



Summary:

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Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 5 min



For: Information

Dear Team

In 2026 we will continue to recognise, celebrate and reward our monthly COH Connecting Care Champions as part of our new **In the Mix for 26!** roadshow.

These facilities visits, which will include our COH Staff Council, aim to highlight collaboration and inclusion, and are a result of the Have Your Say survey.

A key focus on these **In the Mix for 2026!** executive visits will be to connect with staff and provide an opportunity for us to find out:

Connection and Wellbeing

- How do staff connect, internally or across COH and promote wellbeing?
- How do staff break down barriers and foster genuine connection across COH?

A Workplace to Be Your Best

- How do staff bring the best version of themselves to work every day and encourage their colleagues to do the same?



- What works for staff and what tips are you willing to share with others.

We will again be asking staff to nominate deserving individuals for the **COH Connecting Care Champions awards**.

A schedule of **In the Mix for 26!** visits is being developed and I will keep you posted on when these facility events and awards will take place.

2026 INNOVATION SHOWCASE

COMMUNITY AND ORAL HEALTH
INNOVATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE

MARCH 18, 2026
1PM - 4:30PM

BRIGHTON WELLNESS HUB & ONLINE VIA TEAMS

SHOWCASE HIGHLIGHTS WILL INCLUDE...

- A **DYNAMIC PANEL DISCUSSION ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN COH**, LED BY SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS
- ORAL PRESENTATIONS SHOWCASING **EXCELLENT RESEARCH AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES** UNDERWAY ACROSS COH
- OPPORTUNITIES TO **ENGAGE AND NETWORK WITH CLINICIANS AND TEAMS** DRIVING INNOVATION IN EVERYDAY PRACTICE

REGISTER TO ATTEND NOW VIA THE QR CODE!

EVIDENCE RESEARCH INNOVATION CARE

We are excited to announce that registrations are now open for COH staff to attend the 2026 COH Innovation Showcase!

Join the Community and Oral Health Innovation and Research Team as we celebrate the incredible work being undertaken across COH. The afternoon will highlight a range of current and recently completed research, innovation and quality improvement activities. This event is a fantastic opportunity to network, connect and be inspired!

This event is open to COH staff from every stream — **you are all part of our innovation journey.**

International Day of Disability Visual Art Competition winners

I am pleased to announce the winner of the International Day of People with Disability Visual Art Competition 2025!

Last year's theme invited staff, consumers, friends and family to create a visual art piece featuring the **sunflower** – a **symbol of hidden disabilities**.

We received an inspiring collection of drawings, paintings, sculptures, photographs, digital

artworks, and crochet pieces, each reflecting creativity, inclusion and the celebration of difference.

Congratulations to our winner:

Amelia Stevenson for her outstanding piece.



The powerful mixed-media sculpture featured a head adorned with bright sunflowers and a textured, jewel-covered mask. The work offered a striking visual expression of the experience of masking for autistic individuals—appearing calm on the outside while managing overwhelming internal sensations and emotions.

Highly Commended – Pine Rivers Community Health

Highly Commended – Tracey Hinscliff



Thank you to everyone who contributed and supported the competition. Your creativity helps foster an inclusive and supportive environment.

Patient compliment - Community Transition Care Program

To all the nursing staff and multidisciplinary team, and everyone else involved in Raelee's care at the Community Transition Care Program, a sincere thank you to everyone!

Thank you for being the calm in our storm and for being there for us in such a challenging time. Your support, kindness and patience meant everything, and more than words can fully express.

You listened without judgement, offered comfort when it was needed the most and were part of this unexpected journey, which is still in progress. Thank you for being the steady ground when it felt like it was caving in.

God bless you all and please accept our deep gratitude for everything you have done for Raelee. Heartfelt thanks!

Focus areas for 2026

Last week, Metro North Board Chair Bernard Curran and recently permanently appointed Chief Executive Nick Steele hosted their first vidcast of the year.

At this session, they detailed key focus areas for 2026, including expanding our out-of-hospital care capacity, continuing to digitise our facilities, and exploring partnership opportunities with universities and other institutions.

If you were unable to attend the live session, you can view the recording [here](#).

Closing thoughts

In my last message I shared my reflections about what's it like being cared for in a value-based health service. This week I would like to thank home visiting staff for their continued dedication during the extreme hot weather.

Severe heatwave conditions can be dangerous and challenging for our services, staff and patients, especially older people and those with chronic medical conditions.

The past few weeks and weekends have been extremely difficult, and I continue to ask that you stay safe by:

- Remembering to stay hydrated by drinking 2-3 litres of water a day
- Parking in shady spot where you can
- [Slip, slop, slap, seek and slide](#) when outside, such as walking to and from your vehicle
- Watching out for early signs of heat stress
- Educating our patients on when to use air conditioning, especially the elderly in these conditions.

Visit the [Queensland Health website](#) for further information on heatwave precautions.

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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