



# Talk-About

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

October 2023

## New Caboolture Satellite Hospital opened to community



*Kabi Kabi man James Doyle performing Welcome to Country at the new Caboolture Satellite Hospital.*

The new Caboolture Satellite Hospital opened its doors to the public for the first time in August.

This new facility offers a variety of healthcare services for the local community including walk-in urgent care for common injuries and illnesses like broken bones, infections, strains and sprains, minor head injuries, minor eye issues, wounds and fevers, hospital dental including dental surgery, sleep services clinic, mental health care and an exciting new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Hub.

With the three new satellite hospitals up and running – Kallangur and Bribie Island Satellite Hospital due to open later this year and early next year - Metro North Health hope to reduce some of the pressure on local hospital emergency departments and provide healthcare quickly and closer to home.

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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 3139 3235.

### 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, Chermide Community Health Centre, 490 Hamilton Road, Chermide QLD 4032.

#### Email to:

[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

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital</b>   |                              |
| Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer  | Ph: 3646 4154 / 0428 861 888 |
| After hours  | PH 3647 4183 / 0428 861 888  |
| <b>The Prince Charles Hospital</b>   |                              |
| Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer  | Ph: 3139 5165 / 0436 690 306 |
| After Hours  | Ph: 3139 6429 / 0429 897 982 |
| <b>Redcliffe Hospital</b>  |                              |
| Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer  | Ph: 3049 6791                |
| After Hours  | Ph: 3049 9734                |
| <b>Caboolture/Kilcoy Hospital</b>  |                              |
| Indigenous Hospital Liaison Office   | Ph: 5433 8249                |
| After Hours  | Ph: 5316 5157                |
| Senior Health Worker   | Ph: 5316 5390                |
| <b>Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS):</b>                       |                              |
| Indigenous Hospital Liaison Office   | Ph: 3647 6044                |
| <b>Community Indigenous Primary Health Team</b>                                      |                              |
| Indigenous Community Health Team   | Ph: 3631 7379                |
| <b>Indigenous Sexual Health Team</b>   |                              |
| Clinical Nurse Consultant  | Ph: 3631 7379                |
| <b>Indigenous Mental Health</b>  |                              |
| Professional Lead  | Ph: 3646 2695                |
| <b>Ngarrama Maternity Services</b>   |                              |
| Caboolture   | Ph: 0439 732 970             |
| Redcliffe  | Ph: 0407 251 890             |
| Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital  | Ph: 0428 404 875             |
| <b>Forensic Mental Health Service, Indigenous Mental Health Intervention Program</b> |                              |
| Forensic Mental Health Team  | Ph: 3234 0800                |



## A word from the Executive Director



**Sherry Holzapfel**  
Executive Director,  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Health

Recently I had a much-needed short break connecting on Country at K'gari. My husband and I spent time on K'gari camping, relaxing, fishing and watching the whales from the beach. We visited my grandma's Country again on the sandy cape area which is on the tip of K'gari. The visit to sandy cape always gives me a sense of belonging, completes my wellness, and gives me the grounding and strength to continue this journey. I am very grateful that I have the opportunity to connect with my Country and continue to listen and learn from my Elders and ancestors and absorb the history and traditional ways of my country and people.

One area that I visited, the champagne pools, has a significant meaning to my mob. It is in the middle of the island on the eastern side (pictured). I have been told by my Elders, back in the day, the old people used to catch fish in the pools to feed the clan as the fish would get caught in the pools by the tide. The froth/sea spray topples over the rocks during the incoming tide hence why it looks like champagne bubbling over the rocks. If you haven't visited this area, it's a must see and a spectacular view!

The Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team in partnership with Strategy and Planning Unit recently held a couple of Health Equity workshops with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, Elders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, key staff, and Executives. During the workshops there was fantastic discussions and input from all participants, and lots of great and positive feedback and learnings on the day. I wanted to share with you all some of the feedback we received, see following page.

During these workshops we had the opportunity to listen, learn, and gain community lived experiences and feedback on providing compliments and complaints to Metro North Health services. Through this co-design collaboration we were able to gain insight and input into our health equity measures. There was amazing truth telling from our community and staff and a lot of lessons to be learnt. I have received feedback from staff telling me each time they attend one of our workshops they learn something new each time. Not only do our health equity workshops and yarning sessions provide a platform for our community's voices to be heard but it also provides a space for our staff and Executives to learn and walk alongside our community through this journey.

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# Health Equity Measures Workshop 'Message in a Coolamon'



“Great session - as an Australian/white Caucasian person, hearing of lived and other stories of our Indigenous people drives me to want to do more - in an informed way.”

