

Message from the ED, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Sherry Holzapfel



November 2024

Dear Colleagues,

This month we celebrate Movember. [Movember](#) aims to shine the light on important men's health issues that are often overlooked – such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health, and suicide prevention.

A special men's health gathering is taking place on Thursday 14 November at PCYC Zillmere, bringing together a range of organisations and services to promote important health information and education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. By making health information easily accessible, this event aims to break down barriers related to men seeking out support and undertaking important health screening. Staff, their families, and communities are invited to attend. More information about this event can be found below.

Last week, I was fortunate to attend the Congress of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) Conference held in Fremantle Western Australia, alongside Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer and colleague, Alanna Geary. Alanna and I presented the work that we are undertaking in relation to how we are using the Health Equity Strategy and subsequent evaluation to increase the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nursing and Midwifery workforce, providing cultural safety for patients and staff and work alongside our community through co-design and collaboration. The presentation was so well received that CATSINaM are now wanting to not only showcase our work but use it as a base to catapult nationwide initiatives – how deadly is that!



(Alanna Geary and myself pictured at the CATSINaM Conference)

In other great news, I would like to congratulate Professor Peter Hopkins, Executive Director of Heart & Lung Clinical Stream and Program Director Archana Mishra, who were recently awarded the 2024 Bond University Leadership in Service Delivery Award at the Asia-Pacific health Leadership Congress.

Professor Hopkins and Archana were recognised for their outstanding leadership and work in the establishment of the Heart Outreach Program for Health Equity (HOPE) and Urban Indigenous Respiratory Outreach Clinic (UROC), and the continued collaboration and partnership with community organisations to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



(Archana Mishra and Professor Peter Hopkins pictured alongside key note panellist Professor Brian Dolan OBE)

I will be attending the Metro North Health Staff Excellence Awards later this month and look forward to continuing to celebrate staff who work tirelessly to improve the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Another key event taking place later this month is the Health Equity Showcase on 28 November at North Leagues & Services Club. This event is an opportunity to provide an update to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members of the great work taking place across our HHS to achieve health equity and life expectancy parity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Health Equity Showcase also provides an opportunity to connect with our community, and build trusting relationships. I strongly encourage you to attend if you have availability to do so. More information and event registration details can be found below.

Virtual Courageous Conversations: The Experience™ is an online interactive learning experience delivered by South Pacific Institute that provides Metro North Health with a way to talk about race, intentionally and effectively.

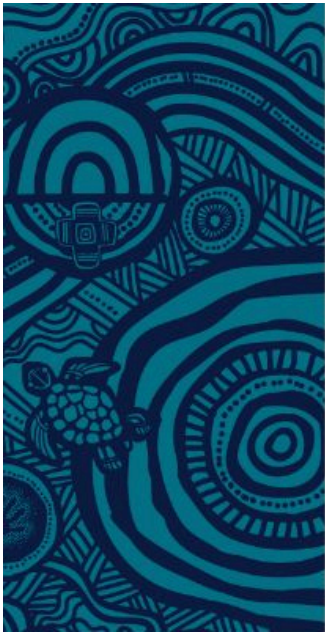
Metro North Health have developed a partnership with the South Pacific Institute to deliver ongoing sessions to discuss unconscious bias and various forms of racism. Addressing unconscious bias and actively eliminating racial discrimination and institutional racism within the service is at the forefront of our organisations priorities under the legislated *Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2022-2025*.

I encourage all staff across Metro North Health to undertake these training sessions. You can register your interest by searching 'Virtual Courageous Conversation' on [TMS](#).

Thank you for all your hard work, and your commitment to ensuring our hospitals and health facilities are providing the best care possible to our people.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy,

Sherry Holzapfel.



**The Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Leadership Team**

HAVE MOVED TO

Chermside Galleria
Level 4
831 Gympie Road
Chermside QLD 4032

**Engaging with our community every step of
the way**

The Prince Charles Hospital Expansion Project recently celebrated the start of construction for the new six storey Acute Services Building with a traditional Smoking Ceremony.

