



Pius X Aboriginal Corporation

INCREASING ACCESS TO WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

In 2003, Pius X Aboriginal Corporation began a project to establish a local women's health service to meet community needs.

"In 2003, we had nothing. We were over in the old clinic and it was three rooms...to set up a gynaecologist service or even a women's health service in there was a no go because we all shared the room." Ros Rose, Nurse Manager

The Nurse Manager successfully completed a Women's Health Certificate and commenced well women screening, including Pap testing. Women were happy with the service but Pius X identified the need to better deal with abnormal Pap tests and to address the significant barriers to treatment that were faced by women in the area. Some of these barriers included the cost of long distance travel required for women to receive treatment and the time spent away from family. Some women were choosing not to make the trip to Sydney, meaning they were missing out on lifesaving treatment; a local solution needed to be found.

Pius X arranged for a gynaecologist to hold a local clinic once a month. Over the years, the women's health service has been expanded to provide outreach services to two communities.

Tailor solutions to local
community needs
Study and address barriers
Do not assume – evaluate



Each outreach service is tailored in response to feedback from local women – this tailoring to community needs is part of the Pius X approach to continuous quality improvement. For example, in Mungindi, women stated they preferred appointments, whereas in Moree, women preferred a drop-in service.

Pius X is now looking at expanding their services to include a day surgery unit through extensions to the clinic. This expansion is expected to reduce treatment waiting times and reduce the need for locals to leave the area. In the mean time, the team at Pius continue their work to educate local women about the importance of having regular health checks, particularly Pap tests.



"A lesson learnt is not to make assumptions but to test and trial what patients need or want until best solutions are identified. We make it like home, friendly, caring and that's what our service is."
Ros Rose, Nurse Manager

