

Newsletter 2

May 2022



DEAR MEMBERS, TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PEOPLE,

My name is Peter McQuoid and on 22 February 2022 the Acting Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, Gerrit Wanganeen, appointed me special administrator for Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation ICN 745 (RivMed). The appointment is for 6 months and due to end on Friday, 26 August 2022.

While I'm in this role I'll send regular newsletters to let you know what I'm doing to help get your corporation back on track.

Where are we now?

My job is to restore good operational practice and then to prepare the corporation to be handed back to member control.

Stage one of the special administration is finished and I have made good progress in a number of important areas.

I am pleased to advise that with the support of the members, staff, community and funding bodies all services continue to operate at RivMed.

There are 3 stages to a special administration.

STAGE	ACTION	STATUS
1	Take control of the assets, including bank accounts; build a complete picture of issues and challenges; and establish a clear plan of action.	COMPLETE
2	Restore good operational order.	IN PROGRESS
3	Prepare the corporation for return to members control.	NOT STARTED

RivMed website

The RivMed website—rivmed.org.au—has been relaunched. RivMed will use the website to help get information to the community on what is happening at the health service.

Visit rivmed.org.au for employment opportunities and other announcements. We are posting new information each week—for example the minutes of the recent AGM are available. I encourage you to visit the website to see what is happening at the corporation.

Staff

We have been working to recruit people to key management positions—we are in the shortlisting phase of the recruitment for a chief executive officer; and final interviews/offers for a chief finance officer, clinic manager and family services unit manager. Final interviews for the CEO are scheduled for 27 May 2022.

When the special administration commenced there were 37 vacant positions. At the time of writing this has reduced to 27 vacant positions. We are recruiting for these positions in order of risk to the corporation's operations, and the process will be ongoing. As these positions are

filled some of the pressure on existing staff will begin to reduce.

We have already placed job advertisements in local and national media, and more will be advertised in coming weeks. We have also circulated all vacancy notices to RivMed staff. The employment opportunities are also posted to rivmed.org.au.

We will make decisions to appoint people to each position based on matching applicant skills to the position description and selection criteria.

CEO

Joanne Grant of the AH&MRC has joined RivMed as Interim CEO while the recruitment of a new permanent CEO continues.

Corporation advisory group

During a special administration we establish a corporation advisory group (CAG) to facilitate community consultation and engagement, and to work with the special administrator through the change process. We have made initial appointments to the CAG however as the CAG is a developing body, the membership is likely to change as the special administration progresses. The group met for the first time on 6 April and again on 5 May 2022.

Members at this stage are:

- Leonie Dennis
- Sarah O'Brien
- Bernard Higgins
- Troy Pietsch
- Maxine Hineysett
- Leanne Sanders
- Faye McMillan
- Hewitt Whyman
- Kenneth Neale

We have appointed people with the aim of creating a balanced, skills-based team that can deal effectively with the corporate governance and business oversight aspects of the group's role. The CAG provides a training and development pathway towards establishing an effective future board, but decisions in that regard will only be made towards the end of the special administration.

We encourage new nominations from interested people.

The CAG will meet again on Wednesday 1 June 2022. At that meeting, the CAG members aim to select two specialist independent members to the group, who have been through a recruitment process targeting board experience and specialist skills of value to RivMed.

At the conclusion of the special administration, I will appoint members from the CAG to the new RivMed board, to lead the governance, strategy and commercial oversight of RivMed in its important role as an Aboriginal community-controlled health service.

I will keep accepting nominations for the corporation advisory group well into the special administration but encourage you to nominate your interest as soon as possible.

Finances

The accounts team and RSM have been working hard to reconcile all accounts and allocate income and expenditure to the correct funding programs. This has been a huge task and we are pleased to advise the project has been completed and the accounting system is now up to date.

John Ramsay has been working with the management team to finalise the whole-of-corporation budgeting framework—which is now complete. From here on, managers will receive monthly reports showing how the corporation is performing—as a whole and by program—with actual results against budgeted results. These budget variance reports will help the RivMed management team to ensure the maximum level of service is delivered to the community.

