

Metro North Health

Message from the

Executive Director Community and Oral Health

Glynis Schultz



Summary:

- Our COH Excellence Awards shortlisted finalists announced
- Reconciliation at Halwyn
- Brighton 80th Facts - The old picture theatre
- Final Shoutout - Speech Pathology Week

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 5 min



For: Information

Dear Team,

The more than 160 nominations for our COH Excellence Awards says a lot about the people who make up the COH community.

Thank you to each person who took the time to put the spotlight on someone else's achievements and nominate them for an award.

Thank you for the hard work and dedication of each of the nominees. You deserve to feel proud that your hard work and dedication has been valued and acknowledged by your peers.

Finally, thank you to the panel for their hard work in preparing the **shortlisted finalists** below:

Excellence in Performance

- Lina Hunter, Operations Manager, School Dental Service
- Early Career Dental Practitioner Program, Metro North Oral Health Services
- Dr Pallavi Bansal, Clinical Director, Rehabilitation
- Stephen Clarke, Principal Project Officer, Clinical Operations
- Matt Smith, Manager, Building, Engineering and Maintenance

First Nation's Health

- Justin Roby, Cultural Capability Officer, COH Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- Deadly Smiles, School Dental Service



Leadership

- Natasha Eaton, Nurse Educator, Education
- Michael Bishop, Nursing Director, Extended Care
- Karen Lush, Nursing Director, Education
- Dr Padmini Menon, Acting Director, Community Palliative Care Service
- Peter Lawrenson, HP Advanced, Innovation and Research Centre

People Focus

- Kathleen Ryan, Nurse Navigator, Norfolk Island Support Program
- School Dental Service Fluoride Varnish Program, Metro North Oral Health Service
- Samantha Creed, Clinical Nurse, Stafford Dental Clinic
- Vulnerable Peoples Oral Health Program - General Practice Oral Health Services
- Dr Bill Lukin, Medical Lead, Comfort Care Bundle for the Frail (CCBF)
- Elizabeth Milner, Senior Occupational Therapist, Interim Care
- Amanda Barnett, Senior Dietitian, Halwyn Centre

Supporting Excellence in Care

- Zara Mansell, Occupational Therapist, HAART
- Dr Michael Du Plessis, Medical Education Registrar, COH
- Tanya Maroney, Acting Clinical Nurse Consultant, Patient Flow, Extended Care
- Stephen Clarke, Principal Project Officer, Clinical Operations

Excellence in Innovation, Research and Clinical Improvement

- Kate Jakeman, Assistant Nursing Director, Workforce and Innovation
- Dr Nicole Stormon, Principal Research Fellow, Innovation and Research Centre
- Dr Julian De Looze, Clinical Director, Hospital in The Home
- One Front Door - Sarah Scott, Jessica Linnan, Jessica Nolan, Emily Merton and Mary Wheeldon

Culture and Wellbeing Award

- Residential Transition Care Program Team
- Elyshia Gray, Senior Medical Officer, Brighton GEM Service
- Dr Katie Tran, Director, Metro North Oral Health Service
- Mary Jacobsen, Acting Medical Appointments Officer, COH

Values in Action

- Amelia Grimmer, Senior Occupational Therapist, Halwyn Centre
- Shandel Thomas-Clark, Acting Principal Dental Assistant, School Dental Service
- Michelle Reynolds, Memory Chitagu and Larishna Ramasamy, Current Advanced Oral Health Therapist Team, School Dental Service
- Kayleen Smith, Dental Therapist, School Dental Service
- Sabrina Pizzica, Physiotherapist, Community Based Rehabilitation Team
- Tracey Lea, Senior Administration Officer, Facility Services
- Daniel Hall, Administration Officer, Patient Access
- Amy Durham, Medical Education Coordinator, Education

COH Connecting Care Champions

- Patrice Jones, Nurse Unit Manager, Residential Transition Care Program
- Minh Lee, Senior Dental Technician, Sandgate Dental Clinic
- Dr. Milini Koshy, Dentist, Bracken Ridge School Dental Clinic
- Michelle Reynolds, Advanced Oral Health Therapist, Bracken Ridge School Dental Clinic
- Fiona Wilson and Anna Grasso, Administration Officers, Nundah Community Health Centre

- Joeann Purcell, Clinical Assistant, Redcliffe Dental Clinic
- Joel Dayanan, Patient Support Officer, Patient Services

Congratulations to all the shortlisted finalists!

The winners of the COH Excellence Awards will be announced this year at a special function to be held on the 15 October 2026 from 2.00 pm.

I will send further detail about these awards in the coming week. I encourage as many staff as possible to attend online or in person.

Reconciliation at Halwyn

Earlier this week, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Team and the Halwyn team facilitated an extremely fun Reconciliation Bowls event with residents and staff.

Thank you to both teams and Alison Stanford for initiating this wonderful event with our residents.

A special thank you to the residents for their enthusiastic response and warm smiles shared during the bowls activity.

The event will be held annually at the Halwyn Centre and is another example of being 'All In' for reconciliation, a call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day.



Thursday 1 October 2026
10:00 – 11:30am at Brighton
Health Campus (Auditorium)
All current and former staff and
volunteers are welcome

EMAIL YOUR INTEREST

Brighton 80th Facts - The old picture theatre

The Seabreeze Theatre at Eventide, Brighton, was built by the RAAF during WW2.

It was the last theatre in Sandgate, and its purpose was to enrich the lives of the RAAF trainees and staff from 1942 onwards.

The Sea Breeze building continued to be used as a place for social gathering, a picture theatre for concerts and plays for the Eventide Nursing Home, once the RAAF base closed in 1947.

While the Seabreeze Theatre no longer functions today it fuelled its audiences with amusement and enjoyment until the early 1980s, when the site was deemed to be better suited for an auditorium.



The auditorium, now as you know, has been used for a variety of purposes including a vaccination clinic, and a venue for expos, choir concerts, training and professional development sessions and workshops.

And in October, it will host the 80th birthday celebrations.

Thursday, 1 October 2026

10.00 - 11.30 am

**Brighton Health Campus
Auditorium**



Final Shoutout - Speech Pathology Week

Speech Pathology week is an opportunity to acknowledge the valuable work that our COH speech pathologists do. Our team of 29 speech pathologists are based across our subacute, ambulatory and residential services in COH.

This year's theme, *Communication creates possibility*, reflects what speech pathologists see every day in practice. When communication and swallowing needs are supported, people have more opportunities to connect, learn, make choices, participate and thrive.

Speech Pathology Week recognises the value and impact of speech pathology across Australia.

In 2026, SPA week will highlight how the right support can create opportunities for people to connect, learn, make choices, participate and thrive.

Communication creates possibility, and speech pathologists help turn possibility into opportunity. The theme connects the everyday practice with the broader outcomes the profession helps make possible: stronger participation, greater inclusion, improved wellbeing and better access across health, education, disability, aged care and community settings.



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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