

Orange Aboriginal Medical Service

An innovative tripartite agreement between the Orange Aboriginal Medical Service (Orange AMS), NSW Family and Community Services (FACS) and the Western NSW Local Health District (Western LHD) is helping to ensure Aboriginal children in out of home care are getting the best health and cultural support.

he said. This helps to ensure timely, consistent and trusted health supports for young people, but Jamie said the AMS also has a role to play in providing cultural support.

“Even though we are a health service, the cultural component within Out of Home Care is something else we can offer here. When a carer brings a child or young person to our service, they are actively linking them in with an Aboriginal

“The agreement actually supports carers as well, because they can bring the children here and know they will get access to the right services. By coming here, they can get access to GPs, but also to a variety of allied health services including mental health.” Providing health services and supporting a cultural care plan is not where Jamie sees the work of the Orange AMS ending. He sees the potential for the AMS to help identify potential carers, who are willing to provide a

Providing better health care to kids in out of home care

The agreement sets out strong principles, which commits the three signatories to working more collaboratively in providing health screening, assessment and monitoring for the young people, supported by better and more open communication between the organisations. CEO of Orange AMS Jamie Newman said he was proud of the fact the Orange AMS was able to play such an active role in the health and wellbeing of young people.

“The AMS is now responsible for providing health services to every Aboriginal child in out of home care in Orange, whether they are placed with Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal carers,”

organisation,” he said.

The agreement is unique in that it not only focuses on the child, but also on what support the AMS can provide to carers and their families. “We are working with FACS to be able to invite our carers to the AMS, to show them around so they can see what we offer first hand,” Jamie said.



“We are better positioned than mainstream services due to our strong links with other cultural organisations in Orange like the Lands Council, Aboriginal Men’s Group and the Aboriginal women’s group, so we can connect people and maybe even get the young people involved in some of our social activities.” - Jamie Newman

stable and caring home environment to kids who need it, which he believes all goes to supporting the best outcomes for children.

The AMS wants to start providing information nights for potential carers and be more actively involved in the entire process of out of home care to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people. Jamie said, “this agreement is our opportunity to support some of the most vulnerable in our community and that’s our kids placed in or living in out of home care.” The agreement was signed in May of 2015 and will remain in place until December 2018.

For more information contact Orange AMS on (02) 6393 9000 or www.oams.net.au