

Talk-About

The official newsletter of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Leadership Team

August 2022



Local Elder's celebrate at the Metro North Health Equity launch event

Metro North launches Health Equity Strategy in line with NAIDOC week

Metro North Health has created history as the first Hospital and Health Service in the State to launch our strategy under the new amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 and the Hospital and Health Boards Regulation 2012.

During July NAIDOC week celebrations, Metro North Health launched its health equity strategy to improve the outcomes and ensure life expectancy parity by 2031 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Over the next nine years, the strategy will also focus on healthy birth weight of babies, reduced suicide with a focus on culturally safe mental health, zero long-waits for planned care, and increased pregnancy education and cervical screening rates.

An implementation plan detailing specific and measurable targets to achieve the 2031 goals will be released later this year, while the strategy itself has been formulated after 12 months of engagement and consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community groups.

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**Metro North
Health**



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Government**



Give us feedback

We welcome your feedback, contributions, story ideas and details on any upcoming events. Please contact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team at A_TSIHU_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 3139 3231.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team

If you have any feedback regarding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team services, programs and initiatives, you can contact the following:

Mail to:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team, Building 26, Chermiside Community Health Centre, 490 Hamilton Road, Chermiside QLD 4032.

Email to:

A_TSIHU_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au

Metro North Hospital and Health Service would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land on which our services are located.

We pay our respects to all Elders past, present and future and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the state.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that this publication may contain images or names of people who have passed away.

Contact information

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer Ph: 3646 4154 / 0428 861 888

After hours PH 3646 5106 / 0428 861 888

The Prince Charles Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer Ph: 3139 5165 / 0436 690 306

After Hours Ph: 3139 6429 / 0429 897 982

Redcliffe Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer Ph: 3049 6791

After Hours Ph: 3049 9734

Caboolture/Kilcoy Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Office Ph: 5433 8249

After Hours Ph: 5316 5481

Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS):

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Office Ph: 3647 6044

Community Indigenous Primary Health Team

Indigenous Community Health Team Ph: 3631 7379

Indigenous Sexual Health Team

Clinical Nurse Consultant Ph: 3631 7379

Indigenous Mental Health

Professional Lead Ph: 3646 2695

Ngarrama Maternity Services

Caboolture Ph: 0439 732 970

Redcliffe Ph: 0407 251 890

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Ph: 0428 404 875

Forensic Mental Health Service, Indigenous Mental Health Intervention Program

Forensic Mental Health Team Ph: 3234 0800



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A word from the Executive Director



Sherry Holzapfel
Executive Director,
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Health

I am excited to announce that Metro North Health launched its new Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2022 – 2025: Our journey towards health equity on Monday 4 July during NAIDOC Week (3 – 10 July) at a special event celebration shared with staff, community, key stakeholders and Elders.

I am incredibly proud that Metro North Health has created history as the first Hospital and Health Service in the State to launch our strategy under the new amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 and the Hospital and Health Boards Regulation 2012. This is a significant milestone and a fantastic result from months of hard work, dedication, and important and extensive community consultation and collaboration.

The journey is not over for us, this is just the start of Metro North Health's long road of working towards health equity, and creating culturally safe and accessible health care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Last month Metro North Health celebrated NAIDOC Week with our 3rd annual Metro North Health Virtual NAIDOC Event 2022 shared with community and staff. Each day a variety of short films were released in a 16-part showcase via the Better Together Health Van website and Facebook page, paying homage to local, national and international leaders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and traditions and

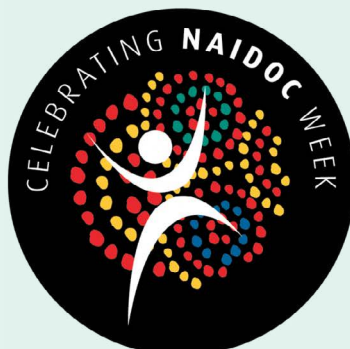
this year's NAIDOC theme Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!. This year's theme reminds us all to celebrate and reflect on the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout history who have driven and led change in our communities, nationally and internationally for generations.

It makes me so proud to showcase our beautiful culture and listen to our leaders' yarn about the amazing work they have done in community. I loved watching the diverse and exciting films on offer in our 2022 virtual NAIDOC event, from cooking demonstrations, singing, traditional dancing, yarning with Aboriginal Elders and community leaders, to Torres Strait Island cultural yarning sessions and lots more.

Our virtual NAIDOC event can be enjoyed by the whole family and is still available for viewing if you would like to join in and watch these educational and enlightening films. You can access the full schedule of films on our Better Together Health van website at <https://bit.ly/3PB94Jo>.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

Sherry Holzapfel
Executive Director, Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Health



**GET UP!
STAND UP!
SHOW UP!**

3-10 JULY 2022

A word from the Chief Executive



Jackie Hanson
Chief Executive
Metro North Health

I am extremely proud of the work Metro North is doing to improve health outcomes and experiences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. During NAIDOC Week we launched Metro North's first Health Equity Strategy which will guide our work across the health service to close the gap and create a better health service.

