

Metro North Health

Message from the

ED Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Adj.Prof. Sherry Holzapfel



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September 2025

Dear colleagues,

Last Thursday we held our second and final Health Equity Community Consultation Event for 2025. It was great to see such a strong turnout from Elders, community, staff and partner organisations – all coming together to contribute to meaningful conversations and help shape the future of health equity across Metro North Health.

The yarning sessions focused on two key priorities identified during our April consultation:

- Improving the healthcare journey for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in correctional settings.
- Empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

These themes reflect areas where community insight, lived experience, and cultural knowledge are essential to driving real and lasting change. The feedback gathered will be instrumental in identifying service gaps, strengthening culturally safe care pathways, and ensuring our strategy continues to align with the needs, aspirations, and priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in this important work.

Achieving health equity is a shared responsibility, and it requires the dedication of every staff member at all levels across the health service. We need to ensure that we continue this important work, walking alongside our community and creating services that genuinely reflect their needs, priorities, and voices.

Thursday also marked [R U OK? Day](#) – a National Day of Action encouraging meaningful conversations to support mental health and wellbeing among friends, family, colleagues, and loved ones.

When we get busy it's easy to overlook our own wellbeing and that of those around us. I encourage you to pause and take a moment for yourself today – whether that's enjoying a quiet cup of tea, stepping outside for some fresh air on your break, or connecting with family or friends if they're nearby.

You all do a deadly job caring for our community – please remember to care for yourselves as well. If you're in need of support or a listening ear, our [Social and Emotional Wellbeing Team](#) are available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to connect with. Temiah and Freddie will be visiting sites to check in with staff and continue building relationships. Upcoming site visit dates are listed below.

I'm proud to share that an updated [Mandatory Training Metro North Policy](#) has recently been published on Qheps to include the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander – Cultural Practice Program and Indigenous Identification courses. These courses are now mandatory for all staff.

This is a significant achievement and a clear demonstration of Metro North Health's commitment to achieving health equity, ensuring cultural safety and awareness are embedded at the heart of our service delivery. Congratulations to everyone involved in making this happen.

Until next time, stay safe and deadly.

Kind Regards,
Sherry Holzapfel



The **BEYOND DIVERSITY** WORKSHOP is a powerful, personally transforming, two day staff workshop that helps participants understand the impact of race on their lives, their work, and the community they serve.

All staff are invited to attend!

How to register
– Search '**BEYOND DIVERSITY WORKSHOP**' on TMS.

For more information, please call 3170 4467 or email: ATSILT_CapacityBuilding@health.qld.gov.au



**COURAGEOUS
CONVERSATION**
SOUTH PACIFIC INSTITUTE

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Health**



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**STOP
RACISM**
It Starts with Me

There is no place for racism in our health service.

If you hear it or see it, speak up and report it.

Search '**stop racism**' on QHEPS to learn more.

TOGETHER WE CAN STOP RACISM

Anti-Racism Ambassador spotlight!

Meet Jelena!

Advanced Social Worker at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Jelena is standing up against racism in Metro North Health as part of our Stop Racism. It Starts with Me campaign.

A proud member of the Anti-racism Ambassador cohort, Jelena will be playing a vital role in challenging systemic racism and promoting cultural safety.

"It's the very least we can all do – a bare minimum starting point.

"It is my deep sense of justice that contributes to my feeling of duty to amplify and support the voices of the oldest living culture in the world. I



look forward to a day when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, knowledges, and practices are central, and I believe this is the way back to a healthy and happy earth.”

What a deadly ally! Thank you for the work that you do Jelena.



September 2025 site visits		
Facility	September Dates	Time
The Prince Charles Hospital	22/09/25	12:00pm – 2:00pm
STARS	16/09/25	11:30am – 1:30pm
	30/09/25	12:00pm – 2:00pm
Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital	16/09/25	9:00am – 12:00pm
Kallangur Satellite Health Centre (Kalangoor)	23/09/25	8:30am – 10:00am
Bribie Island Satellite Health Centre (Yarun)	24/09/25	8:30am – 10:00am
Caboolture Hospital	24/09/25	12:30pm – 2:00pm
Caboolture Satellite Health Centre (Kabul)	24/09/25	11:00am – 12:00pm
Redcliffe Hospital	19/09/25	10:30am – 12:00pm
Community and Oral Health (Brighton 19th Avenue)	19/09/25	8:30am – 10:00am
	29/09/25	11:00am – 1:00pm
BIALA – City Community Health Centre	15/09/25	2:30pm – 3:30pm
	30/09/25	9:00am – 10:00am
Green Square	15/09/25	1:00pm – 2:00pm
	30/09/25	10:30am – 11:30am
Nundah Community Health Centre	26/09/25	10:30am – 12:00pm





Jobs for Mob!

