

Ungooroo is proud to announce the launch of a dental service for the Singleton & Muswellbrook area.

Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation in collaboration with Glencore, the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at the University of Sydney and Hunter New England Local Health District are proud to launch Ungooroo's new dental service. The dental service is currently available on a fortnightly basis at Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation for Indigenous children 0 – 18 years from the Singleton and Muswellbrook area.

The service has begun with a dental screening program, working together with primary and senior schools from the Upper Hunter Region to build awareness of the service and prioritise children who need urgent dental treatment. The dental screening program involves the dental service coming to the school and conducting a simple dental screening for all Indigenous children who sign a valid consent form which is provided to schools through the service. After the dental screening, a referral form is then sent home to the child's families encouraging follow up treatment at the new dental clinic at Ungooroo. To date, Ungooroo's dental service has worked with Muswellbrook South Public School conducting the dental screening program at the school and follow up treatment for children at Ungooroo. Many other schools in the region are enthusiastic to participate and booked in for the dental screening program. All schools from the Upper Hunter Region are welcomed to participate in the school dental screening program and all Indigenous children aged 0 – 18 years are welcomed to access the new dental service at Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation, even if they have not received a school dental screening. The Australian Dental Association recommends that children should get their teeth checked by the dentist by their first birthday to get them familiar with dental services and make sure everything is developing normally.

Currently, the dental service is concentrating on our children, youth and school aged students to address their immediate oral health needs in order to promote oral health and prevent future dental and general health issues.

Ungooroo's dental service is a true example of organisations working in partnership to deliver health services to Indigenous people. Glencore have supported the dental service assisting with the purchase of the dental chair and equipment required for the service.

The Poche Centre for Indigenous Health has provided a Dentist and Oral Health Therapist to provide dental treatment, support and sterilisation services. The Oral Health Unit from Hunter New England Health is supporting the program by supplying the instruments required for dental treatment.

The new dental service has been well received by Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation. Taasha Layer, CEO of Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation is excited about launching this initiative; she says "it not only addresses a major need in the area but it has created an opportunity of collaboration with businesses working together to assist with 'Closing the Gap' in Indigenous health and addressing oral health issues for our Indigenous youth 18 years and under."



THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
POCHE CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Graham White from the Poche Centre quoted: "We are excited about our involvement in this partnership. The partnership will provide a real opportunity to make a significant difference to address the oral health needs for Aboriginal children in the region."

GLENCORE

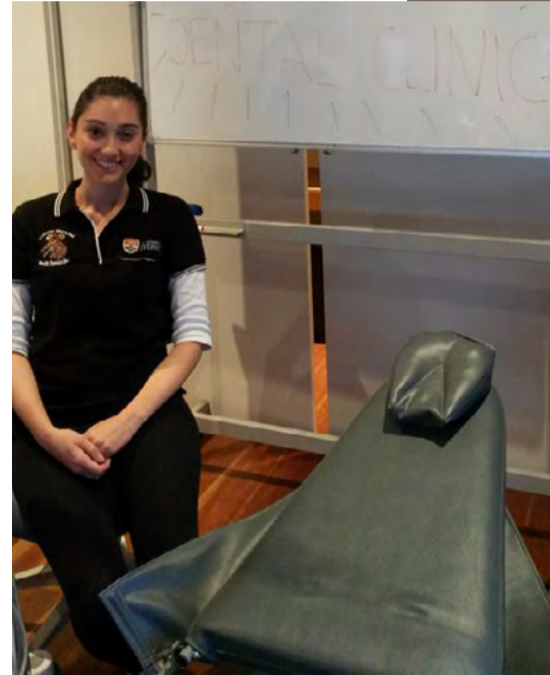
"Our Reconciliation Action Plan is based on understanding the needs of Aboriginal communities in the Upper Hunter and delivering programs that address their needs," Glencore's Community Relations Manager, Craig Strudwick, said.

"The dental service has been badly needed in this area for a long time and it is very rewarding to be part of the team that has brought this resource to the area."

Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation is looking forward to expanding the dental service to provide dental treatment for adults in the near future and for the mean time are excited to provide a range of dental services to Indigenous children and families from the Singleton and Muswellbrook area.



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District



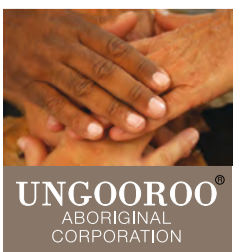
▲ Oral Health Therapist Yvonne Flaskas in the dental clinic at Ungooroo



▲ Dental treatment



▲ Oral Health Therapist Yvonne Flaskas and CEO of Ungooroo, Taasha Layer in the dental clinic at Ungooroo



Further information can be obtained by contacting the office either in person 128 George St Singleton, online at www.ungooroo.com.au or by calling (02) 6571 5111.