



Gail Radford settles in to her new role as Aboriginal engagement officer at Sunbury Community Health Centre.

Picture: KRIS REIDH

Health centre makes plans for bright future

NEW Sunbury Community Health Centre Aboriginal engagement officer Gail Radford aspires to have more positive recognition for indigenous people in Sunbury.

Beginning her role in May, Ms Radford's primary job is to engage and support local Aboriginal community members to access services and programs with an emphasis on the elders in the community.

"I know there are Aboriginal families in Sunbury who choose not to identify themselves as indigenous," she said.

"There are a number of reasons for this, so we need a welcoming space where they can feel comfortable."

And she has started acting on her ideas, engaging with local fair trade cafe Just Planet, which will now be selling works by local Aboriginal artists.

Establishing an older women's group and a new Aboriginal reference group for Sunbury, ahead of a long-term goal of a permanent community meeting place, are included in her plans.

"I have so many ideas it's not funny and I am really fortunate to be working at an organisation that's supportive of that," she said.

"I am Aboriginal myself but

it takes a long time to engage the community and build up the trust needed."

Ms Radford previously worked at the Western Region Health Centre and HealthWest.

Residents interested in becoming a member of the reference group are invited to attend a lunch meeting on Thursday from 12.30-2pm at Sunbury Community Health Centre.

Details: 9744 4455.