These are some of the roles we're investing in this year:

- Peer Responders for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff
- Cultural Capability Officers at Redcliffe and Caboolture
- RBWH Nurse Navigator
- Palliative Care Nurse Navigator
- Indigenous Patient Liaison Officers in Emergency Departments.

Health Equity for me is about every baby born in our hospitals having the same healthy life expectancy, and every adult having the same quality of life. Every person who is employed by Metro North or who accesses our healthcare services should feel valued, respected and treated as an individual.

The Metro North Health Equity Strategy was a true demonstration of co-design, with extensive input throughout the process from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, staff and community. The strategy has been developed with the Brisbane North PHN and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health to provide a foundation for seamless connected care in the community and in hospital.

We will hold further community engagement this September.

Unfortunately, the rest of our NAIDOC Week celebrations were cut short by the COVID and flu surge. However, we did continue with our virtual NAIDOC celebration via the Better Together Health Van Facebook page and website. The videos are still available online if you missed them.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the development of the strategy. This is a major milestone for our organisation and evidence of our commitment to making positive change.

Regards,
Jackie.

Continued from page 1 >

Metro North Health Board Chair Jim McGowan AM said the strategy provided a pathway for change including a commitment to eliminate institutional racism.

“A commitment to health equity requires reform, change and improvement across the entire health system,” Mr McGowan said.

“If we want to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access the care they need, we need to provide care that actually meets their needs, care that is physically, culturally, and psychologically safe, that doesn’t come with assumptions and unconscious racism.

“This strategy has been informed and developed in consultation with many stakeholders to ensure that we are meeting the needs of these patients with our goals.”

Metro North Health Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and proud Yidinji and Butchulla woman Sherry Holzapfel said the voices, lived experiences, and cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were integral to the co-design, co-ownership, and co-implementation of the strategy.

“I would like to acknowledge and thank the Traditional Owners, Elders, staff, leaders, partnership organisations and our community for developing this plan together,” Mrs Holzapfel said.

“I thank them for having a voice, speaking their truth, and ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, spirit and holistic wellbeing is at the centre of everything we do.”

The Metro North Health Equity Strategy has been developed and will be delivered in partnership with the community and a number of stakeholders including the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and the Brisbane North Primary Health Network.

Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Chief Executive Officer Adrian Carson said the health strategy, and the partnership that underpins it, provides a real opportunity to achieve health equity by 2031.

“We must make the most of this opportunity by accelerating the pace of reform, by investing in Indigenous-led service models, and by designing health service pathways that harness the respective strengths of the Metro North Health, the PHN and the UIIH Network,” said Mr Carson.

Brisbane North PHN Chief Executive Officer Libby Dunstan said to achieve health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will require a joined-up approach.

“Brisbane North PHN is committed to working in partnership with First Nations peoples, community groups and service providers to help close the gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Brisbane North and Moreton Bay region.

“This Health Equity Strategy shows what can be achieved when people from all parts of the health system work together to redress systemic inequities in health service delivery,” said Ms Dunstan.

View the strategy online here: <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/health-equity>.

OUTandABOUT

Health Equity Launch

To coincide with NAIDOC Week, Metro North Health held a special event to launch the new Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2022 – 2025: Our journey towards health equity on Monday 4 July in Morayfield.

Community stakeholders, partnership organisations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, Metro North Health Executive and staff, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health staff all came together to celebrate the momentous occasion.

We share this celebration with you in our photo collage on pages 6 and 7.



Our Journey Towards Health Equity

Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2022–2025

Metro North Health







OUTandABOUT

Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!: Metro North Health Virtual NAIDOC 2022 event

Metro North Health held the third annual Virtual NAIDOC event, partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and organisations in celebration of this year's theme Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!.

The virtual celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history hosted by Metro North Health has been held since 2020 in place of the annual Caboolture NAIDOC Family Fun Day. Since the COVID-19 pandemic and now this year's severe flu season, Metro North Health decided to continue celebrating NAIDOC Week (3 – 10 July) virtually with a diverse and exciting schedule of films.

The 2022 National NAIDOC theme Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! invites us all to celebrate and reflect on the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout history who have driven and led change in



GET UP! STAND UP! SHOW UP!

3-10 JULY 2022

our communities, nationally and internationally for generations. The theme also encourages everyone to get up, stand up, show up and continue supporting systemic change for our Elders and communities.

Community and staff were invited to join in on the virtual celebration with Elders and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community groups and organisations, and enjoy in the 16-part showcase through a diverse and exciting schedule of films.

The films were released daily on the Better Together Health Van website and Facebook page, which included a Welcome to Country, traditional dancing, cooking demonstrations, children's activities, yarning with Elders, Torres Strait Islander cultural sessions and lots more.

