

Metro North Health

Message from the

ED Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Adj.Prof. Sherry Holzapfel



Adj. Prof. Sherry Holzapfel

November 2025

Dear colleagues,

Since the launch of the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander anti-racism policy and *Stop Racism. It Starts with Me* campaign, we continue to grow momentum providing awareness and education across the organisation.

On Thursday 13 November 2025 from 12pm to 1pm I will be hosting a *Stop Racism. It Starts with Me* Vidcast in collaboration with Acting Chief People and Culture Officer, Brett Bourke.

I encourage all staff to join us on this Vidcast to find out more about the campaign, policy, reporting mechanisms and how each staff member of the organisation has a responsibility to create spaces free from racism and discrimination and where staff, community, patients and visitors feel safe to attend.

I am pleased to share that the Cultural Practice Program (face-to-face) and Identification Training (available both face-to-face and online) are now mandatory for all Metro North Health staff.

As of 1 September 2025, the updated [Mandatory Training policy](#) includes these essential programs, reaffirming our commitment to strengthening cultural capability across the organisation.

To support this rollout, the Talent Management System (TMS) has automatically assigned these courses to all staff from Monday, 15 September. New starters will have 90 days from their commencement date to complete the training. Existing staff are also required to complete this training; however, they have until the end of the current Health Equity Strategy timeframe (2025–2028) to do so.

This is a significant milestone and a proud achievement for Metro North Health. These programs are not just a requirement – they are a vital part of our journey toward creating a culturally safe and responsive health system for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

It is expected that all staff complete the training.

Staff can view upcoming training dates by searching the course name on TMS or contacting their local directorate [Cultural Capability Officer](#).

Last month, I had the privilege of attending the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health's 10-Year Anniversary celebration. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on a decade of collaboration and progress in Indigenous health research, and to hear inspiring stories from researchers, students and partners all working towards improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes.

Looking ahead, on 19 November we'll host our final Health Equity Showcase for the year – this time in an expo-style format. This new approach makes it easier for community members to drop in at a time that suits them, meet our health teams, and connect directly with services. I'm looking forward to seeing both staff and community come together to yarn, share, and take home valuable health information to support themselves and their families. More details about the event can be found below.

To wrap up a fantastic year, we're hosting a special Better Together Staff Gathering this December – featuring our Deadly Awards Ceremony to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and their incredible achievements. Find all the details, including how to register and nominate, below.

As this will be the second-last message I share with you this year, I want to sincerely thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to providing culturally safe healthcare for our people.

It's been a busy and productive year, and I look forward to continuing this important journey alongside you all.

Until next time, stay safe and deadly.

Kind Regards,
Sherry Holzapfel

A promotional poster for a Metro North Vidcast. The background is black with a large, stylized red handprint in the upper right corner, surrounded by a circular pattern of small white and yellow dots. Two circular portraits of the speakers, Brett Bourke and Sherry Holzapfel, are positioned on the right side. The text is in white and yellow. At the bottom, there are logos for Metro North Health and Queensland Government, along with the 'STOP RACISM It Starts with Me' logo.

 **Metro North Vidcast**
Stop Racism. It Starts with Me.

Join Acting Chief People and Culture Officer, **Brett Bourke** and Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, **Sherry Holzapfel** in a vidcast to learn more about the anti-racism campaign, policy, reporting mechanisms – and how everyone has a responsibility to ensure our workplaces and services are free from racism and discrimination.

Thursday 13 November 2025, 12pm–1pm

 **STOP RACISM**
It Starts with Me

Metro North Health |  **Queensland Government**

[Join vidcast](#)

A poster for the 'STOP RACISM It Starts with Me' campaign. The background is black. On the left is a circular logo with a red handprint and a pattern of small white and yellow dots. The text 'STOP RACISM It Starts with Me' is in large white letters. To the right, there is a message in yellow text. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text 'TOGETHER WE CAN STOP RACISM' in white.

 **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 Elizabeth!

Chief Medical Officer, Elizabeth Rushbrook, is committed to eliminating racism across Metro North Health.

"Every day, I am mindful that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to attend health services twice as much and still have lesser outcomes than others.

"I am aware that the day-to-day experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are markedly different to mine, solely based on race. I do not accept that this needs to be the case."

As an anti-racism ambassador Elizabeth genuinely wants to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to eliminate racism, intimidation and discrimination experiences.

Thanks, Elizabeth for your continued support of our health equity agenda!

