



**Aboriginal
Sobriety
Group** INC.



October 2015

www.aboriginalsobrietygroup.org.au



A run-down house south of Adelaide has been transformed into a haven where Aboriginal women can get help for drug and alcohol abuse. The Aboriginal Sobriety Group partnered with non-government organisation Big Sunday to renovate the building at Monarto.

Over the past six weeks, more than 50 volunteers have worked tirelessly to turn it into a culturally appropriate facility.

Big Sunday Adelaide director Joshua Brett said every part of the property had been changed.

Monarto house renovated to become drug and alcohol treatment centre for Indigenous women

"There's been a heap of man hours go in and late nights spent up there just getting the property right," Mr Brett said.

"We've had people there who are carpenters, people who do have those trades, electricians and plumbers.

"But also people who may not have the skills but they've been able to pick up a paint brush, they've been able to be involved with gardening." Big Sunday received \$100,000 in State Government funding for the project.

The Aboriginal Sobriety Group now needs funding to run a rehabilitation program out of the centre.

There is no specific service in South Australia to help Indigenous women and they are referred to mainstream services.

The group's chief executive Joe Silvestri said a lot of women do not stay at mainstream services because they are not culturally appropriate. "They don't really have anywhere to go," he said.

"The services that are out there that are mainstream, they do get referred into, they just don't seem to last."

He said the new facility would open up four beds for women to stay, based next to an established men's live-in centre. Mr Silvestri said he hoped women could soon get the same services available to Indigenous men like Allen Edwards. He has struggled with alcohol abuse since he was 12 and was homeless until he reached out for help.

"I went through my life, younger years and teenage years, young adult years, turning to alcohol as a way of escaping, as a way of dealing with my problems and issues," Mr Edwards said.

He said he was living on the streets before reaching out for help, and has now been sober for three years.

"I've since moved into my own unit but the Aboriginal Sobriety Group is still there supporting me," he said.

Quality Improvement Council Coordinator



Pauline Bambalos

Welcome to Pauline Bambalos as the new QIC Coordinator.

Pauline will be coordinating and supporting Program Managers and staff to improve and implement procedures and policies.

Congratulations Janine Rankin



Janine Rankine

Janine is the new supervisor for Mobile Assistance Patrol (MAP) for the Adelaide area. Janine has been working in the MAP Program for approximately 2 years and has supervision experience and skills from prior employment.

Mobile Assistance Patrol (MAP) is a unique and essential service offered by the Aboriginal Sobriety Group (ASG) MAP provides transport to Aboriginal Community Members under the influence of alcohol or other substances from public places to places of care, safety and support.



Aboriginal Sobriety Group Inc Sober Walk 2015 held recently at Whitmore Square



Proudly supported by:



Government of South Australia
Department for Communities
and Social Inclusion

Hope Church
SA



Mental Health Week In The Riverland





Riverland Aboriginal Youth hosted Nature Play which was held at Redbank in Gerard with the aim for children aged 10—18 years to build traditional shelters using bark, leaves and wood.



Supported by:



**Aboriginal
Sobriety
Group**



Relationships Australia
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Chief Executive Officer

Joe Silvestri

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8223 4204

Program Director

Michelle Merrick

182-190 Wakefield Street, Adelaide

8223 4204

Manager - Homelessness

Ian Sansbury

Woodville Gardens, Adelaide

8243 1698

Manager—LTW

Matthew Cooper

216 Wattle Road, Monarto

8534 4028

Supervisor—MAP

Janine Rankin

Woodville Gardens, Adelaide

8224 5988

Manager—Riverland

Don Scordo

3 Wilson Street, Berri

8580 8700

The Aboriginal Sobriety Group provide care and support for Aboriginal people who wish to live an alcohol and drug free lifestyle.

We are a non for profit organisation providing care and support to individuals, families and communities who wish to lead a drug and alcohol free lifestyle. We provide culturally safe pathways away from grief, loss, trauma and abusive lives.

ASG values Aboriginal culture, customs, tradition and spirituality. We respect our clients, colleagues, partners and community.

We operate with integrity, honesty and accountability and implement quality service provision to ensure positive outcomes for our clients.

Vision

Sobriety and healing for Aboriginal people.

Purpose

To provide healing pathways away from grief, loss, trauma and abusive lives.

Values

Practising Aboriginal culture, custom, tradition and spirituality.

A sober lifestyle.

Respect for our clients colleagues, partners and community.

Acting with integrity, honesty and accountability.

Quality service provision to ensure positive outcomes for our clients.

If you believe the Aboriginal Sobriety Group may be of assistance to you, your family or your community please contact us now!

**Living Alcohol
And Drug Free**