

WELCOME TO COUNTRY – UNCLE RAY DAVISON



Uncle Ray Davison is a proud Gadigal man, born on Country. He is a current director of the Board of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council (MLALC) and a recently retired Aboriginal Health Worker from Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service.

Ray's early childhood was spent at La Perouse, where on weekends Ray would "drive for a penny" off the old pier for the tourists, collect golf balls and caddy on the golf course. A move to Burragarang Valley during the initial development of Warragamba Dam gave Ray and his numerous siblings the opportunity of living in the bush for a few years before briefly returning to La Perouse then settling in Liverpool.

The passing of both parents before adulthood sent Ray and his siblings to Redfern, Darlington, Forest Lodge, Annandale and other havens of the inner city. Hard times were held by hard work and family, especially his brothers, friends, and extended family. Early adulthood gave Ray numerous work and career related experiences which all combined to build a social consciousness that strived for equity and equality for his fellow people. For more than 30 years Ray worked for the Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service, as one of the founding health workers he was instrumental in the growth and development of the service – a service dedicated to the health and well-being of the local Aboriginal community.

Ray worked in collaboration with the community, governing boards, management and fellow health service providers to give the Aboriginal community of the heart of Sydney a culturally appropriate and professional health service. Ray advocates for social justice, community development and empowerment, equity and equality for all.

As an Aboriginal Health Worker, Ray promoted and accredited the necessary, yet fundamental qualities, capacities and capabilities that required delivery by all people involved in the health and well-being of the Aboriginal Community. Ray is married with three sons and has nine grandchildren. Retirement has given Ray the opportunity to spend more time with his family and the capacity to share his unique, informative and entertaining "Welcome to Country" with many people.