



Dear colleagues,

I was very fortunate to join Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders at a special celebratory luncheon at North Lakes yesterday during this important week of celebration and commemoration. I also attended a NAIDOC celebration at Caboolture Hospital on Wednesday.

As Geoffrey Binge, RBWH Cultural Capability Officer, wrote earlier this week:

*Across Australia and around the world, NAIDOC Week...is an opportunity for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to learn about and honour the centuries-old traditions. It is also an opportunity to showcase a wide variety of achievements and listen to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.*

Metro North is appropriately considered a leader in its efforts to achieve health equity. Initiatives and programs such as Better Together Medication Access (now statewide), the expansion of the Deadly Feet clinic through community visits to Cherbourg and Kingaroy, and the community education and screening services delivered by the Better Together Health Van are only three examples of the extraordinary commitment and success of our HHS.

I applaud Sherry and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers across all directorates, as well as the commitment of all staff across our health service for your work in progressing the actions of the [Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2022-2025](#). In a very short time, significant progress has been made, but we still have a long way to go. Let's keep working together on actionable steps to health equity.

Work is also occurring to achieve health equity through the collective action of South East Queensland public and community controlled health sector organisations. The Chairs and Chief Executives of Gold Coast, Metro South, Metro North, West Moreton and Children's Health Queensland, as well as the Mater, PHNs and Queensland Ambulance Service, are signatories to the SEQ First Nations First Nations Health Equity Statement of Commitment. The Statement of Commitment sets out 6 actions which require urgent and rapid acceleration by partner organisations centred on strengthening the role of the community controlled health sector within the health system, and to improve the cultural safety of mainstream health services, including eliminating institutional racism and discrimination.

### **CKW emergency department**

Thank you to Executive Director Caboolture Hospital Karlene Willcocks and ED Nursing Director Aleesha Hampson for showing me the Caboolture Hospital emergency department on Wednesday. I appreciated seeing first-hand the friendly and responsive care provided by the team to patients. The new Clinical Services Building is a welcome addition to meet the need for healthcare services in Moreton Bay which is one of the fastest growing communities in South East Queensland.

I also joined the Premier and Minister for Health during the official opening and tour of the Bribie Island Satellite Hospital which will open on 17 July. Satellite Hospitals are providing alternative care pathways for the community and reducing the number of emergency department presentations for less serious presentations.

### **Innovation in Action**

In my travels I see many examples of innovation in progress across Metro North. Recently at a funeral the Eulogy included a heartfelt thank you for the care and support for an elderly lady by the RADAR team. I have also learned more about the Older Person Emergency Network (OPEN) operating from Caboolture using innovative models of care that keep patients at home, where

possible avoiding ED, or facilitating direct admissions to hospital when required.

Thank you all for making a difference to those people we help.

Regards,  
Bernard Curran  
Board Chair

Metro North  
Health



Queensland  
Government



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