

Metro North Health

Message from the

Acting ED Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Paul Drahm



Paul Drahm

January 2026

Dear colleagues,

Welcome back to 2026. I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy a safe and restful break and spend time with loved ones, reconnecting and recharging for the year ahead. Thank you to everyone who continued to work over the Christmas and New Year period. Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.

As most of us return to work, I want to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce and allies across Metro North. The leadership, care and cultural strength you bring to your roles every day continues to shape the way we deliver services and support our communities.

This edition of Better Together Yarns reflects the strong work happening across our services - from leadership development and culturally grounded practice to the everyday actions that strengthen connection, respect and inclusion across our workplaces.

I would also like to congratulate the recipients of the recent Better Together Deadly Awards. Congratulations to the Clinical Innovation and Strategy Team for receiving the Team Award, to Stephen Lane and Hayley Renouf for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Individual Award, and to Penny Dale for the Director Award. These achievements reflect the commitment, leadership and collaboration across our workforce and should be celebrated with pride.

We are now six months into the implementation of Metro North's Health Equity Strategy, an important milestone in our collective journey. With progress reporting for the July–December period now due, this is a valuable opportunity to reflect on progress, identify opportunities for improvement and continue strengthening accountability across our services.

I also encourage staff to take a moment to complete the Better Together Yarns survey to share feedback and ideas on how we can continue to improve this bulletin in 2026. Your input helps shape how we connect, share information and celebrate our people.

Please continue to follow our internal and social channels, and keep sharing good news stories, team achievements and staff shout-outs with the team so we can continue to highlight the great work happening across Metro North.

Over the past five weeks as Acting Executive Director, I would like to acknowledge and express my sincere gratitude to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team for the warmth and generosity you have shown in welcoming me into this role. While I have had the privilege of working alongside many of you before, this time has given me an even greater appreciation for your unwavering dedication to improving outcomes for our mob.

To those I have only recently had the opportunity to connect with, thank you for embracing me so openly. Your passion and commitment shine through in everything you do, and it has been truly inspiring to witness.

As I return to Community and Oral Health, I look forward to continuing these connections and supporting the incredible work you lead. It has been an honour to walk alongside you during this time. Thank you.

Kind regards,
Paul Drahm



Better Together - Our Health, Our Way



Staff Profile - Lauren Williams

Lauren is an Iman woman from Central Queensland on her father's side and remains closely connected to her mob through ongoing involvement and contribution to community.

Recently appointed Director, First Nations Training Pathway, Lauren is passionate about creating meaningful opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to gain experience in healthcare, while driving strong educational and economic outcomes.

Since commencing in the role, Lauren and the team have delivered key milestones, including securing a Memorandum of Understanding

signed by all CEOs to support students completing placement hours on Country, and establishing a study allowance to assist students throughout their studies.

Lauren brings 11 years of experience at Metro North, having commenced her career in an AO3 role which became the catalyst for her nursing journey. She has worked across administrative, nursing and operational roles and has recently commenced studies in a Graduate Certificate.

Lauren is proud to lead the Deadly Start Program, the only program of its kind in Australia with such scale and capacity, positioning Metro North as a national leader in First Nations training pathways.

“Creating pathways for mob to gain experience in healthcare is about opening doors and supporting long-term outcomes for our communities.”

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Program now open for applications!

The program supports and empowers Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to grow as leaders.

- Open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members from all levels and streams.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-identified mentors wanted! Become a mentor in the program.

Applications
close
31 January
2026



For more information, click [here](#) or contact Capability, Leadership & Learning team at MNTraining@health.qld.gov.au.

Metro North
Health



Queensland
Government

Mentor Application

Participant Application

Got a story to share?

STARS Welcomes Yarning Stick

STARS has introduced a culturally significant Yarning Stick to support respectful, inclusive conversations across the service.

Handcrafted by Uncle Gene Blow, the Yarning Stick will guide Yarning Circles, creating a shared space where voices are heard, stories are honoured and listening comes first. In Yarning Circles, only the person holding the stick speaks, encouraging meaningful, uninterrupted yarns.

The carvings tell the story of the gulukan (pelican), a totem of the Ninghi Ninghi (Redcliffe) region, symbolising sacrifice, strength and resilience.

The Yarning Stick will be held in custodianship by Henry Nona, Cultural Capability Officer, and used exclusively for Yarning Circles and officiated storytelling for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Staff and community members can view the Yarning Stick at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Hospital Team office at STARS.





