through its membership on the board of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO). The Victorian Aboriginal Community, State and Federal Governments formally recognise VACCHO as the peak representative organisation for Aboriginal health in Victoria.

Deadly Skin Choir singers Meriki Hood, Carly Sheppard, Lisa Maza, Gavin Somers and Lee Morgan perform at Djamabanna Ngargee Birrarung Marr: Indigenous Peoples Networking Zone as part of the AIDS 2014 Global Village

Our strategic plan

VACCHO's five year strategic plan outlines our strategic priorities for achieving improved health and life expectancy outcomes for Aboriginal people in Victoria.

VACCHO is committed to providing the highest quality service to its Members, partners and stakeholders through the continous review and improvement of services. In respect to the goals and principles of community control within the Victorian Aboriginal health sector, it is essential to ensure that the services VACCHO provides meets the needs of its Members, stakeholders and ultimately the community which it serves.

The sustainability of VACCHO is underpinned by the strategic objectives, with a commitment to:

- retain and grow the level of commitment from Government
- explore business opportunities for the future growth of VACCHO.

Lovelle Peterson, Tahlia Young and Haylee Nelson from Yappera Children's Service Cooperative, teaching VACCHO staff and friends about the consequences of smoking, on World No Tobacco Day 2014

Goal 1: Aboriginal cultural qualities

To implement a range of activities that express the diversity of culture in Victoria's Aboriginal communities and to demonstrate this in the daily operations of VACCHO.

As an ACCHO it is critical that we maintain and improve our cultural footprint. Thriving under the control of an empowered community is the essence of our organisation and is what makes us unique in the health sector.

Our achievements

- We ensure that our staff honour, respect and celebrate Victorian Aboriginal culture, providing them with the capacity to understand history's impact on contemporary Aboriginal peoples today. We are focusing on implementing systems to ensure our publications, media and work practices reflect this.
- Widespread celebration of Aboriginal culture is an effective way of raising the profile of Aboriginal Victoria and improving the cultural knowledge of stakeholders. Bringing this information to the mainstream through education is an effective way to circulate this understanding.
- We have successfully developed and presented two First Peoples Networking Zones at international health conferences in 2014.

Our Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Team was engaged to collaborate with local Communities, national Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander partners and the International Indigenous Working Group on HIV/AIDS, to develop and present Djamabanna Ngargee Birrarung Marr: Indigenous Peoples' Networking Zone as part of the AIDS 2014 Global Village.

The First Peoples Networking Zone were grounded in Koori language, design and performances, providing opportunities for other First Peoples and their organisations to showcase their practices and initiatives.

This was replicated in the World Cancer Congress in December. Our dedicated space in the Global Village was designed for shared conversation between state and national Aboriginal communities and other First Nation's Peoples from around the world regarding the improvement of cancer outcomes for our communities.

These unparalleled networking spaces for national and international cultural and health promotion exceeded the expectations of partner organisations and local Koori communities.

We look forward to presenting more deadly spaces in partnership with our Members for First Peoples at health conferences and have been asked by Menzies Health Institute (QLD) to guide their First Nations Peoples Networking Zone at the April 2016 World Cancer Congress in Brisbane.

Goal 2: Quality workforce

To support the development of a creative, knowledgeable, skilled, experienced and committed workforce throughout mainstream and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

The evidence has shown that the cultural safety of mainstream services must be improved to enhance health outcomes for Aboriginal peoples in Victoria.

We continue our focus on providing an evidence based pathway to better health outcomes for our Community through education and employment. The Victorian ACCHO sector is the largest employer of Aboriginal people making VACCHO's role in workforce support clear. Increasing the capacity of workforce networks has positive outcomes for individuals, communities and ACCHOs. Providing education, coaching and support to organisations and individuals has demonstrated the return of long-term benefits.

