

ED Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Adj.Prof. Sherry Holzapfel



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May 2026

Dear colleagues,

As we head into May and the months ahead, we will be recognising and celebrating several important key dates including National Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week, Mabo Day, NAIDOC Week and Coming of the Light. There'll be plenty happening across our facilities and communities, so I encourage you to keep an eye on the A&TSILT [events calendar](#) and your local directorate activities, and to get involved wherever you can.

I am looking forward to our upcoming Health Equity Showcase on 28 May at the Morayfield Sports Centre. This event is being held in partnership with Children's Health Queensland with a focus on children's and family health. The event provides a great opportunity to connect with community, yarn and share the deadly work happening across our health services. If you would like to attend please register [here](#).

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander administrative professionals across Metro North Health, in recognition of Administrative Professionals Day.

Across our hospital and healthcare services, so much of the exceptional care we deliver is made possible by the dedication, coordination and expertise of those working behind the scenes. Your work keeps our services running smoothly, supports our frontline teams, and helps ensure our patients and communities receive the care they need.

Thank you for the professionalism, care and commitment you bring every day. Your contributions are highly valued, and they make a real and lasting difference across our health service. This month, we also take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate our incredible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives as we mark International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day. These occasions are a powerful reminder of the vital role you play every day—providing safe, compassionate care, advocating for your communities, and leading with strength and dedication.

Thank you for the care, kindness and leadership you bring to your roles. Your work makes a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities.

April brought some really valuable opportunities for staff to come together, reflect and learn. Our International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination event created space for important conversations, while the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Staff Day reminded us of the importance of connection, wellbeing and supporting one another.

I recently attended the Beyond Diversity Workshop and found it both challenging and deeply valuable. It reinforced for me how critical this learning is – particularly for those of us in leadership – to meaningfully lead anti-racism, address unconscious bias, and create culturally safe environments for both staff and patients. It was fantastic to see more than 70 staff take part in the April workshop. This workshop provides powerful learning opportunities that supports our continued commitment to anti-racism and culturally safe care. The feedback has been incredibly positive, and I encourage anyone who has been thinking about it to [enrol](#) in the June sessions. All staff, including contractors, are encouraged to participate.

Beyond Diversity June Session Details

Dates: 10-11 June 2026

Time: 8.30 – 4.30 both days

Venue: Brighton Health Campus

I am pleased to share a few important developments that continue to strengthen support for our workforce and communities, including the endorsement of the [Sad News and Sorry Business leave guidelines](#), the introduction of new [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander role descriptions](#), and the release of the [Community and Engagement](#)

[Framework](#).

Thank you all for the work you continue to do every day to support culturally safe care and better health outcomes across Metro North Health.

Kind regards,
Sherry



Join us for a yarn

Meet the team from the Office of the Chief Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Officer.

**Be part of shaping the future of
our First Nations Workforce.**

To find out more
scan the QR code



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Staff Shout Out

May is a time to recognise some of the deadly staff who keep our services strong and our community supported.

- Administrative Professionals Day (1 May)
- International Day of the Midwife (5 May)
- International Nurses Day (12 May)

Huge shoutout to our deadly Admins, Midwives and Nurses. Your care, dedication and the way you show up every day for our mob and others does not go unnoticed.

Fill out the survey below and tell us how you'd like to be recognised as a Metro North Health staff member.

[LET US KNOW](#)

New 2026 Cultural Events Calendar

Learn more here



Have a good news story?

Click here
to share
your story

COH Innovate RAP Launch

Community and Oral Health (COH) have proudly launched their second Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), marking an important step forward in their ongoing commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equity.

Building on strong foundations, this next stage focuses on strengthening relationships, deepening respect and creating meaningful opportunities across COH services through listening to community, learning from lived experience and embedding culturally safe care.

As this work continues, COH remain committed to walking alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to improve health outcomes.



Metro North Health and Children's Health Queensland

warmly invites you to attend our upcoming

Connecting the Journey: Growing Strong Kids

Health Equity Community Showcase

 REGISTER NOW





BEYOND DIVERSITY WORKSHOP



Missed the BD sessions in April? Enrol for June now!

April saw more than 70 staff enrol in Beyond Diversity, a strong sign of our collective commitment to creating a culturally safe, anti-racist health service.

Delivered in partnership with the South Pacific Institute, this two-day workshop creates a safe space to build confidence in talking about race, unpack unconscious bias and better understand the impact of racism on our people, workplaces and community.

If you've been thinking about it, this is your sign. It's a valuable experience and well worth the time.

