

# ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

## 2017 NSW RURAL HEALTH AND RESEARCH CONGRESS

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**Concurrent Stream:** Culture and health

**Keywords:** Chronic Care and Aboriginal health

**Abstract Title:** Mapping the health and health needs of western NSW

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**Background:** Western NSW Primary Health Network covers 55% of NSW with 4% of the population. Within this region Far West Local Health District and Western NSW Local Health District are the largest providers of care as well as the Bila Muuji association of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations. All three agencies and Bila Muuji agreed to pool their resources together and develop a western NSW Health Needs Analysis (HNA) to understand the health of the population and current service/market gaps.

**Approach:** The western NSW HNA was led by the Health Intelligence Unit and the project was divided into three key outputs:

- Health of the population
- Service/market gap analysis
- Health needs analysis

The project combined data from several agencies to review the: health behaviours; health factors; health utilisation of the population; health market study; review of workforce and consultation with various community health councils.

**Outcomes / Results:** The project has identified key trends in chronic diseases, population changes and higher rates of unhealthy behaviours within the region with remoteness a key factor in poor health outcomes and access to services. The mapping of population health and service indicators allows partner organisations to utilise the same data for the development of strategic plans and maximise utility in resource allocation to mitigate the health challenges identified.

**Take Home Message:** A partnership approach in pooling resources and data has allowed for a whole of system approach to identifying by health needs and health service gaps at the organisational and Local Government Level. This allows each organisation to prioritise and identify where and how best to deliver services based on need.