



Talk-About

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

June 2024



Redcliffe Hospital Acknowledges Stolen Wages History

Metro North Health Executive staff unveiling the plaque alongside respected Elders Uncle Gary Cobbo, Uncle David Wragge, and Uncle Roger Knox

Redcliffe Hospital has formally acknowledged the history of using stolen wages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to build the hospital.

A special gathering was held during National Reconciliation Week with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, community members and staff, as a formal apology was delivered by the Acting Chief Executive of Metro North Health.

The apology was an opportunity to commence the healing journey with Elders past and present, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community affected by past government policies.

Historical government records show that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' wages and savings were regularly used by the Department of Native Affairs (and its successor agencies responsible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples) to offset government and departmental revenue by providing debentured loans to other agencies and corporate bodies. In doing so, it also enabled the development of Queensland through the building of infrastructure across the state, particularly the establishment and expansion of hospitals.

Acting Chief Executive Jane Hancock said the event was a momentous and historic occasion at Redcliffe Hospital to formally acknowledge the history of using stolen wages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to build the hospital.

Continued page 6 >

Metro North
Health



Queensland
Government



Give us feedback

We welcome your feedback, contributions, story ideas and details on any upcoming events. Please contact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team at A_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, Chermside Community Health Centre, 490 Hamilton Road, Chermside QLD 4032.

Email to:

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

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

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

After hours PH 3647 4183 / 0428 861 888

The Prince Charles Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer Ph: 3139 5165 / 0429 897 982

After Hours Ph: 3139 6622 / 0429 897 982

Redcliffe Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer Ph: 3049 6791

After Hours Ph: 3049 9734

Caboolture/Kilcoy Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Office Ph: 5433 8249

After Hours Ph: 5316 5157

Senior Health Worker Ph: 5316 5390

Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS):

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Office Ph: 3647 6044

Community Indigenous Primary Health Team

Indigenous Community Health Team Ph: 3631 7379

Indigenous Sexual Health Team

Clinical Nurse Consultant Ph: 3631 7379

Indigenous Mental Health

Professional Lead Ph: 3646 2695

Ngarrama Maternity Services

Caboolture Ph: 0447 307 411

Redcliffe Ph: 0407 251 890

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

Forensic Mental Health Service, Indigenous Mental Health Intervention Program

Forensic Mental Health Team Ph: 3234 0800

Follow us



@bettertogetherourhealthourway



@ourhealthourway



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

What's inside June 2024

COVER

Redcliffe Hospital Acknowledges Stolen Wages History	1
Contact Information.....	2
A word from the Executive Director	3
A word from the Chief Executive.....	4

OUT AND ABOUT

Reconciliation Week 2024 – Now More Than Ever.....	8
Connecting with community at NAIDOC Week celebrations	9
Welcoming the new cohort of Indigenous Cadets	9
Nothing about us, without us: Disability Action Plan.....	10
“See Me. Hear Me. Respect Me.” Campaign	10
Celebrating Mabo Day.....	12
Showcasing the success of the Sistas Shawl.....	13

New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders	14
Better Together Staff Gathering.....	15
HOPE is here to stay.....	15

IN FOCUS

Our Journey Towards Health Funding Program.....	18
Word of the month	18
Satellite Hospitals co-named with Traditional Owners	19
Aboriginal design and cultural safety go hand-in-hand	22
How art is healing.....	22
About the Metro North Satellite Hospital murals	23
Yarning – connecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and improving health outcomes.....	24
Mother nurse Gladys farewells hospital family.....	25

STAFF FEATURE

Mark Dorante, Senior Health Worker, TPCH	26
------------------------------------------------	----



Sherry Holzapfel
Executive Director,
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Health

A word from the Executive Director

Earlier this year Metro North Health hosted our first Health Equity Community Consultation event for 2024. We had over 200 attendees including Elders, community members, Metro North Health staff and key stakeholders.

The community consultation served as a platform for meaningful yarns and collaborative engagement with attendees participating in yarning tables and engaging in discussions across 14 key focus areas, ranging from anti-racism efforts to workforce development and feedback mechanisms, recognising the importance of listening to and centring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in all aspects of healthcare decision-making.

The significance of hearing directly from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community cannot be overstated. Their lived experiences, cultural insights, and historical perspectives provide invaluable guidance for shaping more responsive, culturally safe, and effective healthcare services. By actively listening to these voices, Metro North Health gains a deeper understanding of the unique needs, challenges, and aspirations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, paving the way for more equitable and appropriate care delivery.

In June we will be hosting our first Health Equity Showcase for 2024 where Metro North Health get to report back to community on some of the great work and initiatives taking place across the health service to meet key priorities of our health equity strategy.

National Reconciliation Week was a big week for Metro North Health this year, with facilities not only hosting celebrations with community, staff, and Executive across our health service, but we also held two significant and historical events.

On Wednesday 29 May I had the opportunity to be a part of Redcliffe Hospital's Stolen Wages plaque unveiling event, where the Acting Chief Executive Jane Hancock and myself formally acknowledged the stolen wages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders used to build the hospital.

It was an emotional but healing day for myself and our community, especially our Elders who have fought tirelessly for a long time on this historical injustice, with Jane Hancock providing a formal apology, paving the way towards reconciliation.

Redcliffe Hospital is one of the first hospitals in the state to acknowledge that their foundations were built using stolen wages. Well done to all who were involved in making this moment happen and leading the way for others. <Read more on page 1 and 6>.

During Reconciliation Week I also had the privilege of unveiling the new Bribie Island Satellite Hospital Traditional Aboriginal co-name 'Yarun' alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners, Elders, Ali King MP, Member for Pumicestone and Karlene Willcocks, Executive Director of Caboolture Kilcoy Woodford Directorate. Bribie Island Satellite Hospital is set to open its doors to the public in late July.

Co-naming our Satellite Hospitals is an exciting first for our Hospital and Health Service, and is one step in the right direction to including Traditional Owners of the local land in the planning process of a health service facility, but also pays recognition to local culture and honours Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First People and their connection to the land.

I would like to pay special acknowledgement to Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation for their ongoing support, contribution, and blessing for the co-naming of these facilities and providing us with the traditional names in local language.

The new co-names will appear across all three Satellite Hospital facility signages and will complement artworks displayed within the satellite hospitals commissioned with local Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi Traditional Owner artists. <Read more on page 19>.

