



Talk-About

The official newsletter for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit

February/March 2019

Metro North Hospital and Health Service *Putting people first*

Is precision medicine the way to Close the Gap?

Our Editor recently had the opportunity to meet with Indigenous Health Research Manager, Gregory Pratt at QIMR Berghofer, to discuss their research programs aimed at prioritising health concerns to improve the burden of illness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.



Indigenous Health Research Manager, Gregory Pratt at QIMR Berghofer

There is no greater commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and leadership when you enter the QIMR Berghofer facility in the Herston Health Precinct adjoining the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, with a wall to ceiling artwork 'water memory' by Aboriginal artist Judy Watson.

The artwork combines the histories of site, scientific research, and cultural memory into an aqueous membrane that floats within the skin of this building. The image of water is conduit, carrying memories of the past, and connecting cultures and country, while sustaining life.

At the foyer, we are welcomed by Gregory Pratt, an Aboriginal man and descendant of the Brown family of the Noonucal tribe of the Quandamooka people of Stradbroke Island. He spent much of his childhood years with the Ghughu Yalanghi people of Cape York, growing up in the township of Laura.

With an interest in people, mental health and social and emotional wellbeing, Greg spent his post graduate years working in rural New South Wales as an Indigenous mental health practitioner. Before commencing with the QIMR Berghofer in December 2012, he worked with the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health in Cairns and the Health Quality and Complaints Commission in Brisbane.

Greg's passion about community empowerment is infectious, as he describes the different laboratories within the facility and the regional high school lecture series designed to encourage both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to enter a career in health, science and research.

He leads us to his office, which sits in the Director's suite of QIMR Berghofer.

"This shows you how committed QIMR Berghofer is to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership."

QIMR Berghofer was established approximately 75 years ago, as a statutory entity. Research is conducted by 600 scientists into priority areas for the state of Queensland and the peoples of Queensland.

"My role here is to support the 60 scientific labs to think about the relevance of the work they're doing to our priority population of Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander people of Queensland."

"I'm in a privileged position of working at one of the largest medical research institutes in Australia and one of the highest regarded medical research institutes in the world. And I can say that people like our Director, Professor Frank Gannon and our Deputy Director, Professor David Whiteman and all the scientists and support people that are here, are doing a wonderful job to make a difference for the people of Queensland."

Story continues page 3



**Queensland
Government**



Give us feedback

Talk-About

We welcome your feedback, contributions, story ideas and details on any upcoming events. Please contact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit Communications Manager Renee Simon at Renee.Simon@health.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 3139 3231.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit

If you have any feedback regarding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit services, programs and initiatives, you can contact the following:

Mail to:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit, Building 26, Chermiside Community Health Centre, 490 Hamilton Road, Chermiside QLD 4032.

Email to:

A_TSIHU_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au

Alternatively, call and ask for our Safety and Quality Officer on 3647 9531.

Contact information

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer	Ph: 3646 4154 or 3646 1696
Indigenous Patient Journey Officer	Ph: 3646 5612 or 0428 861 888
Team Leader	Ph: 3647 4183 or 0408 472 385

The Prince Charles Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer	Ph: 3139 5165 or 3139 5062
Indigenous Patient Journey Officer	Ph: 3139 6622 or 0409 583 967
Team Leader	Ph: 3139 6300 or 0439 082 908

Redcliffe Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer	Ph: 3049 6791
Team Leader	Ph: 3139 6300 or 0439 082 908

Caboolture Hospital

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer	Ph: 5433 8249 or 5433 8708
Team Leader	Ph: 3139 6300 or 0439 082 908

After Hours Team

Friday and Monday 12pm to 8.30pm

Saturday and Sunday 10am to 6:30pm	Ph: 5433 8249
Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer	Ph: 3647 4183
Indigenous Patient Journey Officer	Ph: 0409 583 967

Indigenous Acute and Primary Care / Sexual Health Team

Manager: Robyn Chilcott	Ph: 3492 1823
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A&TSIHU Safety & Quality – Pine Rivers CHC

Tracy Grant – Indigenous Safety & Quality Coordinator	Ph: 3492 1818 or Mob: 0417 027 642
Caley Malezer – Project Officer Safety & Quality	Ph: 3492 1820 or Mob: 0417 270 854

