KARADI
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

STRONG AND PROUD

Building health, wellbeing
and connection.



Photo: Elders opening the Milaythina Health Clinic - December 2025

WHO WE ARE

Karadi Aboriginal Corporation is a highly respected Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation that has supported the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community for 38 years. Throughout that time, our programs and services have been delivered by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people, in line with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Emotional Wellbeing Framework. Karadi's governance, programs, and priorities are guided by community voice, cultural authority, and Elders' leadership, ensuring accountability to the people they serve.

Today, Karadi maintains five key streams of services to the Aboriginal and broader Tasmanian community.

Health – Allied health services, primary health services, chronic care coordination and management, counselling and mental health supports, health promotion and workforce development.

Community – Neighbourhood (Community) house, youth programs, Elders program, men's program, employment assistance, food security supports, physical health groups (gym, yoga, walking), social support groups (craft, cooking, gardening, music, woodwork), mob days, on-Country programs and cultural supports.

Aged Care – Support at Home, Commonwealth Home Support Program, Elder Care Support.

Families – Crisis accommodation for women and children escaping family violence, pre- and post-incarceration release support and family supports.

Cultural Education – Cultural education sessions delivered by Palawa staff to build the capacity of the community to better understand Palawa people's deep cultural and community connections to Lutruwita and how to ensure they work in a culturally safe manner.



Photo: Karadi staff and Elders at Flinders Island with staff from Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated.

OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES

Our Vision

To remain a proud Aboriginal-led, highly respected and trusted provider of community, health and wellbeing services and support to Aboriginal people, their families and the broader community. Strong and proud.

Our Mission

To provide integrated health and family services that promote physical, cultural, social and emotional wellbeing to the Aboriginal community of Southern Tasmania.

Our Values



To value and protect the unique culture, history and lore of the Palawa people.



To maintain and promote connection with culture and country.



To work ethically and with integrity to maintain the highest trust of the community.



To work in an inclusive manner and support people without judgment.



To maintain a process of continuous improvement and to be responsive to community needs.



To be respectful and empowering to all staff and community.

Our Strategic Objectives

Strengthen governance, quality improvement and compliance practices to support the delivery of Karadi's programs and services and help our staff to thrive.

Build capacity and resilience to remain strong and proud in culture.

Be a leader in delivering prevention, early intervention and management programs and service that fill gaps and support community needs.

CHAIR & CEO REPORT

Karadi Aboriginal Corporation is proud to present its 2025–2026 Annual Report. This year has been one of growth, innovation and strengthening services for the community.

The Board and organisation's commitment to the strategic objective, 'strengthen governance, quality improvement and compliance practices to support the delivery of Karadi's programs and services and help our staff to thrive', took several forms throughout the year. At the October 2025 Annual General Meeting, members voted in a new constitution featuring simplified language and best-practice processes. The new constitution has been supported by Board and member-level governance handbooks and a Code of Conduct.

Karadi continued to strengthen its safety culture through the establishment of the Work Health, Safety and Environment Committee. The introduction of regular safety walks encouraged staff to actively identify hazards, contribute to a safer workplace and build confidence in recognising and managing workplace risks.

November 2025 saw the establishment of the Client Advisory Group to provide recommendations to Karadi based on lived experience and strengthen the client voice across the organisation. Made up of 11 members who access Karadi services, the group has provided valuable client perspectives to management and the Board.

In May 2026, Karadi successfully achieved accreditation against the QIC Health and Community Services Standards, recognising the organisation's commitment to delivering high-quality, culturally safe services supported by strong governance, quality improvement and continuous compliance. Achieving this accreditation involved a whole-of-organisation approach, with the entire workforce coming together. Through the accreditation process, Karadi developed a culture of continuous quality improvement, implemented new governance, risk and quality management systems that strengthened accountability across the organisation, and improved the consistency of policies, procedures and evidence-based practice across all service areas.

Karadi's strategic objective of 'being a leader in delivering prevention, early intervention and management programs and services that fill gaps and support community needs' was supported throughout the year with the opening of the new Milaythina Health Clinic in December 2025. This marked a significant milestone for the organisation, built on years of unflinching dedication, lobbying and advocacy for the health and wellbeing needs of the Aboriginal community. The opening of the Milaythina Health Clinic not only created a fit-for-purpose, culturally safe and appropriate health facility, but also stands as a reminder of the strength and endurance of Palawa culture.