I look forward to catching up with many of you over NAIDOC Week and to celebrate the theme together - 'Keep the fire burning! Black, loud and proud'.

Until next time, stay safe and deadly.

Sherry Holzapfel



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

A word from the Chief Executive

Metro North Health is committed to reconciliation and health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We are proud to be the first hospital and health service in Queensland to develop our Health Equity Strategy, which is now about halfway through implementation.

It's very important that as we implement our Health Equity Strategy we regularly check in with community to make sure we're on the right track. I was very pleased to see more than 200 people attended our community health equity event at Victoria Park in April. We hold two of these big community events each year, plus two Health Equity Showcase events where we talk about what we're doing across Metro North. The next showcase is on 27 June at Eatons Hill Hotel.

In the past month, we have had a lot of activities and events at our hospitals and services. The biggest event was during National Reconciliation Week at Redcliffe Hospital to acknowledge the history of using stolen wages. Redcliffe Hospital was specifically named in the Stolen Wages report in 2016 and is the first hospital in the state to formally acknowledge the past practice. There is now a permanent plaque at the hospital to make sure this history is not forgotten.

In late May we also held an event at the Bribie Island Satellite Hospital to officially co-name the facility Yarun, which originates from the Kabi Kabi and Djoondoburri people - Oondoo dialect, meaning crab or hunting ground. The co-naming event was followed with a Yarning Table at Bribie Island Satellite Hospital to talk about the new services which will open in July, and make sure the community knows what's happening.

In addition to Bribie Island Satellite Hospital (Yarun), Metro North operates the Caboolture and Kallangur Satellite Hospitals. They have also been co-named with Traditional Owners:

- **Caboolture Satellite Hospital (Kabul)**
– The name 'Kabulture' meaning place of the carpet snake in Turrbal dialect. 'Kabul' – meaning carpet snake, 'ture' – meaning place of.
- **Kallangur Satellite Hospital (Kalangoor)**
– The name Kalangoor originates from the Kabi Kabi – Undambi dialect 'Kalangoor' meaning a goodly or satisfactory place.

This year, Metro North Health has started the first ever statewide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cadetship program. The Queensland Health Chief First Nations Health Officer has supported funding for 68 cadets to complete 12 weeks of paid work placement over 12 months, to help grow their skills and get on the job experience. Cadetships are offered in a wide range of specialties across allied health, corporate services, nursing, and midwifery. In June we held the first showcase to share the journey so far and some cadet success stories. I look forward to sharing more about how the program is working in coming years.

We are seeing a lot of people with COVID-19, flu and RSV in our hospitals. If you haven't had your flu and COVID jabs this year, I strongly recommend the whole family gets them. There is also a new free RSV vaccine for newborns to protect them from this nasty virus.

Kind regards,

Jackie Hanson

Follow us on Social Media!



Scan the QR code or look up:

<https://www.facebook.com/bettertogetherourhealthourway>



Scan the QR code or look up:

<https://www.instagram.com/ourhealthourway>



Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/better-together-our-health-our-way>



Celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, good news, jobs for, health initiatives and more!



This initiative is supported by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team

**Metro North
Health**



**Queensland
Government**



Continued from page 1 >

Redcliffe Hospital Acknowledges Stolen Wages History

“Metro North Health is one of the first Hospital and Health Services within the state to formally acknowledge the use of stolen wages and have a permanent apology plaque placed at the front of the hospital,” Ms Hancock said.

“I acknowledge the direct impact the stolen wages have had on many Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and community members, and I am honoured to have taken part in the unveiling of this plaque at Redcliffe Hospital, an important permanent reminder of this history.”

Proud Yidinji woman and Metro North Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Sherry Holzapfel said the event was a culturally significant day for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

“Many of us have direct connections within our families of those affected by stolen wages and past government policies. The hurt and pain this has caused is momentous and carried through the generations,” Ms Holzapfel said.

“Today was our chance to publicly recognise the historical injustices associated with stolen wages. While we can’t re-write this painful history, we can now walk alongside each other in healing and reconciliation.”

Auntie Lesley Williams, an award-winning author (*‘Not Just Black and White’*) and an instigator of the Justice for Aboriginal Workers campaign, was proud to attend the gathering.

Auntie Lesley Williams and Sherry Holzapfel, Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

“My goodness! There isn’t going to be enough words as to how much it acknowledges. Today was so special and so meaningful for me. I first saw all this information when I started my research back in 1991-92. To think that the old people are with us today, in spirit, to know that all the money they worked for withheld in trust went into build places like Redcliffe Hospital,” Aunty Lesley said.

“I would love this to continue through with the other hospitals but what’s so significant about this hospital is the amount of money, being 100,000 pounds, or convert that to dollars, which in today’s terms would be a couple of million dollars in total that was held in trust. Our savings, held in trust. And I worked out it goes back four generations of people who had worked, for their money to be held in trust to have that amount of money kept in trust and used to build these hospitals.

“It’s been a long time coming. A lot of hard work has gone into it, but at the end of the day it’s happening, and it’s happening in our lifetime, and I know the old people would be pleased looking down, and their spirits are with us today.”

Redcliffe Hospital Executive Director Cang Dang said the plaque will be on permanent display at the front of the hospital and was initiated by the Redcliffe Hospital Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group.

“The Working Group is responsible for partnering with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community as part of the health equity journey and is committed to delivering safe and welcoming environments,” Mr Dang said.

“Redcliffe Hospital pays tribute to the unique cultures, heritage, traditional knowledge and the significant contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have made and continue to make to Redcliffe Hospital.”



Uncle Roger Knox performing on the day.



Elders proudly showcasing the new plaque at Redcliffe Hospital.



Reconciliation Week 2024 – Now More Than Ever

Each year Metro North Health celebrates National Reconciliation Week with a series of events across the health service facilities.

During National Reconciliation Week 2024 (27 May – 3 June), Metro North Health services and staff joined together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues, Traditional Owners, and community to commemorate this year's theme 'Now More Than Ever' through flag raising ceremonies, morning-tea's, information sessions, yarning circles, and lots more.

Every year National Reconciliation Week acts as a reminder that together we are stronger. By building respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider Australian community we can create a nation that values and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories, cultures, and futures.

