

MEDIA RELEASE



AH&MRC
Aboriginal Health & Medical
Research Council of NSW

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AH&MRC Employee and Former ACCHO Worker Named Finalist in 2024 NSW Department of Education Training Awards.

Ivan Morris, an employee of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) and former worker at the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) has been named a finalist in the 2024 NSW Department of Education Training Awards for the Illawarra and South Coast Region in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year category. This recognition highlights Ivan's dedication to his community and his achievements in the field of mental health and substance abuse support.

Ivan, a proud Gumbaynggirr and Dunghutti man residing in the Illawarra South Coast region (Dhurawal), has an impressive educational background, having completed a dual qualification Certificate IV in Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) through the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) Training Centre. His journey in the health sector began at the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service (IAMS), where he initially served as a Programs Officer. Following his certification, Ivan was promoted to the role of Mental Health/AOD Worker within the IAMS Community Service Team.

During his tenure at IAMS, Ivan made significant contributions to various community programs, including the 'Koori Smart', 'Heads Up', and 'Elders/Knowledge Holders' Group' initiatives. These programs, delivered at IAMS, aimed to support and empower the local Indigenous community. Ivan also collaborated with Wollongong Community Corrections, Wollongong Youth Justice, and Port Kembla Children's Court, making a positive impact on the lives of many.

Ivan's commitment to his community extended to his involvement in local NAIDOC events and cultural days, where he worked alongside Elders, knowledge holders, youth groups, and IAMS clinical and community service staff. His dedication to cultural preservation and community well-being has been truly inspiring.

"Working with Ivan and having him in our Member Engagement Team at AH&MRC has been a great pleasure. He has a deep connection with the community and has been passionately supporting people in managing and improving their Mental Health and well-being.

Ivan can connect and engage people from all walks of life with his down-to-earth personality and charismatic smile." Arti (Coordinator - Member Engagement. Current AH&MRC employee).

A devoted father and partner to six children, Ivan's story is one of resilience, dedication, and community spirit. His nomination for the NSW Training Award 2024 is a testament to his hard work and the positive impact he has made in the Illawarra & South Coast region. The awards presentation will be a moment of pride for Ivan, his family, and the entire community.

The NSW Training Awards night will be held on June 28, 2024, in the Illawarra region.

Ivan is available for an interview.

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