Today, the clinic delivers a diverse array of primary and allied health services. The new space has allowed Karadi to expand its services to meet the community's growing needs, while helping to ensure the ongoing provision of Aboriginal-led services into the future.

This project was made possible through funding provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet. On behalf of the Karadi Board, staff, clients and community, Karadi thanks both Departments for their commitment to funding a project that will support the community for decades to come.

Karadi also acknowledges WSP for its guidance and support throughout the project, Cumulus Architects for working with Karadi to design a building that meets the community's needs, and Fairbrother Construction for delivering the project with professionalism, genuine collaboration and a whole heap of humour. A special thank you also goes to the organisations that generously provided donations to the building project, helping bring a complex build to reality within a challenging budget: Laminex, Autex Acoustics Australia, Viridian Glass, Linear Standard, Reece Plumbing, Armstrong Flooring and Fairbrother Construction.



Photo: Karadi site after opening.

Karadi's third strategic objective to 'build capacity and resilience to remain strong and proud in culture' was also supported through the year with regular mob days, creating opportunities for community to come together, yarn, participate in cultural arts and crafts and enjoy amazing food. The NAIDOC Week Amazing Race was again a highly anticipated event on the calendar, attended by over 20 teams who raced across the eastern suburbs, competing in pit stop challenges. Time was spent on Country and staff participated in a range of cultural education including a trip to Flinders Island.



Photo: Karadi NAIDOC Week 2025 event.



Photo: Flinders Island

Karadi would not be able to deliver high quality support to the community without the ongoing support of its funders, including the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the National Indigenous Australians Agency, Primary Health Tasmania, Cancer Australia, the Department of Social Services, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

The Board values and appreciates the staff members at Karadi and thanks them for their ongoing dedication and commitment to ensuring Karadi continues to provide excellent services to the community.

Amanda Ripper, Jacqui Langdon and Kylie Dickson joined the Board in October 2025, bringing a depth of professional skills and cultural knowledge to the Board. The Board also thanks Annette Day, who finished her time with the Board in April 2026.

Nayri nina tu,
Lyndy and Miriam.



Current Board
(Top (L-R): Helen, Amanda, Bobbi, Lyndy
Bottom (L - R): Jacqui, Kylie

HEALTH PROGRAMS

Karadi's Health Team includes Emma, Eliza, Maree, Marc, RJ, Mel, Adrian and Bonnie, a proud group of dedicated professionals who work together to provide culturally safe, holistic care for the community. Together, the team brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and compassion, working alongside the community to improve health outcomes while ensuring culture, respect and connection remain at the heart of everything Karadi does.

Clinic

Karadi's Milaythina Health Clinic has established itself as a welcoming and culturally safe space for Aboriginal people and their families across Southern Tasmania.

Designed with community, the clinic reflects Palawa culture through thoughtfully designed spaces, locally inspired artwork and consultation rooms named after native plants. More than simply a place to attend appointments, the clinic provides a space where people feel respected, supported and connected.

Over the past year, the clinic has welcomed a growing number of clients accessing primary health care, preventative health services and allied health appointments. Regular visiting clinicians have enabled community members to receive quality care closer to home, reducing barriers to accessing essential health services.

Behind the scenes, significant work has strengthened the clinic's foundations through enhanced clinical governance, infection prevention and control systems, emergency preparedness, operational procedures and continuous quality improvement. These investments ensure Karadi continues to deliver services that are safe, sustainable and responsive to the changing needs of the community.

Every appointment represents more than a health consultation. It is an opportunity to build trust, strengthen relationships and improve health outcomes for the community.



Photo: Aboriginal Health Worker providing a general health check.



Photo: Deadly Choices - Sir Doug Nicholls Round

Health Promotion

Health Promotion continues to be a cornerstone of Karadi's approach to improving the health and wellbeing of the community. Through the nationally recognised Deadly Choices program and a wide range of community-led initiatives, Karadi's Health Promotion team empowered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to make informed choices about their health while encouraging greater engagement with preventative health care.