“As someone who isn't Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, I have so much to learn from our colleagues and community about their experiences.”

“Important conversations. Need this to be more of. How do we help the fatigue of our community.”

“Great Yarning and listening to my Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues. Inspiring and looking forward to joining the journey. Thanks.”

“Thanks for the opportunity to co-design the measures. I really liked approach today to yarn in a group. I learnt a lot about experiences of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.”

“First workshop I've attended for Health Equity and was enjoyable. Some honest conversations had and great to see the people in culture team present.”

I am proud to see Metro North Health Directorates and Services are continuing to support the health equity agenda and working towards incorporating the Key Performance Actions outlined in our Metro North Health Equity Strategy\* within their service deliveries. Numerous co-design workshops have been held across the health service with directorate staff, Executives and community coming together to collaborate on what their service delivery could look like under the health equity agenda.

Redcliffe Hospital have been working hard towards finalising their new Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which will be launched soon.

This key action plan will outline Redcliffe Hospital's priority actions to achieving their vision for reconciliation within their hospital and health services.

Whether each of our hospitals and community health services have either already launched their own dedicated RAP or currently working on launching their RAP, this is one key milestone in achieving health equity for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

**Sherry Holzapfel**  
Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

[metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/mn-health-equity-strategy.pdf](https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/mn-health-equity-strategy.pdf)

Through the development process of the new satellite hospitals local Traditional Owner artists were engaged to create beautiful artwork telling the story of the local areas and healthcare journeys on which the facilities are located. Each hospital will display their own dedicated artwork throughout the building structure to provide a culturally welcoming environment upon entry and navigation through the facilities health services.

Each facility will have their own dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Hub. The new health hubs will provide a culturally safe space for health services to conduct assessments and improve access to care closer to home for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and their immediate family. They will be supported by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurse Navigator, Health Worker, Support Officer, and a male and female Community Engagement Officer to support Men's and Women's business.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurse Navigator service is a referral and linkage service to connect tertiary, primary and community health networks to the needs of the patient. This patient centred teamwork approach forms and develops an effective team that delivers exceptional culturally safe care to patients and community.

Other services provided at the health hub, including the Ngarrama maternal health and perinatal mental health, will connect community to an appropriate healthcare provider such as GPs, hospitals or community health centres through a referral pathway providing ease of access and support to the patient's healthcare journey.

With the opening of the new Caboolture Satellite Hospital, Metro North Health held a Community Open Day to welcome Executives, staff and local community and organisations to celebrate the big milestone of the first satellite hospital within Brisbane northside to open to the public.

During the events proceedings local Traditional Owner and artist James Doyle (pictured) performed a Welcome to Country, a Smoking Ceremony to cleanse the facility and ward off bad spirits, shared his story of the artwork and performed Traditional Dancing with his family group Muja Mundu Creations.

“The name Caboolture comes from the language words of Kabul-tur meaning place of the carpet snake. The snake winds like the Caboolture River that flows out and connects to Moreton Bay. The Moreton Bay Fig leaf, featured within the artwork, has healing

properties that have been used since time immemorial and the Sun marks the beginning of a new day.” said James Doyle, sharing the meaning behind the artwork 'Continuity and Healing', created for the Caboolture Satellite Hospital.

Local community had the opportunity to tour the new facility and view the services available including the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Hub.

With the new Kallangur Satellite Hospital due to open later this year, Metro North Health Executives and staff are excited to celebrate another successful milestone by hosting a community open day unveiling the second facility to be launched and the featured artwork by Kabi Kabi artist Brittney Bond.

For more information about the Caboolture, Bribie Island and Kallangur Satellite Hospital's visit: [www.metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/hospitals-services/satellite-hospitals](https://www.metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/hospitals-services/satellite-hospitals)



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

## A word from the Chief Executive

Metro North Health is committed to health equity and closing the gap in healthcare outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Part of this commitment is increasing our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce through initiatives like our Deadly Start Traineeship program. This valuable employment pathway program provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school students an opportunity to establish meaningful careers in health by undertaking studies and employment through Year 11 and Year 12. I am proud to share that 23 of our Deadly Start trainees successfully graduated this month, giving them a great start to their career. We wish them all the best in their future professional endeavours.

Last month, members of the Metro North executive and Board participated in a Health Equity Community Measures workshop. We joined with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, community members, and partnering organisations to discuss ways we can create change through patient and community feedback within our health service.

