

ED Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Adj.Prof. Sherry Holzapfel



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September 2026

Dear Colleagues,

There is plenty of deadly news to celebrate across our workforce this month and one of the things that makes me particularly proud is seeing our people grow, step into new opportunities and back themselves along the way. Our young people are certainly leading the way.

This edition, we celebrate three of our Deadly Start trainees – Baylee Proctor, Amira Ahmat and Ruth Roma, who have been kicking some incredible goals.

Baylee was named Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year at the Metropolitan regional final of the 2026 Queensland Training Awards, with Amira also recognised as a finalist. Ruth has been finding her voice through the Beyond the Broncos Future Voices program, stepping outside her comfort zone to speak in front of a huge NRL crowd and travelling to Sydney and Canberra alongside other young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders.

These achievements are about so much more than awards or opportunities. They show what can happen when our young people are supported, encouraged and given the space to build their confidence, skills and aspirations.

We also celebrate Rebecca Hayes on completing her Graduate Certificate in Health Services Innovation and continuing her studies with a Master of Advanced Health Service Management, and introduce Talayah Stubbs from our Deadly Feet team, whose passion for community is helping make to access care easier.

And we know there are plenty more good-news stories out there. If someone in your team is celebrating an achievement, taking on a new opportunity or doing deadly work for our patients and communities, we want to hear about it. Please share your good news with our team so we can celebrate our people and their achievements across Metro North.

Congratulations to everyone featured in this edition. Keep backing yourselves, supporting one another and creating opportunities for those coming behind you.

Stay Deadly,
Sherry

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff

Women's Cultural Gathering

When

25th September 2026
8:30am – 3pm

Where

Suttons Beach,
Redcliffe

[Click here to register or search 'Better Together Staff Gathering' in TMS.](#)





Staff Shout Out - Rebecca Hayes

A big congratulations to Rebecca, Service Improvement Officer with the Innovation and Research Centre at Community and Oral Health, on completing her Graduate Certificate in Health Services Innovation!

Rebecca has already been putting her studies into practice, including through a university project exploring ways to strengthen leadership and support for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker workforce at Metro North Health.

And she's not stopping there! Rebecca is now commencing a Master of Advanced Health Service Management at Griffith University.

Congratulations Rebecca on this fantastic achievement and for continuing to bring your learning back into Metro North Health!

Know a staff member doing deadly work?

[Tell Us Here](#)



Share Your Story. Showcase Your Impact.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communications and Planning Team are seeking story submissions for the *2026 Metro North Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year in Review Report*. Share your achievements, partnerships, innovations and outcomes to help showcase the impact your service is making for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Submissions close: Friday 25 September 2026

[Submit Here](#)

Wear It Purple Day

Last Friday, staff across Metro North Health proudly wore purple to recognise Wear It Purple Day and show their support for LGBTQIA+ young people.

It was great to see teams adding a splash of purple to their workplaces and coming together to show that everyone deserves to feel safe, supported and proud to be themselves.



Thank you to everyone who got involved and helped make our workplaces more welcoming and inclusive.



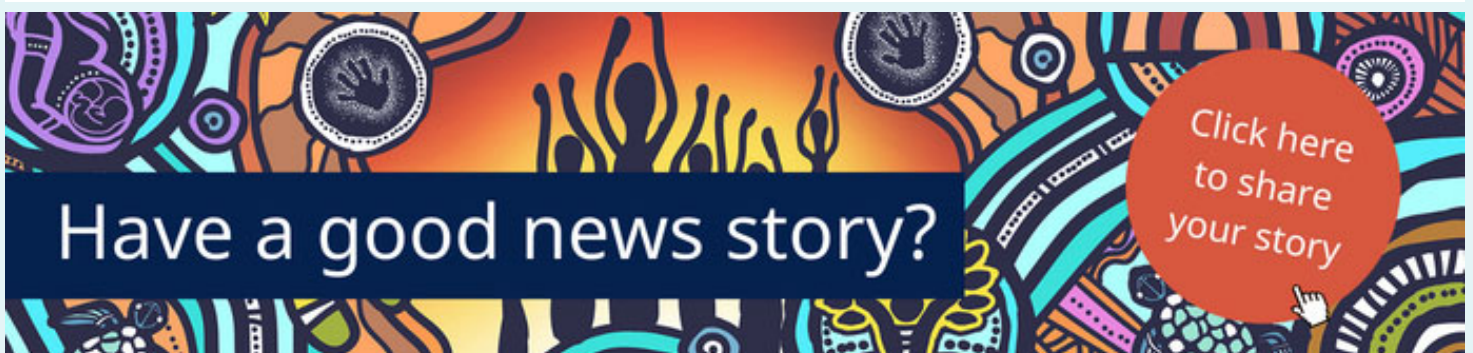
Recognition starts with you

Know a deadly staff member or team doing great things across Metro North? Give them the recognition they deserve!

Whether they're going above and beyond for our patients and community, supporting their colleagues or making a real difference in their workplace, a nomination is a great way to celebrate their contribution.

Don't assume someone else will nominate them, your nomination could be the one that puts their deadly work in the spotlight.

Visit the Staff Excellence Awards page on [QHEPS](#) to find out more and submit a nomination.



Deadly Start trainees kicking goals! 🌟

It's been a big few weeks for our Deadly Start trainees, with Baylee, Amira and Ruth making us proud both inside and outside Metro North Health.