ENROL NOW

New Sad News and Sorry Business Leave Guideline is now available

[Click here to learn more](#)



Metro North Health



STOP RACISM

It Starts with Me

There is no place for racism in our health service.

If you hear it or see it, speak up and report it.

Search **'stop racism'** on QHEPS to learn more.

TOGETHER WE CAN STOP RACISM

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD)

In honour of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, staff from across Metro North Health came together in a strong show of unity and commitment to change.

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce stood side by side with non-Indigenous colleagues listening deeply, sharing truth and strengthening our collective responsibility to create a culturally safe health service.

Hearing from Aunty Denise Proud and Race Discrimination Commissioner Giridharan Sivaraman, the day challenged us to reflect, learn and take meaningful action.



NEW

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Identified Role Descriptions

NOW AVAILABLE!



Understanding the intersection between domestic and family violence, complex trauma and suicidality

Queensland Health is pilot testing training to improve awareness of how domestic and family violence (DFV), trauma and suicide can intersect. This training will support clinicians to effectively recognise and respond to both persons using violence and victims-survivors.

The Core training is 30 minutes and is intended for all clinicians, no prior knowledge is necessary. (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, Allied Health, Doctors, Nurses Peer workers)

Date: Wednesday 20 May 2026

Time: 9.30am – 10.30am

Location: MBICC L2 rm7 Redcliffe hospital

Contact : Lillian.Flanagan@health.qld.gov.au (DFV workforce specialist)



New Cultural Community and Engagement Framework



Read here



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Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health



Staff Social and Emotional Wellbeing Day

Our Staff Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Day brought the energy with an Amazing Race-style experience. Teams worked together through fun challenges, plenty of laughs and strong connections along the way.

More than just a day of activities, it was a reminder of what SEWB is all about, staying connected to each other, to culture and to community.

Moments like these create space for staff to recharge, build relationships and support one another in meaningful ways.



May 2026 - Social and Emotional Wellbeing Site Visits

Facility	Dates	Time
The Prince Charles Hospital	6/05/26	10:30am – 12:30pm
	21/05/26	
STARS	5/05/26	1pm - 2pm
	19/05/26	
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	5/05/26	9.30am - 2.30pm
	19/05/26	
Kallangur Satellite Health Centre (Kalangoor)	12/05/26	12.30pm – 1.30pm
	25/05/26	
Bribie Island Satellite Health Centre (Yarun)	13/05/26	9am - 10am
	27/10/26	
Caboolture Satellite Health Centre (Kabul)	13/05/26	11am – 12.30pm
	27/05/26	
Caboolture Hospital	13/05/26	1.30pm - 3.30pm
	27/05/26	
Redcliffe Hospital	15/05/26	1pm – 2.30pm
	28/05/26	
Community and Oral Health (Brighton 19th Avenue)	15/05/26	11am – 12pm
	28/05/26	
BIALA – City Community Health Centre Green Square	18/05/26	9.30am - 10.30am
	18/05/26	11.30am – 12.30pm

Nundah Community Health Centre	15/05/26 29/05/26	9:00am – 10:00am
Aspley Community Health Centre	11/05/26 25/05/26	10.30am - 11.30am

If you would like to make an appointment at one of the upcoming site visits, please email ATSILT_Wellness_Referrals@health.qld.gov.au.

Supporting our diverse workforce

Have you updated your diversity status on myHR?

[Click here to access myHR](#)



Accurate Indigenous Identification Training

Complete the face-to-face or online training and learn how to correctly and safely identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers when presenting to our health care service.

Receive the tools to give you the confidence and knowledge to ask the question ***“Are you of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin?”*** and ensure services can provide clinically capable, culturally safe, and responsive care.

Now a mandatory requirement for all staff.

MANDATORY TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE

How to register **Search** **‘Indigenous Identification’**  **on TMS**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artwork Protocols and online request form

AVAILABLE NOW!



Protocols

Artwork Request Form

Better Together Health Van now available for bookings!

We are now accepting bookings from Metro North Health services keen to utilise the Better Together Health Van for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within the Metro North Health catchment area through:

- **Improved access**
- **Opportunistic screening measures**
- **Health promotion**
- **Engagement activities**

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team are available to assist you by connecting your service with the local community.



If you would like to book the BTHV for an upcoming event, please contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team

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Book Here



Better Together - Our Health, Our Way



The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team (A&TSILT) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which our services are located, the Jinibara, Kabi Kabi, Turrbal and Yagara peoples, and pays respects to Elders both past and present.

Produced by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team,
Metro North Health

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