INFORMATION MEETING

I will hold another information meeting:

DATE: Wednesday 6 July 2022

TIME: 5.15 pm

**PLACE: Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre
Burns Way, off Tarcutta Street
Wagga Wagga**

The notice of meeting is attached to this newsletter. All interested persons are encouraged to attend. Representatives from ORIC will attend and be available for answering questions.

This is an opportunity for you to discuss the special administration and your corporation's future. Please come along. Light refreshments will be provided.

No financial support is available to attend this meeting.

Let's talk food and drink ...from the RivMed dietician

Have you been noticing lately that there is so much information out there about what we should be having to eat and drink? TV shows, Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, the GP, Diabetes Educator, the Dietitian or Nutritionist, the gym, and the list goes on.

When did something as simple as food and drink become so complicated? Why did this happen? When we make decisions about what to eat and drink, we need to consider who benefits the most—because the answer might not be you; it might be the manufacturer or the 'influencer' who promotes it.

RivMed's special administrator, Peter, is keen to see RivMed take the lead in modelling healthy eating for our community, our staff, board members and stakeholders. At our functions and meetings you will notice an emphasis on quality minimally-processed foods. LaToya and Di (RivMed's dietician and nutritionist) will check out some options over the next few weeks and let you know what's on the menu here, and put up some pictures and recipes.

Remember if you'd like to have a chat with our nutritionist for healthy family eating, or for a specific chronic disease, or advice on weight loss or weight gain, just ask our super friendly reception staff and they will book you in to see Di. You don't need a referral.

RivMed staff graduates

LaToya Terry, executive assistant, has been working for RivMed for 13 years now and recently Graduated her Bachelor of Business Administration from University of Technology Sydney (UTS) with distinction. LaToya won a \$30,000 scholarship through AbSec back in 2017 to complete the degree and was the first recipient of this scholarship. COVID did postpone the graduation ceremony 2 years in a row so it was very lucky LaToya got to attend and experience her graduation ceremony.



Peter Ogbuehi, Senior finance liaison officer, has been working at RivMed for 7 months now. Peter graduated from Torrens University Australia in May 2021 and was conferred with the Master of (Advanced) Professional Accounting on 2 May 2022.



Mardi Gras Wagga Wagga 2022

What a great day, Mardi Gras 2022.



On 12 March 2022 RivMed was given the honour of running the First Nations float in 2022 Mardi Gras. After a very short lead-time, the ladies from our Intensive Family Based Services contributed many hours to painting up and decorating our float to represent First Nations peoples.

With a great 'Welcome to Wiradjuri Ngurambang' from Aunty Cheryl on behalf of all the Wiradjuri nation, Pete Ingram supplied the fire and did a really great smoking ceremony. At one stage the whole intersection of Baylis and Morgan Street was bathed in smoke.

The First Nations lead the parade down to the Council Chambers carrying the banner at a fairly consistent pace. We had community members on the float and our little painted up group of dancers, who performed later in the Victory Gardens Memorial Park to an audience numbering in the thousands.

We need to thank Allana, Keli and Jayde for all their work on the float. Great job there. Jayde has now been invited to join the next organising committee for the Mardi Gras by Holly the main organiser of this year's parade. And a big thank you to Phil Ingram for driving the float truck.

Following the parade there was a very large crowd gathered in the Victory Gardens Memorial Park. Literally, there were dozens of activities including trans singers, pole dancing celebrations, food and drinks. The day lasted until around 9pm when it went from family friendly to a big party at the other end of Baylis Street. A great day and next year will be bigger and better.



Good news story – Edward Street, Clinical

Consent given by client for this good news story and the name has been changed to de identify the client

Joan was a 58-year-old Aboriginal woman and a client of her local Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS). She had been attending the service for over 10 years. She was a type 1 Diabetic and had always struggled with her weight.

Over the years Joan had been seeing different allied health services at the AMS. A range of different allied health providers were involved in

Joan's weight loss journey. Joan would often come in and see the diabetes nurse, dietician, mental health worker and podiatrist to try to address her weight problem. Then some days she would come in and see the Aboriginal health workers. She did not feel any shame when talking to the Aboriginal health workers they always made her feel safe and she felt she could approach them if she was having difficulty understanding some of the advice from GP's or allied health providers.

