

Metro North Health

Message from the
**Director Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Health**
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Roslyn Boland



Dear colleagues,

Today is National Closing the Gap Day, a moment where we reaffirm our commitment to achieving better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This day allows us to reflect on where we are and review our pathways towards achieving health equity across the life span of Community. Within the hospital and across our teams we deliver accessible health services that provide quality clinical and culturally safe care.

We acknowledge all staff that continue striving to improve the care we provide every day. RBWH has created a range of clinical programs and activities focused on enhancing the social and emotional wellbeing of Community. While I could sit here and point out these incredible programs and the dedicated staff who run them, I wanted to use today as an opportunity to thank all RBWH staff for your efforts in closing the gap. From our gardening team who welcome Community with a warm smile as they enter the precinct, to our Facility Services team who have worked so hard to ensure our artwork is visible throughout the hospital, and everyone in between, you all play a vital role in improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The current life expectancy of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is significantly lower than mainstream Australians. For females it is 75.6 years, and males it is 71.9 years, compared to 85.1 years and 81.1 years respectively.

I am proud to report that our footprint of RBWH staff identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander has increased to 106. We continue to support new talent through the First Nations Cadets which includes university students completing a Nursing, Midwifery or Allied Health degree. In addition, the Deadly Start program commences soon for high school students.



First Nations Cadet cohort

RBWH is committed to supporting staff and Community through meaningful co-design with our engagement and collaboration opportunities to contribute towards the 17 targets of Closing the Gap.

To help you gain a deeper understanding of the struggles that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples face, I encourage you to view [a video on the journey of health and wellbeing](#) produced by the department of health, WA.

Thank you for all you do and enjoy your mob.

Kind regards,

Roslyn Boland

Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

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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