Metro North Health have multiple positions available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply. For list of current positions please see below:

Advertised position	Job link
Communications Officer (Identified) A&TSILT	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-MN659134
Women's Business Shared Pathway Coordinator (Identified)	A06: https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-RBH659100 NG7:

	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-RBH659171 HP5: https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-RBH659146
Cultural Capability Officer (Identified) COH	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-COH658677
Room Service Attendant (Identified) TPCH	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-PCH658517
Administration Support Officer (Identified) COH	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-COH658319
Physiotherapist - New Graduate (Identified) RBWH	https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-RBH655170
Nurse Navigator (Identified) RBWH	EOI PORTAL – Metro North Health

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Terminology Guide: for the use of 'Aboriginal' and 'Torres Strait Islander' peoples references

NEW

Click here to read

Staff profile - Scott Trindall

RBWH's new Cultural Capability Officer!

Originally from Gomeroi Country near Narrabri in NSW, Scott brings a wealth of experience in cultural capability projects to his role and is keen to see RBWH become and remain a Culturally Safe place for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

"Just like any other safety and quality standard in the hospital, we need to be consistent in ensuring we are meeting the needs of the community," Scott said.

"As part of my job, I provide cultural support across RBWH and support activities to help staff ensure our services are culturally competent."

"I also partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and stakeholders to deliver projects and services that improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients."

Away from work, Scott enjoys fishing and camping with friends in his spare time.





Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and Engagement Framework

A new framework and practical guide for engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as part of our health equity commitment.

Available on QHEPS.

[Click here to view online!](#)



Check out our latest edition of the Talk-About Newsletter!

The August Talk-About Newsletter includes:

- Australia's Largest Health Service Launches Anti-racism campaign
- Metro North Health builds connections with Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners
- New Gathering Garden opens at TPCCH to support healing and connection
- Health Equity in Action: Strategy launch marks new chapter
- Redcliffe Hospital appoints new Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

The latest, and previous editions of the Talk-About Newsletter can be found online.



[Read Talk-About online now!](#)

Expressions of interest are now open!

Deadly Start School-Based Traineeship

Visit <https://forms.office.com/r/qHNMJEupMJ> to submit an EOI, or click here!



STARS Yarning Stick

Uncle Gene recently presented STARS with a Yarning Stick for their regular Yarning Circles. A Yarning Stick is used to facilitate respectful and empowering communication during Yarning Circles.

The carvings on the yarning stick tell the story of the legend of the gulukan (pelican) which is a totem of Ninghi Nighi (Redcliffe) region.

The STARS Yarning Stick will remain under the custodian of Henry Nona, Cultural Capability Officer, and is reserved for Yarning Circles and special storytelling sessions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and communities.



Accurate Indigenous Identification Training

Complete the online or face-to-face training and learn how to correctly and safely identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers when presenting to our health care service.

ONLINE
TRAINING
NOW
AVAILABLE!

Receive the tools to give you the confidence and knowledge that is safe to ask the question *"Are you of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin?"* and ensure services can provide clinically capable, culturally safe, and responsive care.

All staff are encouraged to participate.

How to register Search 'Indigenous Identification' on TMS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork installation at STARS

Additional artworks were installed to the Level 3 entrance, carpark entrances and selected glass doors and windows at STARS, featuring the design by Aboriginal artist Elaine Chambers-Hegarty.

The addition of the new artworks, together with their existing collection - more than 60% of which is by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists - demonstrates STARS' commitment to providing culturally safe spaces.



Ann Birch, Manager Assets and Infrastructure and Henry Nona, Cultural Capability Officer beside the new artwork at the Level 3 entrance.

Artwork at carpark entrances.



BreastScreen
Queensland

Get your
free Sistas
Shawl!

Brisbane Northside locations:

- Chermside
- Brisbane City
- Indooroopilly
- Keperra
- Redcliffe
- North Lakes

Click here to make
an appointment today! 



