

ED Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Adj.Prof. Sherry Holzapfel



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June 2026

Dear colleagues,

Over recent weeks, many of our facilities and teams have come together to mark National Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week and Mabo Day. Through yarning circles, morning teas, cultural activities, community events and moments of reflection, these occasions have created meaningful opportunities to acknowledge our shared history, celebrate culture and strengthen our collective commitment to reconciliation.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise and participate in these events. It has been inspiring to see staff, community members and leaders come together across our health service. These moments reinforce that reconciliation is not confined to a single day or week—it is something we each contribute to through our everyday actions, relationships and decisions.

A highlight of the past month was the Connecting the Journey: Growing Strong Kids Health Equity Community Showcase, delivered in partnership with Children's Health Queensland. Bringing together Elders, community members, health leaders and allies, the showcase reflected the strength of our partnerships and our shared commitment to improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families. It was inspiring to see such a strong collective commitment to listening, learning and sharing knowledge.

I would also like to congratulate Gemma Morthen on being named STARS Deadly Nurse of the Year. This recognition reflects Gemma's dedication and compassion, and highlights the invaluable contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses make across our health service every day.

As we move into June, I would like to acknowledge Pride Month—an important opportunity to celebrate diversity and reaffirm our commitment to creating safe, inclusive and respectful environments for all staff, patients and communities. This is also a time to recognise the unique experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+SB peoples, including Sistergirls and Brotherboys, whose identities and cultures are deeply connected to community, Country and kinship. Embracing diversity in all its forms strengthens our ability to deliver culturally safe, person-centred care.

At its core, health equity is about ensuring everyone feels welcomed, valued and able to access the care and support they need. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, this includes recognising the importance of cultural identity, self-determination and community-led approaches to care. Continuing to listen, learn and work in partnership with communities remains central to our vision for Metro North Health, as we strive to create a health system that is inclusive, respectful and responsive to all.

As we continue this work, I encourage you to take a few moments to complete the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Career Development [Survey](#) if you have not already done so. Your feedback is vital in shaping our workplace, informing future priorities, and ensuring we continue to build an organisation where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff feel supported, heard and empowered to do their best work.

Looking ahead, NAIDOC Week is fast approaching - a special time to come together, celebrate the strength and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and recognise the important contributions our communities continue to make. I encourage everyone to keep an eye on the events calendar and get involved where you can.

Thank you for the work you do every day to support culturally safe care, strengthen relationships with community and improve health outcomes across Metro North Health.

Stay Deadly,
Sherry

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

We're seeking feedback from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to help strengthen workforce initiatives and opportunities across Metro North Health.



Health Equity Showcase - *Connecting the journey: Growing strong kids*

Elders, community members, health leaders and allies came together recently for the Connecting the Journey: Growing Strong Kids Health Equity Community Showcase, delivered in partnership with Metro North Health and Children's Health Queensland.

The day opened with a powerful cultural performance and Acknowledgment of Country by the Bray Park State High School dancers, setting the tone for a day centred on culture, connection and collaboration.

Attendees heard from a range of services, programs and community voices helping shape more culturally responsive care across the health system. The event highlighted the importance of working together across organisations, services and communities to create lasting change and support the next generation to thrive.

A big thank you to everyone who attended, presented and contributed to the success of the showcase. Your commitment to listening, learning and working alongside community continues to strengthen our journey towards better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families.



New Sad News and Sorry Business Leave Guideline is now available

Click here to learn more →

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Staff Shout Out - Gemma Rose Morthen

Congratulations to Gemma on being named:
STARS Deadly Nurse of the Year.

Gemma's dedication to providing culturally safe, person-centred care and her unwavering support for patients and families make her a valued member of the STARS team. A very well-deserved recognition for an incredible nurse.

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

Tell us here



New 2026 Cultural Events Calendar

Learn more here →

Metro North Senior Executive Team (SET) Business Case for Change

Consultation for the Metro North Senior Executive Team (SET) Business Case for Change (BCFC) is now open.

The BCFC proposes a reorganisation of some functions and work areas within directorates and across Metro North Health. Feedback is open until Wednesday 17 June.

More details - including a recording of the vidcast announcing the proposed changes - are available on the Extranet [here](#).

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Help shape the new Medical Imaging Department at Brighton Health Campus

Survey now open

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



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Bribie Women's Yarning Group

There was a deadly turnout for the first-ever Women's Yarning Circle on Bribie Island recently, facilitated by Bribie Island Satellite Health Centre Community Engagement Officer, Tanika.

"Growing up on Bribie, I know there's not much for our mob in the way of groups to connect, so I thought this would be a really great opportunity," Tanika said.

With around 20 women attending, the afternoon was filled with connection, laughter and meaningful conversations. It was wonderful to see local women come together to share stories, build relationships and strengthen community connections.



A great first gathering, with many looking forward to the next yarn.

NEW

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Identified Role Descriptions NOW AVAILABLE!



Jobs for Mob!

Metro North Health also has several opportunities currently available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including a newly established Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Professions role.

For a list of current positions please see below:

Advertised position	Job link
Clinical Nurse Child Health Ngarrama	Job search Employment and jobs Queensland Government
Psychologist or Social Worker or Occupational Therapist - Senior (Identified)	Job search Employment and jobs Queensland Government
Clinical Midwife Ngarrama	Job search Employment and jobs Queensland Government

Happy Pride Month



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pride Event

We're excited to be planning Metro North Health's first Pride event for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff who identify as LGBTQIA+SB and allies.

This special event will create a space to celebrate diversity, strengthen connections and honour the many identities that make up our workforce.

More information will be shared soon, so keep an eye on your emails.