After reaching her biggest weight of 140 kgs Joan started experiencing heart problems and needed to see the specialist. The heart specialist wanted to trial Joan on a new medication. The medication was added to her list of other medications and this was to assist with weight loss.

In July 2021 Joan weighed in at 110 kg and began her medication. She made an appointment at her AMS with the diabetes nurse but was unsure how she was going to get to the appointment. Remembering that her AMS offers a transport service, she rang back and asked if the transport officer was able to pick her up for her appointment. The receptionist happily booked the transport for Joan.

The diabetes nurse sat down with Joan and explained how the medication was going to work, what side effects may occur and how they were going to monitor the progress.

In early 2022 Joan came in for her weekly review and weighed in at 99 kg. She had not reached her goal weight yet but had noticed she could do more activities, her mental health had started to improve and she had begun to feel more confident within herself. Beginning on this new medication really changed Joan's life and allowed her to start make better lifestyle choices. It was really rewarding for Joan and her local Aboriginal Medical Service to work together to achieve goals set out in her patient journey.

Job Expo

On 25 February RivMed placed a stall at the local Jobs Fair at the Wagga Showground. The fair allowed job net providers and organisations to promote positions they need filled.

A number of staff from RivMed attended throughout the day, with 2 staff (a representative each from the HR team and the Family Health Team) there for the entire day.

We posted our 4 positions currently advertised on the jobs board. It was a very positive experience, with lots of interest and discussion with attendees.

Staff had the opportunity to discuss the different programs that are facilitated by RivMed.

We received 4 applications for positions. While no positions were filled as a result of this day, it did generate interest and increased knowledge in the role RivMed plays in the wider community.

RivMed mural

The grounds of RivMed have been enhanced by the painting of a mural on the side of the shed. This has



complemented the renovations work by Hurst Homes and landscaping by Brad Wighton of 1st Class Landscaping Services.

The mural was created by Rebecca McGuiness of Bec-Lee Creating Dreams. The mural represents 2 Guggas embracing the sun and the Murrumbidgee river flowing through Wagga Wagga. The board chose Rebecca through an expression of interest process that was advertised through our Facebook page. The design was selected from a choice of 3 by the community, also through our Facebook page.

We have received many positive comments about the mural from community members, visitors and staff.

RivMed welcomes new nurse

RivMed is proud to welcome Christine Cope who comes to us with over 30 years' experience in emergency and mental health nursing. Christine is a registered nurse with additional training in mental health and a specific interest in preventative health care.



Christine initially trained and worked in Sydney, also working in Wagga Wagga and the Blue Mountains. She has a broad range of experience

including intensive care, emergency and primary health care. Christine has moved back to Wagga to be nearer to her family. She is married with two children and is looking forward to working with our clients and medical team.

Christine will be a great asset to our clinical team.



More on special administrations

See ORIC's fact sheet **Special administrations: what members and directors need to know** at oric.gov.au.

Find out more about special administrations via **oric.gov.au** or by calling the registrar's office on **1800 622 431**.

Many thanks,
Peter



Special administrator

Peter McQuoid
PDM Consultancy

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Email: p.mcquoid@pdm.net.au

Nomination

to be in the special administration

corporation advisory group



I _____
(insert name)

nominate myself for the special administration corporation advisory group (CAG).

My relevant background and experience

My contact details

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return your form to Keith Mackay at KM Search by email to k.mackay@kmsearch.com.au

For more information, call Keith Mackay on 07 3289 6071

Notice of information meeting



Members and other interested people are invited to the second information meeting of the special administration.

The meeting is not only for members. It's a chance to be informed, ask questions and enjoy some fellowship and afternoon tea.

Media cannot attend this meeting.

A representative from ORIC will be present and happy to respond to any questions you have.

This is an opportunity for you to discuss the special administration and your corporation's future. Please come along. Light refreshments will be provided.

No financial support is available to attend this meeting.

Peter McQuoid
special administrator

DATE: Wednesday, 6 July 2022

TIME: 5.15 pm

PLACE: Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre
Burns Way, off Tarcutta St
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Agenda

1. Role of the special administrator and aim of the special administration
2. Progress to date
3. Next steps
4. Asking questions about the corporation and the special administration