The Metro North Health 2022 Virtual NAIDOC event was well received by staff and community with one viewer sharing their appreciation by thanking the organisers: "Thank you for leading our MN NAIDOC celebrations! Fantastic job! Everyone involved should feel very proud for the effort they gave representing our diverse culture and history. I love how there is a bit of everything - you can tell there has been a lot of thought been put in to considering the flow and showcase of our culture."

If you missed the event, you can still view the full schedule of deadly films on our website: <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/better-together-van/2022-naidoc-virtual-event>

Below: Tribal Experiences perform Welcome to Country on virtual NAIDOC event



Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!
2022 Metro North Health
Virtual NAIDOC
Celebration



122,395

Is the number of people our Facebook posts reached.



68

People shared our Facebook posts.



"THANK YOU FOR LEADING OUR MN NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS! FANTASTIC JOB! EVERYONE INVOLVED SHOULD FEEL VERY PROUD FOR THE EFFORT THEY GAVE REPRESENTING OUR DIVERSE CULTURE AND HISTORY. I LOVE HOW THERE IS A BIT OF EVERYTHING - YOU CAN TELL THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF THOUGHT BEEN PUT IN TO CONSIDERING THE FLOW AND SHOWCASE OF OUR CULTURE."



8,589

The number of times the videos were viewed



70,674

Engagements on our posts.



47

Comments on our Facebook posts.

497

Likes on our Facebook posts.



View the 16-part video showcase on:

www.metrnorth.health.qld.gov.au/better-together-van/2022-naidoc-virtual-event

@BetterTogetherHealthVan



Sunday
3 July 2022

Welcome to NAIDOC 2022

Sherry Holzapfel / Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Metro North Health

Watch on as Sherry Holzapfel welcomes everyone to our virtual NAIDOC 2022 celebration and this year's NAIDOC theme – Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!

Sherry is a proud Yidinji and Butchulla woman and the Executive Director of Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. Sherry's background is a registered nurse/midwife and she has experience in healthcare leadership, having worked for several Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services from Far North Queensland to Toowoomba and Brisbane regions. Her passion is working to ensure health equality is achievable by ensuring access is culturally appropriate and health care pathways are seamless for better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

There is a season for everything, our time is here to have a voice, to be heard and be considered, so get up, stand up, and show up! Happy NAIDOC celebrations to all!!



Welcome to NAIDOC Week 2022

FILM SCHEDULE

Sunday 3 July 2022

Welcome to Country

Shannon Ruska, Tribal Experiences

Join local Traditional Owner and cultural delivery specialist Shannon Ruska and Tribal Experiences as they provide a Welcome to Country and the significance of this practice for Aboriginal people and their tribes.

Since he was 8 years old Shannon Ruska has been living the dream of bringing culture alive.

His father and many Aboriginal Uncles and Aunties over the years have instilled his heritage into his heart and soul which he now uses to educate, share, entertain and pass on to future generations, the stories and culture of Aboriginal people, one of the oldest cultures in the world.

Watch as Tribal Experiences dance sharing the story about the Goanna and perform a smoking ceremony. Smoking ceremonies are done to cleanse the land, to make sure bad spirits are not brought into country and to also bring good relations as you travel in other tribes' country.



Welcome to Country explained

Monday 4 July 2022

Let's Talk with Uncle Les Collins

Uncle Les Collins

Uncle Les Collins was born and raised in the Cherbourg community. Listen as Uncle Les shares stories and history about early activism, and life in the 1970s when he arrived as a young trades apprentice in Brisbane.

Uncle Les reflects on how he was treated at the time, and what encouraged him join with other prominent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to speak out and make changes for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Brisbane.



Let's talk with Uncle Les Collins



Damper cooking demonstration

Kim Minniecon and Sheringa Minniecon

Damper is a traditional food source that has been made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for thousands of years.

Mother-daughter team Kim and Sheringa Minniecon have joined forces to bring audiences a demonstration and teach us how to cook coconut damper.

This is definitely one you can try at home with the family!

Kim and Sheringa are proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with connections to Kabi Kabi and Goreng Goreng countries in the Gympie and Bundaberg regions and Torres Strait Islander heritage from the Mualgal and Erub people on the Western and Eastern Island groups. Sheringa also has connections to Wiradjuri Nation in New South Wales through her fathers' family.



Damper cooking with Kim and Sheringa



Yarning – My years of ‘Standing Up’

Tuesday 5 July 2022

Yarning – My years of ‘Standing Up’

Uncle Les Malezer

Uncle Les Malezer, a Butchulla/Gubbi Gubbi man, has extensive experience in campaigning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights. He has represented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests at a local, state, national and international level. Uncle Les is the Chairperson of the Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA), and one of his many roles includes being delegate to United Nations forums on Indigenous issues. He was awarded the 2008 Human Rights Medal for his work in advancing the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people both nationally and internationally.

Listen as Uncle Les yarns about our early history of black activism for our people, how our people fought for equal rights and put the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people up front.