Throughout the year, the team delivered activities focusing on healthy lifestyles, annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health checks, cancer screening awareness, smoking and vaping cessation, nutrition, physical activity, chronic disease prevention, men's health, women's health and social and emotional wellbeing.

Strong relationships with the community continued to guide the team's work throughout the year. Through community events, school visits, sporting activities, outreach programs and everyday conversations, the Health Promotion team created meaningful opportunities to share knowledge, listen to community voices and support healthier lifestyles.

By meeting people where they are and delivering culturally meaningful health messages, Karadi's Health Promotion team continues to inspire positive change and empower the community to take charge of their health.

Health Check of a Lifetime

Walter has been a valued participant in Karadi's Integrated Team Care (ITC) Program, where he has worked closely with one of Karadi's Care Coordinators to better manage his health and access the services and supports he needs. Through ongoing care coordination, Walter has navigated the healthcare system with confidence, attended appointments and taken positive steps towards improving his overall health and wellbeing.

As part of Walter's personalised care plan, the Karadi team encouraged him to complete his annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Check (715). These health checks play a vital role in preventative healthcare, helping to identify health concerns early, support the management of chronic conditions and connect people with the services they need to stay healthy.

By completing his health check, Walter became eligible to enter the annual Deadly Choices competition, which rewards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who prioritise their health through regular health checks. Walter entered the competition and, to his absolute delight, was announced as the winner of a once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses-paid trip for two to the State of Origin.
As a lifelong rugby league fan, it was a dream come true. Walter and his mate enjoyed an unforgettable experience, travelling to one of Australia's biggest sporting events with flights, accommodation and match tickets all included. It was an incredible reward for taking a positive step towards his health and an experience he will remember for years to come.

The Deadly Choices campaign continues to inspire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take charge of their health by encouraging annual health checks through exciting prize opportunities, including State of Origin experiences, AFL Guard of Honour and match-day tickets, and the Australian Open.
Walter's story is a fantastic reminder that looking after your health can create opportunities that extend far beyond the clinic doors.



Photo: Walter at the State of Origin game.

Therapy and Social & Emotional Wellbeing

At Karadi, wellbeing is about more than physical health. Karadi's therapeutic and Social and Emotional Wellbeing services are grounded in the understanding that culture, family, community, Country and identity are central to healing and living well.

Throughout the year, Karadi continued to provide a diverse range of therapeutic supports designed to meet the unique needs of the community. Karadi's range of therapy options were delivered by experienced practitioners, ensuring people can access the support that best suits their individual needs and preferences.

Services were delivered through face-to-face, on Country and telehealth sessions and include men's therapy and wellbeing support, individual therapy, family and relationship support, social and emotional wellbeing support, and coordinated referrals to specialist mental health and therapeutic services when additional support is required. Whether someone is navigating grief and loss, trauma, chronic illness, stress, anxiety or major life changes, Karadi's approach focused on walking alongside each person with compassion, cultural safety and respect.



Photo: On Country Walk

AGED CARE PROGRAM

Throughout the year, Karadi's Aged Care Team has continued to deliver person-centred supports empowering clients to live independently and remain connected to their families, culture, and community. Led by Lorraine, the team includes Kylie, Vicki and Brody-Lee. Together, the team work closely with clients and their families to provide practical support, to ensure services are tailored to each person's individual needs.

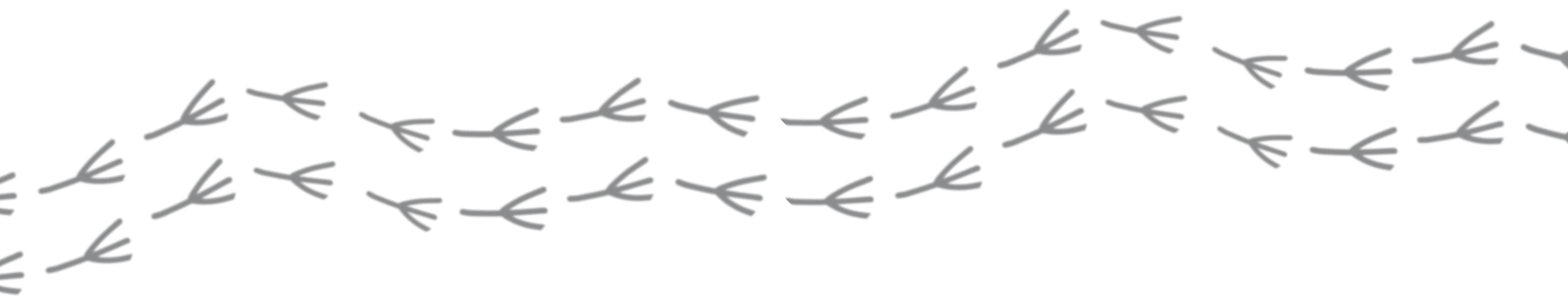
Through their dedication, professionalism, and genuine care, the team plays an important role in enhancing the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of the people we are privileged to support.