Our achievements

- Our Cultural Safety Team successfully secured a competitive tender contract for the Victorian Public Service Commission and has become one of three preferred suppliers for the Commission into the 2015-16 year.
- The Cultural Supervision Project is ready to be trialled and refined by some targeted Member services.
- Governance coaching, accreditation expertise and the Vital Signs projects are continuing to provide support to our Members. The request for advice and practical assistance has increased and we have extended our reach to more organisations in the past year. VACCHO is responding to continued requests for advice and support around Board reviews and CEO performance reviews.
- We have expanded our training locations to include Warragul, Shepparton, Lake Tyers, and Echuca. Increased enrolments, particularly at Certificate II level, is providing employment-entry skills for many community members and at Diploma level is opening up access to further education and career progression for many of our students. The creation of a formal partnership with Australian Catholic University is an exciting development. These programs and processes rely on developing and maintaining new relationships with organisations outside of the ACCHO sector and also enhances our ability to meet the needs of Aboriginal employees in mainstream organisations.
- The Human Resources (HR) Capacity Project was fully implemented. The project assists Members who have limited HR management capacity to develop their HR workforce, provide HR positions if required and VACCHO's HR consultant is available to advise and support Members. A community of practice network has been set up and has been highly effective in building the HR capacity for our Members. We now have a state wide network of experts. It has continued to expand significantly and funding has increased as a result of its success.

Our young people strong and proud at the NAIDOC March, Melbourne 2015

Goal 3: Quality services

VACCHO has been building upon the capacity of our network to deliver culturally appropriate healthcare services to the Victorian Aboriginal community. By utilising our strengthening network we have been able to influence providers of programs that address health needs in accordance with social determinants. We have therefore been able to ensure our ability to meet the diversifying needs of our Members and stakeholders.

Increasing VACCHO and Member capacity to ensure healthcare delivery impacts positively on community health outcomes is a key feature of our goals. We work hard to ensure we exceed the expectations and requirements of our Members and stakeholders by responding to the needs of the community.

Our achievements

- Our Data Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Project provides assistance and technical advice to ACCHOs regarding the use of clinical and population health data. This data informs continuous quality improvement strategies to support service delivery and planning for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- *Yarnin' Health* has been an outstanding success. It is a new Aboriginal health program, broadcast weekly on community radio 3KND, developed to connect with Aboriginal communities in Victoria. The program delivers health news and information with a grassroots approach from a Victorian perspective.
- We use our internal quality management systems to gauge the effectiveness of our improvements to various systems and processes. This year we revised the function and structure of our sub-committees to better align the direction of their work with the goals in our Strategic Plan. A new sub-committee, the Quality, Risk and Compliance Committee, has been formed to guide and monitor our successes in these key areas.
- A comprehensive compliance framework has been implemented that includes newly negotiated processes with our funders that better demonstrate our value for money achievements, further enhancing our reputation.
- The accreditation support for Members continues to be in high demand across a broad range of international, national and state standards. It has played an integral role in enabling our Members to provide the health services requested by their Communities.

Goal 4: Quality Infrastructure

To secure the human and capital resources necessary to sustain and enhance the activities of VACCHO and our Member organisations.

Improving infrastructure ensures the long-term sustainability of an organisation's supportive capability and its capacity for growth, enabling it to administer a high level of service to the communities for which it cares.

Our achievements

- This year we embarked on the implementation of the Information Communication Technology/Information Management (ICT/IM) review recommendations. To fully implement this we selected a new ICT/IM vendor whose products have provided access to greater levels of security, business continuity and risk management. The change has resulted in better access to systems to support staff who are regularly on the road. The recommendations include the development of a Client Relationship Management package and intranet. Work to develop and implement these two new infrastructure environments will commence next financial year.
- The ICT/IM Scoping Review suggested a migration to a new financial management system. Significant work has been conducted to examine the most appropriate product and supplier.
- Through the revision of VACCHO's existing telephone and printing suppliers we made an informed re-negotiation of contracts and secured these package options for VACCHO Members at their discretion. The change of vendor has led to a significant reduction in ongoing costs. It has increased asset accessibility, enhanced productivity and enriched the evaluative information regarding the performance of our suppliers and ourselves.

Social, Emotional and Wellbeing Gathering at Lake Mungo

Goal 5: Quality policy and advocacy

Influencing government policy and stakeholders to directly address the health needs of Aboriginal people in Victoria.

Meeting with government bodies to demonstrate the impact of social determinants on the health of Aboriginal people in Victoria is a part of our core business. By providing evidenced based advice and solutions we can influence policy and improve health outcomes for the community. This in turn strengthens our powers of advocacy and emphasises the importance of Community voice as the driving force behind national and state-wide health policy.

