



Dear colleagues,

Today we are pleased to launch the next phase of our [Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2025-2028](#)—a continuation of our unwavering commitment to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Now in its third year, the *Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2022 – 2025* has delivered meaningful progress. We continue to celebrate this progress, and with this next phase, reaffirm our commitment to achieving life expectancy parity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by 2031. This is our shared goal and our shared responsibility.

We have introduced several new services and programs that are already making a difference to providing equity of health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This includes but is not limited to the Deadly Feet program expansion, post-operative rehabilitation services including heart and lung rehabilitation service, women's business shared pathways, HOPE and UROC programs. These programs are great examples of achieving equitable outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

At today's gathering, we also took a moment to honour an important cultural celebration, The Coming of the Light which is celebrated on July 1 each year by the Torres Strait Islander community. This day marks the arrival of Christianity in the Torres Strait in 1871 and continues to hold deep spiritual and cultural significance.



*Wagga Torres Strait Islander Dance Group celebrate Coming of the Light*

Another significant activity included in today's launch is the introduction of our new anti-racism campaign—***Stop Racism. It Starts with Me.***

Co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, patients, and community members, this campaign is part of our truth-telling journey, focusing on what racism *looks* like, *sounds* like, and *feels* like.

As shared by one community member:

*"Racism leaves more than scars; it leaves silence, isolation, and pain. It feels like you are constantly living in two worlds. One where your cultural responsibilities are significant to you, your family, larger kinship group and community. And another world where you feel less than. One world that lifts your spirit, and one world that drains your spirit."*

At Metro North Health, we advocate that racism has no place anywhere. And while we have made progress, we know racism still exists—in the stories we've heard, in the data we track, and in the systems we seek to change.

This campaign demands more than awareness and good intentions, we need to commit to action. It is backed by our newly established [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander anti-racism policy](#) and formal reporting mechanism to ensure incidents of racism are addressed, not ignored.

This campaign calls on each of us to do our part. It is designed to educate, to empower, and to mobilise our entire workforce to see racism, challenge it, and stop it.

As part of the campaign, a series of powerful short films, shaped by real voices and stories, has been produced as educational tools to help challenge racism and promote allyship across the workforce. We invite you to watch these films [here](#).

We encourage staff to visit [QHEPS campaign page](#) to learn more about the revised Health Equity Strategy, our campaign, and the people advocating this important body of work.

Together, we are building a stronger, safer and fairer health system for the people of Metro North.

Together, we can stop racism. This starts with all of us.

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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