Redfern

Aboriginal Medical Service
Co-operative Limited

Annual Report
2024-25

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Cover Image: AMS Redfern Easter Community Day 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

The Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited (AMS Redfern) acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional custodians and original owners of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

We recognise the continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We pay respect to those who have passed before us, and acknowledge our Elders past, present and emerging.

Healing Country

This work *'healing country'* by Taleena Simon, was created for AMS Redfern's 50 year anniversary celebrations.

Please be aware that this report may contain material that is culturally sensitive, including images and names of people who have passed away.

Image: AMS Redfern Easter Community Day 2025

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About AMS Redfern

Founded in 1971, the Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited (AMS Redfern) is the first Aboriginal community-controlled health organisation in Australia.

AMS Redfern was founded as a co-operative to provide healthcare services to the local Aboriginal community to overcome the neglect and racism Aboriginal people were experiencing in mainstream health services.

Initially, the AMS was a shopfront in Regent Street, Redfern and later moved to Turner Street, on land donated by the Sisters of Mercy.

Volunteer doctors, nurses, nuns, medical students and local Aboriginal people initially staffed the service and we are eternally grateful for these early health pioneers.

Today, for our registered patients, we offer bulk-billed, walk-in primary healthcare services to more than 4400 patients. Included are allied health, specialist services and community programs by appointment.

Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited

We have a dedicated and qualified health team working to achieve a healthier community, delivering preventative and holistic care.

AMS Redfern is a founding member of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (formally NAIHO, 1974) and of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (NSW Aboriginal Health Resource Committee, 1984).

Our Vision

The Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited (AMS Redfern) will continue to be the leader in Aboriginal Health for our people and communities across Australia.

AMS Redfern is the voice for health and wellbeing through patient advocacy and self-determination for now and into the future.

Our Purpose

To elevate, dignify and sustain the health of Aboriginal people to an optimum level consistent with our holistic concept of health, grounded by our values and beliefs, cultural integrity and uncompromising self-determination.

This includes the delivery and coordination of healthcare services to the Aboriginal community, through intervention, prevention and promotion of healthcare services.

Our Values

Our organisation is guided by the principles of cultural safety, comprehensive patient-centred holistic care and strong governance.

Image: AMS Redfern Food and Nutrition Program

More than

1,000

boxes of fruit and vegetables delivered each year.

The AMS Redfern Food and Nutrition Program started in the early 1970s.

Today, more than 20 boxes of fruit and vegetables are hand delivered each week by AMS Redfern staff to referred patients, including mums and bubs, elders and patients with chronic diseases like diabetes.

Image: The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Member for Sydney, visits AMS Redfern Cardiology Specialty Clinic

Our Strategic Priorities

Priority 1:
Patient focused

We continue to advocate for all our patients and continue to put the patient at the forefront of our decision-making process.

Priority 2:
Build a sustainable workforce

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. AMS Redfern, has a long-standing commitment to develop and maintain a sustainable workforce by investing in its employees.

Priority 3:
Provide a cultural safety workplace

Respecting our history, our culture and connection to land will provide a firm foundation to support, advocate and improve healthcare processes and services for our people. We maintain a strong culture that will be embedded into our daily practices that incorporates compassion, dedication and is free from discrimination for Aboriginal people.

Priority 4:
Provide equitable and affordable healthcare

“Closing the Gap’ between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people is a priority for AMS Redfern. The plan will develop initiatives that will improve the life expectancy for Aboriginal people. There is a need to investigate health behaviours, health outcomes and access to health services that will continue to improve on these results as well as the commitment to providing culturally appropriate Aboriginal led service delivery.

Priority 5:
Deliver evidence-based, best practice care

AMS Redfern's components of health service provision will be underpinned by evidence-based best practice.

Priority 6:
Build partnership networks

AMS Redfern recognises the importance and benefits of having equitable partnership agreements with key health service providers and other stakeholders including government agencies and departments. We ensure our partnerships are in line with our strategic directions.

Chairperson's Report

AMS Redfern has been a pioneer in Aboriginal Health since its establishment in 1971.

Our vision is to continue this legacy, being a voice for health and wellbeing through patient advocacy and self-determination now and into the future.

There is growing demand for community-led, culturally safe, accessible services for Aboriginal communities in Redfern, inner Sydney and beyond. This year AMS Redfern provided almost 50,000 occasions of service to our patients.

