

# TALK-ABOUT

December 2024

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The official Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Newsletter

Metro North  
Health



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## 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\\_TSILT\\_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:A_TSILT_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au) or phone **07 3170 4460**.

### 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:

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[A\\_TSILT\\_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:A_TSILT_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au)

*Metro North Health 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

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### The Prince Charles Hospital

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### Redcliffe Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer **Ph: 3049 6791**

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### Caboolture/Kilcoy Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Office **Ph: 5433 8249**

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### Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS):

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### Community Indigenous Primary Health Team

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### Ngarrama Maternity Services

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### Forensic Mental Health Service, Indigenous Mental Health Intervention Program

Forensic Mental Health Team **Ph: 3234 0800**

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# A word from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Executive Director



As we look towards the end of 2024, I would like to acknowledge the achievements, hard work and dedication displayed across Metro North Health throughout the year, working towards improved health outcomes and equity of health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our hospital and health service remains strong and committed to working with our community and creating a place that puts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' healthcare needs at the forefront of service delivery and planning.

Throughout 2024 and the last few years we have seen exceptional initiatives take place that has paved the way for not only our health service but for programs and services across the State of Queensland. This includes the Deadly Feet program expansion, Better Together Medication Access Program expansion, Deadly Start School Based Traineeship and Indigenous Cadetship state-wide expansion, Health Equity Funding Program to support and enhance health equity initiatives, and Women's Business Shared Pathways Program. We have also had an increase on collaborative programs in partnership with community organisations such as the Heart Outreach Program for Health Equity (HOPE) and Urban Indigenous Respiratory Outreach Clinic (UROC).

Additionally, Metro North Health has enhanced efforts to deliver health prevention and early intervention programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families through an official partnership with Koobara Kindy, and establishing a new Midwifery Group Practice model of care at Redcliffe Hospital that will deliver wrap around support to families birthing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies across the antenatal, birthing, and postnatal period. The new Ngarrama Maternity model will be introduced in early 2025.

Another key focus has been building and strengthening our collaborative and co-design relationships with community on infrastructure and service delivery projects, this includes ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are included in healthcare design and developments from the beginning. Great examples of this includes the newly opened Nujum Jawa Crisis Stabilisation Unit, co-naming our three Satellite Hospitals with Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners and the collaboration with community on the designs of the new expansion projects at Redcliffe Hospital and The Prince Charles Hospital.

An initiative I am very proud of is Metro North Health's formal acknowledgement of stolen wages used to build Redcliffe Hospital. Earlier this year we held a special plaque unveiling event with community and staff to reflect and recognise past government policies that affected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the act of stolen wages. The apology was an opportunity to commence the healing journey with Elders past and present, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community affected. Metro North Health and Redcliffe Hospital are one of the first hospital and health services within the State to acknowledge the use of stolen wages and have a permanent apology plaque placed at the front of the hospital.

As we start to wrap up 2024, I look positively to the year ahead in 2025 as we move full steam ahead towards our next phase in our health equity journey. This includes developing and launching our next health equity strategy in collaboration and co-design with our community and focus on key priorities highlighted through these discussions.

I would like to thank our Metro North Health Board and Chair, Bernard Curran, Chief Executive, Adjunct Professor Jackie Hanson, Chief Operating Officer, Adjunct Professor Jane Hancock, and my fellow Senior Executive colleagues for your ongoing commitment, advocacy and support as we work together to achieve equitable health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Thank you to our staff and services for all your hard work as we continue to strive towards creating a hospital and health service that is safe and supportive for our community.

Lastly, thank you to all our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners, Elders and community who continue to walk alongside us on our journey towards health equity.

I wish you a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

**Adj. Prof. Sherry Holzapfel**

Executive Director,  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Health

# A word from Metro North Health Chief Executive



As we approach the end of another busy year in Metro North Health, I would like to reflect on our recent successes in continuing to support improved outcomes and health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Last month, we held our largest ever Health Equity Showcase, bringing together staff, partners, consumers and community to continue important discussions about our journey towards Health Equity. This was a unique opportunity to listen and share ideas in a meaningful way and gain greater understanding of how we can work together to co-create a more culturally responsive health service for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

It was also a chance to highlight the great work we are doing across Metro North to help Close the Gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Deadly Feet program was one of a number initiatives recently recognised at our annual Metro North Staff Excellence Awards along with Strong Start to Life program, and the improvement in detection and management of hearing loss in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Adults.

Further to this, Professor Peter Hopkins and Archana Mishra from the Metro North Heart Lung Stream recently received an Australasian College of Health Service Management Award, in the Leadership in Service Delivery category. Specifically this duo were recognised for their work in taking care outside the hospital setting, with a particular focus on the HOPE and UROC clinics.

We know both of these models of care bring specialist clinics closer to home for some of our patients, within their communities, and have been well-received.

The Deadly Start Traineeship program continued to go from strength to strength with 36 trainees recently graduating as part of the 2023/24 cohort after 18 months of Tafe study, on the job experienced as well as their normal high school work. This is a wonderful initiative giving many young people a great kick start in their career, and we look forward to supporting more trainees next year.

As part of our current Metro North Health Equity Strategy, we invested in the delivery of Virtual Courageous Conversations: The Experience™ training for our staff to explore unconscious bias and various forms of racism. I participated in the training and walked away with many practical tools to talk about race, intentionally and effectively. The tools help to create a space that is authentic, safe, and generative for conversations about race that are insightful and compassionate.

Next year, I'm excited to focus on the development of the next phase of the Health Equity journey, with the co-design and co-development of the 2025-2028 strategy to be launched by July 2025.