A banner for the Health Equity Community Showcase 2025. The top features a colorful Indigenous art design with a snake, a fish, and circular patterns. Below the art, the text reads "HEALTH EQUITY COMMUNITY SHOWCASE 2025". Underneath, it says "Metro North Health invites you to attend our upcoming Health Equity Showcase, a drop-in style event and opportunity to learn more about health care services offered by Metro North Health and organisations within the Metro North footprint." A table provides event details: When: Wednesday 19 November 2025; Where: Morayfield Sports & Events Centre (298 Morayfield Rd, Morayfield QLD 4506); Time: 10am - 2pm (Stalls and screenings). To the right is a silhouette of a person with curly hair. Below the table, it says "We also have a surprise guest hosting the event.... any guesses who this might be?" and "Register to attend the community showcase by clicking here" with a hand cursor icon.

When: Wednesday 19 November 2025	Where: Morayfield Sports & Events Centre (298 Morayfield Rd, Morayfield QLD 4506)	Time: 10am - 2pm (Stalls and screenings)
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We also have a surprise guest hosting the event.... any guesses who this might be?

Register to attend the community showcase by clicking here

Connection and Kinship Project Celebrates First Nations Health Award Win!

The Connection and Kinship Project has taken out the First Nations Health Award at The Prince Charles Hospital Staff Excellence Awards!

The team are reshaping paediatric care at TPCH – working alongside community to co-design a model of care that's culturally safe, community-led and grounded in trust.

By breaking down barriers and embedding

cultural safety at every step, they're creating stronger connections and better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Congratulations to Rebeckah Mooney, Sara Winter and Isabel Byram for leading the way!



November 2025 site visits		
Facility	November Dates	Time
The Prince Charles Hospital	21/11/25	8:30am-10:00am
STARS	18/11/25	1:30pm - 3:00pm
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	18/11/25	10:00am - 1:00pm
Kallangur Satellite Health Centre (Kalangoor)	17/11/25	1:00pm - 2:00pm
Bribie Island Satellite Health Centre (Yarun)	17/11/25	11:00am -12:00pm
Caboolture Hospital	20/11/25	2:00pm - 3:30pm
Caboolture Satellite Health Centre (Kabul)	20/11/25	12:30 - 1:30pm
Redcliffe Hospital	20/11/25	10:00am - 11:30am
Community and Oral Health (Brighton 19th Avenue)	11/11/25	10:00am - 11:00am
	26/11/25	9:00am - 10:00am
BIALA – City Community Health Centre	10/11/25	12:30pm - 1:30pm
	24/11/25	9:30am - 10:30am
Green Square	10/11/25	2:00pm - 3:00pm
	24/11/25	11:00am - 12:00pm
Nundah Community Health Centre	14/11/25	9:00am - 10:00am
	28/11/25	9:30am - 10:30am
Aspley Community Health Centre	11/11/25	08:30am - 09:30am
	25/11/25	08:30am - 09:30am

Contact the SEWB Team



Join us at the upcoming Metro North Health

Better Together Staff Gathering

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and staff working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services within Metro North Health are invited to attend.

Spots are limited so get in quick!

[Click here to register your attendance via Microsoft Forms](#)

11 December 2025 | 11am - 3pm | Albany Creek Community Centre

Metro North Health | Queensland Government

Jobs for Mob!

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

Advertised position	Job link
Senior Staff Psychologist (Identified)	https://apply-springboard.health.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-MN665363
Social and Emotional Wellbeing Officer - A07 (Identified)	https://apply-springboard.health.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-MN667630
Social and Emotional Wellbeing Officer - HP4 (Identified)	https://apply-springboard.health.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-MN667337
Senior Physiotherapist - Pelvic Health (Identified)	https://apply-springboard.health.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-CAB661197
Enrolled Nurse (Identified)	https://apply-springboard.health.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-COH665825
Social Worker - Community Palliative Care Service (Identified)	https://apply-springboard.health.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-COH665849
Clinical Nurse - Child Health Ngarrama (Identified)	https://apply-springboard.health.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-CAB667855



Staff Profile - Raelene White

Proud Mununjali Wangeriburra woman, Raelene, is Redcliffe Hospital's first ever Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

As Director, Rae will be responsible for ensuring the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander priorities in operational planning and workforce management strategies at Redcliffe Hospital.

"The role is important to advocate and have a voice for our people so that we can provide culturally respectful and responsive health care. This ensures health services are sustainable and reflective of the communities we serve and to better support the needs of our community."

Read more about Rae's career journey to Redcliffe Hospital in [Talk-About August 2025](#).



Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander

Cultural Practice Program

(face-to-face)

Identification Training

Training (online and face-to-face)

Visit TMS to register for these courses.

TMS will auto assign these courses to all staff from
Monday 15th September.

New starters will have 90 days to complete.

View updated Metro North Health Mandatory Training
Policy for more information.

