



Metro North Health

Message from the

Executive Director Community and Oral Health

Glynis Schultz

Summary:

- International Day of People with Disability celebrations
- You be the Judge! Visual Art Competition
- Peer Responder Professional Development Day
- A creative Christmas
- STOP Pressure Injury Campaign
- Connections through the Bright 'N' Sparks Choir and Concert
- International delegation tours HITH

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 6 min



For: Information

Dear Team

There has been an overwhelming response across Community and Oral Health (COH) to engage in the conversation about disability. Thank you to the COH All Abilities Working Group and to our consumer Rosey Holloway.

Thank you to all the teams and facilities who erected displays. Thank you to so many people who participated in the art competition with a focus on sunflowers - the international symbol of hidden disability.

The competition prompted such priceless engagement both at home and work and many valuable discussions as staff spoke about their own challenges with being neurodiverse and the challenges of raising children with neurodiversity in a world that is not always understanding.

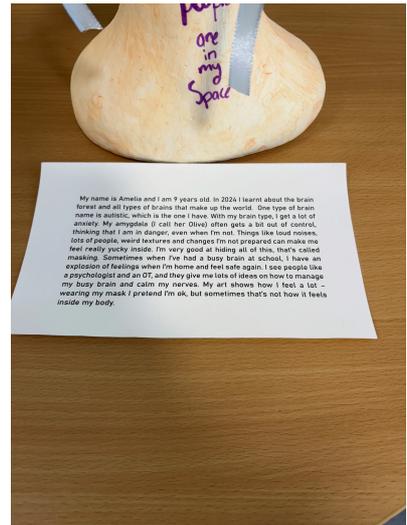
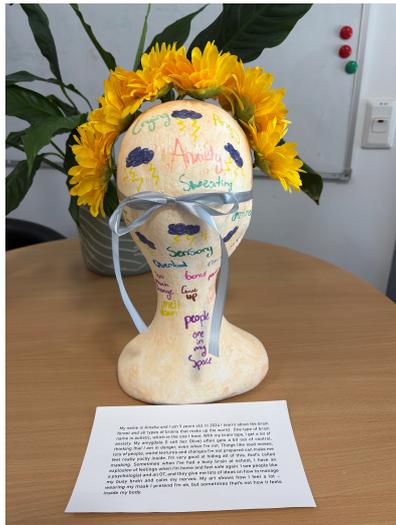
We heard stories of how:



- one staff member had precious eye contact with her grandchild as they painted sunflowers together;
- another staff member had valuable connection with her dad as they 'crafted together' despite his dementia; and
- a staff member with a disability who spoke about how valuable it was for them personally that we were prepared to celebrate people despite their differences.

So many valuable lessons and stories through the power of connection and meaningful conversation. Our focus in COH is around how we make the workplace more inclusive, to give people a chance and support them to succeed.

Thank you to the amazing staff across the directorate for engaging fully. My sincere hope is that we will all be part of making this a kinder world for people who don't have the privilege of capability.



You be the Judge! Visual Art Competition

While I was looking forward to sharing with you the winner of the COH International Day of People with a Disability Visual Art Competition.

Houston we have a slight problem!

With around 100 fantastic nominations to pick from, all of which have been crafted by either staff, residents, patients, children and their families, we couldn't pick a winner.

They were all truly amazing and given that some of the creations would have taken hours to craft we just had to ask you to decide who is the most meritorious.

Please view the entries and complete your judging here by COB Tuesday next week:

[International Day of People with Disability Visual Art Competition - Peoples Choice Award – Fill in form](#)

Congratulations to the Winners of the COH International Day of People with Disability Awards

Team Award



Highly Commended

- **Kallangur Satellite Dental Clinic** - For the implementation of the Sunflower initiative within the Satellite Health Centre.
- **Redcliffe Dental Clinic** - For the implementation of the Sunflower initiative within Redcliffe Hospital.



Winner

- **Halwyn Allied Health Team** - For advocating and incorporating the visible and invisible disabilities in the care of our wonderful Halwyn residents.

Staff Award

Highly Commended

- **Kirstene Munro** - For providing a compassionate listening ear, and fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.

Winner

- **Leila Meland** - For achieving great results and long-term outcomes for her highly complex clients.

Consumer Award

- **Rosey Holliday** - For her inspirational work to promote hidden disabilities across COH, MN and nationally.
- **Michael Long** - For always being there to support Halwyn residents and group events.

Useful resource links

- [International Day of People with Disability](#)
- [Hidden Disabilities Sunflower](#)
- [MN Sunflower Initiative for Hidden Disability Pilot online expression of interest form](#)
- [Metro North Disability Resources for Staff - Staff Extranet](#)
- [People with disability | Metro North Health](#)

COH All Abilities Working Group

The COH All Abilities Working Group helps inform the development of a COH diverse abilities action plan. The purpose of this plan is to deliver meaningful and practical action for the inclusion of people with disability. I invite interested staff to contact Kate Schulz, Director Allied Health COH via email: COH-DAH@health.qld.gov.au

Peer Responder Professional Development Day

Across Metro North we have 345 Peer Responders who are trained in psychological first aid and are equipped with skills to have quality, compassionate, confidential conversations with colleagues experiencing distress – whether that's personal or work related.

Since January this year, Peer Responders have had more than 1,400 conversations with colleagues and this is done on top of their usual workload.

The annual Peer Responder Professional Development Day was held on Monday 24 November at

Brighton Health Campus. Almost 100 Peer Responders from across Metro North embraced the opportunity to develop their skills, celebrate the contributions the group has made and also mark the program's 5th birthday.

Thank you to our Peer Responders for the work they do to support team members and contribute to a psychologically safer workplace. If you want to know more about the program, visit [QHEPS](#) or [submit an EOI](#) to become a Peer Responder.



A creative Christmas

It is good to see that the elves are out eagerly spreading some Christmas cheer.

Walking around some of our facilities I can see that many service lines have already created some great displays.

As you may know the theme this year is *A Creative Christmas*.

Please register your service or facility for the COH Christmas Display Competition by emailing 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](#).



STOP Pressure Injury Campaign

There has been a lot going on over the past few weeks to catch up on including the STOP Pressure Injury campaign our COH team have recently run at Dolphin House.

The campaign targeted prevention of lower limb injuries. The team developed a really interactive educational display with training resources, voice over PPPs, quizzes and sessions on correct use of equipment, bed and seating.

There was great engagement with students, clinical staff and even patients and their families.

A big shout out to the display organisers, as well as the broader team who have lent in and manned the display to provide education and interaction with our teams.



Connections through the Bright 'N' Sparks Choir and Concert

Each year, the end of year celebrations kick off across COH, and the one event that stands out is the Bright 'N' Sparks Choir annual concert.

This year's concert did not disappoint with another polished display for close to 150 staff, friends, singers and family in attendance.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support this wonderful initiative which brings connection and purpose to people and carers living with dementia.

I am truly grateful to the role Rebecka Willson and the volunteers play in supporting the choir, the concert and their ongoing activities in the community.

International delegation tours HITH

Recently, a Taiwanese, Canadian and Western Australian delegation undertook a site visit to North Lakes Health Precinct.

The delegation were very impressed about the complexity of our Hospital in the Home patients and our logistical and equipment management in particular.

The Canadian HITH Director in particular was very impressed by the HINT Clinic and APACHE by saying “this is the future!”.

A key focus was a plenary session including patient, disaster management, service profiles and acute oedema management presentations.

Congratulations to all the HITH team for being leaders in their field and for what you do each and every day.



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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