The workshop was a safe space to voice ideas, opinions and concerns, and an opportunity for Metro North Health to continue building relationships based on trust with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. We look forward to continuing this important work alongside our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, to explore the best avenues and options to co-design improvements together and achieve better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Last month also marked the launch of a new Deadly Feet Clinic at Moreton ATSIHCS Caboolture, a collaboration between Metro North and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health.

Deadly Feet is a multi-disciplinary service providing early assessment, risk modification, and specialist intervention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at risk of lower limb conditions associated with diabetes and/or peripheral vascular disease. The availability of this clinic will allow patients to access foot health services closer to home, providing a more patient-centred and culturally responsive health care experience.

Referrals can be made through GP Smart Referrals and no prior pathology or medical imaging are required. Alternatively, community members can self refer by phoning the Deadly Feet project team on **07 3647 1500**, emailing: **MNVOP@health.qld.gov.au** or completing the online self referral form on our website: <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/rbwh/healthcare-services/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander/deadly-feet>

It's Breast Cancer Awareness month, a good reminder for women to undergo regular screening to catch breast cancer early and start treatment. Last year Metro North, in collaboration with BreastScreen Queensland Brisbane Northside Service launched the Sistas Shawl for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women which contributes to creating a welcoming and culturally appropriate breast cancer screening service. Since the introduction of the Sistas Shawl, we have seen an increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women undergoing screening, with 534 women undergoing screening during the past year. Women over 40 can access free breast screens though BreastScreen Queensland Services and women aged 50-74 should have a screen every two years.

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

Health Equity Community Measures workshop





# 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

NEED HELP?

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



Queensland Government

## OUTandABOUT

### Celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders

In honour of this year's NAIDOC theme, 'For Our Elders', and celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and community for their continued support and valued contribution to Metro North Health and the journey towards health equity, a special Elders luncheon was held during NAIDOC Week (2-9 July) at the Victoria Park Event Centre in Brisbane.

The theme recognises the important role Elders across every generation have played and continue to play in our communities and families. They are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers, and our loved ones.

The luncheon consisted of a sit-down two course meal, canapes, networking, and entertainment which was enjoyed by 100 attendees, including Elders and community members, Metro North Health executive staff, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members, and community organisations.

Local Traditional Owner group Tribal Experiences opened the event with a Welcome to Country and didgeridoo performance, and shared knowledge of the local Turrbal culture and history of the Meanjin (Brisbane) area.

Attendees were welcomed by Sherry Holzapfel, Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health along with a presentation by Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (DSDSATSIP) Manager, Edward Monaei, who spoke about The Voice to Parliament and the Path to Treaty, as requested by Elders on the day.

Chairperson, and respected member of the Northside Elders Committee, Uncle Alex Davidson, shared some truth telling on the day, and Uncle Lance O'Chin, provided music and entertainment, which saw a few of the Elder's dust off their boots and head towards the dance floor to show the young ones how to move.

Metro North Health was honoured to host this special luncheon dedicated to our Elders, to show appreciation and gratitude for all they have done, and all they continue to do.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and Metro North Health staff enjoying the day.







Metro North Health staff with Elders at Kurbingui clinic with the Better Together Health Van.

## Out and about with the Better Together Health Van

The Metro North Health Better Together Health Van (BTHV), in partnership with Metro North Health services and local community organisations, has recently been getting out and about connecting with community.

The van provides an opportunity for Metro North Health services to deliver health promotion, outreach services and engagement activities to support the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community within the Brisbane northside.

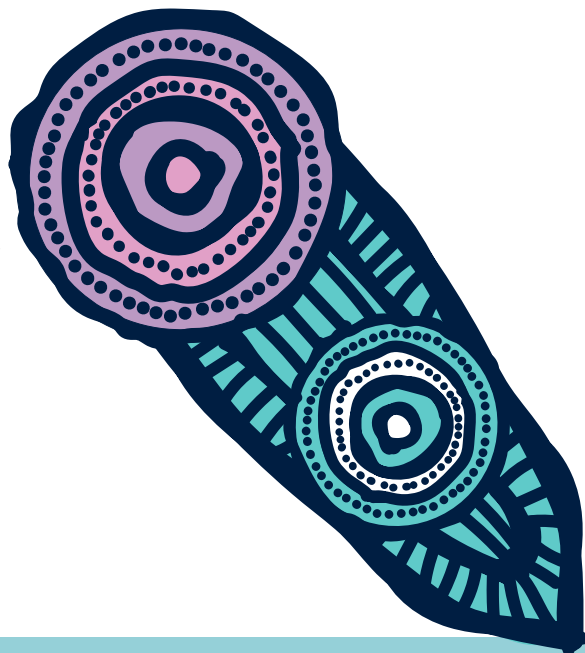
In August, during Dental Health Week (7-13 August), the BTHV and Metro North Health Deadly Smiles Oral health program visited Koobara Kindy hosting two dental health clinics handing out dental resources containing toothbrushes, floss and toothpaste for the young jarjums (children) and providing screening to check teeth and gums. Hearing Australia were also on-site providing ear checks for the young children.

