

Metro North Health

Message from the

ED Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Adj.Prof. Sherry Holzapfel



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February 2026

***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this message contains the name of a deceased person. ***

Dear colleagues,

Many of you will now be aware of the passing of respected Elder and Turrbal Traditional Owner, Songwoman Aunty Maroochy Barambah.

Aunty Maroochy was a deeply respected Turrbal Elder whose presence, knowledge, and cultural authority have guided and strengthened our community for decades. As a Traditional Songwoman and strong knowledge holder, she carried responsibilities of profound significance, sharing culture with dignity, generosity, and unwavering commitment. She was a pioneering leader and a steady matriarch whose influence extended far beyond her immediate circles. Her dedication to community, her advocacy, and her work to uphold cultural continuity have left a lasting imprint within our region and across Australia.

Aunty Maroochy has been a long-standing advocate and supporter of Metro North Health, contributing significantly to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health across our organisation. Her contributions include gifting Traditional Turrbal names to our facilities, delivering Welcome to Country ceremonies, and generously sharing her wisdom, cultural teachings, and guidance with services and staff.

Many of you will have had the privilege of hearing Aunty Maroochy offer a Welcome to Country or share her stories through song. These moments were profoundly moving, and it was a genuine honour to witness the depth of culture and generosity she brought to every interaction. I am deeply grateful to have received even a small part of the knowledge she chose to share with me and with our staff.

Aunty Maroochy's family would like to acknowledge and thank the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, nursing, and medical staff at Redcliffe Hospital for their outstanding and compassionate support throughout Aunty's journey to the Dreaming.

I extend my deepest condolences and thoughts to her daughters, Baringa and Kulkarawa, her grandson Dalapai, and the extended family.

Our organisation honours Aunty Maroochy's life, her leadership, and the legacy she leaves in the hearts, minds, and work of so many. She will also be remembered for her lifetime of cultural and artistic contribution, a legacy that will continue to live on through her family, her community, and throughout Metro North Health's hospitals, services, and facilities.

All flags across our facilities will be flown at half-mast on the day of her funeral to honour her legacy, profound contribution and leadership, not only to Metro North Health but across our communities and Australia. Further information regarding this will be distributed across Metro North Health in the near future.

Kind regards,
Sherry



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.

Wednesday 4 March 2026 | 10am - 3pm | Kallangur Community Hall

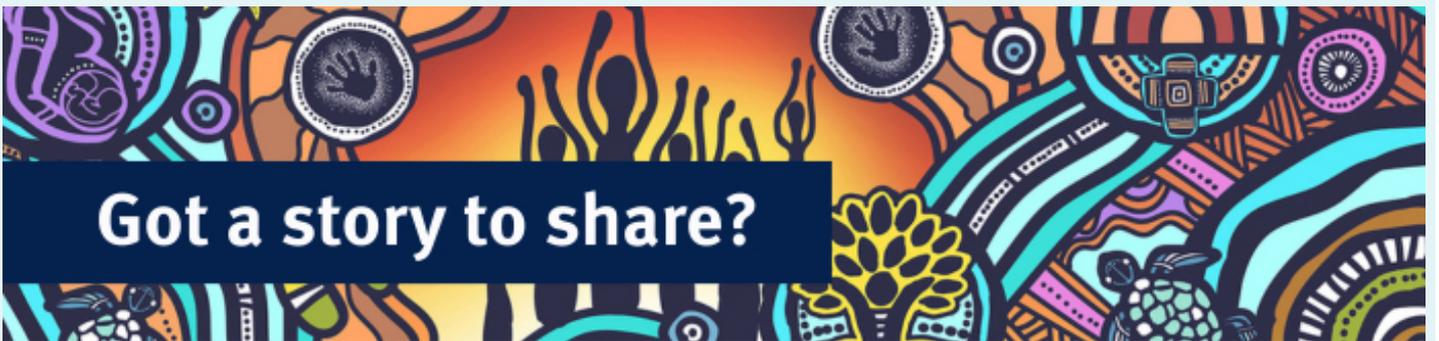
[Click here to register your attendance via Microsoft Forms](#)



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Got a story to share?



