

Metro North Health

Message from the

Acting Executive Director Community and Oral Health

Jayne Stevenson



Summary:

- Metro North Registered Nurse of the Year 2026
- Oral wealth staff wellness focus
- EOI Hidden Disabilities Sunflower mural design
- Nominate a Sandgate, Bracken Ridge or Strathpine Connecting Care Champion
- Final Shoutout - Peer Responder Tessa Gillespie

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 5+ min



For: Information

Dear Team,

Every day, our nurses make an extraordinary difference – improving health outcomes and supporting the people we care for and their families.

As we mark International Nurses Day on 12 May, we reflect on the 2026 theme, *Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives*, and the critical role nurses play in shaping the future of healthcare. The day honors the vital important role nurses play in healthcare systems around the world.

Thank you all for your unwavering dedication, professionalism and your commitment to our residents, patients and communities.

Local celebrations will be held next week to acknowledge International Nurses Day, and QSuper will also be visiting a number of our facilities to personally say thank you. Alongside these celebrations, I am delighted to share some wonderful news.

One of our own has been recognised as the Metro North Registered Nurse of the Year for 2026.

Please join me in congratulating **Andrea Keating**, Nurse Practitioner with Hospital in the Home, on this outstanding achievement as part of this year's International Nurses Day celebrations.

Andrea is widely recognised for her collaborative approach across healthcare teams and patient networks, her strong commitment to education and professional development, and her consistent delivery and modelling of high-quality clinical care.

Metro North Health Registered Nurse of the Year 2026

Andrea Keating

"Andrea has been instrumental in establishing competency frameworks, delivering simulation-based training and mentoring nurses across all career stages, including emerging Nurse Practitioners. In addition to formal education roles, Andrea consistently provides advanced clinical leadership in practice so that learning from clinical incidents is translated into tangible practice improvements, education initiatives and system redesign."

"Her leadership in clinical governance, incident review and multidisciplinary education initiatives has strengthened workforce capability, enhanced clinical confidence and improved patient outcomes. Andrea's commitment to lifelong learning and workforce development sets a benchmark for professional excellence and continuous improvement."

"As the first Nurse Practitioner in the HITH service, Andrea has shown exceptional leadership excellence, inspiring teams to embrace new models of care focused on safety, quality and patient-centred outcomes. She leads by example through advanced clinical expertise, calm and visible leadership in complex situations, and a clear focus on person-centred, evidence-based practice. Andrea fosters a culture of psychological safety and accountability, empowering team members to raise concerns, reflect on practice and actively contribute to service improvement."

"Her ability to motivate teams to adopt enhanced models of care and advanced clinical practices has resulted in measurable improvements in patient safety, quality outcomes and continuity of care across community-based services."



Oral health staff wellness focus

We were pleased to welcome Metro North Health Chief Operating Officer, Stephen Eaton, who attended the Metro North Oral Health Staff Wellness Forum and spoke about what wellness means to him in his role.

The forum was held in the Auditorium at Brighton Health Campus and brought together around 150 oral health staff from across all service areas and disciplines, a wonderful showing of connection and engagement across our workforce.

Staff had the opportunity to participate in a range of personal, professional and financial wellbeing sessions, including engaging presentations from Staff Psychologist Andrew Craker and a representative from QSuper.





HIDDEN disabilities

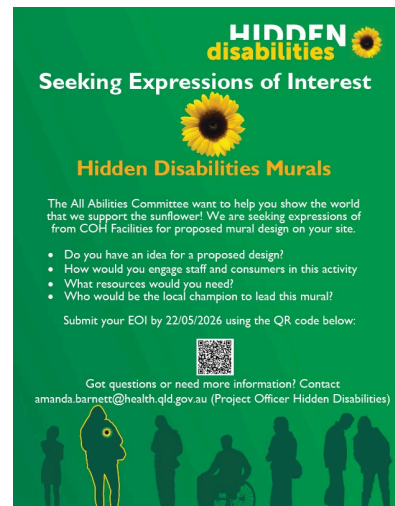
EOI - Hidden Disabilities Sunflower mural design


We are seeking expressions of interest from COH facilities for the creation of Hidden Disabilities Sunflower mural designs on your site.

By introducing the sunflower, we're taking a simple but powerful step toward creating a more inclusive, understanding and supportive environment for both our colleagues and customers.

Get involved in creating murals in our sites to show our support. Find out how by viewing the [Hidden Disabilities Mural Design flyer](#).

Got questions or need more information? Contact amanda.barnett@health.qld.gov.au



HIDDEN disabilities 


Seeking Expressions of Interest

Hidden Disabilities Murals


The All Abilities Committee want to help you show the world that we support the sunflower! We are seeking expressions of interest from COH Facilities for proposed mural design on your site.

- Do you have an idea for a proposed design?
- How would you engage staff and consumers in this activity?
- What resources would you need?
- Who would be the local champion to lead this mural?

Submit your EOI by 22/05/2026 using the QR code below:



Got questions or need more information? Contact amanda.barnett@health.qld.gov.au (Project Officer Hidden Disabilities)



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Community and Oral Health

Connecting Care CHAMPIONS

In the MIX for 26!



Nominate a Sandgate, Bracken Ridge or Strathpine Connecting Care Champion

The COH executive and members of the staff council will be visiting a site close to Pine Rivers to connect, share information and recognise our staff as part of the COH Connecting Care Champion awards.

Award nominations will be open to the following sites:

- Pine Rivers Community Health Centre
- Sandgate Dental Clinic
- Bracken Ridge and Strathpine School Dental Clinics.

Please take the time to nominate a person from one of these sites for the COH Connecting Care Champion award by emailing COH-Communications@health.qld.gov.au

We are looking for those champions who are the quiet achievers, the staff who connect and enhance the team and care provided, and who go above and beyond to support our residents, patients and families.

And we only need 50 or 100 words unless there is too much to say about the nominated champion!

Nominations close Tuesday 12 May!

The visit will occur on **Tuesday 19 May at 1.30 pm** in the Sandgate Dental Clinic Lunch Room and [via TEAMS](#).

Final Shout Out - Peer Responder Tessa Gillespie

With the new Culture and Wellbeing Coordinator Tessa Gillespie joining COH, it is timely that we ask the question.

Are you interested in becoming a Peer Responder?

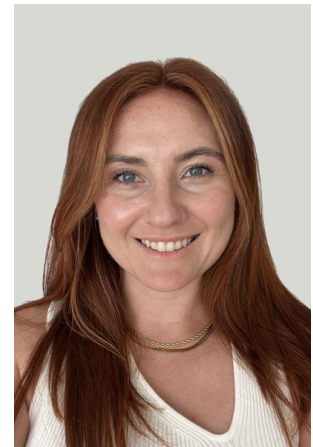
This a good time to complete the [EOI](#) for staff who are enthusiastic, empathetic and nurturing, and who have a genuine interest in the wellbeing of your colleagues.

The [Peer Responder Program](#) has limited training days in the year.

Our next COH training day is at North Lakes Health Precinct on May 13 from 1.00 - 4.00 pm (With the Psychological First Aid Training in the morning).

If people are interested submit an [EOI here](#) and seek approval from your line manager so that you can enrol via TMS for the following training:

- [Psychological First Aid Training](#)
- [Peer Responder Training](#)



Jayne Stevenson
Acting Executive Director

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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[Email us](#)