It's important we keep working with our community, keep listening and keep consulting so we can continue to build equitable, responsive and sustainable health services for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now and into the future.

Kind regards,

**Adj. Prof. Jackie Hanson**  
Chief Executive,  
Metro North Health



# New Redcliffe Hospital Ngarrama Maternity practice model thanks to Community!

Ngarrama Health Worker Angel Sellars, pictured along side Ngarrama consumer Jessyka Vernon and her son Jarlee.



Expectant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and women pregnant with an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander baby accessing Redcliffe Hospital will soon have the choice of a continuity of care model across the antenatal, birthing, and postnatal period.

The new model, to be introduced in early 2025, will provide a continuity of care Midwifery Group Practice model covering the antenatal, birthing, and postnatal journey, initiated through the Growing Deadly Families Strategy funding of \$4.1 million for a period of 5 years.

Strong Start to Life Clinical Nurse Consultant and proud Mununjali woman, Tara Denaro and the Strong Start to Life team, have advocated for the model to be introduced in line with the successful Ngarrama programs at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Caboolture Hospital.

"The initiative was in response to overwhelming community feedback that Ngarrama Redcliffe needed to provide continuity of carer across the whole pregnancy, birthing and postnatal period and that more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be leading and working in the program.

"Continuity of care means that families have their care provided by the same person and team making it easier to build trust and understanding. This type of care has shown improved outcomes for women and their infants, including infants being born closer to their due date and at a healthy weight.

"We are really excited to be receiving Growing Deadly Families funding and to see Redcliffe Ngarrama expand to offer services in line with our other Ngarrama services," Tara said.

Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Executive Director, Sherry Holzapfel, said the program will be better able to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student and graduate midwives to work in programs like Ngarrama.

"By increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in the program, Ngarrama will be able to build better relationships with community programs and supports so that Ngarrama can offer a holistic service that includes and respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being and doing.

"We will be welcoming four Midwives, another Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker, and administration worker to the team. We encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply for the roles once the recruitment begins in the coming months," Sherry said.

Ngarrama Redcliffe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker, Angel Sellars said community have shared great enthusiasm for the model.

"Having a dedicated team to walk beside our families in their journey is going to be amazing. One of our mums told me 'It would be great having Ngarrama at my birth, with Ngarrama knowing my birth plan and being able to feel secure and safe.'"

Ngarrama is a free antenatal, birthing, and postnatal service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who choose to birth at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Caboolture, and Redcliffe Hospitals. Any woman who is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander or any woman whose baby is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander can use the service.

Consumers are also encouraged to join the Ngarrama program to share their experiences and to empower other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and families accessing the service. Contact the Strong Start to Life team on how to become involved or for further information - [a tsilt\\_strong\\_start\\_to\\_life@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:tsilt_strong_start_to_life@health.qld.gov.au)



# 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 and outpatient prescriptions, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people seen by a Metro North Health service.

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

**NOW  
INCLUDES  
OUTPATIENT  
MEDICATIONS**

## 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.



If you decided to opt-in, your medication prescription can be taken to a Metro North Health pharmacy, where your medication is supplied with no out of pocket cost.



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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*Metro North Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff enjoying Women's Cultural Gathering Day.*

## Creating Connections through Culture

Metro North Health is dedicated to creating a wellbeing strategy that is shaped, designed, and implemented by our staff, honouring the diversity and important heritage protocols for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees.

To foster connections, build relationships, and remain connected to culture, each year the Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team invite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members to take part in an annual Cultural Gathering Day for women and men.

These events create a safe space for cultural engagement, education, and networking for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff. The goal is to support and strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff while fostering a culturally safe environment for connection, collaboration, and sharing of culture.

This year, a total of 28 staff attended a special women's gathering in Mooloolaba. The gathering included a 2-hour river cruise with Saltwater Eco Tours on the peaceful waterways in Mooloolaba on Kabi Kabi Country, aboard heritage-listed vessel, Spray of the Coral Coast.

During the 2-hour river cruise, staff had the opportunity to connect with other staff members from across Metro North Health, enjoy some delicious native foods, and learn about the Mooloolaba waterways from a cultural perspective led by tour guide Aunty Bridgette Chilli, with a focus on history, ecology, and sustainability.

Positive feedback received from staff indicates that the gatherings are valued, and are much needed to support staff, especially new staff, to feel culturally safe and comfortable when starting their journey with Metro North Health.

“More frequent gatherings than yearly would be amazing, but I enjoyed the day and very grateful of being included and having the opportunity to attend, especially being a new employee, was great to meet other women in our hubs!” said Lesharne Taylor, Administration Officer, Women's Business Shared Pathway.