Elder's Spotlight - Uncle George Elarde

Uncle George Elarde is a proud Torres Strait Islander man with strong family connections to Badu Island. Raised on Thursday Island alongside nine siblings, his upbringing was shaped by family, culture and the guidance of Elders, who instilled strong values of respect, community and cultural responsibility.

Uncle George later moved to Cairns, where he worked as a bricklayer across several regions including Darwin, Canberra and Brisbane. He also supported Cape York communities through his work with the Cairns Legal Service, helping strengthen connections between families and services.

Sport has been a lifelong passion, with Uncle George contributing to basketball as a player, referee and coach, supporting community connection through sport. He is also passionate about sharing cultural knowledge, including traditional food preparation such as Kup Muri, a traditional underground earth oven used at ceremonial gatherings.

Today, Uncle George continues to share his knowledge and guidance through Metro North Health's Elders Yarns Groups within Community and Oral Health, and through Yarns with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team. His cultural leadership and lived experience continue to support culturally safe care and better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We need identified mentors to support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce



Mentoring is about nurturing and empowering others and creating meaningful connections that benefit not just the mentee, but also the mentor.

Support our emerging leaders. Sign up today!

With the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Program kicking off soon, participants will be looking for a mentor.

Metro North Health



Staff Profile - Shaniqua Enoch

Shaniqua's journey in health highlights the strength of early career pathways, community connection and the next generation of leadership within our workforce.

She began her career as a Deadly Start trainee before progressing into an Assistant in Nursing role at Caboolture Hospital. Shaniqua later moved into an Indigenous Liaison Officer role supporting after-hours services, working closely with patients, families and clinical teams to strengthen culturally safe care.

In September 2025, Shaniqua commenced a secondment with the Community and Oral Health team as an Indigenous Liaison Officer, continuing to walk alongside community while building her leadership capability within the health system.

A proud Aboriginal woman and descendant of the Noonuccal and Widi Peoples of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) and Mackay, Shaniqua is also completing her Bachelor of Social Work, further strengthening her advocacy skills and commitment to supporting mob.

We are proud to support emerging health professionals like Shaniqua as they help shape a strong, culturally safe health workforce for the future.



**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 Sabriya!

Sabriya is a Junior House Officer and proud Anti-Racism Ambassador at Metro North Health, bringing a strong commitment to equity, representation and culturally safe care.

Born in Wellington and now based in Brisbane, Sabriya is a first-generation Kiwi with Sri Lankan heritage. Her lived experience shapes how she connects with patients, colleagues and community, and informs her understanding of how culture and identity influence healthcare experiences.

Sabriya became an Anti-Racism Ambassador because she recognises that racism can impact trust, access to care and health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and is committed to supporting environments where patients feel respected, heard and safe.

We are proud to have ambassadors like Sabriya helping drive positive change and supporting safer, more inclusive healthcare for our communities.



Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health



February 2026 Site Visits

Facility	February Dates	Time
The Prince Charles Hospital	12/02/26	10:00am – 11:30am
	25/02/26	1:30pm – 3:00pm
STARS	11/02/26	11:00am – 12:00pm
	24/02/26	12:30pm – 1:30pm
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	11/02/26	9:00am – 11:00am
	24/02/26	1:30pm – 3:00pm
Kallangur Satellite Health Centre (Kalangoor)	11/02/26	2:00pm – 3:00pm
	26/02/26	10:30am – 11:30am
Bribie Island Satellite Health Centre (Yarun)	05/02/26	9:00am – 10:00am
	18/02/26	9:00am – 10:00am
Caboolture Hospital	05/02/26	1:30pm – 3:30pm
	18/02/26	1:30pm – 3:30pm
Caboolture Satellite Health Centre (Kabul)	05/02/26	10:45am – 12:15pm
	18/02/26	10:45am – 12:15pm
Redcliffe Hospital	03/02/26	10:00am – 12:00pm
	16/02/26	12:30pm – 2:00pm
Community and Oral Health (Brighton 19th Avenue)	06/02/26	11:15am – 12:15pm
	16/02/26	10:30am – 11:30am
BIALA – City Community Health Centre	09/02/26	11:00am – 12:00pm
	23/02/26	1:00pm – 2:00pm
Green Square	09/02/26	1:00pm – 2:00pm
	23/02/26	2:30pm – 3:30pm
Nundah Community Health Centre	06/02/26	9:30am – 10:30am
	20/02/26	9:30am – 10:30am
Aspley Community Health Centre	04/02/26	1:30pm – 2:30pm
	19/02/26	9:00am – 10:00am

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 - Aunty Babara O'Connor

Aunty Barbara O'Connor has joined the volunteer team at Redcliffe Hospital, bringing extensive experience, cultural knowledge and compassion to the service.