This year's theme Now More Than Ever serves as a crucial reminder that now is the time we come together and stand up for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"Now more than ever, the work continues. In treaty making, in truth-telling, in understanding our history, in education, and in tackling racism. We need connection. We need respect. We need action. And we need change. Now more than ever, we need reconciliation." – Reconciliation Australia.

"These words hold great significance and are key to how we move forward as an organisation to create a healthcare service that meets the needs of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and should provide guiding principles in how we achieve health equity." said Jane Hancock, Acting Chief Executive of Metro North Health.

During the Reconciliation Week activities staff were able to pledge their commitment towards reconciliation and health equity in a sea of hands across Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Caboolture Hospital.



Connecting with community at upcoming NAIDOC Week celebrations

National NAIDOC Week is coming up (7–14 July), with many celebrations expected to be held across the State. This year's NAIDOC theme, 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud' celebrates the unyielding spirit of our communities and invites all to stand in solidarity, amplifying the voices that have long been silenced.

NAIDOC Week celebrates and recognises the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and is an opportunity for all Australians to participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.

This year we are excited to share that during NAIDOC Week, the Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team, and teams from across our health service, will be setting up a stall to engage with community members at NAIDOC Week celebrations taking place in Brisbane North.

National NAIDOC Week events where you can find us:

Northside NAIDOC Community Fun Day
Koobara Kindergarten Grounds, 421 Beams Road Taigum
Thursday 4 July 2024
9am – 2pm

Buranga Widjung Justice Group,
Community Flag Raising Ceremony
Caboolture Town Square
Friday 5 July 2024
10am – 2pm

Our dedicated staff look forward to engaging with community members at these upcoming events where they will distribute health information and resources, build connections with the community, and hand out fun resources for the entire family, showcasing our Better Together artwork created by esteemed Aboriginal artist, Elaine Chambers-Hegarty.

In recognition of the tireless contributions of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders to our health service, the Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team will host a special celebratory Elders luncheon. This closed event aims to honour the significant impact of their knowledge, time, energy, and wisdom in enhancing the services we deliver to our community.

To learn more about National NAIDOC Week and this year's theme, visit <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>.



KEEP THE FIRE BURNING! BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD

7-14 JULY 2024

Welcoming the new cohort of Indigenous Cadets into Metro North Health

The start of National Reconciliation Week commenced with a bang across Metro North Health as the Indigenous Cadetship Program team hosted an informal morning tea late last month to welcome 10 new Indigenous Cadets embarking on their journey within our hospital and health service.

With much excitement, staff from multiple services and areas across Metro North Health gathered to extend a warm welcome to the new starters, providing them a lay of the land and offering their ongoing support as they navigate through an exciting new opportunity in a new place of work.

The Indigenous Cadetship Program, which has now expanded across the State, offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university students the invaluable opportunity to earn a wage while pursuing their studies, whilst working towards ensuring healthcare

delivered at Metro North Health is culturally safe, responsive, and meets the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Cadets will need to complete 60 days, or 12 weeks of paid work placement within a Metro North Health hospital or facility aligning to their studies, which is thoughtfully scheduled around the university timetable of each cadet.

The morning tea not only served as a platform for the new cadets to mingle with one another and build connections, but also shone a spotlight on Metro North Health's commitment to increasing

the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce in an effort to achieve health equity and life expectancy parity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by 2031.

We are excited to welcome the new cadets into our workforce and look forward to sharing more updates as they continue on their healthcare journey in the largest hospital and health service in the country.



Some of the new Indigenous Cadets proudly holding their new uniform as they start their cadetship at Metro North Health.



Nothing about us, without us: Disability Action Plan

In early 2024, Metro North Health launched the *Metro North Health Disability Services Action Plan 2024 – 2029* with several actions specific for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community focusing on inclusion, accessibility, and improved service delivery.

Around one in every five Queenslanders has a disability, with almost a third of those having a profound or severe disability. An estimated 9.6% of National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIS) participants in Queensland identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Adj. Prof. Jackie Hanson Chief Executive Metro North Health said those with a disability report poorer general health and higher rates of psychological distress than people without a disability.

“Disability is very diverse, encompassing intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory, physical, and psychosocial. A person’s experience of having a disability also intersects with their age, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, intersex status, ethnic origin, or race.

“The Metro North Health Disability Services Action Plan 2024 – 2029 outlines a commitment to ensuring that all Queenslanders regardless of their abilities, have access to inclusive and appropriate healthcare,” Jackie said.

The Disability Services Action Plan 2024 – 2029 takes into consideration that people with a disability not only experience challenges accessing healthcare services for their general health needs but that they often have additional healthcare requirements due to their disability.

The Plan addresses five priority areas of: inclusion; accessibility; infrastructure; safety, rights, and respect; evidence, research, and data; and improved service delivery and is underpinned by Metro North Health’s seven Compassionate Care Principles.

Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Sherry Holzapfel, said she was pleased to see several direct actions for the community.

“Implementing lived experience roles into all Metro North Health directorates will create a stronger understanding and support within the workforce.

“People with a disability will be offered alternate communication and appointment methods such as telehealth or attending via telehealth from a facility closer to their home. Creating culturally safe spaces and improved access for our mob living with a disability is paramount,” Sherry said.

To learn more and to access a copy of the full plan visit –

<https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/about-us/people-with-disability>



“See Me. Hear Me. Respect Me.” Campaign

Accessing healthcare can be challenging for people with disability due to physical, communication, and financial barriers. People with disability often have difficulty communicating their symptoms to healthcare professionals and health staff, which can lead to an over-reliance on family members, caregivers, and support staff to interpret their experiences.

Queensland Health has launched a communication campaign aimed at raising awareness about the unique health and communication needs of people with disability.

The campaign, titled “See Me. Hear Me. Respect Me.” aims to empower individuals, especially healthcare practitioners and health staff, to understand and respect these needs, and to create a more inclusive and supportive community where people with disability are seen, heard, and respected.

The project used a co-design approach in developing the campaign, working closely with Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) members in focus group sessions.

The slogan for the campaign, “See Me. Hear Me. Respect Me.” was coined by QDN members and emphasises the importance of acknowledging the unique communication needs of people with disability.

SEE ME. HEAR ME. RESPECT ME.