Find out more about how to work alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who identify as LGBTQIA+SB [here](#).

New Cultural Community and Engagement Framework



Read here



Metro North
Health



Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health



May 2026 - Social and Emotional Wellbeing Site Visits

Facility	June Dates	Time
The Prince Charles Hospital	3/06/26	10:30am – 12:30pm
	17/06/26	10:30am – 12:30pm
STARS	16/6/26	1pm - 2pm
	30/6/26	1pm - 2pm
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital	16/6/26	9.30am - 2.30pm
	30/6/26	9.30am - 2.30pm
Kallangur Satellite Health Centre (Kalangoor)	9/06/26	12.30pm – 1.30pm
	24/6/26	11am - 12pm
Bribie Island Satellite Health Centre (Yarun)	10/06/26	9am - 10am
	23/06/26	9am - 10am
Caboolture Hospital	10/06/26	11am – 12.30pm
	23/06/26	11am – 12.30pm
Caboolture Satellite Health Centre (Kabul)	10/06/26	1.30pm - 3.30pm
	23/06/26	1.30pm - 3.30pm
Redcliffe Hospital	12/06/26	1pm – 2.30pm
	25/06/26	1:30pm - 3pm
Community and Oral Health (Brighton 19th Avenue)	12/06/26	11am – 12pm
	24/06/26	9am - 10am
BIALA – City Community Health Centre	1/06/26	9.30am - 10.30am
	15/06/26	9.30am - 10.30am
	29/06/26	9.30am - 10.30am
Green Square	1/06/26	11.30am – 12.30pm
	15/06/26	11.30am – 12.30pm
	29/06/26	11.30am – 12.30pm
Nundah Community Health Centre	12/06/26	9:00am – 10:00am
	26/06/26	9:00am – 10:00am
Aspley Community Health Centre	8/06/26	10.30am - 11.30am
	22/06/26	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](#)



Expressions of Interest open for 2026 Deadly Sex Congress presenters

The Deadly Sex Organising Committee is inviting Expressions of Interest from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers, practitioners and professionals interested in presenting at the 2026 [Deadly Sex Congress](#).

The Congress provides an opportunity to share experiences, showcase programs and projects and highlight the important work being undertaken in communities across Queensland to improve sexual health outcomes.

Bringing together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual health workers from across the state, the Congress supports workforce development, knowledge sharing and updates on current and emerging issues relating to blood-borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections.

The 2026 Deadly Sex Congress will be held on 21–22 October 2026 at Rydges South Bank, Meanjin (Brisbane). Attendance is free, with accommodation support available for eligible delegates travelling from outside Meanjin.

If you have a story, project, initiative or experience to share, consider submitting an Expression of Interest to present.

[Register to Present Here](#)

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.

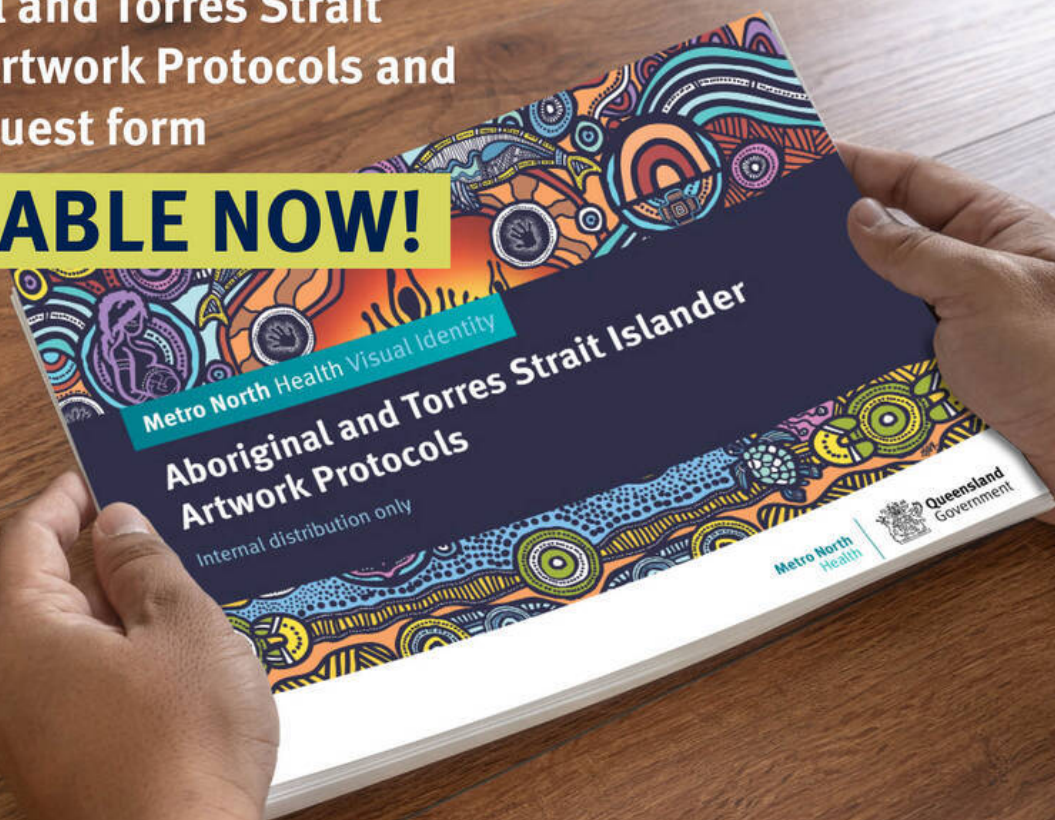
Now a mandatory requirement for all staff.

**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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