



**Rural & Remote  
Medical Services Ltd.**  
An Australian Medical Charity Since 2001

**RARMS**  
HEALTH

# GREEN PLAN

2020-25



We live and work on the lands of the First Australians. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



## **GAMILARAAY**

Dhayn ngiyani winangaylanha NSWga ganunga-waanda yanaylanha,  
dhaymaarr ganugu-waanda nhama ngarrangarranmaldanhi

## **WIRADJURI**

Ngiyani Yindyamali Aboriginal Mayiny Murrubandhda Mayinny galangga  
NSW Ngangaagi

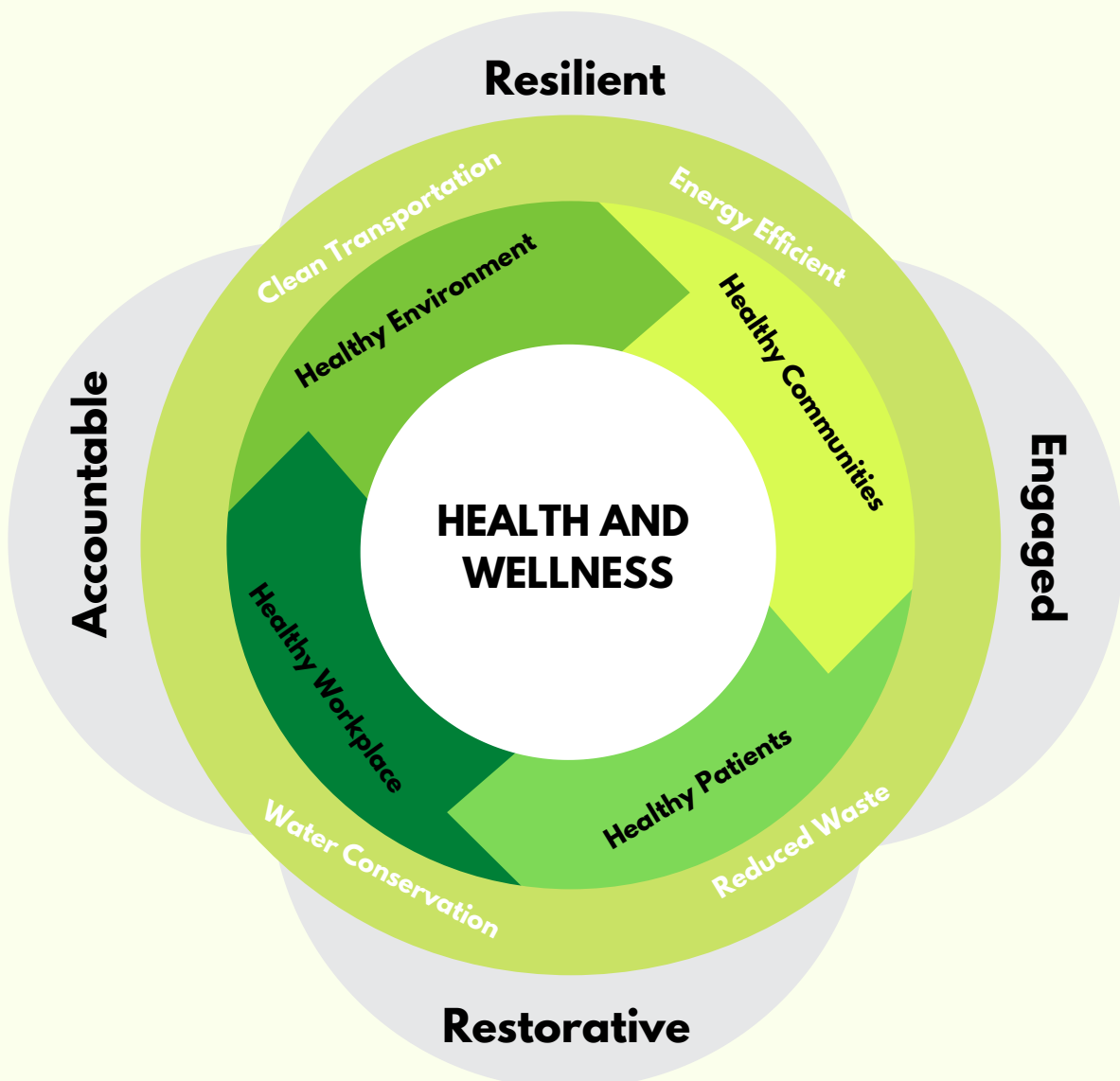
## **ENGLISH**

We respect Aboriginal peoples as the First Peoples and custodians of  
NSW.

