



Dear team,

It is great to be back after a short break and to have the pleasure of joining the Bright 'N' Sparks Dementia Choir on Saturday for their first ever public performance.

Firstly though, thank you to Jayne Stevenson for doing such a wonderful job while I was away, especially delivering seven facility Community and Oral Health Staff Excellence Award ceremonies over the last two weeks.

One of these awards ceremonies was purposely left unannounced for the Bright 'N' Sparks Choir (Brisbane North Dementia Choir), who were recognised as the winner of the People Focused category of the 2024 Community and Oral Health Staff Excellence Awards.

On the day, many choir members and volunteers were also acknowledged for their tireless efforts supporting the choir including Desma Healy, Belinda Begley, Norma Storey, David Storey, Elisabeth Walpole and Marie Ellsworth.



It was clear to the 150 plus concert attendees that the power of music was on display with a range of familiar and popular songs ranging from the Beatles to a mixture of children's favourites.

The Bright 'N' Sparks Dementia Choir was created to support people living with dementia and their loved ones and carers to come together to sing and socialise.

The benefits of such a choir are many and can be clearly seen in the progress of those attending each week and the fact that they could come together to produce such a wonderful musical performance.

Congratulations to everyone who has made this initiative such a success including the Brighton Wellness Hub team, particularly Rebecka Willson, Katie Lawton, the concertmaster of the Moreton Bay Symphony Orchestra, music teacher Althea O'Dee, our wonderful volunteers and the Men's Shed for cooking the BBQ.

A special mention must be given to the Redcliffe Hospital Speech Pathology department for their donation on behalf of their colleague Liz, to purchase the fabulous new choir vests.



The first ever Dementia Choir brought so much joy and entertainment to Brighton



Choir participant Patrick with his family



Special recognition for key choir supporters

Week of Happiness and Staff Appreciation Winners

After such a great week that saw many facilities and service lines get involved in all of the fun activities, the COH Staff Council has announced our winners.

Congratulations to our Week of Happiness Winners:

- **Large team winner – Gannet House**
- **Small team winner – Norfolk Island Support Program**
- **Highly commended – Caboolture Community Health, Corporate Services Brighton, Finance team Northlakes and Cooina House**



Yarning Circle

The COH Yarning Circle continues to see positive engagement with our Elders which is contributing significantly to the way our community services are delivered.

Last week, our Elders actively engaged in mini activities and yarning about Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

BreastScreen Queensland also attended as special guests to chat with our Elders and community, stressing the importance of regular check-ups.



There was a cake for morning tea and T-shirts for the team and Elders specially designed for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Volunteer Managers Day

This week, for International Volunteer Managers Day, a number of facility visits occurred to drop off thank-you gifts to the amazing staff members who support the Volunteer and Consumer Program at COH.

Our Volunteer Managers are the backbone of our services, guiding and inspiring the volunteers who make such a difference every day.

Their hard work and dedication make sure everything runs smoothly and that our volunteer program continues to have the positive impact it does. Without their support we wouldn't be where we are today.

Their efforts mean so much and today I want to recognise them for their support in our services.

A big thank also to our social work, recreation and administration staff who look after our volunteers as well.





Compliment - Community Transition Care Program

"Mum is now well settled into residential care, and I am working through a list of important jobs, one of which is to thank you and your team for your work.

"When I arrived in Redcliffe to look after mum, I had no knowledge of the Community Transition Care Program (CTCP). When someone at the hospital mentioned it, I thought it sounded like a good idea. The more I found out about the CTCP, the more it became apparent that it was what mum needed, and I was most grateful that she was accepted into the program.

"Everyone in the team was so friendly, kind, helpful and professional. Absolutely every interaction with every member of the team was positive. Even when I disrupted your scheduling by requesting late changes (which happened a few times), Brittany was most kind and positive as she suggested how best to make the scheduling system work for everyone.

"I appreciated the calls ahead from each of the team members to let us know when they would arrive at mum's place. I was very impressed that every team member seemed up-to-date with mum's care, so whatever system you have for keeping the whole team informed worked well for us.

"Mum's transition both onto and out of the program was very smooth and helped make what could have been a stressful time much easier to manage.

"The past couple of months has been quite difficult for me. The team has made the time much easier than it might have been. I know you must help out people of all ages, but I have learned a lot about aged care and the important role the CTCP plays in that arena. My eyes have been well and truly opened.

"I wish the CTCP team all the best in the future."

A final shout out!

A new culturally safe service has started in Metro North and City of Moreton Bay to help First Nations

people better navigate health and community services.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Nurse Navigation Service supports First Nations people with complex chronic disease and medical conditions who need help navigating services.

Community and Oral Health (COH) Nurse Navigator Suzy Warren explains: "As part of the new service, we advocate for and co-ordinate culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families.

[Read more in the Moreton Daily ...](#)



Kind regards,

Glynis Schultz
Executive Director
Community and Oral Health

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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