In 2024-25, AMS Redfern completed a needs assessment for a new permanent tenure. In a survey of patients, more than 80 per cent supported an expansion of services, with key priorities; being accessible via public transport, a culturally safe environment and proximity to other healthcare services.

As demand for AMS Redfern's services continues to grow, more capacity is needed. The Board and Executive of AMS Redfern are exploring opportunities to secure appropriate accommodation in addition to the Turner Street location, to provide continuity of our services into the future.

In April 2025, the Board and Executive held a planning day to review progress against our Strategic Plan (2022-2027).

It was exciting to see the actions taken across all of our strategic priorities, including, collaborations to address racism in mainstream services through the Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement; opportunistic health screening and immunisation in the community; the annual calendar of holistic community focused health programs and events; our ongoing focus on clinical governance and formal accreditation of our services; and our focus on staff health and wellbeing through cultural awareness training, professional development and our staff recognition program.

The board and executive will continue to explore opportunities to enhance our Aboriginal workforce and provide career pathways for Aboriginal staff, including increasing our Aboriginal Health Practitioner workforce.

Next year, we will commence planning and development for our next strategic plan. Our focus will be on designing health prevention programs to continue to make an impact on the burden of disease affecting our people.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of founding member Aunty Dulcie Flower AM who was recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2024 NAIDOC Awards. Aunty Dulcie was invited by members of the Redfern community to participate in the planning of AMS Redfern, originally serving as a volunteer, before coming on board as a staff member and establishing the first Aboriginal Health Worker training program in NSW. She served on the Board of AMS Redfern for 20 years, retiring in 2024, and we thank her for her advocacy for our people, her service and her ongoing support.

It is a great honour to serve our community as the Director of the Board, I would like to thank my fellow Board Directors for their ongoing commitment over the past year, the Executive and staff of AMS Redfern under the leadership of our CEO LaVerne Bellear, for the care you provide to our patients.

Finally, I would like to thank our community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2024-25.

Daniel Daylight
Chairperson
AMS Redfern Board of Directors

Our Board

Daniel Daylight
Chairperson

Tamara Bellear-Mayers
Director

Edie Coe
Director

Board Director	Meetings Held	Meetings Attended
Mr Daniel Daylight (Chairperson)	9	8
Ms Tamara Bellear-Mayers	9	9
Ms Edie Coe	9	7
Ms Adina Duncan	9	8
Ms Dulcie Flower (resigned on 27/11/2024)	4	4
Mr Ricky Lyons	9	3
Ms Leona McGrath	9	5
Mr Phillip Williams (appointed on 27/11/2024)	5	4

Adina Duncan
Director

Ricky Lyons
Director

Leona McGrath
Director

Phillip Williams
Director (27/11/2024)

Aunty Dulcie Flower AM served as a Director of the Board of AMS Redfern for 20 years from April 2004 to November 2024.

We would like to acknowledge her extensive contribution and expertise in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

Dulcie Flower AM
Director (to 27/11/2024)

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Strengthening the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the inner city of Sydney and beyond, is central to our work at AMS Redfern.

We continue to focus on our preventive, holistic healthcare strategies including Aboriginal Health Assessments (or 715 checks), oral health checks, screening, vaccination, public health programs, health promotion activities and events. Our legacy initiatives, including our food and nutrition, condom and transport programs also support our community to take ownership of their own health.

In March this year, our General Practitioners and clinical team completed 140 Aboriginal Health Assessments for our patients, the most assessments completed at AMS Redfern in a single month. More than 1,220 patients had their 715 check this year, allowing them to discuss their individual health needs with a doctor and reducing the likelihood of living with an undiagnosed medical condition.

AMS Redfern's Cardiology Service was featured by Professor Raj Puranik at the Indigenous Cardiovascular Health Conference in Sydney. He spoke about the way the service has improved the heart health of our community over the past 20 years. Heart disease can occur 10 to 20 years earlier among our people, new guidelines encourage everyone over 18 years of age to have a heart health check to understand their own heart health and risk of heart disease.

New digital technology in our Oral Health Service has enhanced our Mouthguard Clinic. The Intra Oral Camera takes a 3D scan of the patient's mouth in just a couple of minutes, replacing the need to use impression materials and glue paste. Custom fitted guards protect teeth, gums and bone structures, while annual oral health checks support healthy mouths for our kids.