He is a great example of how Get Up! Stand Up! and Show Up! on a local community level has led to advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on an international stage with his work in the United Nations.

Cultural session with Torres Strait Islander Elder

Uncle Brian Whap

Enjoy listening to Mabuiag Island, Torres Strait Islander Elder and Cultural tutor from Ngutana-Lui Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Studies Centre, Uncle Brian Whap as he demonstrates the importance coconut and banana leaves have in the Torres Strait Islands and the use of fruit and plants for cooking. Uncle Brian shares the use of coconut in cooking and how it is a treasured commodity in the Torres Strait.



Cultural session with Uncle Brian Whap

FILM SCHEDULE

Wednesday 6 July 2022

Mabuyag gospel song

Uncle Brian Whap and Auntie Mattie Bani

Go on a journey with Uncle Brian Whap and Auntie Mattie Bani as they sing a beautiful Mabuyag gospel song in their traditional Kala Lagaw Ya language. The song called ‘Dapar Buyaw Lag’ was composed by Uncle Brian almost 30 years ago and he is thrilled to share it with other families to enjoy.



Mabuyag gospel song



Get Up, Stand Up, Show Up / Didgeridoo performance

Get Up, Stand Up, Show Up / Didgeridoo performance

Shannon Ruska and Tribal Experiences

In this video Yuggera, Turrbal, Nunukul, Gorenpul and Yugembar descendant Shannon Ruska talks about this year’s NAIDOC theme – Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! and what it means to him and the importance of the theme to our mob.

We also share with you the beautiful sounds of the didgeridoo performed by Tribal Experience member and Aboriginal man Jonathon Barney. Be mesmerised as Jonathon tells a story through his didgeridoo.

FILM SCHEDULE

Thursday 7 July 2022

Torres Strait Yarning

Aunty Mattie Bani

Respected Mabuyag Island Elder, Auntie Mattie, chats about this year's theme and how it can be used to share our culture, stories and inform the community on the value of culture and how vital it is in building relationships.

Learn about the history of the Torres Strait Islander flag and the decision of the Mabo case as Aunty Mattie shares the significance of both, and how they are a great example of Getting Up, Standing Up and Showing Up.



Torres Strait Yarning

Singing with Uncle Roger Knox

Uncle Roger Knox

Uncle Roger Knox, a proud Kamilaroi/Gomeroi man, is a multi-award-winning, nationally, and internationally renowned country music singer who was recently inducted into the 2022 Galaxy of Stars at the Tamworth County Music Festival.

Enjoy the sounds of Uncle Roger's gifted vocals as he sings us a couple of his original songs paying tribute to those who gave their voices to making positive change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Uncle Roger is a wonderful artist and ambassador, who has used his music and voice as part of his culture to bring people together.



Singing with Uncle Roger Knox



The Rainbow Community

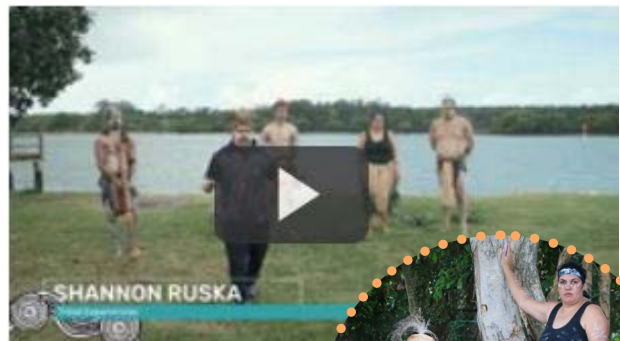
Friday 8 July 2022

LGBTIQ+ Sistergirl and Brotherboy Rainbow Mob

Dion Tatow and Rochelle (Rocky) Byrne

Join us in a yarn with Dion and Rocky – two strong Aboriginal advocates and active members of the Brisbane LGBTIQ+ Brotherboy and Sistergirl community.

Dion and Rocky continue to strive for better recognition of the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+ community. They are both proud to be part of the First Nation's Rainbow mob who Get Up, Stand Up and continue to Show Up for their community.



Dancing on Country

Dancing on Country

Tribal Experiences

Traditional Aboriginal dancing has been part of Aboriginal culture for thousands of years. Dancing is performed as part of sharing stories, ceremonial practices including weddings, funerals, initiations, men's and women's business, and plays an important role in the spirituality of tribes which each tribe having different customs.

Dancing tells stories of the land, animals, dreamtime and culture that are passed down through generations of Aboriginal families.

Connect with Aboriginal culture by watching traditional dancing performed by Tribal Experiences as they share two dances that tell the story of the creation of the Rainbow Serpent, and a blessing to mother earth (the land).



FILM SCHEDULE

Saturday 9 July 2022

Torres Strait Yarning Part 2

Uncle Brian Whap

Mabuyag Island Elder Uncle Brian Whap's life growing up and living in the Torres Strait has taught him great responsibility of becoming a role model and carrying on the island culture for children and future generations.