IMPROVING HEALTHCARE
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY 

**Know me,
know my
disability.**

QDN
QUEENSLANDERS WITH DISABILITY NETWORK



**Queensland
Government**

OUTandABOUT

Celebrating Mabo Day



On Friday 7 June Metro North Health hosted a special Mabo Day celebration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners, Elders, community, and staff.

The Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team and Community and Oral Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Team worked in partnership with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to celebrate the significant day.

The special celebration showcased Torres Strait Islander achievements such as culture, passion, perspectives, and practices as well as commemorated Mer Island man the late Uncle Eddie Koiki Mabo whose actions played a significant role in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Australian history, paving the way for future generations.

Attendees were treated to a Welcome to Country by Songwoman Aunty Maroochy, Traditional Torres Strait Islander dancing by Wagga Torres Strait Islander Dance Company, special presentations and storytelling by Albert and Mareshah Bowie, Aunty Patricia Elarde and Uncle Bill Lowah, traditional Kai Kai (food) by Jinnies Island Kaikai, and to top the day off Uncle Eddie Mabo's eldest daughter Jessie Mabo made a special appearance and shared some family stories and the great work her father has done.

The day ended in celebration with a cutting of the cake by Jessie Mabo, Aunty Maroochy, and Sherry Holzapfel, Metro North Health Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

By demonstrating ongoing teachings of Torres Strait Islander ways, this event aimed to bring people and communities together, highlighting how Metro North Health and Community and Oral Health are working towards building and strengthening culturally safe environments and continuing to support the causes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and community celebrating Mabo Day event.



Wagga Torres Strait Islander Dance Group.



(L-R) Songwoman Aunty Maroochy, Jessie Mabo and Sherry Holzapfel, Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health cutting the celebratory Mabo Day cake.

Showcasing the success of the Sistas Shawl

The Sistas Shawl initiative recently had the opportunity to shine at the Clinical Excellence Showcase which took place in May, a must-attend event for Queensland health professionals wanting to transform the way care is delivered across the state.

Staff members Rachael and Nadja from BreastScreen Queensland Brisbane Northside Service were successful in applying to showcase the Sistas Shawl initiative and share with Queensland Health colleagues how simple changes to how you engage with and deliver healthcare to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can positively impact health and wellbeing outcomes.

The team were joined by staff from the Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team on the day, who assisted in demonstrating how the shawl can be worn during a screen and to show the importance of working together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and community members to effectively establish culturally safe and responsive services for community.

The Sistas Shawl, which can be worn during a breast screen to provide a bit of modesty and a sense of cultural safety and comfort for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, has contributed to the increase of screening rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Brisbane Northside, and was well received by attendees at the showcase, with many asking how they can get their hands on a shawl.

The event brought together like-minded individuals to share their success and connect with others to affect change; all with the shared goal, to improve outcomes for their local community.

It was exciting to see the Sistas Shawl initiative acknowledged for its success as was one of 42 presentations shared across the 2-day event, showcased within the 'For the greater good: improving care for priority populations' category.

Congratulations to Rachael and Nadja, and the Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team for your continued partnership which has proven to increase the breast screening rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Brisbane North.



Rachael, Aunty Phillipa, and Nadja photographed after delivering the Sistas Shawl presentation.



Aunty Phillipa modelling the Sistas Shawl for attendees, alongside Rachael.



New Emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders!



Part of Metro North Health's commitment to driving change within the health service and improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is the dedication to nurturing and supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce within the organisation.

Metro North Health is dedicated to making the organisation a first choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment, which includes growing and retaining the workforce.

In order to make change and achieve health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Metro North Health recognises that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce needs to be at the forefront and represented on every level of the health system.

"Our health equity journey is all about providing equitable outcomes and a large part of what we heard from community is having representation of our mob at all levels. Our community wants to see us at every touch point of their health journey, to feel culturally safe, respected and that their voices continue to be heard," said Sherry Holzapfel, Metro North Health Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

A key outcome from the health services health equity strategy was the establishment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Program.

The first round of the leadership program commenced earlier this year with 24 participants taking part on a two-day workshop tailored for the professional growth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to build strong connections and explore leadership opportunities.

Each participant will be linked with a professional mentor in Metro North Health during their leadership development journey. The mentors will provide one-on-one support on an ongoing basis to offer guidance and advice to each of their mentees.

"The workshop was a great chance for me to connect in with my Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peers on the same journey as me, and provided me with an opportunity to reflect on my personal role within the organisation and how I can continue advocating for our mob.

"It can be hard working within the public service health care space with so many barriers still in place, and at times can have you questioning yourself. Connecting with my peers and building leadership skills while sharing each other's struggles during our career journey showed that I am not alone.

"From the program I have definitely built stronger relationships, as well as tools to help me on my career path, while still staying grounded to the cause on why I do what I do to support our people accessing our health care service," said Caley Colley, Communications Officer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Program will be an ongoing initiative available to the Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, with the next round due to commence early 2025.



Better Together Staff Gathering

In an effort to foster camaraderie and provide a platform for updates and networking, the Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team hosted a special staff gathering in early May. The event, held at the Brighton Wellness Hub, welcomed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, as well as those working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services, for an engaging afternoon of connection and collaboration.

With over 40 attendees joining from different areas and facilities, the gathering served as an informal opportunity for sharing updates, addressing healthcare challenges, and building connections among staff members. This gathering was the second staff gathering held since the onset of COVID-19, which saw staff members eagerly registering to attend with the intention to connect with colleagues and keep up to date with latest programs and services rolling out across Metro North Health.

Throughout the event, participants received an update on various initiatives, including the Health Worker Certified Agreement, the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program, Caboolture and Bribie Island Satellite Hospitals, and the Indigenous Cadetship Program.

To close out the presentations, staff had the privilege of hearing from an inspiring community member, proud Wuthathi woman, artist, cultural leader and teacher, Nicky Guivarra who shared her inspiring Mental Health journey and recovery of inter-generational trauma as well as the work she has done as part of the LGBTQI+ community through Yarns Heal, further highlighting the importance of community and support networks.

As the day drew to a close, attendees had the chance to mingle and network during an afternoon tea, providing a rare opportunity for staff to connect with colleagues they may not get the chance to see during their regular work schedules.