AMS Redfern has a long-standing commitment to staff health, safety and wellbeing. We have dedicated training and development programs and regular meetings and committees to support our work and enhance communication across our services.

This year we reintroduced our Registrar Training Program through the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). In addition, we continue to support our Aboriginal Health Workers to complete their Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice through TAFE, to become Aboriginal Health Practitioners.

Our staff recognition program provides us an opportunity to celebrate and highlight staff achievements regularly through our team member of the month award. We also host a range of staff events throughout the year to bring staff together and foster our positive team environment. It was a pleasure to see the comradery between the differing professions as we came together to celebrate professional days including International Nurses and Midwives Day and World Family Doctor Day.

Our partnerships are important to us, this year AMS Redfern, along with five metropolitan public health services – Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Northern Sydney Local Health Districts, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney and Sydney Children's Hospitals Network – developed a new Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement for the next five years.

Five health priorities have been identified by the partner organisations for action including; addressing racism, strengthening our workforce, building health promotion, improving chronic care and supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Our Redfern Hub Days in partnership with Service NSW, have proved popular in facilitating access for our community to government services. The assistance navigating many government services under the one roof eliminates the stress and anxiety in dealing with personal matters. Feedback from the community and staff is that the service has been gratefully welcomed and is a positive outcome for those who are in need.

Participation in our Public Health Programs continues to increase, with more than 670 sessions delivered. Thirteen different programs were offered, including fitness sessions, aqua aerobics, parents and bubs swimming programs, Social Emotional Wellbeing and groups for our Elders.

The Redfern Rebels did us proud at the Eora Elders Olympics, and while Wyanga won the gold medal this year, it was great to see our team in uniform, proudly representing AMS Redfern.

It has been inspiring to have so many community members attend our AMS Redfern events throughout the year. Among the highlights, our Women's Day High Tea, BreastScreen Partnership for Aboriginal women with BreastScreen Sydney Local Health District in Redfern Park, RU OK? Day and our Christmas, Easter, and NAIDOC Week community events to name but a few.

Our events promote connectedness, celebrate culture, and focus on numerous health topics over the course of the year. Our Public Health team is to be commended for the wonderful job they do in coordinating these programs. These events showcase the dedication and involvement of the Aboriginal Health Worker Team amid the great work they do for our community.

The development of our social media profile has allowed for a wider connection across a diverse audience. Our community can also stay connected through our quarterly newsletters with articles promoting patient stories, celebration of clinics and health promotions which have been of interest to our followers.

We also experienced a lot of sorry business this year. We have lost a number of valued members of our community, especially one of our own, Barbara Raguckas (Aunty Barb Paii). Aunty Barb was an integral part of our team at AMS Redfern for nearly 40 years and she is sadly missed by us all, our staff, our board and our community.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our staff at AMS Redfern for your dedication throughout the year. I would like to acknowledge our key partners and organisations for working with us to support the care we provide our patients. I would also like to commend our Board and executive for your governance and leadership of AMS Redfern in 2024-25.