Preparing for Aged Care Reform – Support at Home

This year has been one of significant change for the aged care sector as preparations were made for the implementation of the Support at Home Program, the updated Aged Care Act and associated quality standards commencing on 1 November 2025.

Karadi worked proactively to prepare for these changes. Throughout the year, Karadi consulted with clients to ensure they understood how the reforms may affect their services and provided reassurance and support during the transition. These conversations enabled clients to ask questions, share their concerns and remain informed about the future of their care.

Karadi successfully implemented the necessary governance, policy and operational changes within tight timeframes, ensuring continued compliance while maintaining high quality care for clients.



Elder Care Support Program

Throughout the year, the Elder Care Support program assisted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and over to navigate the aged care system with confidence. This program provided culturally safe assistance to register with My Aged Care, organise aged care assessments, understand assessment outcomes and approvals, connect with appropriate services, and provide ongoing advocacy and guidance so Elders and their families can access the right supports at the right time.

Commonwealth Home Support Program

The Day Centre and associated Commonwealth Home Support Program services have continued to provide a welcoming environment where clients can stay active, connected, and engaged with their community. Throughout the year, clients enjoyed a diverse range of social and recreational activities, including arts and crafts, bingo, and the ever-popular Karadi-oke, which brought clients together through music, laughter, and social connection. These activities promoted wellbeing, reduced social isolation, and encouraged meaningful participation while strengthening friendships and community connections.

Karadi remains committed to supporting older Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to live independently, remain connected to culture and community, and receive quality care that respects their choices, dignity, and wellbeing.



Photo: CHSP members on an outing to Risdon Brook Dam

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Elders

Throughout the year, Karadi's Elders Group continued to provide a culturally safe, supportive and accessible environment where Elders came together to yarn, share stories and discussions, participate in hobbies and activities and enjoy a meal together.

The group promotes improved mental and physical wellbeing while fostering a greater sense of belonging and connection. From spending time on Country to welcoming guest speakers, the group's activities are guided by the Elders themselves. Led by Bec W and Brody Lee, this year's adventures have included participating in NAIDOC celebrations across southern Tasmania, op shopping, visiting the museum to view artefacts and cultural items held in its non viewing collection, visiting the Salmon Ponds and the beach, visiting Santa for a chat and photo, and strolling through local garden centres. Elders also enjoyed time together yarning, playing bingo, watching movies and participating in arts and crafts.



Photo: Members of Elders Group at TasTafe NAIDOC event.

Neighbourhood House

It was another busy year for our Neighbourhood House team delivering and facilitating a broad range of events and activities. Overseen by Renee, Tara and Bec W, our craft co-op continued with some notable sessions including our junk journals workshop, eco printing on paper and shibori tie dye sessions.



Photo: Coming together to learn weaving.



Photo: Embodied Wholeness Session.



Photo: Packs from Karadi Garden.

Community garden planting and cook ups created spaces for keen gardeners and loads of yummy produce to include in food packages for people who access our food pantry. The gardening group also supported the collecting of kangaroo grass seeds in Hamilton to help propagate and revegetate the Bridgewater Bridge site. Karadi also hosted Bill Harvey from Landcare Tas to do an info session on bio char to understand what it is, how it is made and what it can be used for.



Photo: Collecting kangaroo grass seeds to be used in the Bridgewater Bridge Project.



Photo: Karadi Community Garden.