The current political and reform environment demands greater levels of input and activity across a growing range of topics from a diverse range of governments and government agencies.

Our achievements

- Our funding proposal to the Victorian Government Budget and Expenditure Review Committee was adopted by the Victorian Greens political party. Several negotiations with State Departments continue to take place.
- VACCHO now auspices The Victorian Committee for Aboriginal Aged Care and Disability (VCAACD) which is the Victorian reference group for staff in organisations providing home and community care (HACC) services to Aboriginal people. The VCAACD supports HACC staff in ACCHOs and mainstream service organisations, to enable Aboriginal people to access culturally appropriate community and in-home support services.
- We are now the auspice agency and the Secretariat for The Victorian Aboriginal Children and Young People's Alliance (the Alliance). The Alliance members are the CEOs of thirteen Victorian ACCHOs involved in providing out-of-home care services for Koorie kids. They aim to positively influence and advocate for the future of Aboriginal children and young people in Victoria. The Alliance's strategic plan has been developed and several positive meetings with Ministers will help us achieve better opportunities for our kids.
- We have led the national inquiry and advocacy approach regarding the imposed Indigenous Advancement Strategy's (IAS) Strengthening Organisational Governance policy to move Aboriginal organisations to Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC). This has resulted in some changes to the policy and greater levels of information sharing with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- In conjunction with the Victorian Council of Social Services and other State peak bodies, the proposed State Government Funding Agreement has been negotiated to ensure our Members are well positioned to sign for funded activities.

Goal 6: Quality partnerships and networks

To improve the accessibility and quality of Aboriginal health services and programs through the development of partnerships and networks with key organisations.

Aboriginal health is the centre of our focus, but it is everyone's responsibility. By working together to maintain and enhance productive relationships with our partners we can significantly improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people in Victoria. The Statement of Intent to Close the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes was a nationwide government commitment to raising the health of Aboriginal people. It proposes fundamental changes to the national approach to Aboriginal health.

The Victorian Statement of Intent, instigated by VACCHO and first signed by all Victorian political parties in 2011 provides the mandate for us to ensure the government follows through on this commitment. The importance of this commitment was a major catalyst for the creation of the Coalition for Aboriginal Health Equality Victoria (CAHEV). CAHEV consists of community controlled and mainstream civil-society organisations that believe the values behind the Statement of Intent are integral to achieving an equity of health between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Our achievements

- VACCHO's Close the Gap event at Parliament House on 19th March was a great success. The Premier of Victoria, the Honourable Daniel Andrews MP hosted the event at Queens Hall to celebrate Victoria's ongoing commitment to reducing health inequality for Aboriginal people in Victoria. In collaboration with VACCHO and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, the Premier opened the event. His speech outlined the work that has been done, and the work yet to do, he highlighted the importance of Aboriginal people leading the charge through all stages of the process to create better health outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.
- CAHEV has been influential in its direction of government policy, tirelessly impressing the importance of socially safe and considerate behaviours throughout society as a necessary step towards health equity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.
- CAHEV has also committed to VACCHO's Racial Discrimination Statement, which identifies the health impacts of racism, the ramifications of which are not simply a thing of the past, but are very much prevalent throughout society today. It identifies the less common instances of racism that are not necessarily overt and direct but subliminal and subversive in their nature. CAHEV strives to ensure the accountability for organisations in providing culturally safe services.
- VACCHO and Diabetes Victoria launched FeltMum™, an accessible, interactive, family-friendly learning resource demonstrating the effects of diabetes during pregnancy and how gestational diabetes is best managed.
- The *Rethink Sugary Drinks* campaign is a collaboration between twelve health and community organisations aimed at reducing the consumption of sugary drinks. The campaign features a short film demonstrating the negative health impacts of a high sugar diet and the significant amount of sugar contained in popular drinks. It also describes the health benefits of drinking water as an alternative. The program was well received and survey data has demonstrated a positive impact on the health of the community.
- The partnership between VACCHO and 3KND Radio has been instrumental in delivering health information to the Aboriginal community in Victoria. VACCHO's radio program *Yarnin' Health* was awarded the *2015 Best Produced Awareness Program* through the South Eastern Indigenous Media Association. *Yarnin' Health* has raised discussions relating to physical, social, emotional and spiritual topics that have attracted National and International guests. This partnership has increased the exposure of Aboriginal Health programs through its distribution of culturally safe information and provided an important network for collaborations, in turn raising the general awareness of issues and outcomes affecting the health and wellbeing of the Aboriginal Community in Victoria.

