

Metro North Health

Message from the

ED Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Adj.Prof. Sherry Holzapfel



Adj. Prof. Sherry Holzapfel

December 2025

Dear colleagues,

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who contributed to our recent Health Equity Showcase. The expo-style format brought community, staff and services together in a meaningful and inclusive way. It was wonderful to see so many teams engaging directly with community members, sharing health information and highlighting culturally responsive care. Many laughs were shared with our deadly MC, Sean Choolburra, and many valuable connections were made.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to acknowledge the strong engagement in our Stop Racism. It Starts with Me campaign. This month's Anti-Racism Ambassador spotlight continues to highlight the passion and commitment of staff who are leading change in this space. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in education, conversations and initiatives that strengthen culturally safe, racism-free workplaces.

I would also like to congratulate our staff recognised at the Metro North Staff Excellence Awards. Your dedication and leadership continue to elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes across our services, and it is pleasing to see this important work acknowledged.

In the lead-up to our Better Together Staff Gathering on 11 December, I am pleased to share this year's Deadly Award finalists. These awards celebrate excellence, cultural leadership and commitment among our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff.

Team Award finalists:

- Deadly Feet
- Clinical Innovation and Strategy Team, A&TSILT
- Caboolture Hospital Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service
- Indigenous Hospital Liaison Service, RBWH

Individual Award finalists:

- Hayley Renouf
- Andrew Williams
- Trina Scott
- Stephan Lane

Congratulations to all finalists. We look forward to celebrating and presenting these awards at the Better Together Staff Gathering. A reminder that registrations close at 5pm on Monday 8 December.

As this is my final update for the year, I want to sincerely thank you for your dedication throughout 2025. It has been a year of growth, collaboration and continued commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Metro North.

Thank you for the work you do every day. I look forward to closing out the year on a strong and positive note. Wishing you a safe Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Until next time, stay safe and deadly.

Kind regards,
Sherry Holzapfel



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

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 Amy Duff!

Amy's family heritage traces back to Germany, and she now enjoys a busy life raising her children and caring for her garden.

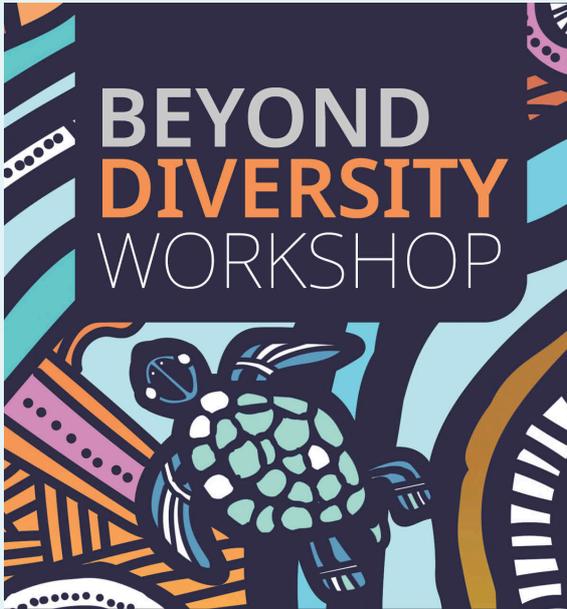
As a Culture and Wellbeing Coordinator, Amy is dedicated to supporting staff wellbeing across Metro North Health.

She believes that when people feel safe and comfortable to be themselves, it encourages others to do the same - an outlook that guides

her support of our Anti-racism campaign.

Amy is committed to helping create a workplace where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff feel valued, respected and empowered to bring their whole selves to work.

We appreciate the important role she plays in strengthening cultural safety across Metro North Health.



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.

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

All staff are invited to attend!

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



Metro North Health



Queensland Government

Staff Excellence Awards Win!

We're proud to share that several Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and services were recognised at the 2025 Metro North Health Staff Excellence Awards.

Award outcomes:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff Award

Winner: Andrew Williams
Highly Commended: Rayna Cowburn

Improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Award

Winner: Heart Outreach Program for health equity (HOPE), Metro North
Highly Commended: Anti-Racism Working Group

Innovation Award

Highly Commended: 'Stop Racism. It Starts with Me.' Anti-Racism Policy and Campaign

These acknowledgements highlight the dedication of our staff in driving culturally safe care, strengthening equity outcomes, and



embedding anti-racism across Metro North Health.