Role models come in a variety of forms, those who speak up, and those who practice and teach with actions. Uncle Brian takes great pride in his work to be a teacher by sharing knowledge of Torres Strait Island culture and how changing times in an urban setting shouldn't distract us on our responsibility. Get Up, Stand Up, and Show Up is the best way to encourage the younger generations.

In this video, Uncle Brian yarns about the NAIDOC 2022 theme and what it means to him. He also talks about continuity of culture and the importance of being a role model in our community.



Torres Strait Yarning Part 2 – Uncle Brian Whap



Allira Davis

Sunday 10 July 2022

Yarning about Uluru Statement from the Heart

Allira Davis

Listen as Allira Davis yarns about exploring the invitation to the Australian people, The Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Allira is a Cobble Cobble, South Sea Island woman from the Barrungum and Birrigubba nations and Ambae and Tanna Islands, and the Lead and Co-convener of the Uluru Youth Dialogues, Organiser and Co-chair of the Uluru Youth Summit (2019).



Singing with Uncle Roger Knox / Photo montage – Get Up, Stand Up, Show Up

Indigenous Insights – Childrens activity

Aunty Sharron Mirii Bell

Aunty Sharron Mirii Bell is a proud Wiradjuri and Gamilaraay woman and founder of Indigenous Insights. Indigenous Insights focuses on Early Childhood, Cultural Education and Wellbeing. Grab the whole family and enjoy this interactive video as Aunty Sharron performs a song and dance for our little jarjums and their families. Enjoy!



Indigenous Insights – Childrens activity

Singing with Uncle Roger Knox / Photo montage – Get Up, Stand Up, Show Up

Local community and Metro North Health Staff / Song performance by Uncle Roger Knox

We invite you to join us and watch on as local community and Metro North Health Staff show their support to this year's NAIDOC theme – Get Up, Stand Up, Show Up through this enticing photo montage accompanied by Uncle Roger Knox singing his original songs.



IDENTIFICATION:

IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO A

HEALTHIER LIFE

WE ARE HERE TO HELP WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE JOURNEY

**Are you of
Aboriginal and/
or Torres Strait
Islander origin?**

- ✓ Receive culturally appropriate care and support
- ✓ Receive the right health care and services
- ✓ Health Service staff must ask you the question
- ✓ Metro North Hospital and Health Service are here to help with your health care journey

Further information visit our website
www.metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/better-together-van
or Facebook page @BetterTogetherHealthVan

Metro North
Hospital and Health Service



Queensland
Government

CABOOLTURE HOSPITAL INDIGENOUS MIXED TOUCH FOOTBALL CARNIVAL

Saturday 17th September 2022 | 8am to 5pm

St Columban's College, 100 McKean Street Caboolture
(parking access via Pettigrew Street)

**Registrations now open!
And best of all, it's completely free!**

- 6-a-side
- 12 to 14 players per team
- Mixed teams or individual nominations
- Youth (13-15yrs)
- Adult competition (16+)

For further information contact Rachel Bailey on 5316 5470 or rachel.bailey@health.qld.gov.au

Scan the QR code to register:

**Registrations close:
Saturday 3 September 2022**

Players of all cultural backgrounds welcome.



COVID-19
Safe
Event

BRING YOUR FAMILY FOR A FUN DAY OUT

ENTERTAINMENT | FOOD STALLS | JUMPING CASTLE | FACE PAINTING

This initiative is supported by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team, Metro North Health.



2022 cohort of Deadly Start trainees

A deadly start for future leaders

June was an exciting time for Metro North Health who welcomed their next cohort of Deadly Start school-based trainees to the Deadly Start program.

This year Metro North Health will welcome their fourth intake of Deadly Start trainees, with 45 grade 11 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students eager to start their one day a week work placement within various Metro North Health hospitals and community health facilities. They will be continuing from the previous cohort of 30 students who will be graduating later this year.

Deadly Start trainees complete 375 hours of paid work placement that

contributes to their certificate III qualification in their chosen field of nursing, allied health, dental, administration, cultural capability, patient support services or food services.

Students, their families and friends, staff, Metro North Executive and Queensland Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP attended the recent Deadly Start orientation day held at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

Metro North Board has committed to ongoing employment for each student upon their successful completion of the Deadly Start program.

"Education and employment are key elements around the social determinants impacting on health

outcomes and important if we are going to achieve Health Equity outcomes for our First Nations people," Board Chair Jim McGowan said.

"Some may seek to work with us upon completion, and whilst we hope that many will go on to further study either at TAFE or university, many may benefit from part-time casual work."

The Queensland Government has also committed to tripling the number of school-based traineeships in health support services from 100 to 300 from 2023. This will provide more opportunity and grow Queensland Health's workforce by collaborating with education to support young people interested in working within the healthcare system.

The Deadly Start project team are currently recruiting for the 2023 Deadly Start program. If you know of a student currently completing year 10 who would be interested in commencing the Metro North Health Deadly Start school-based traineeship program in 2023 and is of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin please email the team at Deadlystart@health.qld.gov.au.