Gayawur Rainbow

Supporting LGBTIQ+ Sistergirl and Brotherboy communities across Queensland

Gayawur Rainbow (pronounced *Guy-ya-ward*) is more than a program — it's a statewide movement of connection, care, and pride. Designed to provide accessible, culturally safe support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, Sistergirl and Brotherboy (LGBTIQ+SB) communities, Gayawur Rainbow is creating safe spaces where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

Gayawur Rainbow is building powerful networks that uplift, connect, and empower. It's about improving wellbeing, nurturing identity, and supporting our communities to live freely, safely, and with pride.

Five drop-in centres — in Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast, and Brisbane — are now open and ready to support.

[Learn more](#)

CALLING ALL METRO NORTH FLU FIGHTERS

PROTECTING OTHERS WITH A SINGLE



[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

Staff Influenza Vaccination Clinic
No appointment required

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SUPPORTING OUR DIVERSE WORKFORCE



Have you updated your diversity status on myHR?

This information is not pre-filled. Simply [log on](#) to [myHR](#) to update and record your EEO status.

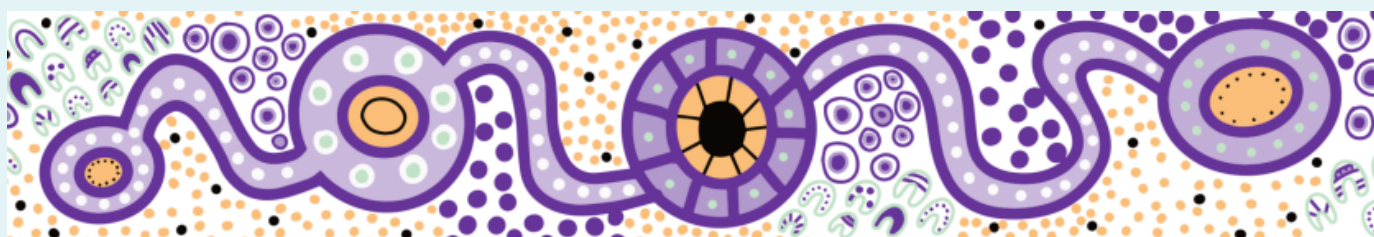


This initiative is supported by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team,
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Paediatric Sepsis Series – Education Framework Launch

Join the [Paediatric Sepsis Series – Education Framework](#), virtual education brought to you by the Queensland Paediatric Sepsis Program (QPSP).

The framework aims to provide standardised paediatric sepsis education across Queensland with resources for educators and facilitators to develop bespoke education to suit the needs of their area.

This session will provide an overview of how to use the education framework, the associated resources, and the roll out of the much-anticipated paediatric sepsis online learning program.

When: Wednesday, 24th September, 1:00PM - 1:45PM, via Microsoft Teams.

[Register online](#)

SEE ME. HEAR ME. RESPECT ME.

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Queensland Health Disability Awareness and Capability Training

An inclusive and disability-confident workforce is key to improving the health outcomes of Queenslanders.

Register online now to attend monthly Disability Awareness and Capability Training sessions to equip yourself with the knowledge, skills, and tools, to develop and deliver high quality care that better meets the diverse needs of people with disability, values lived experience, and optimises opportunities for all.

[Register online](#)

Supporting people with disability

Metro North continues to make strong progress with its Disability Services Action Plan 2024 – 2029 implementation. One of the key priority areas of this plan is inclusion – whereby we aim to create a diverse and inclusive workplace that provides equal opportunities and supports and harnesses the unique talents and perspectives of employees with disabilities.

It is important to recognise that while some people experience a visible disability, many have a non-visible condition or experience a combination of both visible and non-visible conditions. Interestingly, approximately 80 per cent of disabilities are not visible. Staff are encouraged to express their interest in Metro North's upcoming training opportunity for hidden disability [here](#).

Staff are also encouraged to complete the new Queensland Health Disability Awareness Training. Find out more [here](#).

[View the Disability Services Action Plan 2024 – 2029](#)

New governance process for recruitment of identified roles

If you are recruiting for an identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander role, all hiring managers are required to follow the new governance steps prior to recruitment.

Click [here](#) to learn more

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support Line

The TELUS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support Line offers confidential support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff:

- by an Identified clinician,
- a clinician who has lots of experience with mob, or
- a non-Indigenous clinician.

Our team are here to support you by having a casual, non-judgmental conversation about the issue you're experiencing.