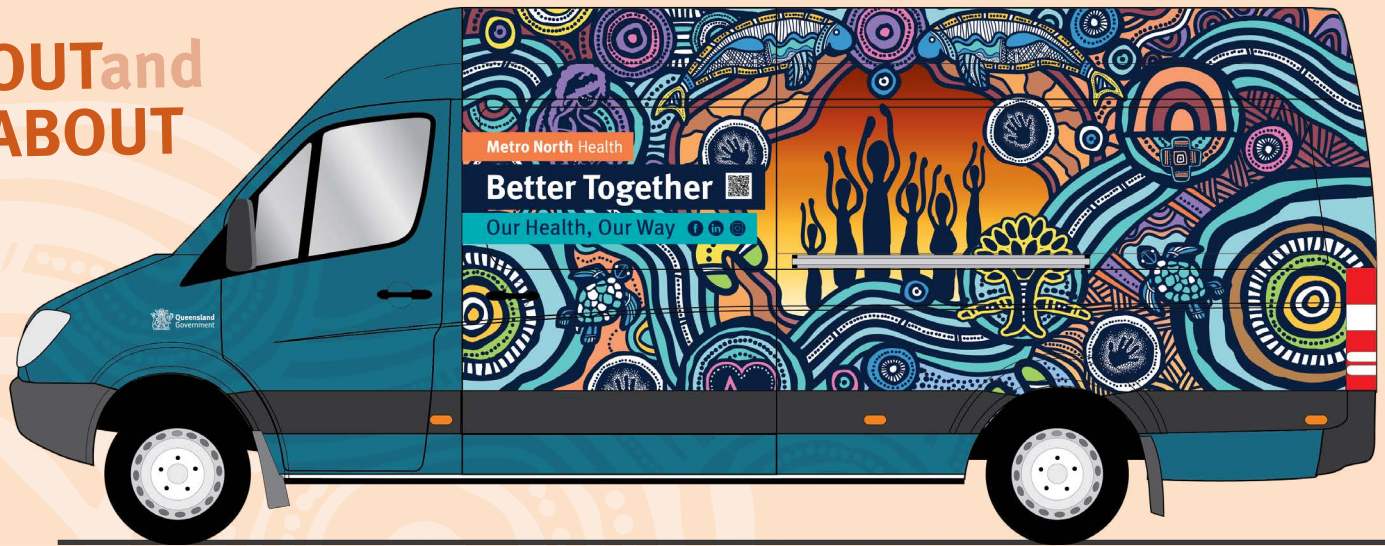
The cultural gatherings held each year offer an exciting opportunity for Metro North Health staff to step away from their desks and ground themselves in culture. The gatherings have proven effective in boosting staff morale, increasing cultural safety, and creating a safe space for women and men to connect with one another and build new relationships to support them in their role.

A men's cultural gathering day will be held in early 2025.





# OUTand ABOUT



## Better Together Health Van out and about in 2024

Throughout 2024 the Better Together Health Van (BTHV) travelled around Brisbane Northside and broader to connect in with all ages, providing opportunistic screening and important health information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families across a variety of community events and outreach clinics.

The BTHV is supported by a Content and Engagement Officer who works in partnership with services across Metro North Health and community organisations to culturally connect with community and provide engagement assistance to build relationships.

### January 2024

- Kurbingui Back to School event

### March 2024

- Deadly Feet and Diabetes Australia Cherbourg and Kilcoy clinics

### June 2024

- Kurbingui Elders and Community attended a pre-screening and promotional day for the Deadly Feet, HOPE and UROC teams
- Jabiru Family Community Day at Fitzgibbon Hidden World Playground
- Kids Cultural Festival at Yourtown in Deception Bay

### July 2024

- Northside NAIDOC at Koobara Kindy at Zillmere
- Buranga Widjung Justice Group held a NAIDOC day at Caboolture Town Square
- Bray Park High School NAIDOC Day
- 

### August 2024

- Koobara Kindergarten Zillmere screening days with the Deadly Smiles Program, Brisbane North PHN, Community and Oral Health and the Strong Start to Life team
- Satellite Hospital teams meeting local community at Valleys North Leagues Indigenous Rounds Football Day
- Deadly Feet program visits Cherbourg Community
- Kilcoy Hospital opportunistic screening with the Deadly Feet Program

### September 2024

- Southeast QLD Health Expo Career and Health Expo Junior Murri Carnival at South Pine Sports Complex
- Wondai Markets at Cherbourg with the Deadly Feet Program

### October 2024

- Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute Community Forum and Sistas Shawl presentation
- Koobara Kindy and Deadly Smiles Program opportunistic screening

### November 2024

- Deadly Feet homeless opportunistic screening clinics

### December 2024

- Deadly Feet Clinic in Cherbourg







## Murri Movember

*Tinus Dorante from Balamen Wellness giving community member a haircut at Murri Movember event.*

Community recently joined together in a show of solidarity to support men's health awareness in a Movember Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Men's Health Gathering.

Murri Movember, hosted by the Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team, was held on Brisbane's Northside in Zillmere. In partnership with local community and government organisations, the event aimed to provide a safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait men and their families to connect and yarn about men's health focusing on care for their physical, social, emotional and mental wellbeing.

Movember, held during the month of November, is a leading initiative changing the face of men's health.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men have one of the lowest life expectancy rates in Australia. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020-2022 report, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men have a life expectancy average of 71.9 years as opposed 80.6 years for Non-Indigenous males.

Through the Murri Movember event, Metro North Health hopes to shed light and awareness on men's health issues with community in a place where attendees are encouraged to yarn with their own peers and health professionals.

During the event, men and families had access to health promotion and information stalls including Mental Health, Domestic and Family Violence, Palliative Care, heart, lung and kidney health, oral health, diabetes, cancer and lots more. Foot screening and eye and hearing testing were also available for attendees.





# OUTandABOUT



## Culturally sensitive endoscopy pathway piloted at STARS

A/Director of Gastroenterology Enoka Gonsalkorala and Rebecca Clatworthy CNC Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Services.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more heavily impacted by colorectal cancer compared to non-Indigenous Australians and are less likely to participate in colorectal cancer screening program leading to late stages of diagnosis and poorer outcomes and survival rates.

The participation rate for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program is only 35% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people compared to 45% for non-Indigenous Australians.

To address these disparities the Gastroenterology Department at the Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS) recently piloted an endoscopy pathway specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, the first of its kind for Metro North Health.

Acting Director Gastroenterology, Enoka Gonsalkorala explains the initiative came about from clinicians wanting to make a real difference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healthcare.

