

Metro North Health message from the

Chief Executive and ED Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

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Summary:

- Anniversary of National Apology to the Stolen Generations

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read: 2 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

Today marks the anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations.

On 13 February 2008, then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd formally [apologised](#) to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly members of the Stolen Generations, for the profound harm caused by past government policies of forced child removal and assimilation.

It is important to recognise that the impacts of past government policies are not confined to history. The experiences of the Stolen Generations continue to influence the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today, with intergenerational trauma, grief and loss shaping the lives of survivors, their families and communities. The forced loss of family connection, cultural knowledge, language and ties to Country created long-lasting disruptions that continue to affect identity, stability and overall social and emotional wellbeing.

Research shows that the ongoing effects of this trauma contribute to higher rates of mental health challenges and stress-related conditions, and these impacts are felt not only by those directly removed but by their descendants. These enduring experiences highlight the importance of providing culturally safe, trauma-informed support and fostering environments that strengthen connection, healing and community resilience.

Stolen Generations survivors are among Australia's most vulnerable people. Many have carried their stories in silence for years, sometimes decades, due to the pain and trauma associated with these experiences.

On this significant day, we respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, patients, Elders and community members. We stand in solidarity and reaffirm our commitment to listening, learning and supporting ongoing healing.

We acknowledge that today may be particularly difficult for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff. Those who may need support are encouraged to reach out to the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social and Emotional Wellbeing Officers](#), who provide confidential and culturally safe support. We also ask all staff and line managers to be mindful, respectful, and to check in with their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues.

We invite all staff to take a moment to reflect on the significance of the National Apology, and on how each of us can contribute through our roles and interactions to respect, healing, reconciliation and better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.

By understanding and acknowledging our history and the ongoing impacts experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples because of it, we can move forward and walk on the healing journey together to create a health system that truly supports equity, cultural safety and improved outcomes for all.

Warm regards,
Sherry and Nick

Metro North Health



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.

Metro North Health's vision

Creating healthier futures together—where innovation and research meets compassionate care and community voices shape our services.



Queensland Government

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