The significance of providing a safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospitals and Woodford Corrections Health staff enjoying the event



Cultural Capability Officer Henry Nona welcoming attendees to the gathering

staff to connect and maintain their cultural connections within the workplace was highlighted throughout the gathering. By fostering a sense of cultural safety and community, Metro North Health remains committed to ensuring the well-being and cultural safety of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff across the hospital and health service remains a key priority.

HOPE is here to stay



The Heart Outreach Program for Health Equity (HOPE), launched earlier this year, is a specialist outpatient cardiac clinic run through Metro North Health at Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Services (MATSICHs) in Caboolture and Margate, dedicated to enhancing heart health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cardiology patients aged 16 years and over.

During National Reconciliation Week, a special partnership afternoon tea was held at the Margate MATSICHs clinic, bringing together staff from Metro North Health, Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), and MATSICHs to commemorate the programs initial achievements.

Voices from those who work within the HOPE program shared the significant impact the program is having on community by reducing barriers and enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access crucial cardiac care services.

With a formal signing of a partnership between Metro North Health and IUIH, to reaffirm a commitment to working together to improve the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, we are excited to continue moving forward in partnership to enhance healthcare accessibility and deliver culturally safe services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Brisbane North.



Metro North Health, MATSICHs, and IUIH staff celebrating at the afternoon tea.



Jane Hancock, A/Chief Executive, Metro North Health and Wayne AhBoo, General Manager Corporate Services, IUIH, reaffirming their commitment to the HOPE program.

Caboolture Satellite Hospital

15 Rowe Street, Caboolture QLD 4510
Phone: (07) 5433 7555

The **Caboolture Satellite Hospital** offers outpatient and community health services closer to home, and access to a Minor Illness and Injury Clinic providing free* urgent care options for people who don't need to go to an emergency department.

The Caboolture Satellite Hospital has free parking and is located near the Caboolture Train Station.

**Ensure you have your medicare card with you.*



Minor Injury and Illness Clinic (operating 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week)

Please note that this is not an Emergency Department. Community can access the Minor Injury and Illness Clinic by 'walk-in' for urgent care of illnesses and injuries that are not expected to be life-threatening, such as simple fractures, simple infections, toothache, minor burns, and minor head injuries with no loss of consciousness.

Depending on clinic service demand towards closure time, there may be the possibility that you will be redirected to a Hospital Emergency Department.

In a life-threatening emergency, call Triple Zero (000) or go to your nearest Hospital Emergency Department.

**Metro North
Health**



**Queensland
Government**

When hospital staff offer **Telehealth** they mean **video call**

You will need a device with working internet, camera, and microphone

You are welcome to have a support person with you



Ask your healthcare professional if Telehealth is an option for you

Telehealth is not always available; our staff will let you know if it is possible

Scan the QR Code to
test your internet and
device from your home



**Metro North
Health**



**Queensland
Government**



IN FOCUS

Our Journey Towards Health Funding Program



Metro North Health recently received 21 submissions for funding applications aligned to the health equity strategy from internal services and programs.

Chief Executive, Jackie Hanson, announced the 'Our Journey Towards Health Equity' funding program in April to enable greater flexibility for direct funding to operationalise the key performance actions within the Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2022–2025.

An allocation from the funding pool comes with the expectation that the proposed initiative will align to one or more of the priority principles:

- Eliminate institutional barriers.
- Re-shape the system.
- Transform care.
- Strengthen the workforce.

Systems and Performance Manager, Natasha White, said there were an outstanding calibre of applications prepared exploring cultural safety, co-design and partnerships with community organisations and targets for at risk Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (e.g., homelessness, suicide prevention, youth, LGBTQIA+).

“We were really excited by the innovation and commitment shown within the applications to strengthen our efforts towards Our Journey Towards Health Equity.

“Each application was shortlisted by an expert panel and those selected for the next stage will be required to ‘pitch’ the concept to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members as part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Oversight Committee,” Natasha said.

By investing in innovative projects and initiatives, the funding program aims to contribute to the reshaping of the healthcare system to better meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Further details will be announced regarding the successful applicants in the next edition of Talk-About.



WORD OF THE MONTH

“Gudjagay”

(Good-jah-guy) is Crocodile in the Dyirbal language.

The Dyirbal language is spoken in North Queensland along the Tully River and Johnston River Catchments. There are several dialects or related languages across the language Nation including Ngadjan, Waribarra Mamu, Dulgubarra Mamu, Jirrbal, Gulngay, Djirru, Girramay and Walmalbarra.

Walsh (1981) further distinguishes Dyirribarra Mamu and Gambilbarra Dyirrbal. Dyirbal is also written as Jirrbal, Djirbalngan, Jirrabul, Dyirbalnyi, Djirbal, etc. AIATSIS have identified Dyirbal as the standardised spelling and assigned it Language Code Y106 which is used by many collecting institutions in their catalogue descriptions.

Metro North Health Satellite Hospitals co-named with Traditional Owners

In late May, Sherry Holzapfel, Metro North Health Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners, Elders, Ali King MP, Member for Pumicestone and Karlene Willcocks, Executive Director of Caboolture Kilcoy Woodford Directorate, unveiled the new Traditional co-name of Bribie Island Satellite Hospital.

The unveiling of the new co-name is one of three co-names to be launched across Metro North Health Satellite Hospitals and is an exciting first for the Hospital and Health Service.

“Co-naming is one step in the right direction to including Traditional Owners of the local land in the planning process of a health service facility, but also pays recognition to local culture and honours Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First People and their connection to the land,” said Sherry.

Caboolture, Kallangur, and Bribie Island Satellite Hospitals have all been proudly co-named with the Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners as part of the Queensland Government’s ongoing commitment to recognising Queensland’s shared history with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The official endorsed names are as follows:

Caboolture Satellite Hospital (Kabul)

The name ‘Kabulture’ meaning place of the carpet snake in Turrbal dialect. ‘Kabul’ meaning carpet snake, ‘ture’ – meaning place of.

Kallangur Satellite Hospital (Kalangoor)

The name Kalangoor originates from the Kabi Kabi - Undambi dialect. ‘Kalangoor’ meaning a goodly or satisfactory place.



Bribie Island Satellite Hospital (Yarun)

The name Yarun originates from the Kabi Kabi and Djoondoburri people - Oondoo dialect. ‘Yarun’ meaning crab or hunting ground.

