

Metro North Health

Message from the **ED, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health**

Sherry Holzapfel



Adj. Prof. Sherry Holzapfel

January/February 2025

Dear colleagues,

Happy new year and welcome to our first edition of the Better Together Yarns ebulletin for 2025!

I hope you all had a wonderful and restful break over the festive period. I shared the joy of my first Christmas with my grandson Henry and making special memories with my family.

Thank you to our dedicated frontline staff for continuing to work over the Christmas period and provide essential care services to the community.

This year our leadership team will focus on relationship building. I intend to get out and about across Metro North Health to work in collaboration with staff, patients and consumers, and stakeholders to ensure culturally appropriate programs and projects meet the diverse needs of our community.

One of the ways I plan to connect with staff is through my 'Yarns with Sherry' sessions. These yarning sessions are designed to be a safe, casual space for staff to meet with me to ensure you feel supported and heard. The upcoming Yarns with Sherry is scheduled to take place on 6 February at The Prince Charles Hospital. More information can be found below.

This year is shaping up to be a busy, with an extensive calendar of events developed to support our engagement opportunities in 2025. I encourage you to take note of the upcoming events below (yet to be promoted), and we hope you'll be able to join us:

- Metro North Close the Gap Day, Thursday 20th of March
- Health Equity Community Consultation, Thursday 10th of April
- Mabo Day Celebration, Tuesday 3rd of June

Another important measure will be the ongoing development of culturally appropriate screening tools, referral pathways and community linkages in priority areas, ensuring accessibility for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals.

The Better Together Health Van plays a significant role in improving access for services and more focus will be driven towards our hard to reach and vulnerable communities. I am pleased we are currently recruiting to a Program Manager Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker to be attached to the Better Together Health Van, further increasing our outreach capacity and service delivery across Metro North Health.

Metro North Health's draft Strategic Plan is currently open for consultation. I encourage all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to take this opportunity to review the plan and provide your feedback. You can find more information below.

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. If you have any feedback to share or requests for support, please contact our team on A_TSILT_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au.

Until next time, stay safe and deadly.

Kind Regards,
Sherry Holzapfel



Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Sherry Holzapfel is excited to get out and about to meet with staff at the Yarns with Sherry sessions.

The first Yarns with Sherry will take place at TPCH this month!

Location: The Prince Charles Hospital (Breeze cafe, staff eatery area)

Date: Thursday, 6 February 2025

Time: 9am - 11am

No bookings necessary. Feel free to drop by anytime between 9am - 11am for a yarn.

A banner with a blue background and intricate Aboriginal art patterns in yellow, green, and purple. The text 'Join us at the upcoming Metro North Health' is in white, followed by 'Better Together Staff Gathering' in a large white sans-serif font. Below this, it says 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and staff working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services within Metro North Health are invited to attend.' and 'Spots are limited so get in quick!' in white. A white button with a hand cursor icon contains the text 'Click here to register your attendance via Microsoft Forms'. At the bottom, it says 'Thursday 13 February 2025 | 11:30am - 3:00pm | Bray Hall Community Centre'. The bottom right corner features the Metro North Health and Queensland Government logos.

A course everyone should complete in 2025



Virtual Courageous Conversation: The Experience™ (VCC) is an online learning experience that provides participants with a way to talk about race, intentionally and effectively.

Core workshop topics and concepts

- Courageous Conversation Protocol
- Racial Identity Development and Practice
- (De)Constructing Systemic Racism
- Decolonisation through Building Racial Consciousness

How to Register

- Register through the Talent Management System (TMS)
- Search viz TMS “Virtual Courageous Conversation: The Experience” to enrol in a class
- 79 spots and 80 waitlist spots available

For additional information, please contact Andrew via ATSILT-CapacityBuilding@health.qld.gov.au



Register on TMS now



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
Community Engagement Officer - Women's Business (Identified)	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-BSH614099
Social Worker Senior - Caboolture Ngarrama Maternity Program (Identified)	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-CAB615664
Director, First Nations Training Pathway Programs (Identified)	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-MN615876
Clinical Nurse - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perinatal Wellbeing Team (Identified)	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-MH612932
Cultural Capability Officer (Identified)	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-MH616152
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior Health Worker Men's Business (Identified)	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-CAB611556

Mental Health, Social and Emotional Wellbeing Clinician (Social Worker/Psychologist or Occupational Therapist) (Identified)	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-MH616923
Indigenous Mental Health Intervention Program Team Leader (Identified)	A07: https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-MH609068 HP5: https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-MH609038 NG7: https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-MH609019
Project Support Officer - A&TSILT *EOI - internal applications only. Note this is not an Identified role.	EOI PORTAL – Metro North Health
Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer (Redcliffe Hospital) *EOI - internal applications only	EOI PORTAL – Metro North Health

New role brings change for First Nations women, children and families

In December 2024, proud Mununjali woman, Tara Denaro, was appointed as Metro North Health's inaugural Nursing and Midwifery Director, First Nations Women, Children, and Families.

With over 20 years of experience, in both Queensland Health and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health sector, Tara is committed to enhancing maternity and family health, focusing on culturally safe, holistic care.

Tara is dedicated to bringing together all three Ngarrama Maternity Services across Metro North Health to unite as one strong team, focused on the same goal of providing high-quality, culturally informed maternity care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and families.

You can read more about Tara and her now role in the February edition of the Talk-About Newsletter. Coming soon!