“We hope that having dedicated pre-assessment clinics and men’s business and women’s business endoscopy procedure lists will not only provide culturally sensitive care, but importantly improve attendance at endoscopy appointments,” Enoka said.

“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people often feel more comfortable talking to someone of the same gender when it comes to health matters.

“In preparation many of our staff have also undergone additional cultural awareness training.”

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer, Lyn Bell was on hand on the day to talk to patients and give them a thank-you gift.

“The feedback from patients was very positive. From the moment a patient checked in at reception to post procedure, each person was treated with respect and dignity. All the staff worked together as a team to alleviate any concerns the patients may have had,” Lyn said.

“Patients were also given an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander macrame key chain which was made by a member of the public to celebrate this pilot initiative.”

Patient Gary was very impressed by the new pathway.

“Lyn called me about the appointment. Having someone from my mob contact me was very welcomingly,” Gary said.

“I think having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander endoscopy lists will make a real difference in getting people in here initially.

*“I am really proud that this service is in Brisbane.”*

Following the pilot, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific endoscopy lists will be held on a permanent basis, starting in January 2025.

The new pathway is a first step in a broader effort to partner with community-based primary health networks to improve colorectal cancer screening and improve health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The initiative is an example of Metro North Health’s commitment to drive health equity by increasing access to health care that is culturally safe and responsive, as detailed in Metro North’s Health Equity Strategy 2022-2025.





## Celebrating Deadly Start's Graduates of 2024

School-based trainees celebrating end of Deadly Start Traineeship.

Commencing their Deadly Start Traineeship in 2023, 36 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander year 12 students recently celebrated their successful completion of the 18-month school-based traineeship in a special graduation ceremony held in Herston.

Since embarking on their traineeship journey, the students have had an opportunity to gain 375 hours of paid workplace experience in Metro North Health hospitals and health services while completing their certificate II and III qualifications. The trainees were able to undertake placements within various streams across the organisation including nursing, administration, dental, patient support services and allied health.

During the course of their traineeship, students gained invaluable skills and experience that will provide them with a head start in their career journey and assist in their pursuit of further study if they decide down this path.

In partnership with Registered Training Organisation Connect 'n' Grow and employment and apprenticeship support services MAS National, the Deadly Start Program continues to nurture and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students for future opportunities within the healthcare sector and broader.

*“The Deadly Start Program is an amazing initiative and a great example of how Metro North is working towards building and strengthening our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce through training, employment, and developing connections with the community. This program recognises that we need to build reframed relationships that acknowledge, embrace, and celebrate the richness of culture and community.*

*We want to see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff at every level and profession of the organisation, creating a place where our people feel safe and supported to come to and seek healthcare,”*

said Sherry Holzapfel, Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

Among the graduating cohort is the North Coast regions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year and School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year, Charlotte Ellis. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman, hailing from the Wakka Wakka people located in the Eidsvold area, and Kirri (Hammond) and Iama (Yam) Islands in the Torres Strait, Charlotte has completed the Deadly Start Program with a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance, gaining her Assistant in Nursing qualification at Caboolture Hospital.

Upon completion of the program, all graduates are offered ongoing employment through Metro North Health as a commitment made by the Board and Chief Executive. From the 23 Deadly Start trainees to graduate in 2023, 14 are currently employed in Metro North Health.

Congratulations to the 2024 Deadly Start Graduating cohort for all your hard work and achievements, and best wishes on your future journey.

The Deadly Start Program are now accepting applications for 2025 student placements. To find out more about the program visit: <https://connectngrow.edu.au/deadly-start-traineeship>





## Nujum Jawa Crisis Stabilisation Unit at The Prince Charles Hospital opens

*Local Aboriginal Elders and Metro North Health Aboriginal Mental Health Workers pictured at the Nujum Jawa Opening Ceremony.*

In September, Elders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, representatives from the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, and hospital and mental health staff attended a Smoking Ceremony performed by Uncle Allan at the Community Open Day, to hear about the model of service and take a tour of the newly opened Nujum Jawa Crisis Stabilisation Unit.

Mental health crisis touches the lives of many families and communities. The new short-stay mental healthcare unit at The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) provides faster and more appropriate care for people experiencing a mental health crisis in a comfortable and safe setting.

The Nujum Jawa Crisis Stabilisation Unit, located next to the hospital's emergency department, runs 24/7 so people can receive specialised and intensive mental health crisis care in a place that feels more culturally safe than the emergency department.

Aunty Rosemary Hill was one of the attendees and shared the importance of the facility for her family.

"I have supported and advocated for my family for so long at this Emergency Department and I have lost family, hopefully this place gives them a chance," said Aunty Rosemary.

Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Sherry Holzapfel, said that this important service is much needed within our community and this is a key part of Metro North's journey to improve health equity outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"I am so pleased of the co-design and core principals of this service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This will be a safe space for community and their families seeking mental health crisis care in a less restrictive environment."

The team at Nujum Jawa is made up of approximately 60 multidisciplinary staff, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health workers, medical, nursing, allied health professionals, and a lived experience workforce to provide specialised care.

Metro North Mental Health's inaugural Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Penny Dale, said it is important to provide people in mental health crisis with a culturally safe, supportive, and welcoming environment.

"Emergency departments can be busy, noisy places at times and can be overwhelming for people in mental health distress," said Penny.

"By having a responsive mental health service means it is more likely that people will seek the help they need sooner and reduce the risk of harm, and the Nujum Jawa Crisis Stabilisation Unit will help us to do that.

