

MESSAGE FROM THE ED METRO NORTH MENTAL HEALTH

Metro North Health

Dr Kathryn Turner



Dear Staff,

As the year draws to a close it is a good opportunity to reflect on some wonderful achievements across the year in terms of improving clinical services and outcomes for our mental health and drug and alcohol services, research, our lived experience workforce and the development of our commitment to building stronger connections with community through our Indigenous Mental Health Workforce.

Metro North Staff Excellence Awards

Metro North Mental Health staff had a great experience at the recent Metro North Staff Excellence Awards gala dinner. We went into the evening with seven finalists, which was very exciting, particularly given the very large number of nominations.

Once again, I congratulate our finalists on the wonderful work that has been recognised in this way. This includes nominations for First Nations staff with Penny Dale (Forensics) and Kylie Medlin (Metro North Mental Health RBWH). Congratulations to Penny on receiving a Highly Commended award.

It was great to see Cassandra Hall and Rebecca Mann being recognised for their leadership, particularly demonstrated by their work in implementing the ASPIRES Pathway. Their place as finalists in this category was very well deserved.

We had two finalists who both came in as Highly Commended for the People Focus category - Anna Sander from ADS, and Catherine Llewellyn in her youth work in Hot House Clinic, ADS. Jeremy Hayllar was there to receive the Highly Commended on behalf of Anna Sander, alongside Catherine.

Our Chermside Community Mental Health Service team were there as finalists for the Values in Action category, and it was exciting to see them also bring in a Highly Commended award.

Our ASPIRES team were also recognised for excellence in training and education. There to represent the team and to pick up the Highly Commended award was Ben Walters who played a pivotal part in developing the training along with Danielle Alchin, Anna Asnicar, Helena Roennfeldt, our Lived Experience Education Consultant, Jane Woodbridge and others.

It was wonderful to share the excitement and celebrations with the teams on the night (pictured below). I look forward to continuing to build on this success next year.

People Focus

Highly Commended - Anna Sander - Championing a Statewide service change to reduce stigma, Biala Alcohol and Drug Service.

Highly Commended - Hot House Clinic, Biala Alcohol and Drug Service.



Catherine Llewellyn, Hot House Clinic and Jeremy Hayllar who accepted the award on Anna Sander's behalf.

Excellence in Training and Education

Highly Commended - SPIRES: Suicide, Self-harm and Overdose Prevention



Ben Walters

Values in Action

Highly Commended - Chermide Community Mental Health Service



Vivian Deng, Sarah Brown and Patrick Uzabeaga

First Nations Staff

Highly Commended - Penny Dale, Biala Alcohol and Drug Service



Penny Dale, Biala



Celebrating together with our Metro North Mental Health staff

We are excited to look ahead into 2024 as a year for growth for Metro North Mental Health. Next year will be a busy year with the implementation of a variety of initiatives to assist with the demands for our services and capacity issues that have been an ongoing challenge. Some of the exciting programs to commence in 2024 include:

- Assertive Mobile Crisis Assessment and Response Team (AMCART)
- Early Psychosis Northern Intervention team
- Hospital in the Home Service (HITH) Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
- The Community Mental Health Service Relocation to Wharf Street
- Delivery of the New Crisis Stabilisation Facility (CSF) at The Prince Charles Hospital

Holiday season

There have been significant pressures experienced across the service during 2023, and particularly over the past few months. Working in mental health and AOD services can be an extremely rewarding experience and the work everyone does is so important. It can also, at times, be challenging.

During the challenging times it has been wonderful to see how teams and individuals have come together to provide support to one another, and how other supports such as our wonderful Staff Peer Responders have responded.

Please remember that staff can also access staff psychologists (3647 9673 or email MNStaffPsychology@health.qld.gov.au) and TELUS (formerly Benestar) for 24 hour free professional, confidential coaching and support (1300 360 362).

Lastly, a big thank you to all those staff working to support consumers and services over the holiday period.

Kind regards

Kathryn