## MESSAGE FROM THE **ED METRO NORTH MENTAL HEALTH**

Metro North Health

Dr Kathryn Turner



Dear staff,

## International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) - 31 August 2023

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died from overdose, and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind. Overdose affects everyone. From grieving families to spontaneous first responders, the impacts of overdose are far-reaching and fall indiscriminately.

The IOAD 2023 theme "Recognising those people who go unseen" is about acknowledging people in our communities who are affected by overdose but might go unseen in the crisis. Overdose is not something that is only applicable to alcohol and drug services. People with alcohol and drug issues are present in all areas of healthcare and the community. We should all be aware and ready to help.

This year, Melaleuca Clinic set up a stall at the Common Good Café at The Prince Charles Hospital to raise awareness for hospital staff and visitors. They chatted with many staff and promoted the IOAD campaign. Congratulations to the Melaleuca Clinic staff who did a fantastic job with the stall and decorations in the clinic.





Best wishes,

Kathryn