



Dear Colleagues,

Today marks the anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations.

On the 13th of February 2008, Kevin Rudd, the then Prime Minister of Australia, made an Apology to the members of the Stolen Generation, who suffered as a result of past government policies of forced child removal and assimilation.

It is important to understand that the effect of the Stolen Generation is still being felt by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples today. Many families have experienced inter-generational trauma, due to the trauma experienced by their parents or grandparents who lived through this period of history. The Stolen Generation has resulted in traditional knowledge being lost as this knowledge was not able to be passed down to the next generation.

Stolen Generation survivors are some of Australia's most vulnerable people and many have kept their stories and experiences secret for many years, even decades.

Our Executive Leadership Team recently viewed an emotional and impactful short film created by Western Australia Department of Health that showcases the journey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing and the ongoing affects from the Stolen Generation. We encourage all staff to watch this powerful [video](#).

We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, patients, Elders and community members on this significant day and stand in solidarity to provide our support as part of the healing journey.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff who may be on their own personal healing journey and feeling the effects of today can reach out to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander [Social and Emotional Wellbeing Officers](#). The service is available for staff to who require support in a private and culturally safe environment. We ask that all staff and Line Managers remain respectful of their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues and provide a wellbeing check.

Hearing the resilient stories of the Stolen Generations means this period is not forgotten and shows us how we can listen, learn and support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities we care for each day.

A community hosted event will be held in Brisbane by Link-Up (QLD) on the anniversary of the National Apology. This year's event will be hosted by Ivan Ingram, a proud Wiradjuri and Filipino man and trailblazer in Indigenous law and governance. Inspiring guest speakers, including Stolen Generations survivors Aunty Florence Onus and Aunty Flo Watson OAM, will share their stories. The program will also feature captivating performances by the Murri School Dance Troupe and songs by Bundjalung and South Sea Islander woman, Georgia Corowa.

You can attend this community hosted event in person or watch online:

When: 10am, Thursday 13 February 2025

Where: Concert Hall Foyer, Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), South Brisbane

Online: To watch online, simply visit the Link-Up page on 10am on Thursday 13 February 2025 - <https://www.link-upqld.org.au/apology2025>

We will leave you with two quotes to consider from our Health Equity consultation, and to reflect on how we contribute to the healing journey every day within our roles at Metro North Health.

"I think the Health Equity journey in Metro North Health will lead to true healing and ensure we are working together to better health outcomes for our community."

"We all can make a difference in our own special way. It's now a matter of bringing all together to serve one purpose – health equity."

Warm regards,

Jackie and Sherry.



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Metro North Health respectfully acknowledges 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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