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**Summary:**

- COH Christmas Display Competition
- COH staff shoutouts
- Stop racism vidcast
- COH Staff Council - Week of Happiness
- Tickets on sale - Metro North Health Staff Excellence Awards 2025
- A final shout out - Gannet House

Message feedback



**Audience: All staff**



**Read time: 5 min**



**For: Information**

Dear Team

Each year, the eagerness to spread Christmas cheer is at the forefront of all our minds.

As we draw close to December one important question always emerges.

*What is the theme for this year's COH Christmas Display Competition?*

Following COH Staff Council deliberations our theme for 2025 is *A Creative Christmas*.

Walking around some of our facilities I have already found out that many service lines are plotting some great displays which we can't wait to see.

Please register your service line or facility for the COH Christmas Display Competition by emailing [coh-staffcouncil@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:coh-staffcouncil@health.qld.gov.au)

Judging will occur between the 15 and 19 December. Find out more by clicking the [COH Christmas Display Competition flyer](#).

### **Metro North Staff Shoutouts**

I always enjoy reading and sharing the staff compliments from the Metro North Health Shout Outs. The last few months we have seen many of our staff acknowledged.

- **Dr June Park, Senior Dentist** - For always taking the time to support colleagues and patients.
- **Preet Saran, Clinical Nurse Consultant** - For being an excellent team player.
- **Julie Sochacki, Corporate Services Coordinator** - For creating and encouraging a supportive environment.
- **Laura Coombe, Clinical Nurse** - For delivering respectful and committed care to our patients.
- **Claire Harrison, Manager** - For being thoughtful and showing care to those around her.
- **Maria Heiford and Sharlene Thornton, Patient Safety Officers** - For their positive attitudes and care.
- **PACS Dieticians, Yeukai, Cristal, Rachel, Kyle and Elly** - For ensuring services are running well during periods when staff are unwell and demand is high.
- **Jennifer Stephenson, Business Systems Coordinator** - For creating a comfortable and supportive environment.
- **Joanne Ackerman, Administration Officer** - For going above and beyond for other staff.
- **Peter Lawrence, HP Advanced** - For his amazing work establishing MNSANDS.
- **Holly Lonergan, Advanced Occupational Therapist** - For being an empathetic, calm and supportive mentor.
- **Robert Schulz, Gardener** - For beautifying and enhancing the grounds and gardens.
- **Courtney Prove, Thanh Tran and the Redcliffe Dental Clinic team** - For delivering urgent dental care to a patient before their necessary cancer treatment.

To view more detail about the [Staff Shout Out please visit QHEPS](#).



## Stop racism vidcast

On Thursday, 13 November from 12.00 pm, Acting Metro North Chief People and Culture Officer, Brett Bourke and Executive Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Sherry Holzapfel will be hosting a *Stop Racism. It Starts with Me* vidcast for all staff.



# STOP RACISM

It Starts with Me

This follows on from the anti-racism campaign launched earlier this year which achieved recognition not only within Metro North but across the state.

I encourage you to make time to join this vidcast and hear more about the campaign, the policy, our reporting mechanisms and how each and every staff member has a responsibility, backed by a strong organisational commitment, to create spaces for our community, patients and staff that are free from racism and discrimination.

### VIDCAST | Stop Racism. It Starts with Me campaign commitment

Thursday 13 November

12.00 noon to 1.00 pm

[Join here](#)

### COH Staff Council - Week of Happiness

Thank you to all teams who participated in the COH Staff Council's **Week of Happiness!** It was incredible to see the creativity, enthusiasm and joy that everyone brought to the week. Your team entries showcased the spirit of connection and fun across our workplaces.

Congratulations to our winners:

- **Week of Happiness Overall Winner:** *Norfolk Island Support Program*
  - *Highly Commended:* Community Transition Care
- **Scavenger Hunt Winner:** *COH Finance*

Prizes will be delivered to the winners and highly commended shortly.

A special thank you to everyone who submitted a **thankful message** to someone who inspires you to bring your best self to work.

These messages will be forwarded to the recipients soon and will also be displayed as 'leaves on a tree', a visual reminder of how appreciation helps teams grow and thrive.



**TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

Metro North Health

# Staff Excellence Awards Gala

**Friday 28 November, 2025**

6:00 pm to 10:30 pm

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Plaza Ballroom

Presenting Partner:



## Final shout out - Gannet House

Deb is a familiar face for those who visit family at Brighton, but she's also the brains behind some of our great programs.

In her role, Deb is busy helping patients who've come from hospital and need support to regain or maintain their strength, so they can engage in daily activities.

"We work closely as a team to support around 60 patients, and some of our initiatives, such as the Dining with Dignity program, have been so successful that we've had to order extra tables and chairs to accommodate everyone!" Deb shares.

[Read more ...](#)



**Glynis Schultz**  
**Executive Director**

**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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