A proud Noonuccal woman from Minjerribah, Aunty Barbara previously worked with the Fred Hollows Foundation through the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program, travelling across Queensland and the Torres Strait to support eye health services in rural and remote communities.

Inspired by her experience across the health system, Aunty Barbara continues to give back through volunteering, supporting patients, families and staff through cultural knowledge, kindness and community connection.

We are proud to welcome Aunty Barbara and celebrate the strength and care she brings to the Redcliffe Hospital community.

Know of a staff member making deadly moves? Tell us below.



Submit Here



BEYOND DIVERSITY WORKSHOP

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



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 Health Worker (Identified) - Connecting Care to Country	Senior Health Worker (Identified) - Connecting Care to Country Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Advanced Workforce Officer (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Identified)	Advanced Workforce Officer (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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
Enrolled Nurse (Identified)	Enrolled Nurse (Identified) Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Psychologist or Social Worker or Occupational Therapist - Senior (Identified)	Psychologist or Social Worker or Occupational Therapist - Senior (Identified) Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers

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

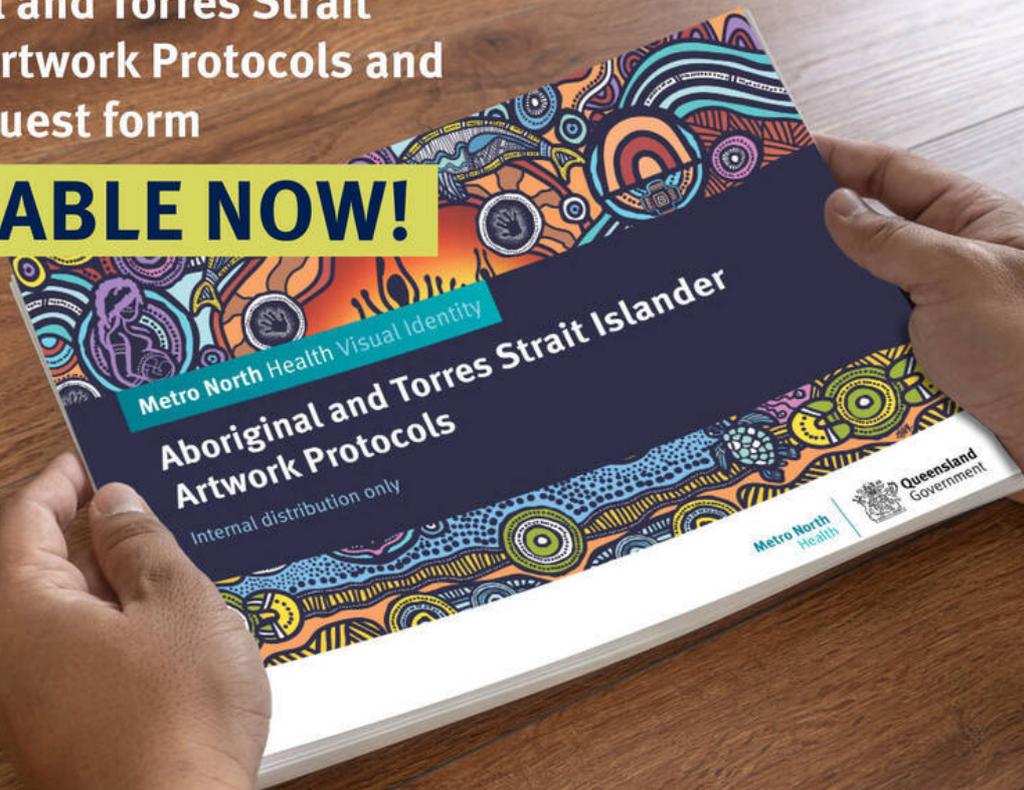
Metro North Disability Resources for Staff

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

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Book Here



Better Together - Our Health, Our Way



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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