

MEDIA RELEASE

17 November 2022

Gippsland PHN well placed for the future

Gippsland Primary Health Network is well placed to embrace the future of reform and has documented a year of achievement, partnership and connection to community.

In the 2021-2022 Annual Report, Gippsland PHN's Chair Therese Tierney and Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Proposch, reflected on a year of progress and achievement despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic.

To read the entire message from the Chair and CEO, go to <https://gphn.org.au/about-us/annual-report/>

The annual general meeting, in Sale on Wednesday 16 November, opened with a Welcome to Country from Aunty Sandra Patten who features on the cover of the 2021-2022 Annual Report. Young Aboriginal sisters, the Nowa Nowa Sisters (Laurina and Bethany) then sang. This was the first time the girls had appeared in person, having performed at the Gippsland PHN's online annual general meetings for the last two years.

Keynote speaker at the annual general meeting was songman Kutcha Edwards, a proud Mutti Mutti, Yorta Yorta, Nari Nari man, strong advocate for Aboriginal people and dedicated to the continuum of his traditional Songline.

Kutcha received a standing ovation following his moving conversation about his life, taken from his parents as a very young child for "no reason other than his colour". After six years, he was finally reunited with his family who were living in Traralgon, starting school at Traralgon Technical School where he knew no-one and playing football with Gormandale.

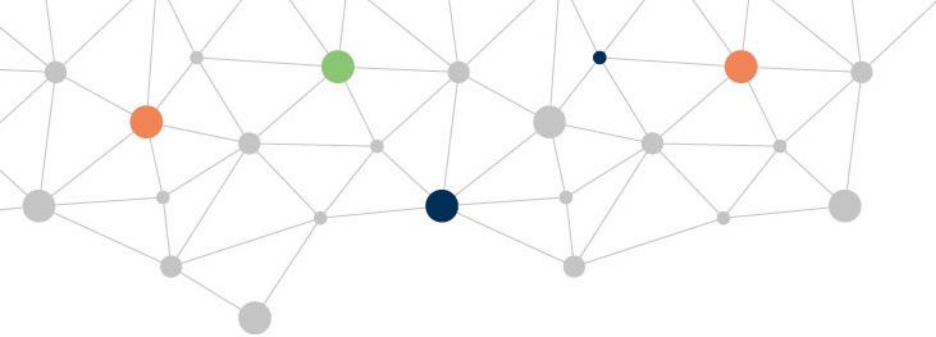
It was in those early formative years that Kutcha started expressing his feelings and "dreaming" through words and poems which in later life became his songs.

Kutcha reflected that while the "gap" for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was still wide, especially in health, the fact that he was asked to speak to a leading health organisation showed a willingness to listen and have the courage to have those difficult and necessary conversations.

As a multi award winning singer/songwriter, Kutcha said that music chose him and he uses music to create connections across cultures, generations and spaces. Through him with recognition of the true Aboriginal history, there can be hope of reconciliation.

Caption: Proud Mutti Mutti, Yorta Yorta, Nari Nari man, Kutcha Edwards, at Gippsland PHN's annual general meeting.

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