

Chief Executive and ED, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

## **Adj. Prof. Jackie Hanson and Adj. Prof. Sherry Holzapfel**



Dear colleagues,

Tomorrow marks the start of National Reconciliation Week, 27 May to 3 June. This week encourages us to reflect on our actions and think about how we can continue to work together to build strong and respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the broader Australian community.

This year's National Reconciliation Week theme is *Bridging Now to Next* which calls on all Australians to look ahead, step forward together, and use our experiences to bridge the gap towards the achievement of improved outcomes and experiences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Here at Metro North Health, we are committed to building culturally safe and appropriate healthcare services for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through authentic co-design, meaningful engagement and robust strategic planning.

Metro North Health supports an ambitious [health equity strategy](#) aimed at improving the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who experience poorer health outcomes than non-Indigenous Australians.

In July, we will be launching our new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anti-racism policy and campaign. This new policy reflects and supports Metro North's position that racism has no place in our organisation. Each one of us can play a role in addressing racism by taking action and speaking up when we see or experience inequity. These steps help contribute to creating a culturally safe, respectful and inclusive environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples which is an important part of reconciliation.

Today, May 26, we acknowledge National Sorry Day, also known as the National Day of Healing. This significant day honours the strength and resilience of the Stolen Generations, in acknowledgement of the trauma experienced by many Aboriginal people, families and communities. Equally it recognises the continued journey towards healing and reconciliation and the need to work together to address health disparities among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In recognition of National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week, facilities across Metro North Health will host a range of local events. We encourage all staff to attend, engage in meaningful knowledge sharing, and stand in solidarity with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues as part of our ongoing journey towards reconciliation.

Regards,

Jackie and Sherry



We uphold our commitment to health equity through our Values in Action  
Respect | Integrity | Compassion | High performance | Teamwork

Metro North Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land upon which we live, work and walk, and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.



**Queensland**  
Government

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