Watch this great short video from current participants of the Deadly Start program and hear what they have to say about the program: <https://bit.ly/3INDrJP>.

Out and about on Quandamooka Country

On 7 June 2022, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women working in multiple services and streams across Metro North Health joined in on a special women's cultural gathering day on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island), Quandamooka Country, which provided them with the opportunity to connect with culture, build relationships with one another, and enjoy some well-deserved down-time.

Metro North Health staff returning from a cultural day at Minjerribah



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was the first women's day held since 2020. Face-to-face connection, yarning, and sharing of knowledge and culture is very important in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, so it was great to recommence the women's gatherings and provide staff the opportunity to connect and reconnect.

The women's cultural gathering day was established by Metro North Health's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team to strengthen and support current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women within the workforce and provide a culturally safe space to connect, collaborate, and share culture.

OUTandABOUT

Reconciliation Week Events across Metro North Health

To celebrate National Reconciliation Week 2022, Metro North Health held a range of activities starting with a National Sorry Day yarning circle at Redcliffe Hospital.



Metro North Health staff attending the National Sorry Day yarning circle at Redcliffe Hospital

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH)

RBWH launched its first Reconciliation Action Plan on Wednesday 1 June to coincide with National Reconciliation Week. Check out the article on page 17 for more information on this great initiative.

The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH)

TPCH held a special flag raising ceremony proudly displaying the Aboriginal, Torres Strait and Australian flags. A National Reconciliation Week information stall was also on show to staff, patients and visitors in the hospitals Common Good Café, and TPCH featured a corner of First Nations literature in the library.

Redcliffe Hospital

A flag raising ceremony was held on Tuesday 28 June, and a Mabo Day morning tea on Friday 3 June for staff to attend.

Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS)

STARS held a Reconciliation Week lunch on Friday 3 June, providing staff the opportunity to connect, yarn and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the great work staff and services are doing to achieve Reconciliation for their patients and community.



Above: STARS staff member setting up the staff lunch

Community and Oral Health (COH)

On Friday 3 June, COH held their annual Reconciliation Shield competition at Brighton Health Campus, hosting a friendly game of Barefoot Bowls and a BBQ lunch for staff and Elders from the COH Yarning Circle.

Caboolture, Kilcoy, and Woodford (CKW)

On Thursday 2 June the CKW Reconciliation Action Plan committee hosted a Microsoft Teams presentation with Dr Carmen Parter, focusing on understanding and dismantling systemic racism. Dr Parter is an academic researcher and speaker and a proud descendant of the Darumbal and Juru clans of the Birra Gubba Nation of Queensland with South Sea Islander heritage, connected to Tanna Islander of the Republic of Vanuatu.



Metro North Health staff on the ferry to Minjerribah

The day was enjoyed by 25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members, and three invited Metro North Health staff members, including one member of the Metro North Health Executive team.

Activities included a charter to and from Minjerribah, cultural workshops, tours of Minjerribah, cultural yarning, and a cultural heritage session led by Traditional Owner and Elder, Aunty Evelyn Parkin, at the North Stradbroke Island Museum.

The event received positive feedback from attendees who found it beneficial both personally and professionally.

"I can't thank you enough for the day, I made some new friendships and made more work connections. I was inspired by the achievements the other ladies were making in their local work settings," one attendee said.

Multiple requests had been received from staff who attended to continue the women's cultural gathering day as an ongoing event, and to increase the gathering to more than once a year.



HEALTH EQUITY

Starts with Me



Let's work together to create health equity for our mob

“I commit to ensuring we have a voice in our health care.”

Uncle Milton Walit,
Torres Strait Islander Elder

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is everyone's business.

Visit our website <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/health-equity> for further information

 Be part of the conversation #ourhealthourway #forcommunity #BetterTogether - <https://www.facebook.com/BetterTogetherHealthVan>



Metro North Health in partnership with



Metro North Health



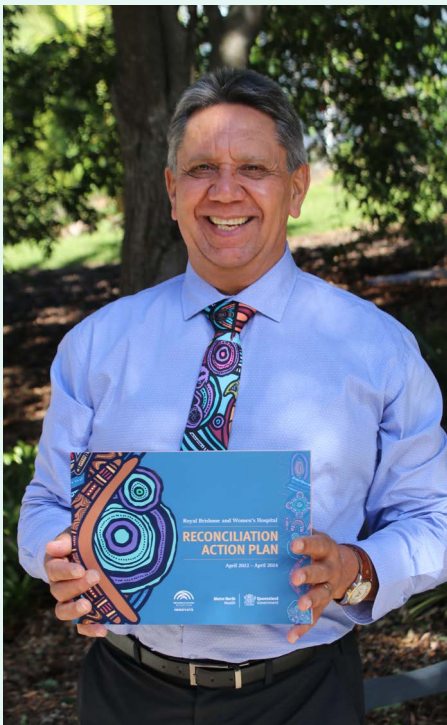
Queensland Government

IN FOCUS



Launching the inaugural RBWH Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2022 – 2024 (RAP)

During the height of National Reconciliation Week 2022, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) launched the inaugural RBWH Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2022 – 2024 (RAP).