Throughout the two clinic sessions, that were carefully planned in consultation with Koobara staff and family, 25 jarjums participated with Deadly Smiles and Hearing health providing an opportunity and support for referrals onto services for further follow up and investigation.

In the same week the BTHV, Deadly Smiles and Hearing Australia provided a pop-up service at Kurbingui Youth and Family Development Service, conducting screening, health checks and health education to local Elders and community members in attendance. Deadly Smiles were able to work one-on-one with attendees and map out a health plan journey to support anyone who needed additional oral health care.

To continue building and fostering relationships and engaging with local community, the Deadly Smiles and BTHV team visited Umpi Korumba Housing in Zillmere to provide the local community organisation with oral health resource packs and information on how to access oral health services for their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and families.

Early September the BTHV returned to Kurbingui, alongside Metro North public health, to provide a pop-up immunisation clinic to support people with flu vaccinations and other immunisations. The highlight at the immunisation clinic was being able to provide support to a young man and soon to-be dad in getting his immunisations up to date in time for bubs arrival, that he had been having trouble accessing prior to the pop-up clinic.



## Connecting with Community during NAIDOC

Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and health services, including the Better Together Health Van, participated as stallholders at four local Brisbane northside NAIDOC community events in a collaborative effort to provide health promotion, screening, networking opportunities and community engagement activities during NAIDOC Week 2023 (2-9 July).



Community NAIDOC

Since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019, this year was the first year Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and services were able to participate in face-to-face NAIDOC events with community. Previous years during COVID-19 the Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team hosted virtual NAIDOC events via the Better Together Health Van website and Better Together – Our Health, Our Way social media platforms, sharing educational and entertaining films created in collaboration with local community members, Elders, and organisations.

During the NAIDOC week celebrations Metro North Health attended Mindle Bygul Aboriginal Corporation NAIDOC Family Fun Day, Northside NAIDOC Community Fun Day, Buranga Widjung Justice Group NAIDOC Community Flag Raising Ceremony and Musgrave Park Family Fun Day to engage, build, support and nurture relationships with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and community organisations, and commemorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and this year's theme 'For Our Elders'.

The engagement and screening activities conducted by Metro North Health services at the local community events assisted in developing strong relationships and networking opportunities by sharing important health messaging, information, and awareness on Metro North Health services available to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and driving Metro North Health Equity Key Performance Action's.

The Better Together Health Van attended the local events in collaboration with the Deadly Feet Program, Deadly Smiles Oral Health team and diabetes team to conduct health screening and prevention activities.

Over three events the Deadly Feet team engaged with over 300 community members conducting foot health assessments and formally screening 73 community members with 11 people being referred into the Deadly Feet program for formal review.

As reflected in the Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2022 – 2025, driving change for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community means working closely and extensively with our community and Elders including building and nurturing those relationships. Local community events are a great platform to connect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and community organisations.



# OUTandABOUT



## Giving Connection on RBWH Giving Day

RBWH Health Equity committee members Vashti Beetson, Susie Toolis, Kate Houghton, Sangita Costello and Catherine Pepper pictured with new 'Giving Connection' artwork.

Each year Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Foundation celebrates the exceptional patient care and life-saving research conducted at RBWH, Queensland's largest hospital, as part of Giving Day.

The RBWH Foundation Giving Day is a 24-hour event that gives Australians the chance to say thank you to RBWH by showing gratitude and raising much-needed funds for patient care projects and life-saving research.

This year the RBWH Health Equity subcommittee who are committed to improving, increasing, and expanding access to health care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, joined together in the celebrations and fundraising initiative.

Subcommittee members Vashti Beetson, Susie Toolis, Kate Houghton, Sangita Costello and Catherine Pepper hope that by raising funding for the RBWH Foundation, they can form a partnership to support breaking down barriers to access of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Beautiful artwork titled 'Giving Connection' created by proud Wiradjuri and Gubbi Gubbi woman Vashti Beetson, with the assistance of Catherine Pepper, was on display during Giving Day celebrations with the opportunity for staff and patients to contribute towards the creation of the piece. "Giving Connection" is an artistic representation of what can be created when people come together, contribute, and connect with each other to achieve the common goal to improve patient care and further medical research.