Metro North Health Community and Engagement Officer, Rayna Cowburn, led the consultation with the Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners and said the co-names provide respect to the Traditional Owners of which the Satellite Hospitals are located, providing a greater awareness and respect amongst the community.

“Our intention is to establish meaningful and respectful partnerships with Traditional Owners to ensure culturally appropriate service delivery, a respect for country and land and a connection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, families and communities accessing our hospitals and facilities.

“Adoption of the co-names will assist in the preservation and promotion of Aboriginal language and promotes a deeper understanding of the culture and history associated with the Kabi Kabi, Turrbal, Undambi and Djoondoburri peoples’ dialects,” Rayna said.

The new co-names will appear on facility signage and across patient communication. The traditional names will complement artworks displayed within the three satellite hospitals commissioned with local Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi Traditional Owner artists.

Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Executive Director, Sherry Holzapfel said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be involved in every step of the design and delivery of health services, and the satellite hospitals are a great example of this.

“We are proud of the work we continue to do across Metro North Health to provide sustainable, culturally safe, and responsive healthcare services, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural values, strengths and differences are respected.

“Each satellite hospital has a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Hub with access to services including support with telehealth, referrals and links to community services and hospital services, Ngarrama Maternal Health, and Perinatal Mental Health. This service accepts referrals and walk-ins,” Sherry said.

Metro North Health Equity Outcomes Report 2022–23

Achieving health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by 2031 is a key priority for Metro North Health. We are committed to keeping the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community informed and updated on our progression towards health equity.

This report card provides a visual summary on the key areas we are on track, those heading in the right direction and the measures needing further work. Please note, this is a summary report only and the full outcomes report can be downloaded from our website.

Measures on track

Action 2.1 A Potentially Preventable Hospitalisations – First Nations peoples: Diabetes complications.

PREVENTABLE HOSPITALISATIONS – DIABETES COMPLICATIONS HAS DECREASED BY 0.2% TO 2.3%.

A FURTHER 0.2% DECREASE IS NEEDED TO REACH OUR TARGET OF 2.1%.



Action 2.1 A Metro North Health aims to increase the % of completed general courses of oral health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers.

COMPLETED GENERAL COURSES OF ORAL HEALTH CARE HAVE INCREASED BY 7,099 OCCASIONS TO 22,872.

WE HAVE EXCEEDED OUR TARGET BY 6,941 OCCASIONS.



Action 2.9 E Increased proportion of First Nations babies born to First Nations mothers and non-First Nations mothers with healthy birthweights.

HEALTHY BIRTHWEIGHTS HAVE INCREASED BY 2.5% TO 92%.

WE HAVE EXCEEDED OUR TARGET OF >91% BY 1%.



Action 2.9 E Women pregnant with a First Nations baby, and First Nations women who delivered baby at full term.

BABIES DELIVERED AT FULL TERM HAVE INCREASED BY 1% TO 91.1%.

A FURTHER 1.8% INCREASE IS NEEDED TO REACH OUR TARGET OF 92.9%.



Action 4.3 F Increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce across all workforce streams.

METRO NORTH HEALTH HAVE RECORDED A 25% INCREASE IN THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WORKFORCE.



THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WORKFORCE CURRENTLY SITS AT 1.88% (455 STAFF MEMBERS).



Measures heading in the right direction

Action 2.9 E

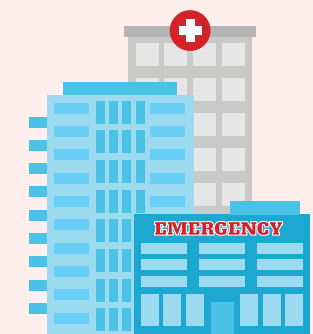
Metro North Health aims to increase the % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women stopping smoking whilst pregnant.

15.7% OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN HAVE STOPPED SMOKING WHILST PREGNANT, 
REACHING 45.3%.


A FURTHER 54.7% DECREASE IN SMOKING IS NEEDED TO REACH OUR TARGET OF 100%. 

Action 3.2 A

Decrease in number and proportion of “did not wait” in Emergency Department.



‘DID NOT WAIT’ OCCASIONS HAVE DECREASED
BY 0.6% TO 5.5%.

A FURTHER 2.3% DECREASE IS NEEDED TO REACH OUR TARGET OF 3.2%. 

Measures not on track

Action 2.2 B, C and D

Reduced Failed to Attend (FTAs) outpatient appointment.

‘FAILED TO ATTEND’ RATES HAVE INCREASED BY
0.1% TO 10.3%.

A 1.3% DECREASE IS NEEDED TO REACH OUR TARGET OF 9%. 

Action 2.9 E

Women pregnant with First Nations baby and First Nations women, whose first antenatal visit is in the first trimester.

ANTENATAL VISITS WITHIN THE FIRST TRIMESTER HAVE INCREASED
BY 0.1% TO 82.7%.

A FURTHER 17.3% INCREASE IS NEEDED TO REACH OUR TARGET OF 100%. 

Action 2.5 A

Potentially Preventable Hospitalisations (PPH) – non-diabetes related conditions.

PREVENTABLE HOSPITALISATIONS – NON-DIABETES RELATED CONDITIONS HAVE INCREASED
BY 0.5% TO 8.9%.

A 1.5% DECREASE IS NEEDED TO REACH OUR TARGET OF 7.4%. 



The full copy of the Metro North Health Outcomes Report can be accessed via the following QR Code. If you have any questions regarding this report or require further information, contact the Health Equity Team:

HealthEquityMNH@health.qld.gov.au (07) 3139 3235.

<https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/health-equity>



SCAN HERE 

Aboriginal design and cultural safety go hand-in-hand

The walls, windows, paving and gardens of the three Metro North Health Satellite Hospitals are providing a unique canvas for cultural and physical healing.

Local Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi Traditional Owner artists were commissioned to design a mural for each facility, with key design aspects of it weaving throughout building features like walls and windows.

According to Executive Director of Sustainable Assets and Infrastructure David Walker, Metro North's Satellite Hospitals are a great example of how Aboriginal design is used to help connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and their families to the facilities.

"By creating culturally safe environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork into the building design process provides connection and cultural significance for the community, and makes our health facilities feel more welcoming for visiting patients and community members," said David.