Aboriginal Elder, Aunty Kathryn Fisher, performed the Smoking Ceremony on behalf of the Turrbal People of Brisbane, which was an opportunity to cleanse the building site and to show respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Metro North Health believe in the importance of community involvement, ensuring that everyone has a voice in this project. Together, we're prioritising cultural safety and inclusiveness in our building designs.



VIRTUAL COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION: THE EXPERIENCE™

Virtual Courageous Conversation: The Experience™ (VCC) is an online learning experience that provides participants with a set of tools to talk about race, intentionally and effectively. Together, these tools help to create a space that is authentic, safe, and generative for conversations about race that are insightful and compassionate.

How to register

- Search via [Talent Management System \(TMS\)](#) 'Virtual Courageous Conversation: The Experience' to enrol in an upcoming class.
- 79 spots available

For additional information, please contact Andrew via ATSILT_CapacityBuilding@health.qld.gov.au



Jobs for mob!



Metro North Health have multiple positions available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply. For list of current positions please see below:

Advertised position	Job link
First Nations Senior Health Worker	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-STR600748
Exercise Physiologist (Identified)	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-COH601649
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Liaison Worker (Non-Clinical)	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-COH601930
Nurse Navigator (Identified)	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-RBH602172
Social Worker - Community Palliative Care Service (Identified)	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-COH602488
Administration Officer - Deadly Feet	EOI PORTAL – Metro North Health
Social and Emotional Wellbeing Officer	EOI PORTAL – Metro North Health

Join us at the upcoming Metro North Health

Better Together Staff Gathering

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and staff working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services within Metro North Health are invited to attend.

Spots are limited so get in quick!

[Click here to register your attendance via Microsoft Forms](#)

Thursday 5 December 2024 | 11:30am - 3:30pm | PCYC Zillmere

Metro North Health | Queensland Government

MURRI MOVEMBER

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Men's Health Gathering

When	Where	Key focus areas
Thursday 14 November 2024 From 10am - 2pm	Zillmere PCYC 340 Zillmere Road Zillmere QLD 4034	Diabetes, cancer, heart health, lung health and kidney health

To register your attendance, or for more information, please contact Andrew via 0409 152 517 or ATSILT_CapacityBuilding@health.qld.gov.au.

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This initiative is supported by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team

New culturally safe health navigation service

A new culturally safe health navigation service has begun in Metro North and Moreton Bay to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people better negotiate their health journey.

Suzy, a Mitakoodi woman with family in Cloncurry, is leading the new service and said support is provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with complex chronic disease and medical conditions who need help navigating health and community services.

“As part of the new service, we advocate for and coordinate culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families.

“It’s about having a yarn to the patients about what they need, then linking them to health services and home supports.

“We visit patients in their home, assist patients to attend health care appointments while other services

are identified and put in place.”

The new service is delivered by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurse Navigator and Advanced Health Worker from Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 4.30pm.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 18 years and over with a complex medical and social concern in Moreton Bay and North Brisbane can self-refer or ask their health professional to refer them via email: COH-IndigenousNavigation@health.qld.gov.au.

The service is delivered through face-to-face visits, through telehealth and/or over the phone.



Luke stands strong for Men's Health this November!

Perinatal Wellbeing Team Senior Health Worker, Luke, is striving to raise awareness on the importance of men's health.

Throughout the month of November, Luke is raising funds for Movember - a leading charity changing the face of men's health. To further shine a light on men's health, Luke has committed to completing an ice bucket challenge if he exceeds his fundraising target! The ice bucket challenge will take place at a special Movember event at Caboolture Satellite Hospital (Kabul) on Tuesday 26 November.

If you want to get behind Luke and show your support for such an important cause, reach out to him via email: Luke.Smith5@health.qld.gov.au or click the button below.

Well done, Luke!

[I want to support!](#)



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health panel opportunity

The Queensland Centre for Mental Health Learning is seeking a member from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce to join a panel overseeing the post graduate Queensland Mental Health Scholarship Scheme.