Approximately 200 staff members and patients added their fingerprint to the bright and colourful artwork, and the subcommittee team raised around \$4,500 for the great cause.

Patients and visitors can now view the artwork proudly on display at RBWH for everyone to enjoy.

# OUTandABOUT

## Join the Sistahood and screen for your mob

October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month and a timely reminder for eligible women to take advantage of the free BreastScreen Queensland (BSQ) Program.



Proud Tharawal woman Colleen and BSQ Redcliffe clinic staff member Kate, pictured in front of the new mural.

A breast screen is recommended every two years for those aged 50 – 74. Free screening is also available for women in their 40's and those over 75 years. Regular screening and early detection remain important factors in improving survival rates for those diagnosed with breast cancer.

Breast cancer remains the most common cancer diagnosed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, however, many women are not attending for regular breast screens with screening participation rates lower for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women compared to non-Indigenous women. Reasons for this may be due to the shame and discomfort women feel when having to undress in front of a stranger, or the fear of receiving bad results.

BSQ Brisbane Northside Service introduced the Sistas Shawl initiative in October 2022, in an effort to increase the screening rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and alleviate the shame and discomfort experienced when attending for a breast screen.

The Sistas Shawl initiative has so far proven successful, with many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, such as proud Tharawal woman Colleen (pictured), expressing their gratitude for the shawl.

*"Wearing the Sistas Shawl when screening helped me to feel more comfortable, and less exposed. The Sistas Shawl gave me that little bit of extra dignity when having my breast screen done,"* said Colleen.

When attending for her recent breast screen, not only did the Sistas Shawl provide a sense of culturally safety for Colleen, but she was also pleasantly surprised to see artwork encasing one of the walls from top to bottom when she stepped into the screening room.

Colleen was one of the first few women to see the new mural on display at the BSQ Redcliffe clinic, featuring the artwork 'A Woman's Dreaming', by Aboriginal artist Sharon McAvoy.

The Sistas Shawl, along with the addition of the new mural aims to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women feel culturally safe and more comfortable during their breast screen.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who book in for a free breast screen at the Cherside, Brisbane City, Indooroopilly, Keperra, Redcliffe or North Lakes clinic will receive a free Sistas Shawl when arriving at their appointment.

To book in for an appointment, visit <https://www.breastscreen.qld.gov.au> or call 13 20 50.





# BreastScreen Queensland

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Sistas Shawl*



Get your free Sistas Shawl!

## Stay healthy and strong for your Mob

BreastScreen Queensland Brisbane Northside Service would like to invite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to book their free breast screen.

We offer breast screening to women aged 40 and over. Breast screening is most effective for women aged 50 to 74.

A Sistas Shawl will be given to women attending their breast screen, which can also be used as a privacy wrap. The Sistas Shawl aims to provide a sense of safety and comfort for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

## Brisbane Northside Locations:

- Chermside
- Brisbane City
- Indooroopilly
- Keperra
- Redcliffe
- North Lakes

# Your foot health, Closer to home



Deadly Feet is a specialist outreach service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We provide culturally safe care closer to home.

We can help you look after your feet, and help your feet stay healthy.

We can help you stay healthy if you have any of the following:

- ✓ Have any concerns about your feet
- ✓ Have sore legs when you walk
- ✓ Have diabetes
- ✓ Have kidney problems
- ✓ Smoke, or used to smoke.



## Get in touch with us for more information

For more information, have a chat with your nurse, doctor, or Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer.

You can also scan the QR code, call or email the team to see if you're eligible to take part: **(07) 3647 1500** or **MNVOP@health.qld.gov.au**



To find out more or to make an appointment call us on **13 20 50** or go to **breastscreen.qld.gov.au**



This initiative is supported by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team, Metro North Health.  
V5 Effective February 2023. Review: June 2023







Deadly Feet team with Aunty Helenor Rassip and Uncle Monty Murray at the new Caboolture MATSICHs clinic.

## Deadly Feet making steps to providing care closer to home

Since the launch in early 2023, Metro North Health Deadly Feet program have been creating change and connecting with community to provide key early intervention and outreach services within Brisbane northside.

Delivering community-based clinics in partnership with local Aboriginal Medical Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and events, the Deadly Feet program continue to offer early intervention and screening services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16 years and over diagnosed with, or at risk of foot conditions related to diabetes and/or peripheral vascular disease.