SUPPORTING OUR DIVERSE WORKFORCE

Have you updated your diversity status on myHR?
This information is not pre-filled. Simply [log on to myHR](#) to update and record your EEO status.



This initiative is supported by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team, Metro North Health



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](#)

Kurbingui's Back to School Day

The Metro North Health Deadly Smiles and Deadly Feet teams recently attended the Kurbingui back to school day event, where they delivered important health screening to the children and their families.



The annual event, which gets bigger and better each year, brings together services from across the Northside to help prepare Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children for the year ahead.

Staff from across Metro North facilities also attended on the day, to hand out important health information and resources to attendees, whilst strengthening relationships with the community.

What a great day out!

Our vision and commitment

Strategic Plan Staff Consultation

Draft Strategic Plan staff consultation


Metro North is embarking on a refresh of our Strategic Plan, led by our Board.

The Strategic Plan is the overarching guiding document for our current and future decision making. The draft plan outlines our five key strategic focus areas: Service excellence; A great place to work; Advance equity; System of care; and Innovation and research.

Metro North Health will be holding a series of staff consultation sessions up until the end of February across the health service.

Your input and feedback are important in helping guide the direction and position of Metro North over the next few years and inform how we can continue to make Metro North a provider of excellent health care and a workplace of choice.

If you can't make it to a consultation session, you can see the [draft plan on QHEPS](#) and share your feedback by completing a [short survey](#) before the end of February.



Join the team at COH for an informal staff gathering Cultural Yarn.

All COH staff are invited to an informal cultural yarn in a safe space. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff are welcome to attend to support the yarns.

Friday 21 February 2025 | 12pm to 2:30pm
Healing Garden / Rotunda, Brighton Health Campus.

No set agenda. Topics may include:

- Culture issues
- Current political environment
- Or anything you would like to discuss.

Come along for a friendly chat. BYO Lunch.



All
staff
welcome

For further information please email:
COH-A_TSI_HLTHTeam@health.qld.gov.au

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Journey of Health and Wellbeing

This 10-minute video, produced by the Department of Health, Western Australia, describes the practices and impact of colonisation on Aboriginal people. It discusses intergenerational trauma and helps viewers understand how the events of the past play out in the present, whilst acknowledging our strengths, resilience and hope for equity into the future.

[Watch online](#)

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



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support Line

The TELUS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support Line offers confidential support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff:

- by an Identified clinician,
- a clinician who has lots of experience with mob, or
- a non-Indigenous clinician.

Our team are here to support you by having a casual, non-judgmental conversation about the issue you're experiencing.



Free

Confidential

Face-to-face or virtual available

TELUS Health

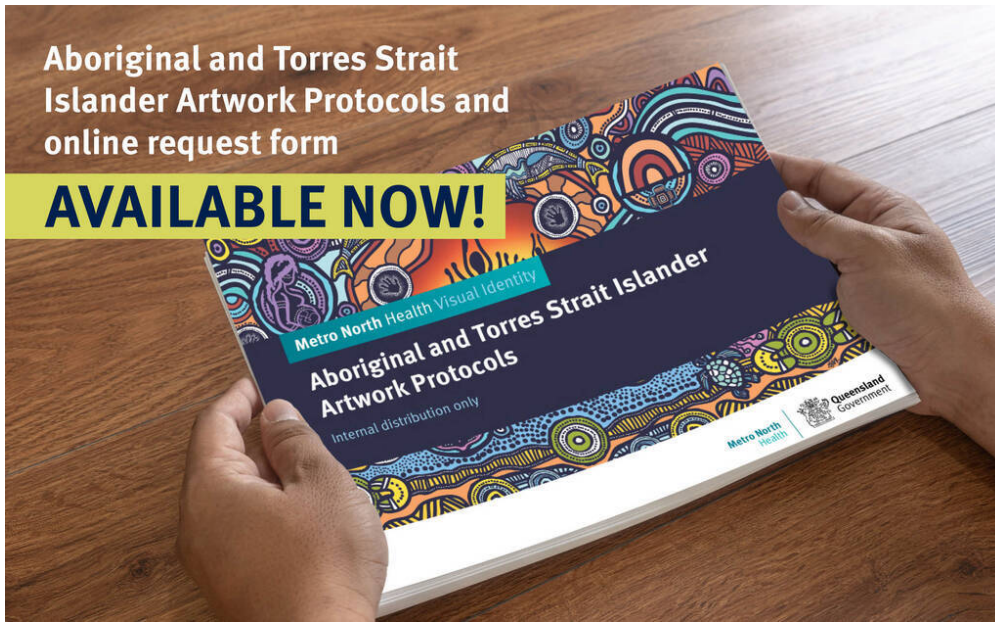
Metro North Health



Queensland Government

Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Artwork Protocols and
online request form

AVAILABLE NOW!



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.

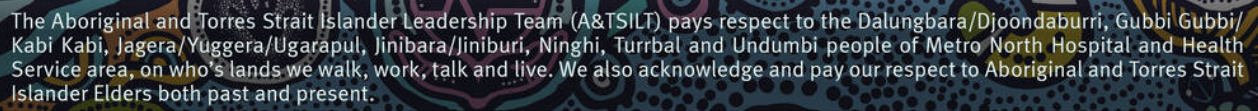
For further information or If you would like to book the van please visit the [Better Together Health Van QHEPS page](#).

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 Better Together - Our Health, Our Way [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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