"The interior has been designed to look less clinical and the model of care was developed after yarning with consumers, staff, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, and also reflects the needs of those with a lived experience of mental illness to better support people in crisis.



“The short-stay unit and lounge space has been designed so family members, carers and support people can also be there.

“The connection to culture in mental health care settings is important to help promote healing and wellbeing,” said Penny.

Natural landscapes and culturally significant artwork are featured throughout the unit to create a welcoming and inclusive space for all who enter the service. The use of landscapes honours and respects connection to culture, the land, waterway and sea for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as being integral to health, wellbeing and belonging.

The Golden Wattle, known as dilgur, featured throughout the facility, symbolises unity, resilience and strength and has significance for Aboriginal people as it was used to create hunting tools, musical instruments, as well as medicine.

The \$14 million unit is part of the Queensland Government Better Care Together funding.

For more information about this referral service visit <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/tpch/healthcare-services/mental-health/csu>

## Nujum Jawa meaning

The name, Nujum Jawa (pronounced: Ujum Jarwa) Crisis Stabilisation Unit, was chosen in collaboration with Traditional Owners, Elders, consumers, carers, community members, and staff, and reflects the stories heard during community engagement.

Nujum meaning Spirit, reflects the deep spiritual and interconnected beliefs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, emphasising the unity of all living things and their connection to land, sea, waterways, and ancestors. Jawa,” translating to “Tell, Talk, Say,” pays homage to the rich oral traditions and storytelling heritage intrinsic to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A Turrbal Traditional Owner kindly gave permission for language to be used.



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages and Interpreter Services expanded

Aleacha Hopkins, Innovation Officer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team supports new Language Service initiative.



Metro North Health provides language services for patients and their families in a broad range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Many patients travel from rural and remote communities to access care at The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and The Prince Charles Hospital, often requiring the support of an escort on their health care journey.

Metro North Health is proud to have recently onboarded 25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Aleacha Hopkins, Innovation Officer for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team talks about how important this service is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

*“Interpreters play a vital role in bridging communication gaps and ensuring patients can fully express their needs and understand their care.*

*By providing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, we honour the voices of our communities, helping them feel heard, respected, and valued in our hospitals,”*

said Aleacha.

Delivered through Metro North Language Services (MNLS) Provider, 2M Language Services, the languages now available are:

1. Alyawarr
2. Anindilyakwa
3. Anmatyerr
4. Burarra
5. East Side Kriol
6. Eastern/Central Arrernte
7. Gurindji
8. Iwaidja
9. Kunwinjku
10. Pintupi-Luritja
11. Maung
12. Modern Tiwi
13. Murrinh-Patha
14. Ndjebbana
15. Ngaatjatjarra
16. Ngan'gikurrunggurr
17. Nunggubuyu (Wubuy)
18. Pitjantjatjara
19. Warlpiri

20. Warumungu
21. West Side Kriol
22. Western Arrarnta
23. Wumpurrarni English
24. Yanunytjatjara
25. Yolngu Matha

All interpreters are native speakers, ensuring authenticity and quality in all communications.

If you would like to request an interpreter when you are in hospital or planning to come to a Metro North Health facility, staff can easily book language services through the standard Metro North interpreter booking process or phone: (07) 3647 2000.



# My healthcare rights

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the right to:



## Access

- Healthcare services and treatment that meets your needs
- You and your family have the right to get healthcare that meets your/their needs

## Safety

- You and your family have the right to get safe and high quality healthcare
- Care in a space that is culturally safe and respectful

## Respect

- You and your family have the right to get respect when using a health service
- Your Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander culture and identity is recognised and respected

## Partnership

- You and your family have the right to yarn and be involved in your/their own healthcare
- Family is great support, and if you wish, make sure you include family in on the yarn with healthcare providers
- You have the right to choose who you want involved in your care planning

## Information

- You have the right to get information about your health to make informed decisions and give consent
- Get information about your health. This includes cost, wait times and services
- If you don't understand any information, make sure you ask for help so the information you are getting about your health is clear and easy to understand
- Get as much information before you give consent or say yes to any treatment, test or procedure
- You must be informed about every aspect of the healthcare that is being provided to you, for e.g. what is involved in a procedure or test, what happens after, what is done to ensure your safety and importantly be told if something goes wrong with your healthcare

## Privacy

- Healthcare staff must respect you and your family's privacy
- Healthcare staff must keep your information safe and confidential

## Give Feedback

- You and your family have the right to give feedback
- This can be a complaint or a compliment
- Healthcare staff must listen to what you have said and address your concerns in a respectful, open and timely way
- Feedback from you and your family helps to make the healthcare better for other families in our community. We all work better together to keep ourselves, our family and our community all healthy and deadly



If you need help, ask to speak to the Indigenous Health Liaison Officer.

This resource was adapted from the second edition of the Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights.

These rights apply to all people in all places where health care is provided in Australia. The Charter describes what you, or someone you care for, can expect when receiving health care.

For more information: [safetyandquality.gov.au/your-rights](https://safetyandquality.gov.au/your-rights)

Adapted from The Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights, developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC). ACSQHC: Sydney 2019.



Supported by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership team.

Metro North  
Health



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# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **Healthy Ageing Clinic** (HAC)

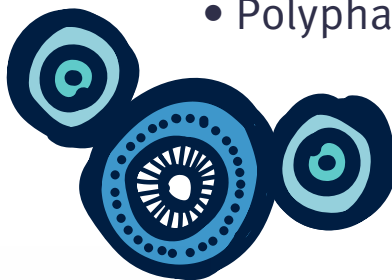
**The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healthy Ageing Clinic (HAC) provides specialist geriatrician services on Brisbane Northside for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 50 years of age.**

The clinics are delivered at Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (MATSICHS) in collaboration with Metro North Health.

