

A G R E E M E N T

Assessment and referral pathways:

Living At Home Assessment Agencies & Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative

PREAMBLE:

This agreement was developed during the Grampians Region HACC Partnership Project (June 2012) to improve communication and working arrangements between HAS agencies and the Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative.

The following agreed working arrangements relate to a situation where a request or referral for HACC services involves a person who identifies as Aboriginal and seeks services connected with an Aboriginal agency in some way.

This agreement is to ensure that all agencies follow a clear but simple process to ensure that the choices of an Aboriginal person are recognised and, where consent is provided, both Goolum Goolum and the HAS agency can collaborate through assessment, goal setting and service delivery. This relationship is critically important where the 'tyranny of distance' makes it impossible for Goolum Goolum to provide direct services.

AGREEMENT:

It is agreed that the process will involve:

- ▣ Either Goolum Goolum or the HAS provider will contact each other when the Aboriginal person provides consent
- ▣ Arrangements for assessment will be done jointly: as a full joint assessment or with Goolum Goolum in an advocacy role
- ▣ Arrangements for proof of Aboriginality are not required by the HAS agencies, however, Goolum Goolum policies stipulate that proof of Aboriginality is required to access Goolum Goolum services – other than General Practice services
- ▣ Contact between agencies will be maintained so that advice on culturally appropriate service provision can be provided at any time – Goolum Goolum can act as an information resource
- ▣ Both agencies will collaborate to make links with other programs or agencies – for example a Tai Chi group or a Men's Shed
- ▣ All progress and review activities will be done jointly, including arrangements to withdraw services.

PARTIES:

All Wimmera Living At Home Assessment agencies and Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative are parties to this agreement. For further information please contact: Robyn Fletcher, HACC Project Worker at RobynFletcher@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Agreement review date: December 2012.