“A highlight of working with the Deadly Feet team has been the opportunity to attend local yarning circles, respite groups and community events. It’s always a good day at work when you get to leave the office to have a yarn and a laugh with the Elders and local community members. Not only are these engagements a lot of fun but they also provide our team with a chance to meet and develop relationships with people who have or at risk of foot disease but might not otherwise access our service,” said Annie Redhead, Deadly Feet Clinical Nurse Consultant.

The new specialist outreach service aimed at reducing inequity in health outcomes, providing care closer to home and improving health outcomes and quality of life for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, has engaged with hundreds of community members across the Metro North catchment. The team have attended 11 community events, yarning circles and respite groups to conduct education sessions and offer opportunistic screening while also seeing 53 patients over 7 clinics.

“Deadly Feet have seen people who need the support and care receive the necessary treatment to ensure their lives aren’t affected by their feet conditions. The flexibility in which Deadly Feet work with, and their referral pathways, has led to a collaboration with the Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (MATSICHs).

“The team have been able to provide health promotion and screening activities to local community in spaces that are more accessible and safer whether that be by environment or with family and friends,” said William Bern, Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Officer.

In September Metro North Health Executive and staff, the Deadly Feet team, Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (UIIH) staff, local MATSICHs staff and community all joined together in celebration for the launch of the first Caboolture MATSICHs collaboration clinic. During the event attendees received a special heart-warming Welcome to Country by Uncle Monte Murray and storytelling by Aunty Helenor Rassip who shared her story and positive experience with the Deadly Feet program to Metro North Health and UIIH staff.

The MATSICHs Deadly Feet clinic will be held once a month at the Caboolture MATSICHs clinic through a referral process by GP’s or community can self-refer by sending an email to [MNVO@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:MNVO@health.qld.gov.au).

The Deadly Feet program is currently available across Brisbane northside, with clinics being delivered from Redcliffe Hospital and Caboolture MATSICHs monthly to ensure ease of access and care closer to home for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

With the successful launch of the program across Brisbane northside, Deadly Feet have recently announced they will be expanding to other regions across Queensland in late 2023. For more information about the program, or to check if you’re eligible to be seen by the Deadly Feet team visit <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/rbwh/healthcare-services/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander/deadly-feet>

## Metro North Health develops ‘Talent Pool’ to support workforce growth

Metro North Health is committed to building the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, providing a range of employment pathways across the organisation through the Deadly Start Program, Indigenous Cadetship opportunities and Identified roles.

Metro North Health has a target to increase the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce to 3% in 2025. Currently the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander headcount has increased to 404 (1.76%).

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team is working in partnership with the People and Culture team to develop a talent pool platform to promote opportunities to merit list candidates. The aim is for those who may not have been successful gaining an opportunity, to be added to a talent pool if they are interested in future opportunities within Metro North Health.

Assistant Nursing Director First Nations Clinical Innovation and Strategy, Theresa (Tess) Symes, said Metro North Health has recently committed to the establishment of an Identified Senior Project Officer role to support the development of the talent pool.

“Having a dedicated position for the development of the talent pool and other workforce initiatives, ensures meaningful and purposeful strategies that is influenced through a cultural lens.

“This supports Metro North Health MN32 aspirational benchmark that by 2025 at least three per cent of Metro North Health’s workforce will be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people,” Tess said.

If you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin and would like to be added to the talent pool for future opportunities, please email your resume to [MNH\\_A\\_TSI\\_Recruitment@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:MNH_A_TSI_Recruitment@health.qld.gov.au).

Workforce



“Waru” is Turtle in Kala Lagaw Ya language.

Kala Lagaw Ya (also written as Kalaw Lagaw Ya) is the traditional language owned by the Western and Central islands of the Torres Strait. It is linguistically connected to the Aboriginal languages of the Australian mainland and has four distinct regional dialects derived from this language:

- Mabuyag – The dialect of Mabuiag, Badu and St Paul’s Village.
- Kalaw Kawaw Ya – The dialect of the top western islands of Saibai, Dauan and Malu Ki’ai.
- Kawrereg – The dialect of the south western islands of Kubin, Kaiwalagal, Muralag (Prince of Wales), Nurupai (Horn), Giralag (Friday), Waiben (Thursday Island), Keriri (Hammond), Maurura (Wednesday), Moa (Banks). It is also known as Kawalgau Ya.
- Kulkalgau Ya – The dialect of the central islands of Aurid (Aureed), Damut (Dalrymple), Iama (Yam or Turtle-backed), Masig (Yorke), Mauar (Rennell), Naghir (Mt Earnest), Poruma (Coconut) and Warraber (Sue).