Call now on
1800 816 152

Free

Confidential

Face-to-face or virtual available

 **TELUS** Health

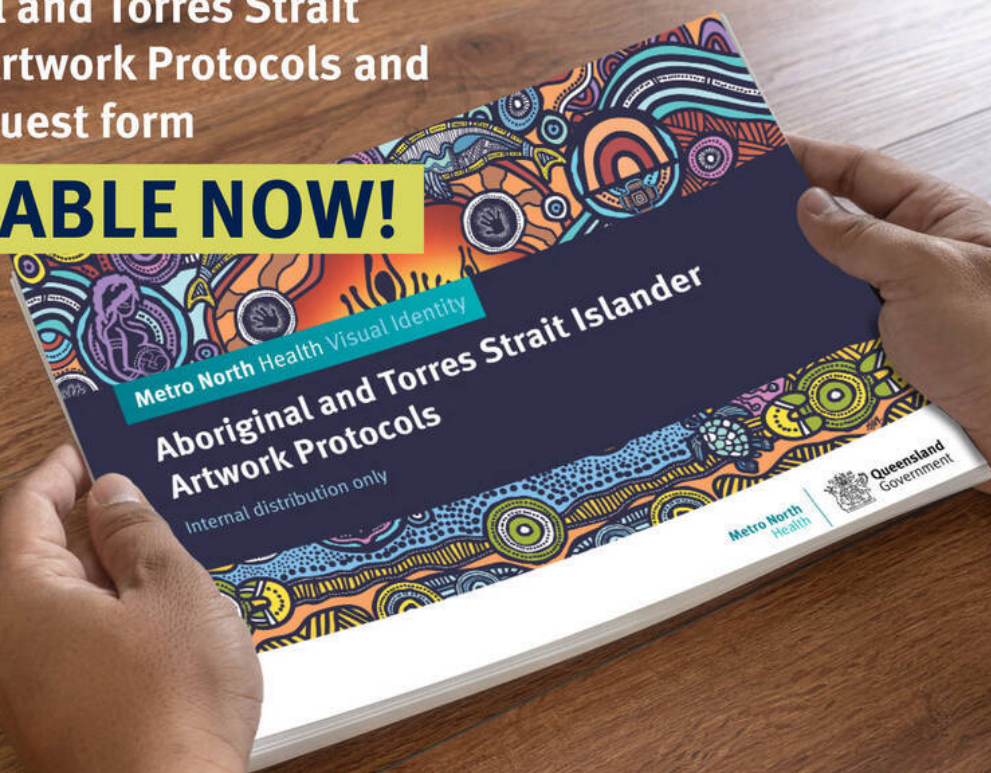
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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artwork Protocols and online request form

AVAILABLE NOW!



Protocols

Artwork Request Form

Follow our new Instagram and LinkedIn pages '*Better Together – Our Health, Our Way*' for all the latest news, updates and initiatives related to Health Equity.

The platforms celebrate our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, good news stories, upcoming events, and job opportunities.



Join our journey towards achieving health equity at Metro North Health.



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ourhealthourway/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/better-together-our-health-our-way>

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/bettertogetherourhealthourway/>



Available for bookings now!

To book the van or to learn more, visit qheps.health.qld.gov.au/metronorth/atsilt/better-together-van

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Better Together Health Van

Metro North Health |  **Queensland Government**

Better Together Health Van now available for bookings!

We are now accepting bookings from Metro North Health services keen to utilise the Better Together Health Van.

The Better Together Health Van is available to support your service provide improved access, opportunistic screening measures, important health promotion and engagement activities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within the Metro North Health catchment area.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team are available to assist you by connecting your service with local community.

For further information or If you would like to book the van please visit the [Better Together Health Van QHEPS page](#).

Do you have a good news story to share?

The A&TSILT Communications and Planning Team are always keen to share positive stories to our community. If you have a photograph to share, a program update or just a good yarn, send through your contribution for Better Together Yarns, Talk-About Newsletter, Better Together Yarns ebulletin or our Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages to A_TSILTCommsMNH@health.qld.gov.au.

Are you following us on social media?

Check out our Better Together - Our Health, Our Way [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages for great stories and to stay up to date with the latest news!

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team (A&TSILT) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which our services are located, the Jinibara, Kabi Kabi, Turrbal and Yagara peoples, and pays respects to Elders both past and present.

Produced by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team,
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