Goal 7: Sustainability

We aim to expand the diversity of our income sources beyond traditional government grant funding. The income can then be reinvested in our sector to facilitate long-term financial sustainability and growth amongst our Members.

Our financial sustainability will in turn provide the opportunities for us to invest in our Members to deliver appropriate healthcare services to their communities into the foreseeable future. To achieve this we must demonstrate our financial viability to prospective investors and stakeholders.

Our achievements

- A five-year Sustainability Action Plan (the Plan) has been developed through a series of workshop consultations with our Member CEOs and Chairpersons. The Plan emphasises the strategic directions orchestrated by our Members in their aspirations to coordinate, consolidate and reduce their back-of-house expenditure through the implementation of shared procurement models. Kick-starting this activity has resulted in our working with five Members as their managed IT service provider. This provides for standardised IT operating environments and improved IT efficiency across the ACCHOs' work and organisational systems.
- Fee-for-service models and consultancy services are being implemented and tested as we establish a presence in social enterprise. Foremost, the Cultural Safety Training Team is rolling out training with various institutions, including government controlled and otherwise.
- Fee-for-service training is being offered in Mental Health First Aid, Governance and Strategic Planning.
- Staff of the Education and Training Unit have developed and delivered commercially based programs tailored to meet the needs of both the ACCHO sector and mainstream organisations in fields such as mental health, project management, workplace bullying and harassment and first aid.
- The VACCHO Membership Contribution Scheme has been implemented this year. This voluntary contribution system is a result of our Members' wishing to recognise the work, support and intrinsic value VACCHO provides to its Members as their peak representative body. We look forward to seeing these long term social enterprise developments become profitable endeavours, therefore providing an opportunity to lay the foundations for the next phase of long term investment in our sector.

The deadly staff at Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative show off thier flash new *Respect our Elders* resources

Our Members

Our Members

The Victorian ACCHOs have a proud history as sustainable, grassroots organisations that assist in building community capacity for self-determination and direct provision of community services. Historically ACCHOs existed to supply the essential services that governments had failed to adequately provide. Today they are multi-functional, holistic, community organisations with health as a key part of their responsibility. Each service is unique, and as a whole they are a reflection of the diverse and complex nature of the broader Aboriginal community[1].

ACCHOs, run by a philosophy of community initiation, ownership and control ensuring a commitment to assisting every Aboriginal person, including children, to realise their full potential as a human being and as a member of their community. They have been in operation for over 40 years and with various demonstrated partnerships, ACCHOs hold credibility with community, government departments and other stakeholders.

ACCHOs are already providing holistic, person centred, innovative services which are tailored to the needs of local communities. They are best placed to deliver the needed services to vulnerable Aboriginal children, families and communities. Evidence demonstrates that culturally appropriate healthcare directly improves outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, thus reducing the disparity in health equity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

Our sector is currently operating in the most challenging political and reform environment since the 1960s and 70s, yet VACCHO and its Members are continuing to increase their capacity to operate highly functioning, fully accredited services.

ACCHOs are not just service delivery agencies, they are community hubs, and often the only prominent cultural 'footprint' in the region. ACCHOs are a place to continue to build cultural identity and pride and are best placed to develop affordable or publically funded solutions to challenges that arise within their Community.

In order to achieve health equity, our goal is to ensure VACCHO and our Members are strong, thriving and sustainable organisations, securely positioned in the wider health service system. Our Members offer a unique model of culturally appropriate, high quality service delivery that ensure the social determinants of health for individuals, families and communities is addressed effectively.

1. Hemmingway, M (2000) *THE LONG JOURNEY: Colonialism, Community-Control & Indigenous Autonomy,* VACCHO

VACCHO CEO, Jill Gallagher AO shakes on a solid partnership with Dental Health Services Victoria CEO, Dr Deborah Cole

Our partners

Our relationships

VACCHO achieves its goals through effective and sustainable working relationships with a range of organisations. Working together to improve Aboriginal health in Victoria requires continuous effort and is the responsibility of everyone.