"During the planning stages, there was an emphasis to incorporate Aboriginal art, design functional rooms to better suit the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and to create outdoor spaces planted with native species, so areas suitable to yarning or gathering of larger family groups."

Cultural safety in a health service organisation is about creating a place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel safe, comfortable, accepted, and confident that they will be respected, will be listened to, and will receive high-quality care.

Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Manager Tracy Grant shared a great example of a community Elder whose confidence in the health system increased due to the cultural support he received during his health journey which contributes to removing barriers to health equity.

"Some of our community members already feel reluctance visiting any kind of hospital," said Tracy.

"By providing health closer to home in welcoming environments means people can easily drop-in and ask questions about their medication, what services are available and enjoy a yarn with their community or our staff," Tracy said.

Kallangur Satellite Hospital Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Nurse Navigator Trina Scott agrees and said that by incorporating artwork into the facility, it shows respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their communities, and their cultures.

"The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service is a new service unique to the three Metro North Satellite Hospitals which provides a culturally safe space for health services to conduct assessments, provide education and improve access to care," said Trina.

"By delivering our service in a culturally safe space, the community feels comfortable engaging with us and this helps to achieve better health outcomes."



How art is healing

"Blaklash had the pleasure of supporting several of the First Nations artists engaged to contribute artworks and stories now embedded across the many sites making up Metro North Health Satellite Hospitals."

Each artist has made a significant contribution to the project by generously sharing their artworks and community stories. These artworks and stories serve as visible markers of the continuum of First Nations culture that flows through each site.

Incorporating First Nations artworks and stories into health initiatives is crucial for acknowledging and appreciating the role that First Nations cultural knowledge has in the process of healing and well-being. The integration of artwork in these spaces also provides an opportunity for cross-cultural sharing and creates a dialogue around the importance of caring for Country and the connection between the health of Country and its People. Furthermore, recognising the significance of cultural practice and of First Nations perspectives in healing is an important step towards a more culturally safe and inclusive environment for First Nations peoples within health services."

Christopher Bassi
Associate Art & Design
Blaklash

Blaklash is an Aboriginal design studio specialising in country-centred design and cultural placemaking. Blaklash provided design support for artists on Bribie Island, Caboolture and Kallangur satellite hospitals.

About the Metro North Satellite Hospital murals

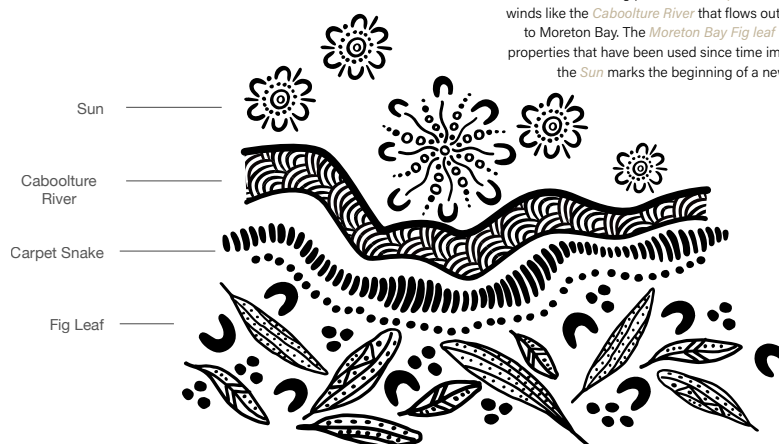
Caboolture Satellite Hospital (Kabul)

A story of continuity and healing by artist James Doyle – Kabi Kabi descendant.

STORY - CABOOLTURE SATELLITE HOSPITAL

A Story of Continuity and Healing by James Doyle

The name Caboolture comes from the language words 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* has healing properties that have been used since time immemorial and the *Sun* marks the beginning of a new day.



ARTWORK - KALLANGUR SATELLITE HOSPITAL

KABI KABI COUNTRY
(KALLANGUR SITE)
BRITTNEY BOND

A Story of Fire & Healing by Brittney Bond

This is a story of Fire and Healing.
We find and collect the leaves of the Scribbly Gum.
For the Fire Sticks to carry the flame and light the way
And let the Smoke cleanse the Land and heal our People.

ARTIST CONCEPTS

Scribbly
Gum Leaf/
Oonibut

Scribbly
Gum

Land
Pattern

Fire Stick

People



5 ELEMENTS

Kallangur Satellite Hospital (Kalangoor)

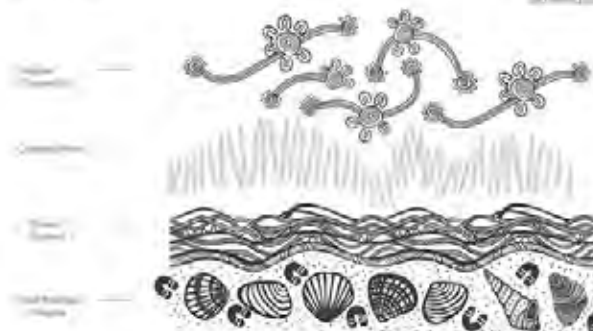
A story of fire and healing by artist Brittney Bond – Kabi Kabi descendant.

ARTWORK - BRIBIE SATELLITE HOSPITAL

KABI KABI COUNTRY
(BRIBIE SITE)
MELISSA BOND

A Story of People and The Sea by Melissa Bond

This is a story of People and The Sea.
The People and the Sea are connected by the Sea.
The People and the Sea are connected by the Sea.
The People and the Sea are connected by the Sea.



4 ELEMENTS

Bribie Island Satellite Hospital (Yarun)

A story of people and the sea by artist Melissa Bond – Kabi Kabi descendant.

For more information about Metro North's Satellite Hospitals, visit <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/hospitals-services/satellite-hospitals>.

Yarning – connecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and improving health outcomes



Yarning has been an integral part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for thousands of years. It acts as a way to share knowledge, understanding, and preservation of culture.

At Metro North Health, Yarning Tables are considered a culturally appropriate intervention in healthcare, providing the opportunity for a social yarn, as well as a safe space for consumers to share their health story and the events that may relate to their present medical condition.

Trina Scott is a Nurse Navigator with the Kallangur Satellite Hospital Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service and agree that yarning provides an easily accessible and culturally safe way for the community to access information and helps improve understanding and use of the healthcare system. Importantly, this information is commonly shared with their families and community.

