

Friday 2 July 2009



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **DIMBOOLA HOSPITAL ACKNOWLEDGES TRADITIONAL LANDOWNERS**

On Thursday 9 July, a ceremony to acknowledge the region's traditional landowners will be held at the Dimboola Hospital.

The ceremony, jointly organised by Wimmera Health Care Group and the Barengi Gadjin Land Council, will include the unveiling of a traditional landowners plaque, featuring the artwork of Aunty Nancy Harrison, a Wotjobaluk Elder.

Wimmera Health Care Group's Chief Executive, Mr Chris Scott said that the event would commence at 10.30 a.m. in the Airlie Lounge with morning tea to follow. "This is an important occasion for the Dimboola community and we welcome interested members of the public to come along and join in the celebration" he said.

At the ceremony, Aunty Nancy Harrison and Ms Gail Harradine, Cultural Heritage Manager of Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Co-Chair of the Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start partnership, will speak about the importance of the art work on the commemorative plaque and the stories behind the images created in the line drawing.

Mr Scott said that the ceremony is an important occasion for the health care group and the local indigenous community.

The ceremony will coincide with NAIDOC Week which runs from 5 to 12 July. NAIDOC stands for the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee. It is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians.

Mr Scott said that this year's theme "Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth" symbolises what the Dimboola ceremony is all about. "We want to pay our respects to the Traditional Owners and their Elders, both past and present, of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk people" he said.

People interested in attending the ceremony on Thursday at 10.30 a.m. should contact Sandra Mibus at Wimmera Health Care Group's Dimboola Campus on ph. 5363 7100.

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