Joining the review panel is an opportunity to contribute an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander perspective on mental health workforce development at a state level. Applicants are encouraged to discuss the possibility of this opportunity with their line manager prior to submitting their expression of

interest. Your line manager must be aware you are applying for this expression of interest so time away from duties can be approved.

To apply, complete the EOI form below. Expressions of interest close Friday 22 November 2024.

[Submit your EOI here](#)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Showcase

When	Where	Time
Thursday 28 November 2024	Norths Leagues and Services Club 1347 Anzac Ave, Kallangur QLD 4503	9am - 3pm 9am arrival and registration for a 9.30am start




Register your attendance by scanning the QR code or clicking here.

For more information, please contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team on 3170 4460.



Metro North Health | Queensland Government



Multicultural Health and Language Services

CULTURE • LANGUAGE • SPIRITUALITY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages and Interpreter Services

Metro North Language Services (MNLS) Provider, 2M Language Services has onboarded 25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

1. Alyawarr
2. Anindilyakwa
3. Anmatyerr
4. Burarra
5. East Side Kriol
6. Eastern/Central Arrernte
7. Gurindji
8. Iwaidja
9. Kunwinjku
10. Luritja/Pintupi

11. Maung
12. Modern Tiwi
13. Murrinh-Patha
14. Ndjebbana
15. Ngaatjatjarra
16. Ngan'gikurrunggurr
17. Nunggubuyu (Wubuy)
18. Pitjantjatjara
19. Warlpiri
20. Warumungu
21. West Side Kriol
22. Western Arrarnta
23. Wumpurrarni English
24. Yanunytjatjara
25. Yolngu Matha

All interpreters are native speakers, ensuring authenticity and quality in all communications. Staff can easily book language services through the standard Metro North interpreter booking process or phone (07) 3647 2000.

[Learn more](#)

Meet Whitney!

Proud Ballardong, Whadjuk, Kamilaroi and Barkindji woman Whitney has joined the Metro North Health team as the acting Women's Business Shared Pathway Coordinator, a Gynecology outreach model for women in partnership with The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH).

Coming from a family of health care professionals involved in leading and promoting better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Southeast Queensland area, Whitney was inspired to follow in the footsteps of those before her.



"Having both of my parents in health sparked my interest in Health for our mob. What particularly gained my interest was when my dad started his Masters in Human Movements, I had the opportunity to have a tour of the Human Movements building and it was mentioned that one of the lectures/researchers worked with the Brisbane Lions, my favourite AFL team. I didn't realise I could make a career in it!" said Whitney.

Before joining Metro North Health, Whitney worked with IUIH working as an Exercise Physiologist across Southeast Queensland delivering services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with chronic diseases and helping self-manage their health conditions through exercise.

No surprises that outside of work Whitney chooses a healthy lifestyle spending time with her two boys at the soccer fields, beach, or indoor playgrounds. She joined a division 1 AFL women's side last year training twice a week and the other 3 days at the gym.

"I'm in the off season now, so upping my cardio at the gym, doing stairs on the weekend, and doing strength training three times a week."

Welcome, Whitney!

New Health Equity recruitment information

You can now find updated information on the Health Equity Recruitment QHEPS page to help hiring

managers grow our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, learn about the cadetship program and more.

With a Metro North target to increase our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce from 1.9% to 3%, it's every manager's responsibility to be up to date with this information on QHEPS.

Increasing the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our workforce brings diverse perspectives, deeper understanding and more culturally responsive care to the community we serve.

[Learn more](#)



New governance process for recruitment of identified roles

If you are recruiting for an identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander role, all hiring managers are required to follow the new governance steps prior to recruitment.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Metro North Health | Queensland Government



Walawaani
02 & 03 DECEMBER 2024
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

A Queensland Health initiative
CPCRE Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education

Walawaani Conference!

The Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education are excited to invite both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous professionals who work within any field involved in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander palliative care through advocacy, education, or policy.