What's inside

February / March 2019

Contact information	2
A word from the Acting Director.....	3

OUT & ABOUT

Elders Morning Tea event at Caboolture Hospital	7
Tamika joins Metro North students within the Deadly Start Program.....	8
Two New Indigenous Mental Health Workers.....	8

IN FOCUS

Close the Gap: What it means to staff	10
Close the Gap Day Invitation	11
Meet our Metro North Staff Yarns Ambassador, Mark Budd	12
Our Values in Action	13

STAFF FEATURE

Identification: It's your right to a healthier life.....	12
Introducing Dr Carl Francia	17
Back Page	18

A word from the Director



Paul Drahm

Acting Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit



Continued from page 1

QIMR Berghofer currently has six initiatives related to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community – Cancer, Mental Health, Scabies, Researcher Traineeship, Regional High School Lecture Series and the Genomics program.

The genomic program is something Greg is particularly passionate about and he can see the real benefits precision medicine can have for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

“As a patient, you will be able to go to your GP or your community based health service for a blood test to read your genetic code. This may be used to diagnose a genetic condition, or to select treatment in a personalised and precise way - what medications are you most sensitive to, what medications are you most likely to benefit from and what illnesses are you most at risk from.”

Over the past 12 months, Greg and his team, have travelled extensively across the state to consult with community on the topic of genomics and personalised medicine in a clinical and research setting.

The discussions at these workshops and forums informed the development of *The Genomics Pathways: Guidelines for genomics research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Queensland*, a guideline aimed at providing practical advice for researchers partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in genomic research.

Welcome to the first edition of Talk About for 2019. This year will see some organisational changes to staff reporting lines within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit. From all accounts these changes will be a positive move forward and of great benefit to patients who arrive at any of our Metro North hospitals and community based services. More details regarding the changes will be provided in the coming months.

On Thursday March 21, we will mark Close the Gap Day by signing our Statement of Commitment to Close the Gap. This is the first step in our journey for our consultation for the *Metro North Close the Gap Plan 2019-2022*.

The draft plan provides the framework to ensure we are a national leader in the delivery of effective health services that are planned, supported and culturally equipped to increase access and improve health outcomes both in acute and community setting for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This plan will address four (4) key priority areas: Leadership, Governance and Workforce; Transparency, Reporting and Accountability; Culturally Responsive, Safe and Connected Care; Engagement and Partnerships.

Greg believes precision medicine and genomics research will play an important role in investigating the health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

He personally knows the impact of the gap, having lost his Aboriginal father at the age of 64, and six months later his non-Indigenous grandmother died at the age of 94.

“That’s a massive difference. A huge difference...I think we are quick to blame lifestyle choices. My grandmother was diagnosed with type two diabetes in her forties and subsequently in the years to follow, lost both her legs due to circulatory issues and passed away at 60 years of age. She didn’t drink or smoke or live unhealthily.”

“I also was recently diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. For me it was an interesting sort of coincidence. I don’t smoke, I don’t drink, but I probably could do with losing a little bit of weight. After my diagnosis I received treatment based on the doctors identifying the genetic profile of my specific cancer and the treatments that would be most effective.”

Greg believes this precision medicine approach to treatment is going to make a huge difference.

“The goal of QIMR Berghofer and Queensland Genomics Health Alliance is to see this type of medicine in place across the public health sector, the private health sector and primary health across the state of Queensland for the benefit of everyone. There are already some

The plan will focus on four key clinical priority areas of Strong Start to Life, Reducing the Burden of Disease, Crisis and Complex Care and Living Well and Living Longer.

Underpinning this work will be established Cultural Governance Committees and Reconciliation Action Plans across the HHS.

Please find enclosed our consultation paper, and I encourage our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to attend the consultation event held on Close the Gap Day on Thursday March 21 from 9.30 – 12.30pm at Brighton Health Campus Auditorium. If you are not available to attend this event in person, I encourage you to visit the Metro North Consultation Hub website – <https://metronorth.citizenspace.com> – to review the draft plan and provide feedback via our survey.

Finally, you will notice some changes to this edition of Talk-About. We no longer will be providing program manager updates, rather our focus is to include more community-based stories and collaboration with other Metro North Indigenous health services, stakeholders and partners. Enjoy reading.

Paul Drahm

Acting Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit

genetic testing and counselling services in place and anyone can access that service, as can anyone access a public hospital and health service as a resident of Queensland.