We partner in various ways, for example through the Coalition for Aboriginal Health Equality, Memorandums of Understanding and other collaborative arrangements for partnerships, shared research and program activities.

Our range of partnerships include (but are not limited to):

Alzheimer's Australia	**AMA Victoria**	**ANTAR**	**Australian Catholic University**	**Australian Council of Trade Unions**
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Victorian Branch	**Australian Red Cross**	**Cancer Council Victoria**	**The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons**	**Dental Health Services Victoria**
Diabetes Australia Victoria	**Heart Foundation**	**Human Rights Law Resource Centre**	**Matrix on Board**	**Medibank Private**
Justice Connect	**OXFAM**	**The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners**	**Royal Flying Doctors Service** Victoria & Tasmania	**Rural Workforce Agency Victoria**
Save the Children	**Uniting Church**	**Vic Health**	**Victorian Coalition of Social Services**	**Victorian Hospital Industrial Association**

Marg Clarke keepinhg the action moving at *Sharing the Journey: First Peoples Networking Space Cancer Congress 2014*

Financials

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY
CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION INC
A.B.N. 67498114972

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members present this report along with the financial report of Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Incorporated (VACCHO) for the financial year ended 30th June 2015, in order to comply with the provisions of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The names of committee members throughout the year were:

Jason King	Chairperson
Andrew Gardiner	
Daphne Yarram	
Marcus Clarke	
Rudolph Kirby	Resigned 21/10/14
Janice Huggers	Resigned 21/10/14
Kevin Williams	
Hilary Saunders	Appointed 21/10/14
Suzie Squires	Appointed 21/10/14

Each committee member has been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this Report unless otherwise stated.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the entity during the financial year is to be the peak Victorian Aboriginal health body representing 27 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) in Victoria, building the capacity of its Membership and advocating for issues on their behalf.

OBJECTIVES

- VACCHO aims to be the advocate for the health of Aboriginal people.
- Promotion and support of members as centres of excellence in the provision of Aboriginal health services and as centres of their community and enabling expertise in the priorities, needs and models of service for those communities and as centres of excellence to advocate on their behalf.
- To ensure quality workforce, quality services, quality infrastructure and quality assurance to achieve health equality for Aboriginal people.

STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES

VACCHO will achieve its objectives through the following strategies:

- Assisting the development of an experienced, knowledgeable, skilled and committed workforce in Aboriginal community controlled and mainstream organisations including the public service.
- Ensuring the Aboriginal community controlled health sector continues to be well-positioned to function in, and respond to, changes in the national and state social, economic and political environments.
- Securing necessary infrastructure to maintain and enhance the activities of VACCHO and its Members.
- Ensuring that all VACCHO's services meet the needs of stakeholders.
- Working collaboratively with stakeholders to achieve equality in health status and Aboriginal life expectancy.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

If VACCHO is achieving its goals, outcomes that can be expected include:

- Increase in skills and knowledge of the workforce by supporting networks and training
- Engagement in partnerships and relationships with key organisations and individuals
- Consultation with members on developments and priorities for advocacy

OPERATING RESULT

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY
CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION INC
A.B.N. 67498114972

The surplus for the year amounted to $1,089,383 (2014: $416,471).

INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND AUDITORS

VACCHO has not during or since the end of the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify the auditor of the entity or any related entity against a liability incurred by the auditor. During the financial year, VACCHO has not paid a premium in respect of a contract to insure the auditor of the entity or any related entity.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the Committee.

Dated this 15 day of October 2015

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

REVENUE	Note	2015 $	2014 $
Grants and funding	2	8,754,340	7,281,199
Other income	2	850,582	895,172
TOTAL REVENUE		**9,604,922**	**8,176,371**
EXPENDITURE			
Program operational expenses		2,108,785	1,405,327
Employee expenses		5,206,637	5,373,675
Depreciation expenses		219,656	245,207
Office expenses	2	641,377	496,668
Other expenses	2	339,084	239,023
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**8,515,539**	**7,759,900**
Surplus Before Income Tax for the year attributable to Members of the Entity		**1,089,383**	**416,471**
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the year attributable to Members of the Entity		**1,089,383**	**416,471**

NOTE
The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
A copy of the Annual Financial Statements is available on request.

