



Health... not just the physical well-being of the individual but the social, emotional and cultural well-being of the whole community.

National Aboriginal Health Strategy 1989

Where to find us

Ground floor, South East building
 (entry on Gatehouse Street via carpark)
 The Royal Children's Hospital
 Flemington Road, Parkville, Victoria 3052

How to contact us

Telephone (03) 9345 6111
Fax (03) 9345 4378
Email wadja@rch.org.au
Website www.rch.org.au/wadja

Other important telephone numbers

Emergency (Ambulance, Fire, Police)	000
RCH Emergency Department (call via RCH switchboard)	9345 5522
RCH Outpatients Department	9345 6180
RCH Switchboard	9345 5522
Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)	9419 3000
Family Counselling Service VAHS	9403 3300
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)	8388 1855

Other

Your child's ward/clinic: _____

Telephone: _____

Next appointment: _____

Artworks featured in this brochure by Lisa Kennedy



ERC 090130 April 2009

Wadja Aboriginal Family Place

A culturally sensitive service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families



Wadja Aboriginal Family Place

Aboriginal staff are employed in hospitals to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equitable access to mainstream health care services, and to increase the cultural awareness and sensitivity of health care providers to the distinct needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Being in hospital can be a difficult time with feelings of fear, anxiety, home sickness and isolation.

Wadja Aboriginal Family Place is a quiet space away from the wards where you can come for a yarn, a cuppa or just to sit in our family room and relax. It is a friendly place where all are welcome.



What we do

- Provide emotional, social and cultural support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families who use the hospital.
- Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families understand diagnoses, medical procedures and routines.
- Raise awareness within the hospital to ensure that a culturally appropriate service is being provided.
- Advocate and liaise on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.
- Ensure the hospital has clear and appropriate policies and guidelines that enable easy access to services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Our roles

Our staff offer the following:

- Family support
- Advocacy
- Case management
- Discharge planning support/advice
- Cultural support/advice
- Cross-cultural training for staff
- Policy development
- Community liaison
- Outpatient support

Also available

Koori Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program

The Koori Social and Emotional Wellbeing Worker is based in the Mental Health Service at the RCH and can be contacted on 9345 6010.

Wadja Health Clinic

The RCH has a weekly general medical clinic for Aboriginal children. Please call 9345 6111 for referral details and further information.

Kevin Coombs Hostel

Aboriginal Hostels Limited, in partnership with the RCH, has opened the Kevin Coombs Hostel opposite the hospital. This is available for any family traveling to Melbourne to use the RCH. Rooms can be booked by directly calling the Hostel Manager on 9329 7374. Address: 155 Flemington Road, North Melbourne 3052