LaVerne Bellear
Chief Executive Officer
AMS Redfern

Image: International Women's Day Celebration 2025

Our Executive

LaVerne Bellear
Chief Executive Officer

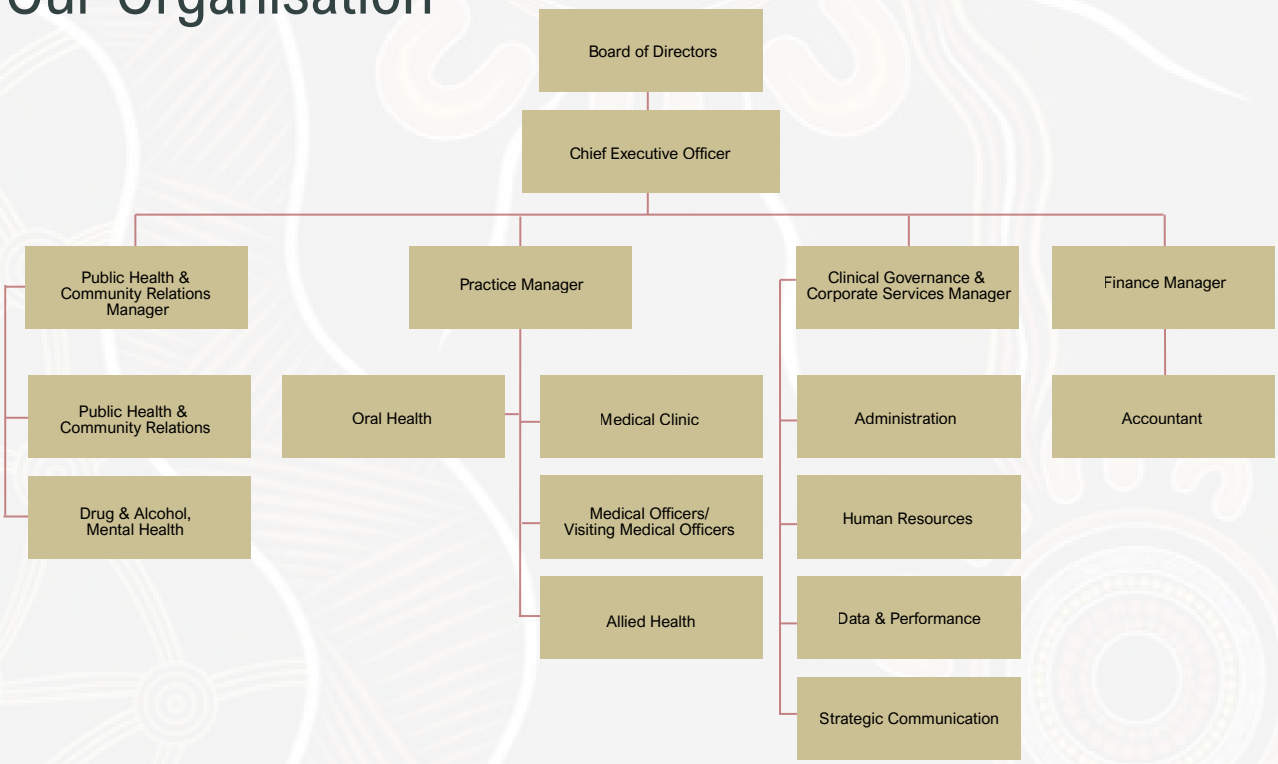
Karon Silva
Practice Manager

Joshua Roxburgh
Public Health & Community Relations Manager

Karinya Bellear
Clinical Governance & Corporate Services Manager

Stuart Maundrell
Finance Manager

Our Organisation



Delivering First-rate Care

AMS Redfern has a strong focus on clinical governance and quality programs to ensure the services we provide are of the highest standard for our community.

Dr Philip Hoyle
Medical Advisor

Dr Philip Hoyle, is a Medical Advisor for AMS Redfern and is the Independent Chair of our Clinical Governance Committee which meets bi-monthly.

He explains clinical governance is about making sure the care we deliver meets the Australian standards.

"It also ensures we are listening to our community through compliments, complaints and issues and then using the information to review practices, policies, procedures and safety.

"This helps to align services, with the values and needs of the community.

With a background as a GP in rural general practice, followed by more than 30 years as a healthcare executive, Philip has extensive experience in clinical governance across tertiary and rural hospitals and health services in Australia and the UK.

"This is my chance to work for a first-rate organisation, that delivers first-rate care to a community that values it.

He says working at AMS Redfern is inspiring.

> "It doesn't just deliver care, but it cares for people – and that's something quite special."

Committees

AMS Redfern is committed to strong governance and effective communication across our services through regular operational and committee meetings.

Weekly
Executive Meeting

Monthly
Board Meeting
All Staff Meeting
Clinical Meetings
Coordinators Meeting
Clinical Governance Committee (bi-monthly)
Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee

Quarterly
Finance, Risk and Audit Committee

Image: Eora Elders Olympics 2025

Financial Statement 2024-25

Images: AMS Redfern Public Health Programs

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Auditor's Independence Declaration

To the Responsible Entities of Aboriginal Medical Service Co-Operative Limited

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as lead auditor for the audit of Aboriginal Medical Service Co-Operative Limited for the year ended 30 June 2025, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

James Winter
Partner - Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 31 October 2025

