

Metro North Health message from the

Chief Executive and ED Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

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Summary:

- Acknowledging Mabo Day

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read: 2 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

Today we acknowledge Mabo Day and honour the legacy of Eddie Koiki Mabo and the fellow plaintiffs whose determination helped change Australia's legal and social history forever.

Led by Eddie Koiki Mabo alongside fellow Meriam plaintiffs Sam Passi, David Passi, James Rice and Celuia Mapo Salee, the landmark case challenged the legal doctrine of terra nullius — the false idea that Australia was 'land belonging to no one' before British colonisation.

Together, they fought for the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' enduring rights to land and Country. Their efforts led to the 1992 Mabo Decision, which overturned terra nullius and formally recognised the deep and continuing connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to Country, culture and community.

The decision was a significant step toward truth-telling, recognition and justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and its impact continues today.

At Metro North, Mabo Day is an important reminder of why cultural safety, equity and meaningful partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities matter in healthcare.

Connection to Country, culture, family and community are deeply tied to identity, social and emotional wellbeing, and health outcomes. Understanding this helps us provide more culturally responsive and compassionate care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, families and communities across our health service.

The legacy of the Mabo Decision also reminds us that meaningful change happens when people are willing to listen, learn and challenge long-held assumptions.

For non-Indigenous Australians, Mabo Day is an opportunity to reflect on our shared

history and consider the role we all play in creating a more equitable future. Sometimes creating change starts with something simple — attending a Mabo Day celebration, listening to someone’s story or taking the time to better understand perspectives different from our own.

We invite you to attend Mabo Day celebrations across the facilities this week including:

- Redcliffe Hospital – Wednesday 3 June, 11am–1pm at the Education Centre, Lecture Room 2
- Brighton Health Campus – Friday 5 June, 10am–2pm at the Brighton Auditorium

These moments of learning and connection matter. They help build understanding, strengthen relationships and create more culturally safe environments for our staff, patients and community.

Across our organisation, we continue this work through initiatives including our Health Equity Strategy, Reconciliation Action Plans and internal training opportunities. We encourage staff to continue engaging with these initiatives and to explore resources to continue learning about the significance and ongoing legacy of the Mabo Decision.

Today also provides an opportunity to celebrate the richness, strength and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to acknowledge the contributions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make to our health service and broader community.

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**

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