



Summary:

- Acknowledging National Close the Gap Day

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read: 3 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

Today, on Close the Gap Day, we are reminded of Metro North Health’s vital role in improving health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Closing the Gap is not only a national priority, but also central to how we work at Metro North Health. While improvements have been made, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to experience poorer health outcomes compared with non-Indigenous Australians, including a life expectancy gap currently estimated at 7.8 years for males and 6.7 years for females in Queensland. These outcomes reflect not only clinical factors, but how effectively health systems respond to people’s cultural, social and community needs.

Our [Health Equity Strategy 2025–2028](#) represents Metro North Health’s commitment to addressing these inequities through sustained system change. This work aligns with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and embeds responsibility for health equity across all services, teams and leadership levels.

A key focus of our Health Equity agenda in 2026 is early intervention and improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people. We know lifelong health outcomes are shaped early, and that culturally safe, coordinated and community-informed care plays a critical role in supporting strong starts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

9.1% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–14 live with profound or severe disability, compared with 4% of non-Indigenous children, and 15% live with one or more long-term health conditions, almost double the rate of other children.

These figures reinforce that the health outcomes we see in hospital settings are shaped long before a child presents for care.

As an organisation we will continue strengthening initiatives that support families from the earliest stages of life and ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are actively engaged in shaping the services that impact them. By prioritising early support and youth wellbeing, we are investing in stronger long-term outcomes for community.

Yesterday, we delivered our first Health Equity Community Consultation for 2026, in partnership with Children's Health Queensland. This collaboration marks an important milestone in our Health Equity journey and demonstrates our commitment to a more integrated, system-wide approach—strengthening our ability to provide coordinated, culturally safe care for the children, young people and families who rely on our services.

Accountability remains a critical component of Closing the Gap. As part of our Health Equity Strategy, Metro North undertakes six-monthly Health Equity progress reporting to review the actions we have committed to, monitor progress and identify areas requiring continued focus.

For staff, this reporting ensures:

- Transparency around commitments and outcomes
- Clear tracking of progress across cultural capability, service access, workforce representation and partnerships
- Ongoing reflection on where further improvement is required.

These processes help ensure our Health Equity commitments translate into measurable and sustained change, and that we remain accountable to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

We acknowledge and thank our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, community and staff, whose leadership, knowledge and lived experience continue to guide this work across our hospitals and health services. We also recognise that achieving Closing the Gap relies on collective effort. Every staff member contributes through the way care is delivered, partnerships are formed, and services are designed to meet community needs.

Closing the Gap is not a single initiative or moment in time. It is reflected in the everyday actions we take to create a health system that is safe, respectful and equitable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this work.

Warm regards,
Sherry and Nick

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**

If you have received this email and do not work for Metro North please follow this link to be removed from the mailing list.

[Email us](#)