Karadi partnered with a range of organisations to deliver information sessions, activities and events for the broader Goodwood and northern suburbs communities. Wellways deliver the Connect and Empower Program, a series of community conversations on strategies for grief loss and anxiety and exploring what self-care looks like. Threads Together supported access to high quality clothing for community. Loretto Housing ran their 12 week Inspiring Future Leaders Program supporting participants to build skills, confidence, and community impact, with our own Community Connector Tara featuring in a podcast interview. A scam awareness workshop was run by the Consumer Building and Occupational Services to learn the signs of a scam and how to avoid them. Karadi staff were trained up as digital mentors to deliver a range of Council of the Ageing designed digital inclusion sessions to older people wanting to increase their understanding and awareness of the digital environment. Karadi also partnered with Working it Out to deliver a workshop on better understand and using LGBTQIA+ inclusive language.



Photo: Mama Abeba sharing her Eritrean cooking.



Photo: Flowers from International Women's Day.



Photo: Community learning about gardening.

Karadi also supported a range of initiatives through the year including Footy Colours Morning Tea, Breast Cancer awareness events, Australian Electoral Commission awareness, TasCAHRD networking sessions and cultural consultations. Maja Rose ran a very successful creative writing workshop for young people, whilst Awe Nayri delivered a six week "embodied wholeness sessions" that explored what holistic health and self-care looks like supporting physical, social, emotional, cultural, and spiritual health in a down-to-earth accessible way.

Several cooking classes were held with the Migrant Resource Centre, where Karadi partnered with Mama Abeba to learn more about Eritrean cooking. Zigni Chicken and spicy duba pumpkin were on the menu, creating an amazing experience to learn about Eritrean culture, eat amazing food and connect around the role food has in nurturing across cultures.

Karadi also hosted participants in the Migrant Resources Centre's Bridge to Belonging program for an afternoon of making their own flower arrangements to celebrate International Women's Day. Thank you again to Emma for donating the flowers!



Photo: Local community proudly showing their flower arrangements celebrating International Women's Day.

On Country and walking groups have also provide physical outlets for people to connect, learn and move. Lead by Cody, the group has visited a range of significant Aboriginal sites, as well as learning more about Aboriginal culture through spending time on Country.

Men's Group

Lead by Cody and Adrian, throughout the year men's group has met and participated in a range of activities including yarning circles, on Country visits to the Tasman Peninsula, Oyster Cove and Bedlam Walls, gathering natural materials, making clapsticks and waddies, attending Aboriginal dance performances, cultural films, art exhibitions and NAIDOC Week activities. Karadi partnered with Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania to provide presentations on cultural heritage, management of significant Aboriginal sites and participation in visits to culturally significant locations helping to strengthening cultural knowledge and connection to Country.

Mental health and leadership were supported through visits from one of our counsellors Chris and activities promoting help-seeking and peer support. Participants were also connected with practical supports, including employment assistance where required.



Photo: Men's Group Sandstone Project



Photo: Member of Men's Group taking part in a Deadly Choices activity.



Photo: Members of Men's Group working on an art project.

Youth

Throughout the year, Jamie has supported Aboriginal young people across Cosgrove and Montrose Bay High Schools. Individual mentoring and support sessions have occurred weekly at both schools, creating consistent engagement, trust and assistance. This has resulted in increased classroom engagement, school attendance, participation in cultural activities and involvement in cultural programs.

Karadi partnered with Montrose Bay High School on a project called Waynapuni Pools. Through this program, Aboriginal students recycled old cars and transformed them into car spas, saunas and hot tubs. They sold out all tickets to both events held on Country. The program has been highly successful and has provided not only an income for the students who helped operate the baths and keep them heated, but also opportunities for students to participate in smoking ceremonies and speak about their individual journeys in culture.



Photo: Waynapuni Pools

BUILDING CONNECTION, CREATING OPPORTUNITY

A young person had attendance below 30% and had received multiple high-level suspensions during Grade 9 when they started mentoring with our Youth Worker. Through having Karadi's youth worker consistently show up, advocate for them and stand beside them, their attendance has now increased to over 90% this year. This young person has participated in multiple cultural projects, was able to attend their leavers dinner, has gained part-time employment and is able to help take some of the weight off their family's shoulders. They now have ambitions to attend university and obtain a degree to become an Aboriginal Lawyer specialising in domestic violence against women and children. Before starting this mentoring relationship, this young person had no connection to culture or their community. They now actively seek out opportunities to strengthen their cultural connection.