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Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
Revenue and other income from continuing operations			
Revenue from continuing operations	3	13,379,627	12,774,083
Other income	3	615,467	565,963
Total revenue and other income		**13,995,094**	**13,340,046**
Expenditure			
Employee benefits expense	4	9,015,616	8,892,888
Depreciation and amortisation expense		445,634	429,740
Clinical costs		689,391	441,260
Property and utilities costs		860,713	816,567
IT costs		243,164	206,074
Promotional costs		11,000	19,130
Professional costs		331,529	418,148
Other costs		439,601	463,329
Total expenditure		**12,036,648**	**11,687,136**
Surplus for the year		**1,958,446**	**1,652,910**
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period		**1,958,446**	**1,652,910**

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 $	2024 $
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	7,684,100	16,718,206
Trade and other receivables	6	70,651	81,527
Other assets	7	504,742	526,038
Other financial assets	8	11,180,867	-
Current assets		**19,440,360**	**17,325,771**
Non-current			
Financial assets	8	3,839	3,037
Property, plant and equipment	9	6,539,200	6,660,443
Other assets	7	2,336	2,336
Non-current assets		**6,545,375**	**6,665,816**
Total assets		**25,985,735**	**23,991,587**
Liabilities			
Current			
Trade and other payables	10	575,341	350,359
Contract liability	11	526,151	806,430
Provisions	12	1,109,653	1,014,567
Current liabilities		**2,211,145**	**2,171,356**
Non-current			
Provisions	12	212,213	216,300
Share capital payable on demand	13	97	97
Non-current liabilities		**212,310**	**216,397**
Total liabilities		**2,423,455**	**2,387,753**
Net assets		**23,562,280**	**21,603,834**
Funds			
Accumulated funds	14	23,562,280	21,603,834
Total funds		**23,562,280**	**21,603,834**

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Aboriginal Medical Service Co-Operative Limited

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Aboriginal Medical Service Co-Operative Limited (the "Registered Entity" or the "Co-Operative"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies and the Responsible Entities' declaration.

In our opinion,

1. the financial report of Aboriginal Medical Service Co-Operative Limited has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
   a) giving a true and fair view of the Registered Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
   b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*; and
2. the financial report of the Co-Operative for the year ended 30 June 2025 is in accordance with the requirements of the *Co-operatives National Law (NSW)*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Registered Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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Information other than the financial report and auditor's report thereon

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Declaration in accordance with the *Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2021* and the Directors' Report.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Responsible Entities for the financial report

The Responsible Entities of the Registered Entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW)* and *Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2021 (NSW)*, and the *Co-operatives National Law (NSW)*, and for such internal control as the Responsible Entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Responsible Entities are responsible for assessing the Registered Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Responsible Entities either intend to liquidate the Registered Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Registered Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Registered Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Responsible Entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Responsible Entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Registered Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Registered Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

James Winter
Partner – Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 31 October 2025

Image: AMS Redfern Rebels, Eora Elders Olympics 2025

13

Public Health Programs every week.

