

- For immediate release -

East Arnhem Aboriginal organisations partner to improve access to jobs

Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation and Miwatj Employment and Participation (MEP) are launching the Miwatj Health-MEP Employment Engagement program with the aim to improve workers' health and increase access to jobs through timely, culturally-appropriate pre-employment medicals.



(Left to right) Eddie Mulholland - CEO Miwatj Health, Charmaine Starr - Miwatj Health-MEP Employment engagement Nurse, Jeremy Kee – CEO MEP

February 19 2018. Nhulunbuy, NT - In Nhulunbuy, East Arnhem, the regional Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service and the local Yolŋu organisation providing Community Development Program (CDP) services are launching a trial to improve access to jobs for local Aboriginal residents.

As the regional economy grows Yolŋu organisations are striving to provide career pathways to local people, but this is often limited by the availability of pre-employment medical checks that are reliably accessible and culturally appropriate. The MEP Board is funding a trial in which additional health professional resources will be employed by Miwatj Health to provide a comprehensive workforce engagement health program, including timely medical checks and health education.

“This is a great example of local organisations tackling together the social determinants of health. We can do more for Yolŋu health and wellbeing by supporting meaningful employment than by simply providing healthcare.”

John Morgan, Chairperson of Miwatj Health

The trial will run for 12 months and collaborate with other Yolŋu employer organisations in the region to ensure candidates are supported medically through the engagement process.



“More than anything, it is great to see Yolŋu organisations come in to put their wisdom and resources together so that local people can take advantage of local economic development. Yolŋu people in jobs created by Yolŋu organisations on their own land.”

Djawa Yunupiŋu, MEP Director

Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation (Miwatj) is the regional Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service in East Arnhem Land, providing comprehensive primary health care services for over 6,500 Indigenous residents of North East Arnhem and public health services for close to 10,000 people across the region. Miwatj operates within a Human Rights framework, a rights-based approach, with self-determination at its core and the advancement of broader Indigenous Rights and improvement of the social determinants of health as its ultimate mission. Addressing the underlying social determinants such as employment is the most effective way to improve a population’s health.

Miwatj Employment and Participation (MEP) is the Community Development Program (CDP) Provider in far Northeast Arnhem Land, delivering assistance for unemployed and financially disadvantaged Indigenous people to short and long-term employment, labour hire opportunities and community income-generation initiatives. MEP operates with a social and community empowerment mindset, with Yolŋu culture, self-sustainability, self-governance, development of young people and economic independence as its principle values.

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