



**NATIONAL  
RESEARCH  
PARTNERSHIP**

*Improving practice through research*

## **Far West New South Wales Overview**

Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation began its affiliation with Menzies School of Health Research by being the first jurisdiction outside of the Northern Territory to sign up to the ABCDE research project in 2005. Since 2005 the relationship has flourished with other joint ventures between the two organisations.

Maari Ma has completed 8 rounds of clinic audits across up to 6 sites since the first audit was done in May 2005. During the long collaboration we have used a number of different tools; maternal health, child health, preventive and vascular health (diabetes, hypertension and heart disease). We also piloted the original Mental Health audit tool and protocol in 3 sites in 2008/2009 and then participated in the initial working group to refine the tool that was the basis for what is available today. Maari Ma was keen to sign up to the ABCD Partnership. Maari Ma participates by sharing all our ABCD data with the partnership. We also provide strategic support and advice to other jurisdictions who are embarking on their CQI journey.

Over the 8 years Maari Ma has done almost 10,000 audits and seen great improvements in both process and health outcome measures. These include improved HbA1c levels for diabetics, better blood pressure medication uptake to improve BP results and significant improvement in timely immunisation of children. As well as our internal CQI activity, ABCD data is also used for reporting and submission writing. Selected characteristics are reported each year in the annual report.

### **Key contact in Far West NSW**

*Cath Kennedy, Far West NSW Research Officer*

Cath has worked for over a decade in rural health settings and currently holds a position of Data Analyst with Maari Ma Health. Cath has many years of experience in training and implementing ABCD tools and processes in health centres in Far West NSW. Cath has a background in statistics, mathematics and public health.

Email: [Cath.kennedy@bigpond.com](mailto:Cath.kennedy@bigpond.com)