This formal statement of commitment to bettering reconciliation includes months of hard work, dedication, and commitment from staff at RBWH and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners, Elders, and community members who have come along on the journey.

RBWH Cultural Capability Officer Geoffrey Binge, a proud Kamilaroi man and member of the RBWH Staff Council, has worked tirelessly on the RAP which will be implemented across RBWH over two years as a meaningful guide to key milestones along their journey, and to support reconciliation initiatives for RBWH patients, their families and communities, and staff.

Left: RBWH Cultural Capability Officer, Geoffrey Binge proudly holding the hot off the press RBWH Innovate RAP

“Being our first RAP, I hope it clearly shows the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and RBWH staff that we are ‘fair dinkum’ about closing the gap, and that we all have a job to listen and learn from each other,” Geoffrey said.

The RBWH RAP has been designed to unite and monitor RBWH’s shared efforts to reconciliation and guide the organisation forward alongside the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

RBWH is committed to creating a future of true equity in health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and aims to build an all-inclusive workforce that stands respectful of cultural values and hosts culturally safe services that inspire consumers to benefit and enjoy quality treatment and care.

New Metro North Health Virtual Emergency Department

Metro North Health have now opened their new virtual Emergency Department (ED). This great service allows community living, visiting, or receiving treatment in the Metro North catchment area* to seek medical advice through video chat with a health professional, instead of waiting hours in an Emergency Department waiting room. The Virtual ED is open to community from 8am to 10pm Monday to Friday and 8am - 6pm Saturday and Sunday.

Not all medical problems are suitable for the Virtual ED, so it is important to check your eligibility online first at:

<https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/hospitals-services/virtual-ed>

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of the following symptoms do not use the Virtual ED, seek immediate emergency care by dialling 000:

- Chest pain
- Breathing problems or turning blue
- Comatose or unconscious
- Sudden inability to move or speak, or sudden facial drooping
- The effects of a severe accident



**In an Emergency
DIAL 000**

Please call 000 IMMEDIATELY if you have a life-threatening condition or require urgent medical help.





If you need to visit an Emergency Department, try the Virtual ED first.



To check if you are eligible*:

- Scan the QR code or
- Visit metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/ved

We are open:

8am – 10pm Monday to Friday

8am – 6pm Saturday and Sunday

**Note: Not all medical problems are suitable for the Virtual ED, so it's important to check your eligibility first. You must reside, be visiting or receive your treatment in the Metro North Health area.*



**In an Emergency
DIAL 000**

Please call 000 IMMEDIATELY if you have a life-threatening condition or require urgent medical help.



Australian-first health alliance aiming to Close the Gap

Closing the gap in life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will be the focus of a new Australian-first health alliance.



(L-R) Professor Bruce Abernethy, Poche Advisory Board Chair and Executive Dean UQ Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, Adrian Carson, CEO Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and Metro North Health Board Member, and Professor Tom Calma AO, Co-chair Reconciliation Australia attending RAUGH Launch

The Research Alliance for Urban Goori Health (RAUGH) will unite a research organisation, health service and primary health care provider to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The partnership between UQ's Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (UIH) and Metro North Health has identified cancer care, rehabilitation programs and innovative models of care, such as hospital in the home, as priority areas.

Poche Centre Director Professor James Ward said the Alliance's work would be transformational, helping to accelerate Australia's progress towards closing the gap in life expectancy.

"Some of the issues we're looking to explore is where the health system works well for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, and where it needs to be improved," Professor Ward said.

"As a Pitjantjatjara and Nukunu man, I know how important it is to ensure our peoples' voices are at the centre of service design and delivery, to ensure equal access across the healthcare system."

The life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples born in a major city is approximately eight years shorter when compared to the non-Indigenous population.

The first phase of the project will focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in Brisbane's northside to understand what the issues are, what barriers they face, and what needs to be fixed.

The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Chief Executive Officer and Metro North Health Board Chair Adrian Carson said the new partnership aims to build the evidence base for the delivery of integrated care across the health system, spanning from primary to public healthcare and back to the community.

"With almost 27,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people residing within the northside of Brisbane, it's imperative that our sectors work together to address the barriers which exist within the health system that prevent our people from receiving the care they require," Mr Carson said.

"Through applied research in priority areas, we can invest in healthcare pathways across the continuum of

care and life course, which lead to our people living healthier, happier and longer lives."

Metro North Health Chief Executive Adjunct Professor Jackie Hanson said the Alliance would help achieve health equity.

"We acknowledge there is a lot of work to do to enable integrated and culturally appropriate health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and I'm proud of our commitment to improve health outcomes and close the gap," Ms Hanson said.