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 Nakita King!

Born in Gladstone on the lands of the Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng and Taribelang Bunda peoples, Nikita is a Principal Culture, Engagement and Wellbeing Advisor and a strong ally to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues.

For Nikita, anti-racism is about courage, action and accountability — listening deeply, calling out racism when it happens, and using her leadership to empower others to create change.

Thank you, Nikita, for standing alongside community and helping build safer, more respectful and inclusive spaces for all.

"Respect means calling out racism. It is a core value of Metro North and is non-negotiable."



Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health



SEWB Pulse Survey

The Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Team is taking the opportunity to do a pulse survey and check in with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff.

The short survey is completely confidential and seeks feedback on the SEWB Program and if it is meeting staff needs.

Your responses will help strengthen the program's direction and highlight areas where staff may need more support, resources, or connection.

Start Survey

January 2026 Site Visits

Facility	January Dates	Time
The Prince Charles Hospital	15/01/26	10:30am – 12:30pm
		9:00am – 10:30am
STARS	13/01/26	11:30am – 12:30pm
	27/01/26	1:00pm – 2:00pm
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	13/01/26	9:00am – 11:30am
	27/01/26	2:00pm – 3:30pm
Kallangur Satellite Health Centre (Kalangoor)	14/01/26	9:00am – 10:00am
	28/01/26	10:30am – 11:30am
Bribie Island Satellite Health Centre (Yarun)	06/01/26	9:00am – 10:00am
	20/01/26	9:00am – 10:00am
Caboolture Hospital	06/01/26	12:30pm – 2:30pm
	20/01/26	1:30pm – 3:30pm
Caboolture Satellite Health Centre (Kabul)	06/01/26	10:45am – 11:45am
	20/01/26	10:45am – 12:15pm
Redcliffe Hospital	08/01/26	9:30am – 11:00am
	19/01/26	1:30pm – 3:00pm
Community and Oral Health (Brighton 19th Avenue)	07/01/26	9:30am – 11:00am
	22/01/26	9:30am – 10:30am
BIALA – City Community Health Centre	12/01/26	11:00am – 12:30pm
Green Square	12/01/26	1:30pm – 2:30pm
Nundah Community Health Centre	09/01/26	9:00am – 10:00am
	23/01/26	9:30am – 10:30am
Aspley Community Health Centre	07/01/26	11:30am – 12:30pm
	20/01/26	11:00am – 12:00pm

If you would like to make an appointment at one of the upcoming site visits, please email ATSILT_Wellness_Referrals@health.qld.gov.au.

Staff Shout Out - Teresa Onorato

A big thank you to Teresa Onorato, Senior Health Worker with Ngarrama at Redcliffe Hospital, for her ongoing commitment to culturally respectful care for our patients and families.

Teresa is a proud Ngarrindjeri and Narrunga woman from the Butterfish and Pelican mob and brings broad experience across burns, surgical wards, emergency, palliative care and birthing. In her current role, she works closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mums and supports staff to strengthen cultural understanding and communication across care.

Thank you, Teresa, for the important contribution you make to our service and community.



Submit Here

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Professional Development - EOI



Metro North Health is committed to supporting the professional growth and capability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff.

This may include training, conferences, seminars, and other initiatives that build capability and strengthen health equity outcomes.

Apply through the EOI by clicking here.

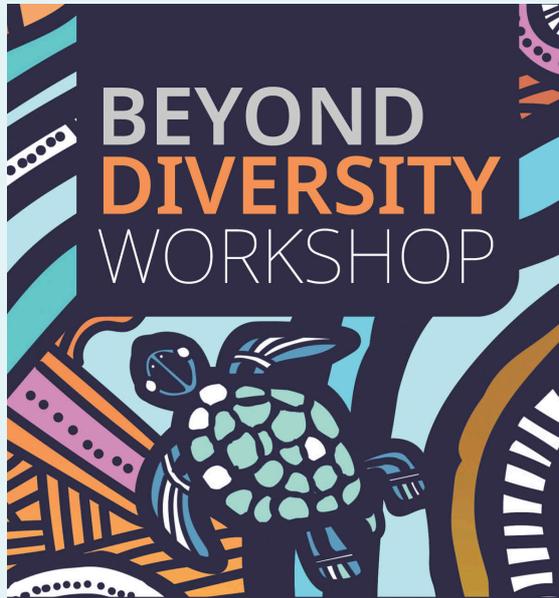


Jobs for Mob!