“The goal is to have precision medicine accessible to everyone. However, to actually work out what’s the best indicated treatment for you, we need to know what your genome means in reference to everyone else. Currently, most of the worldwide research into the genetic causes of disease has focussed on samples from Caucasian populations. We just have no way of knowing whether or not this information is relevant to people of indigenous backgrounds.”

Greg said more discussion, consultation and partnering will be held at a community level on the benefits of genetic testing and precision medicine.

“This has been a goal of meeting with communities, to determine if precision medicine and genomics research was of interest to them given the potential benefit that it might have. Already, researchers are predicting that precision medicine will increase lifespan by some 15 years, for our own Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities this can be a way to reduce that gap and improve health outcomes.”

If you would like to obtain a copy of the draft The Genomics Pathways Document or require further information regarding the GenetiQs program, email - genetiqs@qimrberghofer.edu.au.



CLOSE THE GAP PLAN

2019-2022

consultation paper

Metro North Hospital and Health Service *Putting people first*

As the largest public health service in Australia, Metro North Hospital and Health Service (MNHHS) is committed to improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Metro North Close the Gap Plan 2019–2022 provides the framework to ensure we are a national leader in the delivery of effective health services that are planned, supported and culturally equipped to increase access and improve health outcomes both in acute and community setting for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Our plan commits to ensuring the full participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' voices and their representative bodies in all aspects of addressing their health needs.

CLINICAL KEY ACTION AREAS



STRONG START TO LIFE

- Strengthen Ngarrama Maternity models of care to support holistic, continuity of care model that is sustainable
- Reduce barriers to accessing care by ensuring cultural safety and delivering care closer to home
- Promote healthy lifestyle changes to support minimising maternal risk factors
- Support timely interventions for children that support strong childhood development
- Develop and implement an Indigenous specific maternal/child clinical care pathway
- Grow community partnerships and MOU's for governance, engagement and supported transitions



REDUCING THE BURDEN OF DISEASE

- Early screening initiatives for preventable cancers/diseases
- Improve access and coordination of care for the management of diseases/conditions
- Establish Indigenous navigation roles to facilitate an integrated, supported transition across the patient journey
- Develop cultural awareness campaigns for bowel, breast and lung cancer to help reduce mortality and early detection
- Develop and implement a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clinical care pathway to improve rates of screening, diagnosis and management
- Improve the quality of sharing of information on referral and discharge that supports seamless continuity of care



CRISIS AND COMPLEX CARE

- Increase access for cultural support and advocacy within the Emergency Department
- Develop and implement a MNHHS Indigenous care pathway for crisis/trauma care
- Strengthen cultural support and assistance to our local communities and those who do not live in MNHHS but require care here
- Develop Indigenous patient care guidelines specific to each illness/disease group to ensure cultural safety
- Enhanced referral, assessment and navigation care that is culturally focused
- Develop specific cultural communication tools to assist in having a shared understanding about how to manage care and recover post discharge



LIVING WELL AND LIVING LONGER

- Work with Brisbane North PHN to develop and trial initiatives that support Indigenous older persons
- Increase opportunities to partner with Indigenous community providers to bring care close to home
- Trial new approaches to improving connectivity to care by establishing a new service navigation model across MNHHS
- Development of culturally appropriate care guidelines for people that are not going to get better
- Enhance wellbeing programs in partnership with mental health services to integrate clinical, mental health, and social and emotional wellbeing programs
- Partner with health promotion initiatives to increase awareness for healthy lifestyle, mental health and risk reduction

KEY PRIORITY AREAS

OUR GOAL



All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accessing MNHHS will receive high quality person centred care that is culturally responsive, empowers self-care and choice, and is designed to improve health and wellbeing.



Elders Morning Tea event at Caboolture Hospital

Dr Moshood Shittu (Mosh) grew up in South Africa and completed his education and university degree to become an emergency doctor before immigrating six years ago to Australia, choosing the Brisbane northern suburbs to continue his medical career at the Caboolture Hospital.



Dr Mosh Shittu at the luncheon at the Caboolture Hospital in November.

During his first few months at the hospital, Dr Mosh, who sees himself as an advocate for the community, recognised the need for more understanding and awareness of Indigenous culture as well as having the ability to communicate to Indigenous patients about their health needs.