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY
CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION INC
A.B.N. 67498114972

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 $	2014 $
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	2,854,921	3,559,853
Trade and other receivables	4	275,595	364,968
Financial assets	5	4,606,190	2,024,608
Other	6	24,629	32,676
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		**7,761,335**	**5,982,105**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	6,755,297	6,956,729
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		**6,755,297**	**6,956,729**
TOTAL ASSETS		**14,516,632**	**12,938,834**
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	1,503,361	876,928
Employee benefits	9	369,526	362,436
Deferred income	10	2,722,359	2,897,038
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		**4,595,246**	**4,136,402**
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	9	117,943	88,372
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		**117,943**	**88,372**
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**4,713,189**	**4,224,774**
NET ASSETS		**9,803,443**	**8,714,060**
EQUITY			
Retained surpluses		9,803,443	8,714,060
TOTAL EQUITY		**9,803,443**	**8,714,060**

NOTE
The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
A copy of the Annual Financial Statements is available on request.

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION INC
A.B.N. 67498114972

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	General Building Reserve	Retained Surpluses	Total Equity
	$	$	$
2014			
Balance at 1 July 2013	1,500,000	6,797,589	8,297,589
Transfer to retained surpluses	(1,500,000)	1,500,000	-
Surplus attributable to members	-	416,471	416,471
Balance at 30 June 2014	-	8,714,060	8,714,060
2015			
Balance at 1 July 2014	-	8,714,060	8,714,060
Surplus attributable to members	-	1,089,383	1,089,383
Balance at 30 June 2015	-	9,803,443	9,803,443

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 $	2014 $
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers/funders		10,564,777	10,643,680
Interest received		23,195	439
Payments to suppliers and employees		(8,758,176)	(8,015,590)
Net cash from operating activities	11	1,829,796	2,628,529
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		-	38,818
Payment for purchase of property, plant and equipment		(27,926)	(124,505)
(Payment for) / proceeds from investments		(2,506,802)	381,403
Net (used in) /cash from investing activities		(2,534,728)	295,716
Net (decrease) / increase in cash		(704,932)	2,924,245
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		3,559,853	635,608
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	3	**2,854,921**	**3,559,853**

NOTE
The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
A copy of the Annual Financial Statements is available on request.

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY
CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION INC
A.B.N. 67498114972

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2015

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements, including Australian Accounting Interpretations and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

Reporting basis and conventions

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified where applicable by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the committee, the financial report (obtained separately) as set out on pages 2 to 22:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Incorporated as at 30 June 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

2. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Dated this 15 day of October 2015

The statements, financial data and notes above are extracts from the full annual financial report as at 30 June 2015 which can be obtained by contacting VACCHO Inc. directly on 03 9411 9411

Crowe Horwath

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Inc.

Report on the financial report

Committee of Management's responsibility for the financial report

Auditor's responsibility

Crowe Horwath

Basis for Qualified Opinion

At 30 June 2015, VACCHO has $2,722,360 (2014; $2,897,038) of deferred income recorded in the Statement of Financial Position and revenue from grant funding of $8,754,340 for the year ended 30 June 2015 (2014; $7,281,199).

We were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence in relation to the completeness and accuracy of the deferred income balance for the year ended 30 June 2014 or 30 June 2015. Management were continuing to reconcile and source documentation to evidence compliance with Australian Accounting Standards as at the date of this report.

Consequently, we were unable to determine whether any adjustment to this amount was necessary in respect of the carrying value of deferred income and the elements making up the statement of statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income, statement of financial position and statement of changes in equity.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial report of Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Inc. is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, including;

(a) Giving a true and fair view of the associations financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and

(b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements.

Crowe Horwath Melbourne

CROWE HORWATH MELBOURNE

RYAN LEEMON
Partner

Melbourne, Victoria

Date: 28 October 2015

Aboriginal health is everybody's responsibility.

It is VACCHO's core business.

Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Inc.
Annual Report 2014-15

VACCHO
17-23 Sackville Street
PO Box 1328
Collingwood, VIC, 3066
T 03 9411 9411
F 03 9411 9599
www.vaccho.org.au