Baylee Proctor was named Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year at the Metropolitan regional final of the 2026 Queensland Training Awards, with fellow Deadly Start trainee Amira Ahmat also recognised as

a finalist in the category.

Both young people are completing a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance while balancing school, their traineeships and some impressive goals for the future.

Ruth Roma has been finding her voice through the Beyond the Broncos Future Voices program, selected as one of just 30 students from across Queensland and Northern New South Wales. Ruth stepped outside her comfort zone to speak at an NRL double-header and was later selected to travel to Sydney and Canberra with 15 fellow Future Voices students to meet leaders, take part in workshops and grow her leadership skills.

All three continue to balance school, their Deadly Start traineeships and opportunities beyond the hospital, while building their confidence, skills and aspirations for the future.

We're incredibly proud to see our young people kicking goals, representing their communities and making the most of every opportunity that comes their way.



Persistent Pain Clinic

Do you work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients experiencing pain that has lasted longer than three months?

The Persistent Pain Service, delivered in partnership between Metro North Health and the Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (MATSICHS), provides holistic and culturally responsive support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16 years and over, and their immediate families.

Based in Caboolture, the service brings together pain specialists, nurses, psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and pharmacists to support the physical, social and emotional impacts of persistent pain.

Health Workers and staff are encouraged to yarn with eligible patients about the service and support them to speak with their GP about a referral.



[Learn More](#)

Supporting our diverse workforce

Have you updated your diversity status on myHR?

[Click here to access myHR](#)



Meet Talayah Stubbs

For proud Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi and Cook Island woman Talayah, working with the Deadly Feet program is about helping make healthcare easier to access and more welcoming for community.

As the program's Administration Officer, Talayah is often the first friendly voice patients hear, helping coordinate appointments, transport and outreach clinics across the region.

Get to know Talayah and the deadly work she's doing to support healthier communities.



Jobs for Mob!

Metro North Health has several opportunities currently available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

For a list of current positions please see below:

Job Position	Job Link
Advanced Workforce Officer (Identified)	Advanced Workforce Officer (Identified) Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Social Worker Senior - Maternity and Neonatology (Identified)	Social Worker Senior - Maternity and Neonatology (Identified) Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Senior Clinician: Mental Health and Social Emotional Wellbeing	Senior Clinician: Mental Health and Social Emotional Wellbeing Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Advanced A&TSI Mental Health Worker	Advanced A&TSI Mental Health Worker Brisbane—North Queensland Health Careers
Nurse Educator, Nursing and Midwifery Education (NG7) - Internal EOI	EOI PORTAL – Metro North Health

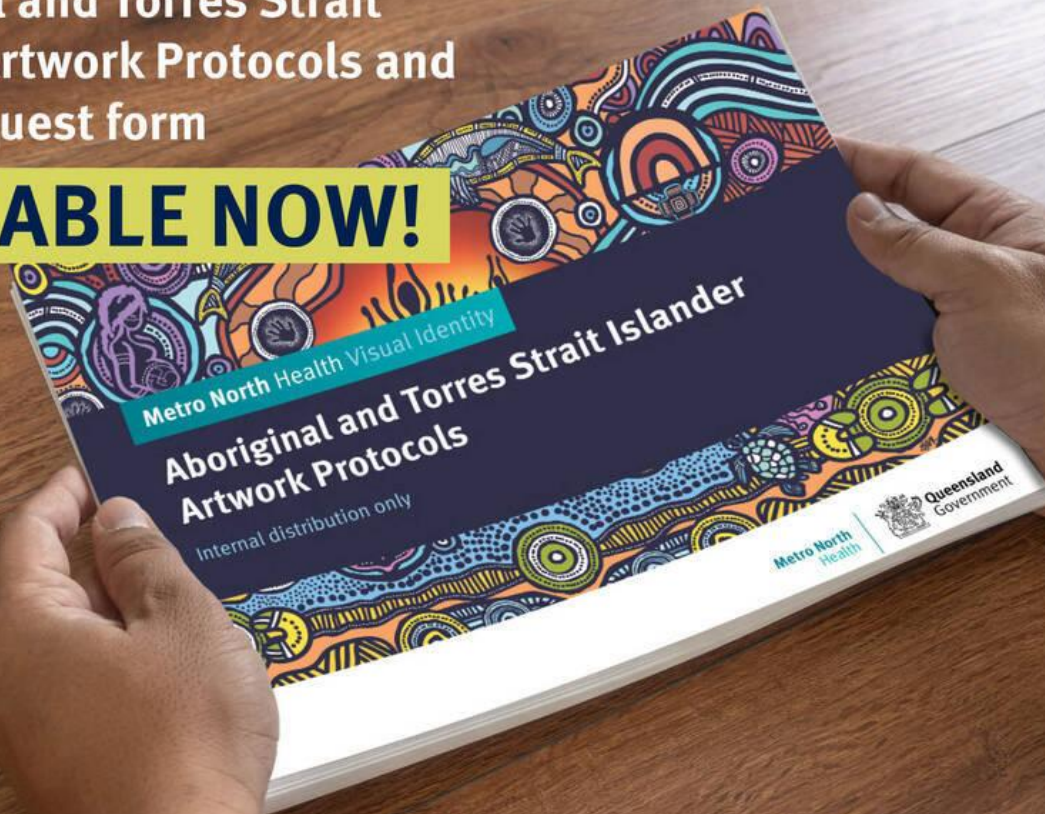
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on Social
Media!**

Better Together -
Our Health, Our Way!



**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](#)

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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