

Metro North Health

# Message from the Chief Executive

Adj. Prof. Jackie Hanson



Dear colleagues

What defines excellence? Here at Metro North, we recognise excellence in all our clinical, non-clinical and operational staff across a range of categories each year as part of our Staff Excellence Awards. The awards celebrate our staff who make a significant contribution and demonstrate a strong commitment to our values, either as individuals or a team.

We can't celebrate the amazing work of our peers if we don't know about it, so please take some time to nominate a deserving colleague if you can. You can do so [here](#) with nominations open today!

We are pleased to announce that we have some new award categories this year, meaning this year's event will be bigger and better than ever before. Award criteria is not about the type of job you do, but about the way you demonstrate the criteria in your role. The four new categories include:

- Board Safety and Quality
- Excellence in Consumer Partnerships
- Emerging Leaders
- Non-clinical Excellence in Operations

Our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Staff Excellence Awards will take place on Friday 22 November at Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre – be sure to save the date for this milestone event and nominate a colleague who deserves it. We'd like to see nominations across all areas and roles in Metro North Health!

## **Welcome Penny, our new Metro North Mental Health's (MNMH) inaugural Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health**

I am pleased to announce Penny Dale has joined our team in a new position, as Metro North Mental Health's (MNMH) inaugural Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

Penny will provide leadership and oversight to deliver culturally safe services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers.

On taking on the role, Penny said:

*"I see this role as a big challenge but an even greater opportunity – I can't wait to get started in September."*

We are excited to have you join us, Penny.



### **Wearing Purple for Pride**

I have seen a sea of purple across Metro North today for Wear It Purple Day. Thank you for getting involved in this great cause. Wear It Purple Day strives to foster supportive, safe, empowering and inclusive environments for young people who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community. By wearing purple on this day of celebration, it shows LGBTQIA+ people that they are celebrated and have the right to be proud of who they are.

### **Redcliffe Hospital Stolen Wages Plaque Unveiling Video**

Earlier this year, Metro North Health made history by being the first Hospital and Health Service in Queensland to formally acknowledge the use of stolen wages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to build one of our facilities.



We had a permanent apology plaque placed at the front of the Redcliffe Hospital to recognise this, in a special event with Traditional Owners, Elders, community and staff.

We have a video of the plaque unveiling that sheds light on the profound impact and sense of healing this event provided.

Watch the Redcliffe Hospital stolen wages video [here](#).

Regards,  
Jackie

Chief Allied Health Practitioner  
**Mark Butterworth**



I am very pleased to share some good news from the annual Dietitians Australia conference earlier this month at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

Our Metro North dietitians dominated the awards ceremony at the conference, with Metro North Dietitians winning three out of six awards, with one highly commended recipient. Congratulations to:

- Winner, Research in Practice: Adrienne Young
- Winner, New Researcher: Sarah Mackay
- Winner, Practice-based Evidence in Nutrition: Hannah Olufson
- Highly Commended, Practice-based Evidence in Nutrition: Nina Meloncelli

Well done to our amazing staff and teams.

Across Metro North our Nutrition and Dietetic Departments provide comprehensive clinical services for both inpatients and outpatients, as well as providing appropriate meals to our patients. They also provide other services including education programs to hospital staff and community groups, support and advice to health professionals in regional areas, a multidisciplinary specialist nutrition support team service, and obesity management services through the Tertiary Obesity Management Service and a state-wide multidisciplinary bariatric service.

All our departments have a major role in teaching and research and provide clinical placements, food service placements and research placements for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Dietetic assistants and foodservice staff are also part of our departments, working closely together with dietitians to ensure that all patients are provided with an appropriate meal and nutrition care. They are responsible for managing patient menus, nutritional supplements and enteral feeds.

Mark

## Acting Chief People and Culture Officer **Raelene Burke**



Asking the question, “are you OK?” can make a real impact in the workplace. As Metro North Health (MNH) team members, we can all create a culture where people feel confident asking and answering this simple yet important question.

Although every day is an opportunity to check-in with your colleagues, the National Day of Action, **R U OK? Day** is coming up on Thursday 12 September, and a great reminder of the positive impact this question can have on someone going through a tough time.

### **Training to help you navigate an R U OK? conversation**

To support staff and leaders to ask, “are you ok?” and be prepared for how to deal with any response, People & Culture have developed a *one-hour informative session* which is being held *virtually on 9 September at 1pm*. Spots are limited, so [register now!](#)

Staying connected is more important than ever. Our ability to support others at work can make a real difference to our own wellbeing as well as those around us. You can learn more about all the wellbeing resources available to you as a MNH employee on the [Culture & Wellbeing QHEPS page](#).

### **Caretaker period**

With the State election taking place on 26 October, caretaker period will begin on 1 October. The caretaker period is important because with any general election, there is a possibility of a change of government.

Business as usual continues through the caretaker period, however, certain practices aim to ensure that the current government’s actions do not bind a possible incoming government.

During caretaker period there will be no:

- making significant appointments
- making or implementing major policy decisions that are likely to commit an incoming government, and
- entering into major contracts or undertakings.

It is vital, as a public servant, we know our responsibilities during this time. We must also ensure we remain apolitical and avoid using state resources in a way that may advantage a particular political party.

Caretaker mode will remain in effect until the election result is clear or—in the event of a change of government—until the new government is sworn in.

For more information about the caretaker period and your responsibilities, read the [Guidelines on the Caretaker Conventions](#).

Regards,



Raelene



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We respectfully acknowledge 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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