



Dear Colleagues,

This week is NAIDOC Week (7- 14 July 2024), an important opportunity to celebrate and recognise the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC Week, which first began in 1975, provides an opportunity for all Australians to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.

This year's theme chosen by the National NAIDOC Committee, is 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud':

*"Blak, Loud, and Proud' encapsulates the unapologetic celebration of Indigenous identity, empowering us to stand tall in our heritage and assert our place in the modern world.*

*"This theme calls for a reclamation of our narratives, an amplification of our voices, and an unwavering commitment to justice and equality." National NAIDOC Committee Co-Chair, Steven Satour.*

The Metro North Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team (A&TSILT) had the privilege of partnering with key services to attend community events held last week including Northside NAIDOC Community Fun Day at Zillmere, the Buranga Widjung Justice Group community flag raising ceremony at Caboolture Town Square, and the Mindle Bygul NAIDOC Family Day at Deception Bay.



*Pictured: Metro North Health Strong Start to Life team sharing health information at Northside NAIDOC Family Fun Day; CKW Executive Director, Karlene Willcocks, Manager Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services, Tracy Grant and Cultural Capability Officer Janita Adams promoting telehealth services and enjoying the event; Kallangur Satellite Hospital Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Hub team promoting the satellite hospital at Northside NAIDOC Family Fun Day.*

Several events will be held across Metro North Health this week and we encourage all staff to take part in these important celebrations:

- **Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital:** Flag raising and celebration, main entrance flag pole followed by Education Centre, Monday 8 July, 9am to 10am
- **The Prince Charles Hospital:** Community and staff gathering / lunch, Tuesday 9 July, garden near Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander demountable, 12pm to 2pm.
- **Caboolture Satellite Hospital:** Morning Tea, meeting room 1, Tuesday 9 July, 9.30am-11.30am.
- **Redcliffe Hospital:** Yarning circle and cultural activities, staff courtyard, Wednesday 10 July, 10am to 2pm.
- **Caboolture Hospital:** Lunch and NAIDOC celebrations, CSB Courtyard, Wednesday 10 July, 10am to 2pm.
- **Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital:** A Healing Journey - an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Experience guest speaker presentation, RBWH Education Centre – Auditorium, Thursday 11 July 11.00am to 12.00 noon.
- **Mental Health:** Yarning Circles and craft activities held across the inpatient wards.

In recognition of the tireless contributions of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders to our health service, the A&TSILT will host a special celebratory Elders luncheon on July 11 at North Lakes. 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.

If you are looking for more educational resources, we encourage staff to access the comprehensive library of cultural films produced and shared over the past three years via the [Better Together Health Van website](#).

Please wear your Metro North shirts with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork throughout the week.

Happy NAIDOC Week!

Yours in unity,  
Jackie and Sherry



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Metro North Health respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our facilities are built. We also pay respect and acknowledge Elders past, present and the future.



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