

Metro North Health

Message from the

# Executive Director Community and Oral Health

Glynis Schultz



## Summary:

- Our Connecting Care Champions at Redcliffe
- Bringing the best version of ourselves to work
- World Oral Health Day
- Dentist Appreciation Day
- Final Shout Out - COH Innovation and Research Showcase (image error correction)

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 5+ min



For: Information

Dear team,

It was great to visit Coinda House this week to celebrate the achievements of staff across the Redcliffe Peninsula.

At the event we acknowledged more than a dozen Connecting Care Champions who enhance the care provided to our residents, patients and families.

Staff were acknowledged from Coinda House, Redcliffe Dental Clinic, School Dental Service - Humpybong and Redcliffe Community Health Centre.

### School Dental Service – Humpybong

- **Larishna Ramasamy, Advanced Oral Health Therapist:** For providing high-quality clinical guidance, constructive feedback and a supportive learning environment for the next generation of oral health professionals.

### Redcliffe Dental Clinic

- **Joeann Purcell, Dental Assistant:** For showing exceptional kindness and compassion, particularly towards patients who experience dental anxiety.



### Redcliffe Community Health Centre

- **Catherine Kei, Senior Rehabilitation Coordinator / Occupational Therapist, Brain Injury Community Integration Service:** For being a fierce advocate for her clients across health and social care and consistently going above and beyond to ensure their needs are met with dignity and respect.
- **Warren Bale, Physiotherapist, Community Based Rehabilitation Team:** For his quiet and gentle nature which ensures staff and clients feel supported, valued and safe.
- **Mathew Ng, Speech Pathologist, Community Based Rehabilitation Team:** For his compassion, flexibility and positive attitude which makes a meaningful difference every day to his clients and their families.
- **Anna Tremschnig, Senior Rehabilitation Coordinator / Occupational Therapist, Brain Injury Community Integration Service:** For showing a high level of compassion and dedication that uplifts everyone around her. She consistently goes above and beyond for clients, offering care that is diligent, empathetic and deeply person-centred.



### Cooinda House

- **Food Services team:** For being committed to creating an enjoyable dining experience for residents each day and connecting care through food.
- **Mel Dundon, Assistant in Nursing:** For providing personalised care to one of our new residents which helped the team better understand individual needs and behaviour patterns.
- **Rochelle Smith, Enrolled Nurse:** For bringing such positive energy and authenticity to her role, as well as kindness and compassion which is being felt by residents and staff alike.
- **Graham Griffiths, Recreational Officer:** For connecting the team and his innate ability to do awesome things.

- **Thomas Holdsworth, Enrolled Nurse (Nurse):** For bringing colour to everyone's day and evenings, as well as being a favourite with residents and colleagues.
- **Jodie Huntley-Forbe, Nurse Practitioner:** For consistently demonstrating compassion, understanding and empathy, and ensuring that resident's individual needs, preferences and dignity are respected.
- **Caitlin Blackshaw, Enrolled Nurse:** For continually seeking opportunities to enhance and improve care and strengthen teamwork.
- **Renee McMillan, Nurse Unit Manager:** For working collaboratively and respectfully with the team to identify opportunities to enhance care delivery.



*Renee McMillan*



*Thomas Holdsworth*

## Bringing the best version of ourselves to work

As part of our In the Mix for 26! roadshows we asked Redcliffe staff how they manage wellbeing and bring their best possible self to work.

The most memorable tips included:

- Using the drive in to get prepared for the day by listening to podcasts or music.
- Celebrating success and the small wins, and the days like Saint Patrick's Day.
- Walking into work with a smile on your face and greeting everyone with happiness.
- Showing empathy to others and understanding that you don't know what is going on in other people's lives.

- Planning your day by being realistic about what you can achieve during the day and what is sustainable.



### **World Oral Health Day 2026: Healthy Mouth, Healthy Future**

This World Oral Health Day, Friday, 20 March 2026, is focused on 'a Happy Mouth is a Happy Life'. We are reminded that oral health is a key part of overall wellbeing. A healthy mouth isn't just about a bright smile, it also supports good nutrition, clear speech, confidence and long-term health.

The School Dental Service plays a vital role in helping children achieve this. Our teams are located on school grounds in fixed dental clinics or mobile dental vans and they provide routine dental check-ups, preventive care like fluoride treatments and sealants, and education on brushing, flossing and healthy eating. By catching problems early and teaching good habits, they help prevent dental pain, infections and more serious issues down the line.

They are working closely with families to ensure children continue healthy routines at home. From guidance on toothbrushing techniques to advice on managing sugar intake, our dental professionals empower both students and parents to make informed choices.

Together, they're helping students grow strong, confident and ready to face the future with a smile!

### **Dentist Appreciation Day**

We all recognise and celebrate the dedication of our Dentists and Dental Specialists working within public oral health services. They are professionals who bring not only clinical expertise, but compassion, patience and a deep sense of purpose to every patient interaction.

Your commitment to improving the oral health and overall well-being of our communities, often in the face of complex needs, does not go unnoticed. You make a meaningful difference every day, restoring confidence, relieving pain and providing care to those who need it most.

As leaders within your teams, you play a vital role in bringing everything together, guiding those around you and ensuring care is delivered seamlessly. Thank you for your professionalism, and the genuine care you show and the positive influence that continues to make a lasting impact on patients and the wider community.

Your work is valued, and we recognise the important role you play in delivering quality oral health services within Metro North Oral Health Services. We appreciate your efforts every day.

### **Final Shout Out - COH Innovation and Research Showcase**

COH's innovation and research projects completed in 2025 were presented at the COH Innovation and Research Showcase yesterday.

For the last four years COH staff members have had the opportunity to apply for Innovation and Research Grants. These grants have supported innovation projects, models of care reviews, early researcher projects and experienced researcher projects.

The success of these projects is a testament to the individuals who want to learn more, create a better health care future for their patients and were willing to be guided and supported to learn new skills and apply them to identify the problem, develop solutions, implement and evaluate. The program has grown bigger and better each year and has seen some participants go on to further study, some even advancing to starting their PhD.

The 2026 Innovation and Research Showcase showed the depth and breathe of projects that have improved both patient care and support systems within COH and the commitment that COH staff have to innovate and use evidence to inform their contemporary practice.

Expressions of interest will be released for Innovation and Research Grants later this month. For further about the Innovation and Research Team email [COH-InnovationResearch@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:COH-InnovationResearch@health.qld.gov.au)



**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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