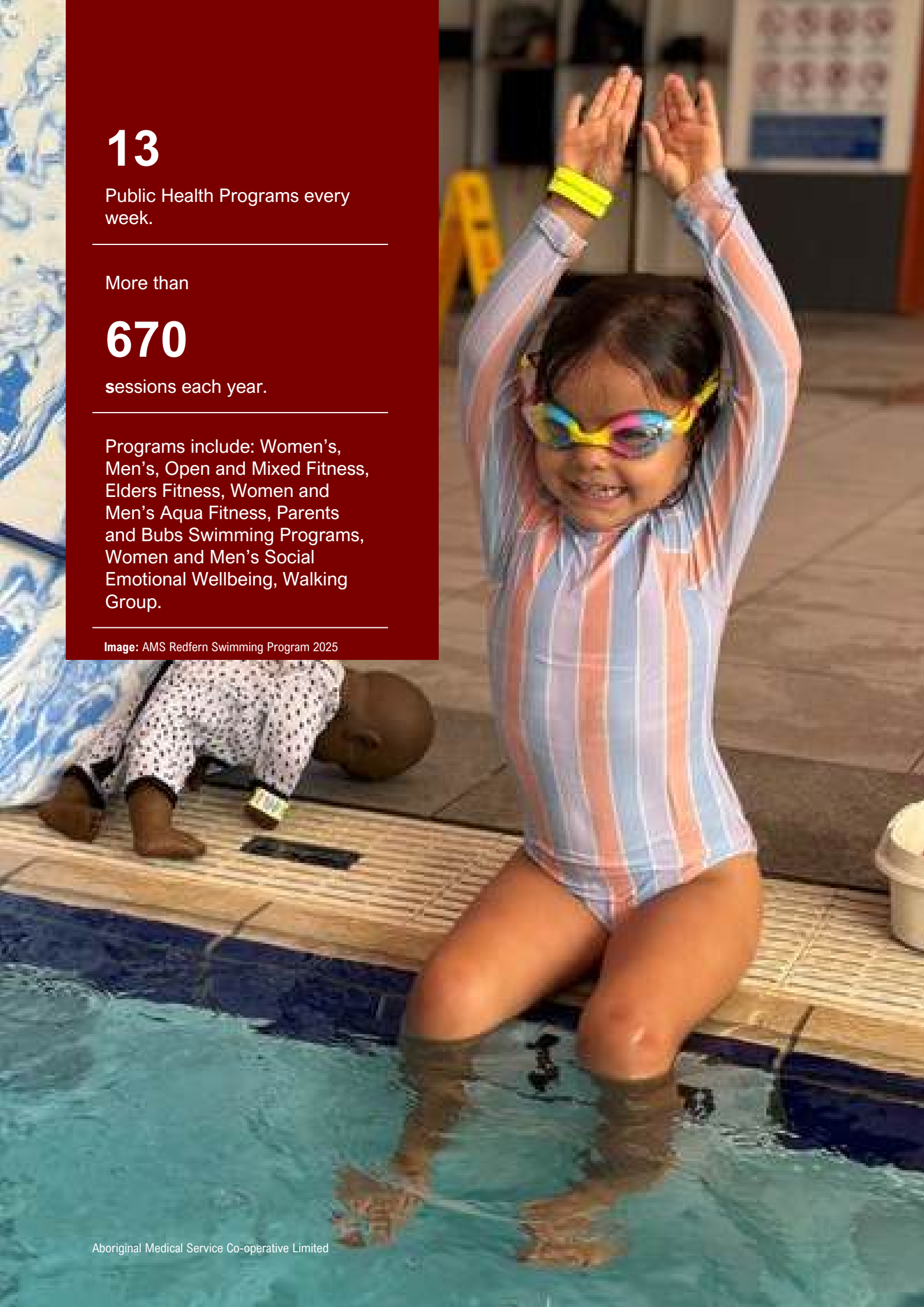
More than

670

sessions each year.

Programs include: Women's, Men's, Open and Mixed Fitness, Elders Fitness, Women and Men's Aqua Fitness, Parents and Bubs Swimming Programs, Women and Men's Social Emotional Wellbeing, Walking Group.

Image: AMS Redfern Swimming Program 2025



AMS Redfern 2024-25 at a Glance

Approximately

50,000

Patient visits.

4,400

AMS Redfern patients.

25,000

GP Clinic visits.

8,050

Dental treatments provided during 2230 Dental Clinic visits.

9,000

Specialist and Allied Health visits.

4,700

Drug and Alcohol visits.

Netball legend's message from the heart

Marcia Ella-Duncan OAM says the staff at AMS Redfern saved her life, after a visit to fix her arthritic knees detected a deadly problem.

Marcia Ella-Duncan OAM says the staff at AMS Redfern saved her life, after a visit to fix her arthritic knees detected a deadly problem.

The former Australian netball player, now in her sixties, is a long-term patient of AMS Redfern.

"I suffer arthritis in my knees after years of professional netball and thought maybe I should do something about it, so I had to have my 715 so I could access those other services.

During her check up Dr Harsika suggested she have a chest scan for her chronic cough at the same time as getting her knees scanned.

"I was annoyed, I've been a bad smoker for many years and said I don't have a chronic cough - but if you insist I will.

AMS Redfern's Dr Emma called her back in the next day, they'd discovered the tip of an aneurysm and needed to do some more tests.

Those tests revealed she had an aortic aneurysm in her abdomen almost nine-centimetres long and other smaller ones too.

[An abdominal aortic aneurysm is a bulge or weakening in the wall of the aorta, the largest artery in the body. It carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body.]

Marcia Ella-Duncan OAM

> "I felt like I had a time-bomb in my body."