SOLID GROUND

Throughout the year Karadi has grown its case management and direct support programs through the Our Path Home Program and the Recognition, Employment and Learning Program.

Our Path Home

Our Path Home has provided short-term accommodation and holistic support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children experiencing family violence. Through accommodation, case management, care coordination and practical support, clients have been supported to address immediate safety and housing needs while building the foundations for longer-term stability. Support is tailored to each family and may include housing, health and wellbeing, family relationships, education, financial stability and connection with community and other services.

One Participant's Journey

A participant entered Our Path Home having experienced significant housing instability and family safety concerns, alongside an ongoing goal of having greater care and connection with her child. During her time in the program, she was supported with tenancy responsibilities, housing applications, liaison with housing services, advocacy around housing and safety concerns, and connection with family, legal and other support services. Workers also supported her to navigate child safety processes and identify practical steps towards increasing her contact with her child.

The participant faced considerable uncertainty about where she would live following her time at Our Path Home, particularly as returning to her previous property was associated with significant anxiety and safety concerns.

Through advocacy by Our Path Home, the client was offered a Homes Tasmania property in the local area. Remaining in the local area has enabled the participant to maintain connections with existing services and community supports and, importantly, provides a safer and more stable foundation from which she can continue working towards reunification and increased care of her child. This outcome demonstrates the role of Our Path Home beyond the provision of short-term accommodation. By supporting participants to navigate housing and service systems and pursue longer-term options, the program can help create the foundations for sustainable housing, family connection and wellbeing.

Reconnection, Employment and Learning (REAL) Program

Commencing in June 2026, the REAL program aims to provide through care support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people transitioning from the Tasmanian custodial system back into the community. REAL recognises that successful reintegration does not begin on the day of release, with planning beginning before release, identifying barriers and establishing practical pathways around housing, identification and documentation, employment and education, health and wellbeing, family and community connection, transport and financial stability.

Early engagement allows participants to establish relationships, identify longer-term goals and strengthen the supports and opportunities that can help sustain positive change. As a newly established program, a key focus has been building referral pathways and relationships with the Tasmanian Prison Service, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service and Women's Legal Service Tasmania to support more coordinated throughcare.

Family Support

Commencing in July 2026, Karadi's family support program will provide a dedicated response for families experiencing complex circumstances, with a focus on strengthening family capacity and connection and reducing the likelihood of child safety involvement. As the program establishes, building strong relationships with families, referral partners and other services will remain an important focus, ensuring support reflects local need and families can access the right assistance at the right time.



Photo: Karadi staff walking on Flinders Island.

KARADI'S SERVICES AT A GLANCE

6,330
EPISODES OF HEALTHCARE

27
STAFF

1,308
DEADLY CHOICES SHIRTS DISTRIBUTED SINCE JULY 1 2025

605
DEADLY CHOICES SHIRTS DISTRIBUTED IN 2026

31
HEALTH PROMOTION SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

37
HEALTH PROMOTION EVENTS

40
HEARING SCREENING SESSIONS

190
DIABETES EDUCATION SESSIONS

198
PRIMARY HEALTH APPOINTMENTS

72
PHYSIOTHERAPY APPOINTMENTS

296
PODIATRY APPOINTMENTS

237
COUNSELLING APPOINTMENTS

132
SPEECH PATHOLOGY ASSISTANCE

100
OPTOMETRY APPOINTMENTS

268
MASSAGE APPOINTMENTS

72
SERVICES AUSTRALIA SUPPORT APPOINTMENTS

1,254
TRANSPORTS PROVIDED

405
FAMILIES ACCESSING FOOD PANTRY WEEKLY

41
NILS LOAN APPLICATIONS COMPLETED

164
COMMUNITY GROUP SESSIONS RUN

13
SUPPORT AT HOME CLIENTS

30
YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

19
FAMILIES HOUSED / BROKERED

KARADI
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

nayri nina-tu

(thank you)

to the Karadi Staff and Community
for a great year.