Congratulations to all involved.

Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health



New referral email address

Based on recent feedback, the Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Team has created a new central email address for staff referrals.

All enquiries and support requests sent to this email will be handled by a Social and Emotional Wellbeing Officer, with confidentiality maintained at every stage.

New referral email: atsilt_wellness_referrals@health.qld.gov.au.

Responses will be tailored to each staff member's situation, needs, and preferred type of support.

[Click here to request support from the SEWB Team](#)



Deadly Christmas Gift Ideas

Looking for meaningful Christmas gifts this year?

Here are some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned or led businesses across the region offering culturally rich, locally made presents.

1. [Magpie Goose](#) – Bowen Hills
2. [Delvene Cockatoo-Collins](#) – Brisbane City
3. [Dreamtime Kullilla-Art](#) – Clontarf
4. [Little Butten Shop](#) – Online
5. [My Dilly Bag](#) - Forest Glen or Online
6. [Gathaa Murri XMAS Twilight Market](#) - Forest Glen Village, Saturday 13 December, 3-7pm

Shopping Blak this Christmas supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creators, strengthens local communities and offers gifts with real meaning.



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
Health Equity Support Officer - AO4 (Identified)	Health Equity Support Officer (Identified) Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Medical Records Service Officer - AO2 (Identified)	Medical Records Service Officer (Identified) Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Clinical Nurse Consultant - Nurse Grade 7 (Identified)	Clinical Nurse Consultant (Identified) McGrath Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander - Cancer Care Coordinator Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Healthcare Perinatal Wellbeing team - HWF4 (Identified)	Health Worker - Perinatal Wellbeing team (Identified) Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Enrolled Nurse (Identified)	Enrolled Nurse (Identified) Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers

Staff Profile - Gianni Condon

Gianni has joined the RBWH Central Foot Hub as our new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Coordinator. A proud Yuggera, Mununjali and Wakka Wakka woman, she is dedicated to improving access to specialist foot care for communities across Central West, Central Queensland and Wide Bay.

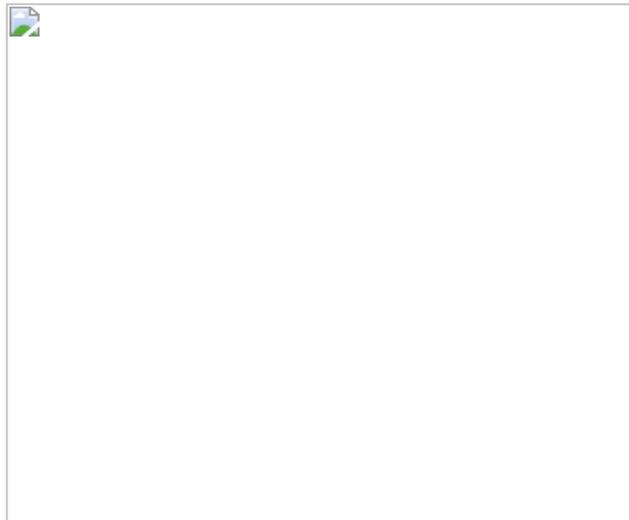
Inspired by the strong women in her family and the health challenges she witnessed growing up, Gianni is passionate about creating safer, more culturally responsive care.

“I want to help close the gaps, support our patients through their health journey and ensure they feel respected and safe,” she said.

Gianni is focused on strengthening pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients living with chronic foot disease and is excited about the opportunities ahead.

Outside work, she stays connected to community through family and sport, including Touch, TRL and Rugby League.

Welcome to the team, Gianni.



Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander

Cultural Practice Program

(face-to-face)

**NOW
MANDATORY
FOR ALL
STAFF!**

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

Metro North Health

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

Queensland
Government



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](#)



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!



Metro North Health Visual Identity

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artwork Protocols

Internal distribution only

Metro North Health Queensland Government

[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

Metro North Health | Queensland Government