In disbelief, Marcia and her husband went home to prepare her for surgery within the fortnight.

But later that day, she started to have more symptoms.

"Normally I wouldn't pay attention - I would have taken a Panadol for my sore hip flexor and gone to bed - but this time I did.

Within hours of going to the hospital Emergency Department she was operated on.

"I woke up the next morning with an 11-inch cut in my abdomen.

While Marcia is recovering well from her surgery, she's making some serious changes to live her next 20 years 'in the sun'.

"I've given up smoking after decades.

"The biggest difference [after giving up smoking] is food and how it tastes. I have so much money in the bank… and I don't smell! – I have a baby granddaughter and I can snuggle into her.

She has also learnt a genetic condition caused the aneurysms, so she has been able to broadcast to family to get checked.

> "Get in and get your 715."

"Our mob is so bad at neglecting health, we only go to the doctor when there's a problem, I've flipped this around now.

"It used to drive me mad – I have a new-found respect for the 715."

Fit for footy

Patients over 6 years of age can be fitted for a mouthguard if they have had a 715 and Dental Health Check in the last 12 months.

Dental Prosthetist Caine Buchanan says a custom fitted sports guard protects teeth, gums and bone structures.

"It can help prevent long term trauma from being hit in the teeth or gums, which can affect speech and breathing.

Caine says AMS Redfern uses the latest digital technology to make the mouthguards.

"We use an Intra Oral Camera to take a 3D scan of the patient's mouth in just a couple of minutes, replacing the need to use impression materials and glue paste that didn't taste very nice and would take two minutes to set.

Image: AMS Redfern Mouthguard Clinic

A 3D printer is then used to make the custom mouthguards in bright colours.

"One of the best things about the program is that kids are coming in every year for their dental check and clean – and we can see how their palette and teeth are growing."

1,220

715 health assessments completed.

Health checks (715 assessments) allow our patients to discuss their individual health needs with a doctor and reduce the likelihood of living with an undiagnosed medical condition.

Our Staff

Our dedicated staff enable us to provide high-quality, comprehensive healthcare and holistic services for our community.

AMS Redfern employs around 70 staff members across various sectors.

We currently have 50 per cent of our staff who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander supporting us to provide culturally safe care for our community.

Each month we recognise outstanding contributions through our Employee of the Month award.

Training & Career Development

In 1984, the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern implemented one of the first Aboriginal Health Worker programs in the country. We continue this legacy of providing learning and career opportunities for our staff.

This year we reintroduced our Registrar Training Program through the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). We also support our Aboriginal Health Workers to complete their Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice through TAFE to become Aboriginal Health Practitioners.

Images from top: Family Doctor Day, International Nurses & Midwives Day and Day of Recognition for Aboriginal Health Workers and Practitioners

> "From my first role in reception to now as a Health Practitioner, I love working in the community with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to improve their health and social and emotional wellbeing."
>
> Tanelle, Aboriginal Health Practitioner

Image: Tanelle, working with our Elders

Partnerships for a Healthy Community

Partnership Agreement

This year AMS Redfern, along with five metropolitan public health services – Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Northern Sydney Local Health Districts, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney and Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, developed a new Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement for the next five years.

The partnership has been in place for over 15 years and members meet quarterly to discuss and prioritise Aboriginal health.

Image: Metropolitan Partners

BreastScreen Partnership

Twenty-one women were screened at this year's Aboriginal Women's Breast Screening day in Redfern Park - a collaboration between AMS Redfern, Sydney Local Health District and BreastScreen NSW.

Image: BreastScreen Partnership Event, Redfern Park, 2025

Redfern Hub Day

AMS Redfern has partnered with Service NSW support community with Government Services including cost of living relief, access to online government services, applications for birth certificates and seniors cards as well as information for free legal advice and casework.

There were 331 connections made during Redfern Hub Days held in July, August, September, February, March, April, May and June.

Image: AMS Redfern Condom Program

18,400

condoms delivered to 10 NSW Aboriginal Medical Services.

4,300

transport services provided for eligible patients.

NAIDOC Week Community Day
July 2024

Community Events

AMS Redfern hosts a range of community events and health promotion activities each year to increase health awareness and health literacy in the Aboriginal community. Early detection of disease through awareness and screening helps to improve health outcomes. Our events are promoted in our clinics and health programs as well as on our social media accounts.