"Metro North Health is very focused on achieving health equity and we are particularly excited about the opportunity to upskill all staff working in Metro North Health to improve cultural responsiveness and remove barriers."

The Alliance is supported by funding from Queensland Health to achieve health equity via a Health Equity Framework.

WORD OF THE MONTH

"Mirragin"
(Meer-a-gin) is stars in Yugara language.

Yugara is the name of one of the languages spoken in the Brisbane area west to Ipswich and the Lockyer Valley. The language was spoken and understood by Aboriginal groups in the Greater Brisbane area, including neighbouring groups of Turubul, Yugambeh and Yugarabul.

Women's Business Shared Pathway



The Women's Business Shared Pathway will deliver culturally appropriate patient-centred care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, in partnership between Metro North Health and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH).


This new shared service model aims to support care closer to home for you with the option of outreach locations, cultural support and a clearer path for care for all things "women's business" within Metro North Health.

All women who identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander will be offered the pathway which includes access to outreach specialist clinics located at various locations in addition to The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital clinics and treatment/surgery as required.

Clinical services available through the pathway include:

- Specialist gynaecologist consultations
- Gynaecology procedures and surgical treatment
- Physiotherapy care and treatment
- Education and advice.

How it works

- 
- 1 Your GP will send a referral for gynaecology specialist care to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital or IUIH provider or contact us to discuss care and options on 0476 842 686.
 - 2 If you choose care through this pathway you will be provided with a choice of clinic for your appointment. You can also ask for access to cultural support and transport through this pathway.
 - 3 You will receive access to both hospital and community staff to assist in your healthcare journey.
 - 4 Staff caring for you can provide more information about the pathway at any time.

Clinic Locations

Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service

10-20 Walkers Road, Morayfield. Phone: (07) 5429 1000

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Gynaecology Outpatients

Corner Butterfield St and Bowen Bridge Rd, Herston. Phone: (07) 3646 1545

Email: womens_business@health.qld.gov.au

STAFF PROFILE

A Day in the life of: Jesse Blackman

Cultural Capability Officer,
The Prince Charles Hospital



Q1. Who is your mob?

I am a proud Gurang man.

Q2. What is your role within Metro North Health and what does it involve?

I am the Cultural Capability Officer (CCO) for The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH). In my role as CCO I will provide and develop cultural leadership and governance for TPCH through building co-owned, co-designed and co-implemented health care practices and services by partnering with Traditional Owners, Elders, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers to help achieve better health outcomes.

Q3. Where did you work before coming to Metro North Health?

I have spent the last 16 years working in youth justice across the West Moreton and Brisbane Youth Detention Centres, where I established and managed the Cultural Unit, a service supporting the Centre's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and young people.

Q4. Who or what inspired you to pursue a career in health?

Seeing the aftermath of when government departments get it wrong, and the tragic results that families are left to deal with, inspires me to help build a stronger and more responsive health care system.

Q5. What does Health Equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people mean to you?

It means equal health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, which might mean working a little differently than we have been to make that happen.

Q6. What do you like to do outside of work?

Outside of work I enjoy going to the movies and spending time with friends and family.



Better Together Medication Access

Are you of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Origin?

Better Together Medication Access will cover all out of pocket expenses for prescribed discharge medication for all self-identifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people discharging from a Metro North Health.

Better Together Medication Access is only available through Metro North Health Pharmacy Services.

How it works



You will be asked 'Are you of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Origin?' Health Service staff must ask you the question, we cannot assume upon appearance.



If you identify, regardless of age, you will be eligible for Better Together Medication Access.



Better Together Medication Access is Metro North Health wide and will be available from 1 October 2020.



Talk to Staff caring for you for more information.

By identifying you will receive support from culturally appropriate services including our Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officers to assist your healthcare journey and recovery back to community.

For further information, contact your local Metro North Health Pharmacy Team.

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Better Together Health Van

The Better Together Health Van is a free community service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living on the North Side of Brisbane (from Brisbane River to Kilcoy), providing access to:

- Health promotion and education
- Opportunistic health screening
- An avenue to yarn with a health care provider to provide feedback on hospital experience and healthcare journey
- Opportunity to co-design healthcare services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and supporting health staff.

How to access the Van?

Visit our website for up-to-date locations of the Van
metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/better-together-van

Follow our Facebook Page @ BetterTogetherHealthVan for information on locations, upcoming events, important health information and community stories.

Make a booking

If you would like to request the Van visits your community or event, contact the Metro North Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team to make a booking on (07) 3139 6621 or email Bettersogetherhealthvan@health.qld.gov.au

The service is owned and operated by Metro North Health. The Better Together Health Van will be utilised as an extension of Metro North Health in creating engagement activities and developing partnerships and relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers, families and community organisations.

We welcome your feedback, contributions, story ideas and details on any upcoming events.

Please contact the Manager, Communications at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team on A_TSIHU_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 3139 3235.



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