

The remediation process will not cost you or your family anything. If your home is rented privately or through an organisation like Compass Housing, we require the landlord (owner's) consent before any remediation work can take place. We also require your consent. Although, BHELP organise the remediation work, Maari Ma's Lead Team can support you and your family through the process. In some cases we are able to assist you and your family with temporary accommodation should you have to leave your home whilst it is being remediated.

MAARI MA LEAD PROGRAM

#### OTHER SERVICES

It is important that we look after our families and children and we have a range of services at Maari Ma that you and your child can access such as Dietetics, Paediatrics and Speech Therapy. These services can accessed through a referral from one of our doctors.

keeping our kids healthy

PROGRAM

Maari Ma Health

Maari Ma's Lead Program aims to address the issue of lead contamination and elevated blood lead levels in Aboriginal children under the age of 5 within our community.

### LEAD TESTING FOR CHILDREN **UNDER 5 YEARS**

Our Healthy Start team perform fingerprick tests on kids aged 1 year, 18 months, 2 years, 3 years and 4 years. If your child has a lead level of 15ug/dL or higher we will encourage them to have a blood test to confirm their Health Workers can support you and your at home.



child through this process. Our Healthy Start team also provide some basic education and blood lead level. One of our Aboriginal tips to minimise your child's exposure to lead

## HOW CAN THE LEAD TEAM HELP?

If your child has a blood lead level of 15ug/dL or higher, a member of the Healthy Start team will refer your family to the Lead Program. A member of our Lead Team will then contact you to ask if we can visit your home to do a home assessment which includes basic questions about your child's diet, where they play, what they play with and also what areas of the home your child spends a lot of time in (inside or outside). Our Lead Team will then ask if it is ok to sample certain areas of your yard or home with our XRF machine.

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The XRF machine gives a reading of lead in parts per million (ppm). Levels of less than 300ppm are considered to be safe, but we will let you know the results and provide you with some advice and incentives to help reduce lead levels in your yard and in your home. Our incentives include cleaning packs and small tents with sand for kids to play in.



# WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Handwashing is also important in keeping lead levels down in children and we can provide you with soap, hand sanitiser and paper towel. Floor mats are also handy at entry/exit points of your home so shoes can be wiped, removing any dust or dirt that may contain lead.

Ensuring that your child has a diet high in iron and calcium will also help keep lead levels down. We encourage children to eat red meat, green vegetables, drink milk and eat cheese.

#### **MAARI MA & THE BROKEN HILL** ENVIRONMENTAL LEAD PROGRAM (BHELP)

In some cases where a child has a high blood lead level and the incentives that Maari Ma has provided to the family are not effective in reducing the child's lead level, we need to consider other ways of reducing the child's exposure to lead which may come from soil in the yard, play equipment or a certain area in the home. We work with the Broken Hill Environmental Lead Program



(BHELP) to further investigate ways of reducing lead in the yard and in the home. This is called "remediation" and may involve replacing some dirt in your yard with dirt that is lead safe, or cracker dust. Sealing of cracks or gaps in ceilings and windows is another way of stopping lead dust from entering the home. Removing carpet and putting down new, easy to clean floors could also be an option.