



Dear team,

Last week, was a time to showcase the innovative work and improvements that have been occurring across the directorate over the past year.

The *COH Innovation Showcase 2025* saw staff members from all levels and backgrounds shine the spotlight on a diverse range of current or completed research projects and quality improvement activities.

During this well-attended event, we saw a clear theme of staff and service lines finding creative ways to safely address complex patient conditions, and the increasing number of patients who are experiencing social challenges that impact the care we provide.

As part of the presentations, I had the pleasure of awarding a COH Excellence in Research Award to a highly deserving team, the COH Social Work department, for their improvements and commitment to enhancing patient care and our services.



Later, social workers Geraldine Donoghue and Jorge Ayala (above) provided an insightful presentation around how social workers are supporting the Podiatry Service address the social aspects impacting patient outcomes.

Thank you to our keynote speakers from Metro North Mental Health Imani Gunasekara and Dr Alex Cook who discussed lived experience and an amazing project focused on engaging people to support the planning, design, delivery and evaluation of health services.

Across the showcase there was a diverse range of innovations presented focusing on:

- Chronic wound and stoma
- Falls response
- Social Work and patients with disabilities
- Hospital in the Home
- Oral health awareness in a community setting
- Emergency response
- Community Palliative Care
- Stroke care and upper limb function
- Motor speech disorders
- Skin integrity
- Clinical decision making
- Health aging
- Medication administration
- Telehealth
- Escape rooms
- Bereavement needs of children.

Thank you to all the presenters, Nicole Gavin and everyone behind the scenes who organised this wonderful event.



Oral health brings the harmony

At Flinders Parade a few of our oral health leaders got in the spirit of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Harmony Week), which recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds.

The celebration is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone, which is clearly on display across our oral health teams.



Announced next week - Nominate a Sandgate and Redcliffe Dental Clinic Champion!

In April, 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 visit to Sandgate Dental Clinic and Redcliffe Dental Clinic 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:



Sandgate Dental Clinic
Wednesday, 2 April
2.30 - 3.30 pm

Redcliffe Dental Clinic
Thursday, 3 April
3.00 - 4.00 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.

And thanks to those people who have nominated so far!

Leading with Wellbeing workshop – Early registrations open via TMS

The 2023 *Have your Say* staff survey highlighted that when it comes to wellbeing at work, Metro North leaders wanted more opportunities to connect with each other and workshop ideas using a flexible framework for a variety of topics, that can be tailored at the team level.

In response, Community and Oral Health will pilot a new program for Metro North leaders: *Leading with Wellbeing*.

Co-designed by leaders for leaders, this workshop aims to encourage managers to connect and share insights on timely, relevant and useful tools and develop practical strategies utilising the Micro Learning Framework to incorporate a 'wellbeing conscious' approach into the day-to-day business of our teams.

I encourage our leaders who fit the criteria (levels HP 5-6, AO7 and above, NGS 7-10 with direct reports or leader duties) to attend one or more of these pilot workshops. Be part of the change, to better support your peers and your team when it comes to wellbeing.



[Find out more](#), view the workshop locations and dates across May/June and register your interest.

A Final Shoutout - Cooinda House

A compliment that speaks for itself!

"I would like to take the time to highlight the exceptional care provided by Belinda to a resident and her family during her final days and weeks at Cooinda House.

"Since I commenced in January, Belinda has demonstrated a remarkable and inspiring level of genuine compassion, not only in her clinical approach but also in the way she maintained culturally sensitive support to the resident and her family.



"She always took the time to visit with the resident and her adult daughters, ensured their wishes were heard and respected, and provided comfort during a very difficult time.

"Her attentiveness and dedication truly made a positive impact on the resident's passing and her grieving family. Belinda's sincerity in her role is inspiring and exemplifies the values we strive for in our service.

"Her professionalism and kindness are deeply appreciated by the family and the team at Cooinda."

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.