HAC provides specialised care in a culturally safe environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander older persons with chronic or complex conditions relating to ageing, frailty, disability, and cognitive problems.

## This includes:

- Cognitive and functional assessment
- Restorative care assessment
- Comprehensive geriatric assessment
- Dementia diagnosis and management
- Falls risk assessment and management
- Polypharmacy



Moreton  
**ATSICHS**

**Metro North  
Health**



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





## Who can access the service

- Patients 50 years of age and older who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Immediate family members (even if the immediate family member does not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander) defined as spouse, partner, sibling, parent or child of someone of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background.

## How to access this service

Access to HAC can be by a referral from your GP through to a Metro North Hospital and Health Geriatric Service.

HAC clinics available every Tuesday from 9am – 4.30pm.

For further information contact Caboolture Satellite Hospital on (07) 5433 7555.

## Clinic locations

Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (MATSICHS)

MATSICHS Caboolture  
5 James Street, Caboolture  
Phone: (07) 5428 5855.

## Celebrating 10 Years of Talk-About



The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team's leading publication - Talk-About Newsletter – is celebrating 10 years of keeping community up to date with the latest health initiatives across Metro North Health.

The first edition was published in late 2014 and looks very different to the 2024 edition. The newsletter was initially focused on Program Manager updates, out and about stories, language sharing, news articles and healthy recipes.

Over the 10 years, the newsletter has changed in the branding, style, and focus. But one thing remains is the commitment to share patient stories, a focus on the deadly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce and to promote upcoming events.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team, Communications and Planning Manager, Renee Simon, was the founding editor of the publication and said the newsletter was the basis for creating an extensive communications strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

“We noticed a need beyond the traditional communication platforms at Metro North Health to create a newsletter that focused on the voices of staff and community.

“This has now grown to other platforms such as our Better Together – Our Health, Our Way – social media platforms and websites.”

Renee said they have advocated a long time for Talk-About to remain a lengthy newsletter providing community members and key stakeholders the opportunity to learn about the programs that impact them.

“Our feedback has always been from community that they love sitting and reading Talk-About with a warm cuppa and learning about our health updates but also staff they connect with when accessing our services.

“We are proud to have shared so many patient stories that have enacted positive system changes across Metro North Health and the State. The stories have been used to train non-Indigenous staff on cultural protocols, to advocate for funding initiatives and as a main reporting mechanism to key stakeholders.”

One thing that remains 10 years on is that Talk-About is here to stay and will still be printed in hard copies and posted in the mail to community members. Talk-About is also available within key touch points of Metro North Health such as the Indigenous Hospital Liaison offices for patients to enjoy.

To be added to the Talk-About Newsletter email or mailing list email the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team at [A\\_TSILT\\_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:A_TSILT_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au).

Visit previous editions of the Talk-About Newsletter and see how it has changed over the years: <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/better-together-van/talk-about-newsletter>

*“This is one of the best constructed, informative newsletters I have seen – I also love the way you show your interaction with patients, community, and stakeholders – I think the Chief Officer First Nations Office should make it mandatory for all districts within the state to share newsletters modelling of yours. Well done, the 15 Liaison Officers who I lead love it.”*

Michael Illin, Team Leader - Indigenous Liaison Unit, The Townsville University Hospital.



# First Edition of Talk About – December 2014 / January 2015 Edition.

Metro North Hospital and Health Service  
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Unit Newsletter



December 2014 / January 2015 edition

## TALK-About

### DIRECTOR MESSAGE

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit have been able to ensure credible frontline services that meet the needs of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. During the last year the staff within the unit have successfully commenced implementation of the Metro North Hospital and Health Service, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategic Plan 2013-18.

With the extension of our services to cater for the most vulnerable, we were able to implement a 7-day a week Indigenous Hospital Liaison Service and Support officers to assist in the Patient Journey of our Rural and Remote Consumers.

I am particularly proud of our collaboration and partnership with the Institute of Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) and Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local. It has been rewarding to see that the gap in the patient journey between our Metro North Tertiary facilities to Primary Health Care providers through the IUIH Connect Service has decreased. These partnerships clearly demonstrate that with full collaboration

and mutual respect, Government can work in a productive and effective manner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisations.

2015 will be an exciting time for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit as we continue to strive for improved culturally and socially appropriate health care for our Indigenous peoples. Our initiatives that are imbedded in our Tertiary facilities will enable greater cultural capability, and reassurance to the consumers that their needs and care is our absolute priority.

In March 2015 we will also see the development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services within the Pine Rivers Community Health Centre. Three teams will be moving into this facility - the Acute and Primary Care Team, Ngarrama Intensive Home Visiting Team and the Indigenous Sexual Health Team. This service will be utilised as a drop in centre and will be working continuously with Children's Health Queensland and the Strathpine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service.

Improvement to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health cannot be achieved by the unit alone. There is a saying that goes "it takes a village to raise a child". This could be said for the work that needs to be done to improve the health of our first nation peoples "it takes a diverse

range of people and services to raise the health outcome of our Indigenous people".

Working within Metro North Hospital and Health Service has been highly rewarding as all services are committed to improving health outcomes. This will continue into the future and the people will continue to receive the best health care possible.

As we now move into the holiday season I would like to congratulate all staff within the unit and MNHHS on the great work that has been done. Enjoy the festive season and stay safe.

Angela Scotney, Director  
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Unit



Great state. Great opportunity.





