



Summary:

- Thanking our staff
- Festive ice creams
- Christmas display competition winners
- New inpatient dental clinic opens
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership program.

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Dear Team

As we approach the end of 2025, I would like to express my sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your efforts in helping make this year another successful one for Community and Oral Health. Through your hard work and commitment, we were able to provide safe, quality services to the many people we support each day.

What I am most proud of is that we consistently serve our community as a high performing multidisciplinary team across all service lines and staff groups, with each role and function critical to the success of the whole directorate.

On a personal note, I hope that you feel the joy and wonder of the festive season, and have the opportunity to celebrate it with the people who mean the most to you. We understand that for some of our staff, 2025 has been an especially challenging year on a personal level, and our thoughts are with those colleagues who are doing it tough.

Thank you to those staff who will be working over this Christmas period to provide ongoing care for the patients and consumers of COH. For those fortunate enough to have a break, please take the opportunity to relax, recharge, have fun and above all, stay safe.

Festive ice creams

This week, we arranged for ice cream vans to visit all our sites across COH as a way of thanking staff for their great work throughout the year. While at Northlakes and Chermshire Community Health Centre, we were joined by Acting Chief Executive Nick Steele who helped serve the ice creams and took the time to speak with some of our staff. Judging by all the smiles and the many thank you emails and calls I have received; we can declare this initiative a great success! I even heard of one staff member skipping with delight! Thank to you everyone who played a part in coordinating the vans.



North Lakes



Chermshire Community Health Centre

Christmas display competition

Once again, many services across COH have helped spread the Christmas spirit by entering this year's Christmas Display Competition. This year, 15 areas entered with their decorations based on the theme *A Creative Christmas*.

The judges were impressed by the genuine and heartfelt efforts of all teams in decorating their areas to help make COH a special and joyous place for patients and families during the Christmas season. A big thank you to the COH Staff Council for their work in coordinating the activity.

I am pleased to share that the winner **Kallangur HAART (Healthy Ageing Assessment and Rehabilitation Team)** with their elves following the client journey through assessment to the HAART of the North Pole. They also engaged consumers with Santa letters outlining their health goals.

The runner up was the **COH Finance team** who put on an amazing display of favourite Christmas movies: Home Alone, Elf, A Christmas Carol, Frosty the Snowman, The Polar Express, and of course Die Hard 1, 2 and 3!

Congratulations to everyone who took part.



An oral health clinic opened earlier this week at TPCH welcoming patients on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to start with, extending to a third day next year. It is staffed by a Dentist and a Dental Assistant, with ad-hoc support from a Clinical Nurse.

A wonderful patient-centred initiative. Well done!



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Program - participant and mentor EOI

After incorporating feedback from participants and stakeholders, round two of the [Metro North Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Program](#) is now open for participant and mentor applications. As an organisation we are committed to health equity and closing the gap. Part of this is growing and developing our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce and I'd encourage all line managers to consider nominating team members who fit the criteria for the program.

The program is open to Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members from all levels and streams. Applications will remain open until the new year. [Find out more and nominate.](#)

Mentorship will play a pivotal role throughout each participant's leadership journey. For further details on participant nominations and expressing interest as a mentor, please visit the [QHEPS page.](#)

Improving our culture

In January, Metro North is hosting some co-design sessions for shaping Metro North's future organisational culture. If you are interested in participating, please complete the [Organisational Culture Co-Design Session - Expression of Interest form](#). Please note: places are limited and we will be aiming for a representative cross-section of our workforce.

For more information, please contact [Hannah Reed, Director Organisational Culture Transformation.](#)

To all the wonderful staff of COH, I wish you and yours a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. I look forward to achieving great outcomes together again for our community in 2026.

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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