“Yarning discussions do contribute to achieving better health outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. No matter the size of the outcome, incrementally the success increases as the knowledge is shared and applied across the community.

“As a Nurse Navigator in the Kallangur Satellite Hospital Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service, our goal is to help patients access the most appropriate health services as and when they need it,” said Trina.

“We work across system boundaries to actively advocate and improve health literacy, in close partnership with patients and families, and other health and allied-health services to improve the patient’s healthcare experience and quality of life.”

“Yarning helps the patient makes sense of this multidimensional process.”



When yarning is used in healthcare it is a two-way dialogue of sharing and receiving information, it’s built on a process where relationships and trust within the community is built overtime. It’s also respectful of cultural protocols as well as an awareness of what each person wants to get out of the dialogue.

According to Caboolture Hospital Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Manager Tracy Grant, creating yarning opportunities was an important part of community engagement in the lead-up to the opening of the Caboolture, Kallangur, and Bribie Island Satellite Hospitals. Conversations have now begun on Bribie Island with a Yarning Table held in March and May this year.

“Our first Yarning Table was a successful introduction on the island, and the beginning of a journey to connect with the community, with people coming to a safe space to yarn,” said Tracy.

“There is a lot of information to share about the Bribie Island Satellite Hospital services. Yarning Tables provide the opportunity to talk about what is available and how and when to access the services as well as understanding the unique perspectives of our consumers.”

According to Executive Director of Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospitals and Woodford Directorate, Karlene Willcocks, Yarning Tables enable health consumers, carers and community members who do not ordinarily participate in healthcare consultations to have their say in a safe, informal, and supportive environment.

“Conventional health care systems can be daunting at the best of times,” said Karlene.

“Yarning Tables help to improve health literacy and are a culturally appropriate and effective communication tool for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.”

“Improving First Nations peoples’ health is a complex yet critically important challenge for us all, and Yarning Tables have their place as an important strategy in helping us to reduce the health inequities faced by this community.” said Karlene.

To find out more about the Bribie Island Satellite Hospital and upcoming community engagement events and Yarning Tables, visit <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/hospitals-services/satellite-hospitals>.

Mother nurse Gladys farewells hospital family

Gladys Akhurst is a nurse who will be remembered by many.



Gladys Akhurst (photo courtesy of the Courier Mail)

The longstanding theatre nurse at The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) is hanging up her scrubs in exchange for some well-deserved rest and relaxation after 55 years of service to the community.

As Queensland's longest serving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registered nurse, Gladys, age 73, first commenced her nursing training in 1968 at the age of 17 at Mt Isa Base Hospital.

Her nursing career has spanned many locations including Mt Isa, Brisbane, Darwin, Alice Springs, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, London, and Singapore. Her longest employment at any one institution is at TPCH where she has dedicated 30 years of service.

Throughout her career, Gladys has trained many incoming graduate nurses instilling her skill, knowledge, and passion for the nursing profession into several generations of Queensland nurses.

"For me it has been about supporting the new ones coming through and helping them learn to become better scrub nurses, and I think I've done that," Gladys said.

Fondly known as the matriarch of the operating theatres, Gladys, a mum of two herself, is considered a mother figure by many staff who have benefitted from her kind, nurturing nature.

Over the years, Gladys has become famous for keeping the food cupboard in the theatre tearoom stocked, so her colleagues are well nourished during their busy shifts.

"My mother was a caring soul, I think I got it from her. I love to take care of people, it's part of who I am," she said.

The veteran nurse admits that while she will miss the hospital, she is ready for retirement.

"The Prince Charles Hospital has been my home for a long time. I've enjoyed every minute working here, the staff are like my family, they've helped me through all the good and bad times," she said.

"I'm lucky to have had such a wonderful career, but now I'm ready to start the next part of my life – it's time."



STAFF PROFILE



A Day in the life of: **Mark Dorante**

Senior Health Worker,
Connecting Care to Country
The Prince Charles Hospital

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

I am a Torres Strait Islander from the Keriri Island (Hammond). I have blood ties to Badu Island and Murray Island.

Q2. What is your role within Metro North Health and what does a typical day look like for you?

I'm a Senior Health Worker within the Connecting Care to Country Program at TPCH. As I am only new to the role, my typical day is studying up on the heart and lungs, learning how to run clinics, and getting to know the program and what the program means to Mob.

Q3. Where did you work before commencing at Metro North Health?

Before starting with Metro North Health I worked for the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health as an outreach worker taking mob to health appointments in hospitals around Brisbane.

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

I would like to give a big shout out to Aunty Yoko Mills up in Thursday Island. She was the one that inspired me to be a health worker by giving me the opportunity to work for men's and women's health. She was a great mentor, and she is the reason I'm still in health today. Thank you, Aunty Yoko Mills.

Q5. Why is achieving health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people important to you?

Achieving health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is important to me so that mob can have the same health opportunities as everyone else.

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

When I am not at work I enjoy being around my kids, I am a foodie and I love to cook, and I like to watch rugby league... UP THE MIGHTY BRONX.



Kallangur Satellite Hospital

9 Stoker Way, Kallangur QLD 4503
Phone: (07) 3285 0000

The **Kallangur Satellite Hospital** offers outpatient and community health services closer to home, and access to a Minor Illness and Injury Clinic providing free* urgent care options for people who don't need to go to an emergency department.

The Kallangur Satellite Hospital has free parking and is located near the Kallangur Train Station.

**Ensure you have your medicare card with you.*



Minor Injury and Illness Clinic (operating 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week)

Please note that this is not an Emergency Department. Community can access the Minor Injury and Illness Clinic by 'walk-in' for urgent care of illnesses and injuries that are not expected to be life-threatening, such as simple fractures, simple infections, toothache, minor burns, and minor head injuries with no loss of consciousness.

Depending on clinic service demand towards closure time, there may be the possibility that you will be redirected to a Hospital Emergency Department.

In a life-threatening emergency, call Triple Zero (000) or go to your nearest Hospital Emergency Department.

**Metro North
Health**



**Queensland
Government**



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.

**Metro North
Health**



**Queensland
Government**

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 TSILT_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:TSILT_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au) or phone (07) 3139 3235.



<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/au/>

© State of Queensland (Metro North Hospital and Health Service)2024 Produced by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team Page 28