# RARMS SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

The Mission of the RARMS is to improve the health and wellbeing of people in rural, remote and Indigenous communities. Improving resource efficiency and addressing the causes of climate change helps to reduce some of the contributors to poor health and wellbeing in our communities.

The purpose of this Plan is to ensure that RARMS operations are environmentally sustainable and balance the needs of the natural environment and our rural and remote communities. RARMS' Green Plan requires a combination of behavioural change, which is often low or no cost, and targeted investment in facilities and enabling infrastructure. This RARMS Green Plan covers the period 2020 to 2025 and will be reviewed annually. It outlines how RARMS uses its resources in three key areas – energy, water and waste, and commits to taking specific actions in each of these areas. Ongoing employee engagement process will ensure the targets set out in this Plan will be implemented and significantly reduce the environmental impacts of RARMS' activities.





# ENERGY

RARMS has committed to purchasing a minimum of 30% of its total energy from green sources and to replace energy intensive equipment over the course of this Plan.

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS
Purchase up to 33% of energy from green sources (wind, solar etc) delivered from rural and regional areas.	Group Manager, Financial Strategy and Sustainability	Proposals being obtained from market suppliers.
Removal of personal heaters and fans	Group Manager, People and Culture	Actioned at local level.
Automated lighting in areas with low foot fall	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Most areas have automated lighting in facilities controlled by RARMS.
LED lighting replacement program	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	To be actioned in conjunction with action is being taken during renovation and maintenance
Consolidate practices where duplicated to reduce footprint and energy usage.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Gilgandra practices merged into single site.
Introduce electronic health promotion in all practices to reduce demand for print brochures.	Group Manager, RARMS Health	Implemented.
Staff Training	Group Manager, People and Culture	Lunchtime training to include sessions on energy use and conservation
Incorporate into supplier agreements Green Principles where appropriate	Group Manager, People and Culture	Contracts under review.



# TRANSPORT

RARMS is currently developing a mechanism for monitoring its carbon emissions from travel. Staff are required to take public transport where suitable and available, and all air travel must be approved by management in advance of booking. All claims for official travel must also be approved in advance by managers. In this way, there is a well-developed system for ensuring that only necessary travel is undertaken, that the number of staff travelling is kept to a minimum and public transport is used where possible.

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS
Implement Telehealth for patients where appropriate to reduce need for travel to practice.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Telehealth now available from all practices during daylight hours. After hours GP access to be implemented by November 2020. Patient travel reduced by 25%.
Implement Microsoft Teams for all staff meetings and training to reduce need for travel.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Implemented. Travel reduced by 50% in first half 2020.
Implement carbon emission monitoring system.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Evaluating market options.
Reduce avoidable hospitalisations and patient transfers through better health care delivery aligned to patient needs.	Group Manager, RARMS Health	33.4% reduction in avoidable hospitalisations over 5 years to 2018/19 reducing transportation to referral hospitals (western NSW) 44.2% reduction in avoidable hospital transfers (Murrumbidgee)
Work at Home where appropriate to reduce transport emissions and reduce excess space requirements.	Group Manager, People and Culture	Implemented. Policy on work at home approved and being utilised. Office space negotiated to be reduced by 60%.
Implement Local Procurement Policy to buy local and hire local to reduce transport emissions	Group Manager, People and Culture	Implemented.





# WASTE

Promote greener procurement, improving energy efficiency, biodiversity and promoting the circular economy.

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS
Remove personal waste bins and install bins at all sites to separate waste and recyclables.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Implemented.
Reduce the number of printers and excess computers.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Implemented. All practice sand offices reduced to minimum standard.
Implement organisational intranet to reduce paper distribution.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Implemented. All communications now delivered electronically.
Acquire Adobe Acrobat licenses for electronic document presentation and distribution.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Implemented. All documents now distributed electronically where possible.
Update web site as primary information dissemination tool.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Implemented.
Reduce print copies of Annual Report by 90%.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Annual Report now published online with reduction in printing.
Put in place system for computer and printer disposal and recycling	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Under review.
Buy recycled paper for general printing needs.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Implemented.
Buy recycled paper for general printing needs.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Implementation in progress.

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS
Compostable cups at water dispensers.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Implementation in progress.
Implement value for money across asset life cycle approach to new equipment purchases.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Under review.

Under review.



# WATER

The majority of RARMS locations are in facilities managed by third parties. As a result, there is limited capacity for RARMS to implement specific strategies to reduce unnecessary water consumption.

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS
Water saving devices on taps and showers where appropriate.	Group Manager, Operational Strategy and Performance	Implemented.