# IN FOCUS



## Ngarrama Yarns



Sisters Jessyka and Jayde connecting with other mums at the Deception Bay Yarns.

Metro North Health have been providing continuity of maternity care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families for over 10 years.

Ngarrama, meaning Guardian Birth Spirit, is a maternity service dedicated to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families choosing to birth at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Caboolture Hospital and Redcliffe Hospital.

As part of the service, Metro North Health Strong Start to Life project team and Ngarrama Maternity Services have joined together to run antenatal and postnatal yarning sessions to provide wrap around support for families, talking about all thing's pregnancy, birthing and babies.

"Ngarrama Yarns provides a culturally safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and families to meet with staff and other families to ask questions and seek support related to their pregnancy, birthing, and parenting journey.

"The yarns have evolved over time in response to feedback from families, that they wanted a more relaxed and flexible way of receiving health education that meet their specific needs. They wanted real stories that not only include education, but also embeds culture where there is no judgement, and everyone is an expert in their own lives. They wanted a space where women and families could build social connections and friendships," said Tara Denaro, Clinical Nurse Consultant of Strong Start to Life team.

In response to feedback received, the sessions address topics that are requested by the families in an open forum where everyone can provide support to one another. Ngarrama Yarns offers women and families a place to come and have a cuppa and a snack while doing weaving, painting rocks or onesies and making jewellery, while yarning similar to traditional ways.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers, Midwives, Child Health Nurses and Social Workers attend to provide insight and guidance to families with other supports, such as dietetics and physiotherapy, attending when needed.

The yarning sessions, which are held once a fortnight during school terms in Nundah and Deception Bay, have provided a platform for new mothers and families to form special bonds and ongoing friendships.

"Several women have made friendships and connections and have gone on to create mothers' groups outside the yarns. Some women who had limited family support have found new friends and been welcomed into their families. There has been an increase in families engaging with Child Health in the yarns that include our Child Health Nurse. Overall, families report that they have enjoyed the sessions with the opportunity to yarn about many topics, and to feel like they are being heard and that they are not alone in their experiences.

"Anyone can attend the yarns, whether they are currently pregnant or have had their baby. Partners and other support people are also welcome, as are children. We do recognise that we discuss Women's Business and we request families to let us know if it makes them uncomfortable, if so we will make alternative arrangement for them. We are also happy for community Elders to join as well and encourage this so that our new families can learn from their experiences," Tara said.

For more information about the Ngarrama Yarns sessions and how to access, families can contact their Ngarrama Health Worker or Midwife.

### Contact us

#### Ngarrama Maternity Services:

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital: **0417 419 302**

Redcliffe Hospital: **0455 087 263**

Caboolture Hospital: **0447 307 411**





## Metro North Welcomes First Identified Mental Health Director



Metro North Health has welcomed the first Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health within the organisation.

Through high level cultural leadership and guidance, Aboriginal woman Penny Dale will lead the new role and drive enhancement initiatives relating to the improvement of social and emotional wellbeing, and mental health and alcohol and other drugs outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the hospital and health service.

“My vision is that Metro North Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Services are accessible, responsive and safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and where cultural values, strengths and differences are recognised. A focus is to work with consumers/patients, families, Elders and community to build culturally grounded, safe, and responsive mental health and alcohol and other drugs systems for safe and high-quality care, supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional and mental health wellbeing journeys,” Penny said.

Penny has extensive experience in health, mental health and social justice fields at the local, statewide and national level with a passion for influencing social justice health outcomes and improving equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Since commencing in September, Penny has found the role to be exciting and challenging all at once, with a genuine opportunity to represent her community and provide community with a voice in the health sector. While in the role Penny will continue to advocate and ensure community are involved in the co-design and collaboration of services, and provide an opportunity to have a say in how healthcare is delivered.

Another key challenge Penny is eager to address is the recruitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into the workforce. Metro North Mental Health is working hard at developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander positions to deliver sustainable, culturally safe and responsive healthcare services.

*“I feel a weight of responsibility to get this right and to ensure we are directing funding and delivering culturally safe services where they are needed most.*

*“I see this role as a big challenge but an even greater opportunity,”*

Penny said.

Metro North Mental Health Leadership value and respect the need to improve mental health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The health service has a key focus and commitment on improving mental health and wellbeing, and equity of health outcomes.

“The mental health service is a large dynamic place with a number of really innovative work that is being co-designed and co-created with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This includes authentic yarning groups that are culturally safe for truth telling, ensuring that the voice of community is valued. There is a strong focus on embedding connection to culture in mental health care settings and services to promote healing and wellbeing.

“The opening of The Prince Charles Hospital Nujum Jawa Crisis Stabilisation Unit is such an exciting first for Metro North Mental Health. The service was informed and designed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples including the naming of the unit in traditional local language. The new service provides a safe place at a time of crisis. A responsive mental health service that is culturally safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples means it is more likely that people will seek the help they need sooner and reduce the risk of harm, and the Nujum Jawa Crisis Stabilisation Unit will help us to do that,” shared Penny.



## Vision 2025: Our Path Forward

The year ahead will focus on the development of the next phase of the health equity journey, with the co-design and co-development of the 2025 – 2028 strategy to be launched by July 2025.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team will continue to support and guide the implementation plans across Metro North Health and lead the co-design efforts with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and partnership organisations.

The key priorities and actions for the year ahead include, but not limited to:

- Develop and implement community engagement and co-design initiatives in collaboration to ensure culturally appropriate programs and projects meet the diverse needs of our community.
- Develop clear policies and protocols for addressing cultural safety concerns within healthcare facilities, including mechanisms for reporting, and addressing instances of racism, discrimination or bias.