For more information email:
A_TSILT_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au

**NOW
MANDATORY
FOR ALL
STAFF!**



Metro North Health

New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services space opens at Caboolture Hospital!

A new office space has opened for the Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officers, Senior Health Workers, including staff from other facilities, delivering support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients at Caboolture Hospital. The new space is located opposite pharmacy and next to cancer care services.

Attached to the new office is access to a beautiful courtyard for staff, patients and community members.

What an exciting addition for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health team!



Walking Together: Elders reflect on Health Equity

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders reflect on the progress of Metro North's Health Equity journey.

[Click here to watch the short video online](#)



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,
Metro North Health

Metro North
Health



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!](#)



SEE ME. HEAR ME. RESPECT ME.

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY



Metro North Disability Resources for Staff

Metro North Health values people of all abilities and their right for equitable access to quality health

services. Committed to recognising and respecting the vital contribution of people with disability as both consumers and part of the Metro North Health workforce, Metro North's goal is to create a diverse and inclusive workplace that provides equal opportunities and supports and harnesses the unique talents and perspectives of employees with disabilities.

[View staff resources online](#)



The advertisement features a purple background on the left with two white circles. The left circle contains the BreastScreen Queensland logo, and the right circle contains the text 'Get your free Sistas Shawl!'. Below the circles, two women are smiling and wearing colorful, patterned shawls. The right side of the advertisement has a pink background with the heading 'Brisbane Northside locations:' followed by a bulleted list of locations. At the bottom right, there is a white button with the text 'Click here to make an appointment today!' and a hand cursor icon.

BreastScreen
Queensland

Get your
free Sistas
Shawl!

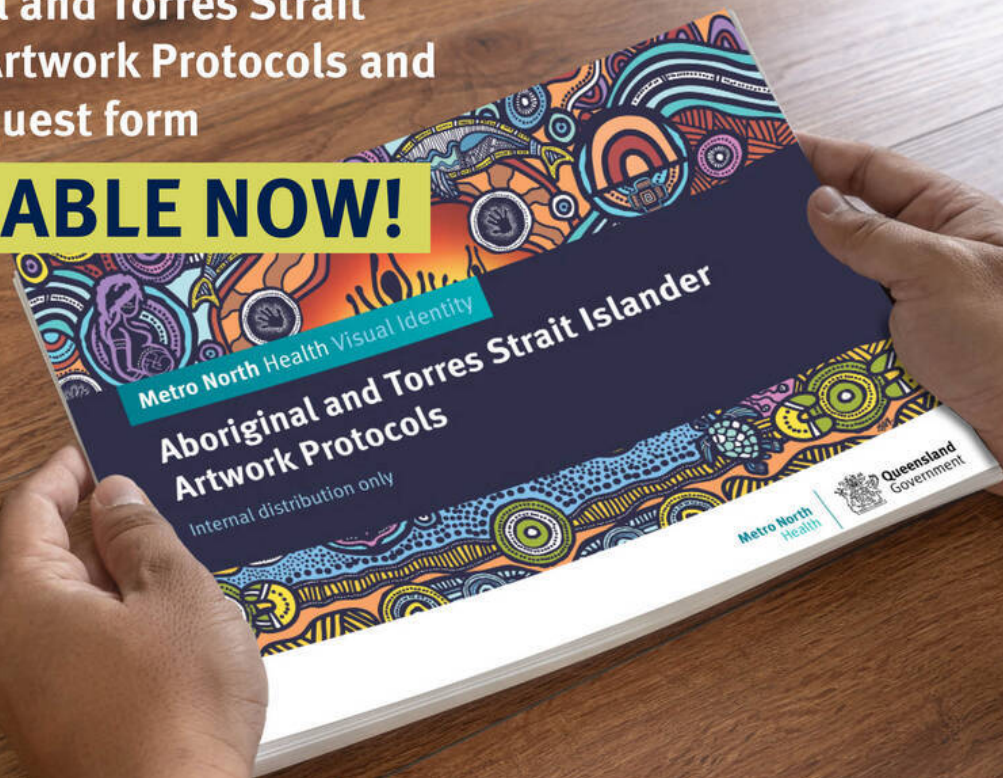
Brisbane Northside locations:

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

Click here to make
an appointment today!

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artwork Protocols and online request form

AVAILABLE NOW!



Protocols

Artwork Request Form



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 (BTHV).

The Better Together Health Van is available to support your service to 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.

If you would like to book the BTHV for an upcoming event, please contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team.

Book the BTHV



Better Together - Our Health, Our Way



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!

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, or our Better Together - Our Health, Our Way Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages.

Submit good news story

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,
Metro North Health

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Health



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