The conference will bring together leaders in palliative and end-of-life care to elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and initiatives and will feature presentations on various palliative and end of life care topics with speakers from all states and territories.

Event details:

When: 02 & 03 December 2024

Where: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Cost: Refer to website for more information (click on button below)

Find out more

Second round Queensland Health Targeted Clinical Research Fellowships (TCRFs) now open!

Fellowships will be awarded across the following five streams:

- Novice Researcher (Regional, Rural and Remote) - up to \$30,000 per award
- Rural and Remote Health - up to \$125,000 per award
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health - up to \$125,000 per award**
- Women and Girls' Health - up to \$125,000 per award
- Genomics - up to \$125,000 per award



An optional additional (up to) \$10,000 mentorship supplement is available for eligible researchers who are based out of regional, rural, or remote health facilities.

In this round, there is a strong focus on staff, projects and ideas that could lead to better health outcomes and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Rural and Remote communities.

For further information contact the Queensland Health Office of Research and Innovation via phone (07) 3708 5080 or email ORI_Fellowships@health.qld.gov.au.

Applications close 11.59pm Monday 2 December with successful applicants announced in April/May 2025.

Find out more

Cultural Resources page now live on QHEPS!

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Resources page is now available on QHEPS. Visit the page to access updated resources on Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country, recruitment, clinical support, safety and quality and additional Queensland Government resources.

If your area has created Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focused resources or you know of any additional resources to be added to the page, please reach out to A_TSILTCommsMNH@health.qld.gov.au.

Better Together Medication Access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.
Click here for more information.

NOW INCLUDES OUTPATIENT MEDICATIONS

Metro North Health | Queensland Government

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artwork Protocols and online request form

AVAILABLE NOW!

Metro North Health Visual Identity
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artwork Protocols
Internal distribution only

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Protocols

Artwork Request Form

Follow our new Instagram and LinkedIn pages 'Better Together – Our Health, Our Way' for all the latest news, updates and initiatives related to Health Equity.

The platforms celebrate our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, good news stories, upcoming events, and job opportunities.

Join our journey towards achieving health equity at Metro North Health.



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ourhealthourway/>
 LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/better-together-our-health-our-way>
 Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/bettertogetherourhealthourway/>



Available for bookings now!

To book the van or to learn more, visit qheps.health.qld.gov.au/metronorth/atsilt/better-together-van

Metro North Health

Better Together Health Van

Metro North Health |  **Queensland Government**

Better Together Health Van now available for bookings!

We are now accepting bookings from Metro North Health services keen to utilise the Better Together Health Van.

The Better Together Health Van is available to support your service provide improved access, opportunistic screening measures, important health promotion and engagement activities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within the Metro North Health catchment area.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team are available to assist you by connecting your service with local community.

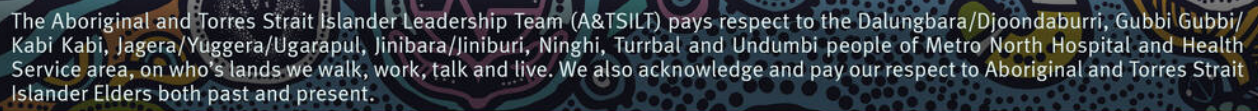
For further information or If you would like to book the van please visit the [Better Together Health Van QHEPS page](#).

Do you have a good news story to share?

The A&TSILT Communications and Planning Team are always keen to share positive stories to our community. If you have a photograph to share, a program update or just a good yarn, send through your contribution for Better Together Yarns, Talk-About Newsletter, Better Together Yarns ebulletin or our Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages to A_TSILTCommsMNH@health.qld.gov.au

Are you following us on social media?

Check out our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages for great stories and to stay up to date with the latest news!



The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team (A&TSILT) pays respect to the Dalungbara/Djoondaburri, Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi, Jagera/Yuggera/Ugarapul, Jinibara/Jiniburi, Ninghi, Turrbal and Undumbi people of Metro North Hospital and Health Service area, on who's lands we walk, work, talk and live. We also acknowledge and pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders both past and present.

Produced by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team,
Metro North Health

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