- Develop a Metro North Health anti-racism campaign.
- Influence the development of service model of care to address prisoner healthcare, that respects and honours the cultural identities and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners.
- Promote and integrate culturally appropriate screening tools, referral pathways, and community linkages in priority areas, ensuring accessibility for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals.
- Develop targeted outreach programs for hard-to-reach communities via the Better Together Health Van.
- Co-design and develop a training/orientation package and support guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumer representatives.

- Participate in advocacy efforts and collaborative partnerships to negotiate a state-wide agreement that specifically enables the waiver of Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) gap payments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals accessing healthcare services.
- Support the successful implementation of projects as part of the 2024-2025 Our Journey Towards Health Equity Funding Program.
- Launch of the Ngarrama Redcliffe Hospital program to provide continuity of care Midwifery Group Practice model covering the antenatal, birthing, and postnatal journey, initiated through the Growing Deadly Families Strategy funding.

If you have any feedback, requests for support or would like to collaborate on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health program, please contact our team on [ATSILT\\_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:ATSILT_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au)



# Consider the **best** **care option for you**



**Pharmacy**



**GP**



**Urgent Care Clinic**



**Minor Injury  
and Illness  
Clinic**



**Queensland Virtual  
Hospital Virtual  
Emergency Care Service**



**Emergency  
Department**



Visit the healthdirect Symptom Checker to get the recommended care for your health concern.



In an emergency, always call **Triple Zero (000)**



**Queensland  
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# Metro North Health 2024 key event calendar highlights

**13 February**  
Redcliffe Hospital  
Apology Day Event



**15 March**  
Metro North Health Close  
the Gap Day morning-tea



**28 March**  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Staff Wellness Expo



**17 April**  
Health Equity Community  
Consultation – Session 1



**27 May – 3 JUNE**  
Reconciliation Week at  
Metro North Health



**31 May**  
Bribie Island  
Satellite Hospital  
(Yarun) Co-naming  
Unveiling and  
Elders Tour



**30 May**  
Heart Outreach Program for Health  
Equity (HOPE) and Institute for Urban  
Indigenous Health (UIIH) Clinic  
Launch





**7 June**  
Mabo Day Event Celebration



**27 June**  
Health Equity Showcase – Session 1



**1 July**  
Deadly Start Welcome Day



**5 July**  
Buranga Widjung NAIDOC Flag Raising Ceremony and Community Event



**6 July**  
Mindle Bygul NAIDOC Family Fun Day



**4 July**  
Northside NAIDOC Family Fun Day



**1 July**  
Metro North Health NAIDOC Elders Luncheon



**7 – 14 July**  
NAIDOC Week at Metro North Health



**9 September**  
New TPCH Crisis Stabilisation Unit Smoking Ceremony and Cultural Event



**30 October**  
Women's Cultural Gathering Day



**11 September**  
Health Equity Community Consultation – Session 2



**8 November**  
Deadly Start School Based Traineeship Graduation

**14 November**  
Murri Movermen Men's Health Gathering

**28 November**  
Health Equity Showcase – Session 2







**STAY STRONGER**

**LIVE LONGER**

**DO YOUR BOWEL  
SCREEN TEST TODAY**

**GET IT**

People aged 50 to 74 will receive a kit in the mail.

---

**DO IT**

The test is free and will take just a few minutes at different times. So don't put it off until later – get it done.

---

**POST IT**

Return the kit in the mail using the envelope provided. You don't need stamps or to pay for postage.

---

**DONE**

The results will be sent to you and your doctor within two weeks.



Supported by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team, Metro North Hospital and Health Service



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## WORD OF THE MONTH

### “Warril”

“Warril”  
(Wor-rill) is  
Creek/River  
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 Turrbul, Yugambeh and Yugarabul.

## STAFF PROFILE



### A Day in the life of: **Gemma Morthen**

Clinical Nurse, Healthcare  
Excellence and Innovation Metro  
North Health

#### **Q1. Who is your mob and where are you from?**

My bloodline on my mother's side is Yindjibarndi, and on my father's side is Yamatji. My grandmother was stolen generation, so we sadly don't have ancestral connection. I was born in Darwin, then my family was adopted into Murrumburr Clan of Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory where I grew up in the bush.

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

I am a Clinical Nurse, working in Healthcare Excellence and Innovation (HEI) on a project directed at increasing participation in the Specialist Outpatient Department (SOPD) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

#### **Q3. Where did you work prior to starting in this role?**

Before stating in my role, I was working at Ipswich Hospital as an Emergency Department nurse.

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

I had a great Child Health Nurse when I had my babies and I wanted to be like her. Deliver patient centred care and make the patient feel safe.

#### **Q5. What has been a highlight for you in your health career?**

Being the Chair of a Cultural Safety working group has been a career highlight for me. Trying to make a difference for mob.

#### **Q6. What does achieving Health Equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people mean to you?**

Achieving Health Equity to me means, mob having access to healthcare and being made to feel valued and safe.

#### **Q7. What do you like to do outside of work?**

I love to travel and explore outdoors.



**Metro North Health**

**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.

### Follow us on social media

Follow us for information on locations, upcoming events, important health information and community stories.



@bettertogetherourhealthourway



@ourhealthourway



@better-together-our-health-our-way



If you would like more information, or to request the Better Together Health Van visits your community or event, contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team to seek availability via phone 0439 475 437 or email [Bettertogetherhealthvan@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Bettertogetherhealthvan@health.qld.gov.au)

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](mailto:A_TSIHU_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au) or phone (07) 3170 4460



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