The dialects are determined geographically and developed over time with influences by traditional trade, visits, inter-marriage and kinship ties.



# IN FOCUS

## STARS Artist – Tamika Grant-Iramu



Tamika's vinyl screens on windows at STARS.

The main foyer of the Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS) building has been designed to provide an inviting space for patients, staff and visitors. As many people have commented, entering the foyer of STARS feels more like arriving at a luxury hotel lobby than at the doors of a public hospital.



View of Tamika's inlaid carpet from Level 1, STARS

The warm and welcoming nature of the space is, in part, due to the amazing series of inlaid carpets, brass main entry screen and window privacy screens designed by Torres Strait Islander artist Tamika Grant-Iramu.

Since graduating from Queensland College of Art in 2017 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, majoring in Interdisciplinary Print Media, Tamika has continued to develop her love of relief printmaking. Tamika utilises linocut, a printmaking technique which involves carving a design into the surface of linoleum with the raised areas inked and impressed onto paper or fabric.

This form of expression allows Tamika's artwork to be translated into other mediums such as public art fabrications, wall vinyl applications and interior furnishings.

"The physicality of carving linocut not only allows me to realise these artworks, but it also has revealed a connection to my Torres Strait Islander and Papua New Guinean heritage. My body of work continues to build with a focus on traditional printmaking techniques and storytelling aesthetics," said Tamika.

For the main foyer of STARS, Tamika collaborated with public art consultants and curators One Space, Australian Unity, WATPAC, and specialist fabricators to produce the body of work.

# STAFF PROFILE

## A Day in the life of: William Blair

### Physiotherapist – New Graduate, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH)

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

I am a proud Aboriginal man with connections to the Wakka Wakka and Cobble Cobble people. Myself and my family grew up in Brisbane.

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

I am a new graduate physiotherapist. I am currently working at the RBWH on the stroke ward. My role involves seeing patients who have experienced a cerebrovascular accident (commonly known as a stroke) and providing treatment such as chest cares and mobility/functional assessments.

My role as a physio includes rehabilitating patient's mobility, such as moving in and out of bed, sitting balance, and taking their first steps following their stroke. I also commonly review patients with neurological conditions such as Guillain Barre Syndrome, Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's Disease.

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

Before commencing at the RBWH this year, I was a Physiotherapy Cadet at STARS for two years. Prior to this, I worked at 7-Eleven.

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

My biggest inspiration to pursue a career in health was experiencing the health inequities our First Nations people suffer first-hand. Having grown up with extended family members experiencing adverse health events at very young ages, which could have been prevented, led to my passion for health.

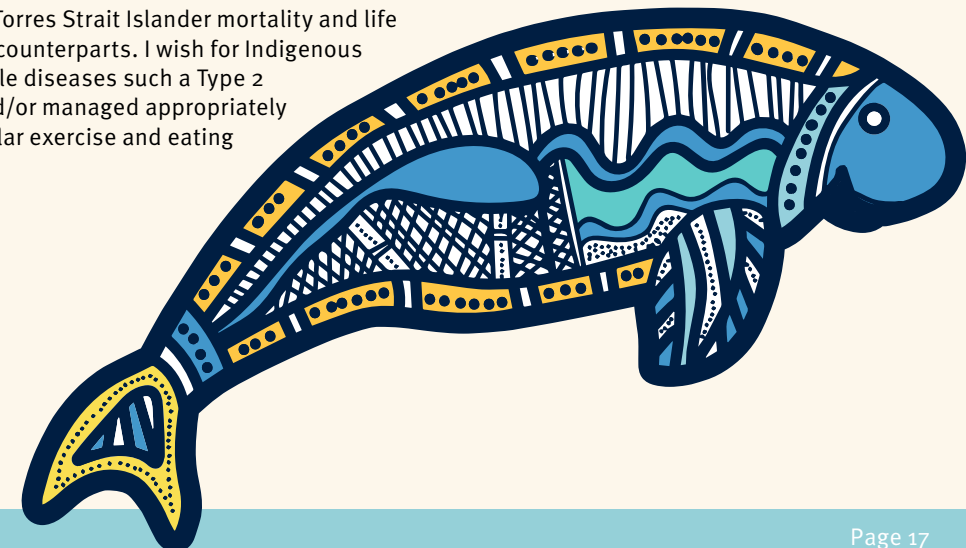
My goal is to improve the health literacy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and inspire the next generation of health professionals. I specifically enjoy working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and ensuring their hospital stay is culturally safe and as positive as possible.