RU OK? Day Community BBQ
September 2024

World AIDS Day
December 2024

Community Christmas Day
December 2024

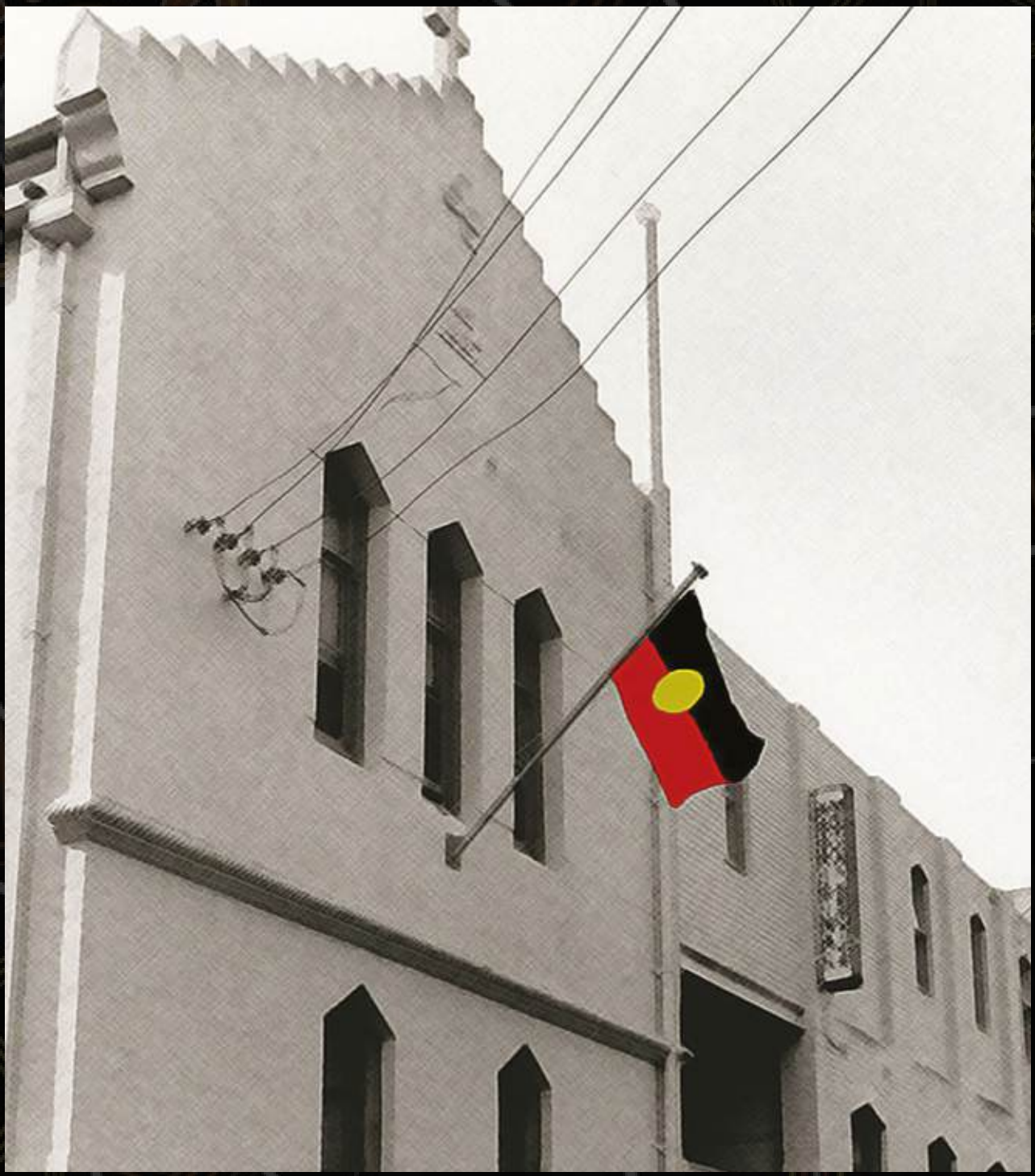
International Women's Day
March 2025

Women's Cancer Screening Event
March 2025

EORA Elders Olympics
April 2025

Mother's Day Morning Tea
May 2025

Easter Community Day
April 2025



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