



Dear team

We are only a few months into the year and the signs are already showing that it will be another great one for our directorate.

Given some of the amazing innovations, improvements and research being led by our great teams this isn't any surprise.

For me, in the coming months there are a few things to keep an eye out for:

- Trial of robotic pets to support dementia residents / patients at Coinda House
- Establishment of GEM HITH and its growth
- Introduction of the Early Career Dental Practitioner Program to support new graduate dentists and oral health therapists
- Establishment of a telehealth pod to support the elderly, and people with mobility issues attend hospital outpatient appointments
- The success of our new registrars across the service
- Commencement of a trial of digital forms to allow easier access for children to dental care
- Establishment of a Grief and Bereavement Service
- Establishment of the HAART and dental services at Bribie Island.

So, many wonderful initiatives underway and it is only February! I will keep you updated about these and much more in the coming weeks and months.

Write a letter to an elder day

Yesterday was National Write a Letter to an Elder Day.

The day serves to remind us all that loved ones enjoy hearing from us and that a simple letter brightens their day.

Thank you to the Grade 5 class at the Nashville State School who took some time to do some fabulous drawings and write 39 letters in total.



The letters detailed topics they're learning at school and the children's pets and their hobbies.

Twelve letters were received by patients at Interim Care, seven at Ebbside and 20 at Gannet.

In the coming days, the recreation officers will help residents and patients write responses.

Thank you to Rebecka Willson, one of our engagement officers at the Brighton Wellness Hub, for taking the time to organise this thoughtful initiative.



Zillmere Connecting Care Champions - Hi5 in 25!

Continuing to take the time to engage with, listen and recognise our staff will continue to be a priority in 2025.

In March, we will be taking FIVE to acknowledge our caring, connected and compassionate champions at our oral health and community sites as part of our 'Hi5 in 25!' visits.



Our first visit will be to acknowledge some of the highlights you love about your work, look at opportunities for improvement and crown our first FIVE Connecting Care Champions:

Zillmere Residential Transition Care Wednesday, 12 March 1.30 - 2.30 pm

It only takes FIVE minutes to nominate a person for this new, fun Connecting Care Champions award (which replaces the Shining Star Award).

Please send a short 50-100 word nomination for our COH Connecting Care Champion to COH-Communications@health.qld.gov.au at anytime.



Metro North Strategic Plan 2024-2028 pop-ups next week

There will be plenty of opportunities over the coming week for staff to learn about and provide feedback on the proposed [Metro North Strategic Plan 2024-28](#).

Monday 3 March

1.30 am - 3.30 pm

Caboolture Community Health Centre

Wednesday 5 March

10.00 - 11.00 am

Zillmere Residential Transition Care

Friday 7 March

2.00 - 3.00 pm

Halwyn Centre

If you are unable to attend the in-person sessions, there is also the opportunity to provide feedback via [a short survey](#), before the end of this month.

[To view the Metro North Strategic Plan 2024-28 click here ...](#)

A final shoutout - Zillmere Transition Care Program

"I was in the Residential Transition Care Program at Zillmere for two months. I wish to congratulate all of the staff working in that facility.

"It was exactly the right place for me as I was suffering a very difficult time. My husband had been placed in care and passed during that time.

"All of the staff were so understanding of my loss. You can certainly be proud of such an outstanding team and facility.

"As an ex-nurse one can be very judgemental but I can only give accolades to you all."

Glynis Schultz

**Executive Director
Community and Oral Health**

Metro North Health acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, and pays respect to Elders, past, present and future.