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

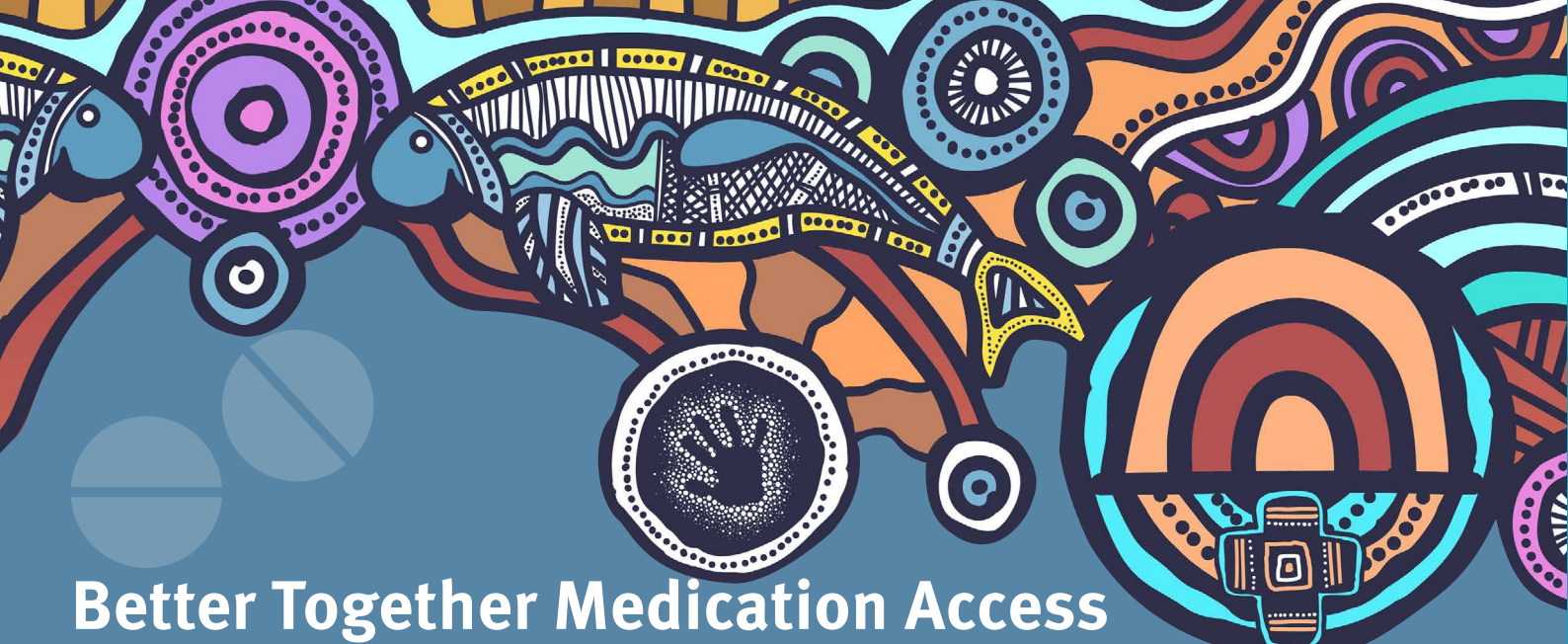
My over arching dream is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mortality and life expectancy to equal that of our fellow white counterparts. I wish for Indigenous health literacy to improve, and for preventable diseases such as a Type 2 diabetes to be reduced in the community and/or managed appropriately with improved lifestyle choices such as regular exercise and eating healthy.

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

My favourite thing to do outside of work is play footy (rugby league). Besides from this, you'll most likely catch me at the beach or at the markets on weekends.







## 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people discharging from a Metro North Health Service.

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.



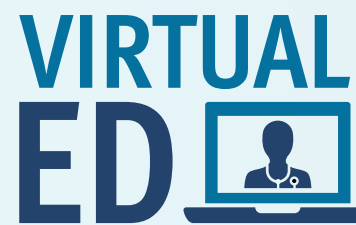
Better Together Medication Access is Metro North Health Service wide and will be available from 1 October 2020.



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 Hospital and Health Service Pharmacy Team.



# 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/hospitals-services/virtual-ed](http://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/hospitals-services/virtual-ed)

Open 8am to 10pm, 7 days

*\*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 Queensland.*



**In an Emergency  
Dial Triple Zero (000)**

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







**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.

## How to access the Van?

Visit our website for up-to-date locations of the Van  
[metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/better-together-van](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:A_TSIHU_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au) or phone (07) 3139 3235.