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 Research Officer (Identified)	Health Equity Research Officer (Identified) Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers

Enrolled Nurse (Identified)	Enrolled Nurse (Identified) Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Registered Nurse - Women's Business Shared Pathways (Identified)	Identified Registered Nurse - Women's Business Shared Pathways Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Preventive Health Counsellor	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Preventive Health Counsellor Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Internal Senior Liaison Worker EOI (Identified)	EOI PORTAL – Metro North Health
Internal Advanced Health Worker EOI (Identified)	EOI PORTAL – 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



Help Shape the Better Together Yarns ebulletin in 2026!

Got 2 minutes? We'd love your feedback on Better Together Yarns. What you're loving, what could be better, and what you'd like to see more of this year.

Share your thoughts in our quick multiple-choice survey below.

[Start Survey](#)

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

SEE ME. HEAR ME. RESPECT ME.

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

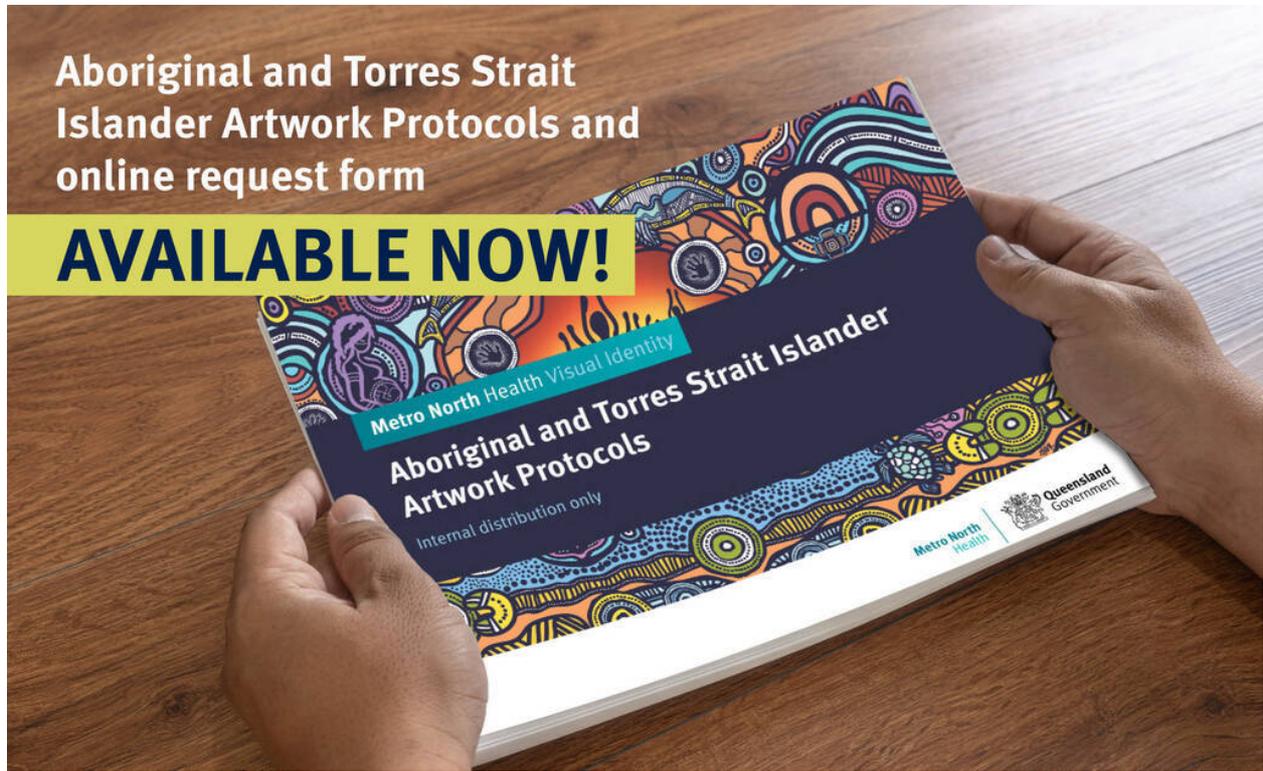
Metro North Disability Resources for Staff

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](#)

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 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within the Metro North Health catchment area through:

- **Improved access**
- **Opportunistic screening measures**
- **Health promotion**
- **Engagement activities**

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team are available to assist you by connecting your service with the 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 Here](#)



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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