Dr Mosh then began the journey of developing a cultural group within the emergency department to improve Indigenous health as well as other cultural groups.

“Our hospital is very multicultural, we need to have better understanding of each of these groups and be able to assist them in the best possible way” Dr Mosh said.

Dr Mosh believes for the hospital to successfully treat Indigenous patients, it must firstly understand their culture and then in turn, share each other’s culture which creates better harmony.

Dr Mosh and the cultural group in the Emergency Department at Caboolture Hospital and the Cultural Capability Officers (Elwyn Henaway and Horace Nona) have set up a regular ‘community BBQ’ for Indigenous elders and key stakeholders from the Caboolture Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to attend and engage with Dr Mosh and his team regularly.

The community BBQ’s are held in the Caboolture Hospital Emergency Department staff lunch room. To date they have conducted two, with another planned for February. This type of engagement has proved vital to ensure culturally appropriate care pathways for the Caboolture community and working partnerships with the Cultural Capability Officers (CCO’s).

The idea of Indigenous elders and staff from Caboolture meeting on a regular basis has received very positive feedback from community members. Dr Mosh has taken this successful initiative to a discussion with a consultant at The Prince Charles Hospital where the possibility of commencing a similar event was viewed favourably.

Dr Mosh believes the A&TSIHU CCO’s offer a great insight into the culture and needs of Indigenous and their knowledge of members of the Indigenous Community is very much appreciated when patient issues arise that need input from a Community member.

Cultural awareness training is an area that Dr Mosh feels can be expanded. “It’s not just about sitting down and doing the online training, rather than just something that has to be done, something that you really take your time to enjoy the process and get people to see the value of why they’re doing it” Dr Mosh said.

Dr Mosh advised that as part of the future training of junior doctors, a proposed plan to introduce regular session with the Indigenous CCO’s is being discussed which would allow the junior doctors to engage with the CCO’s and have a yarning session. It is envisaged the junior doctors would ask questions about Indigenous culture and in turn, the Cultural Officer will be able to answer those questions.

Attendees at the luncheon

Aunty Pam Forrester attended the Caboolture Community Engagement and Senior Staff Luncheon event in November. Aunty Pam said that the gathering and coming together over the luncheon was good “I want to be able to help Indigenous people where and when we can, it is good to keep a healthy relationship with all other organisations” she said.

From a community perspective the days make a difference Aunty Pam said, adding “The more we can share with other people and other communities is vital, keeping that connection between Indigenous and Non- Indigenous.”



Uncle Ivan Pickering and Aunty Pam Forrester attended the community event at Caboolture hospital in November.



New Indigenous Mental Health Workers welcomed to the MNMH Resource Team

Two new Indigenous Mental Health Worker roles were established to expand service provision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers at Metro North Mental Health sites at The Prince Charles Hospital and Redcliffe/Caboolture from November 2018.

The newly funded positions were part of new investment in community mental health services from the Department of Health (DoH). The positions will improve access to culturally appropriate mental health services with one worker based at the Nundah Community Health Centre, and Redcliffe-Caboolture, one worker now permanently based at the Redcliffe Community Health Centre.

Gordon Glenbar and Julie Wilson join a dynamic team of Indigenous Mental Health Workers who are currently working on several new initiatives to improve service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers who access mental health services.

Gordon and Julie will work closely with their other Indigenous Mental Health Worker colleagues across Metro North Mental Health and with the Indigenous Hospital Liaison workers across Metro North Hospital Health Service. They both bring a wealth of prior experience to the roles and have extensive networks with local Aboriginal communities and other agencies.

Tamika joins Metro North students within the Deadly Start Program

Newly recruited Indigenous school based trainees joined Metro North in January as part of the Deadly Start Education2Employment program at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, The Prince Charles Hospital and Oral Health Centre.



L-R: Tamika Birch pictured with Indigenous Hospital Services Manager Natasha White

Also joining the organisation, is Tamika Birch, who will provide support and guidance to the students as they undertake their traineeship one day a week in either nursing, allied health or dental to attain a Certificate III in health services and fast track their health career.

Tamika, 24, was born in Brisbane and is proud of her Indigenous cultures, with an Aboriginal mother and Maori father from New Zealand.

She joins Metro North from the Aboriginal Employment Strategy, where she spent two years working with students from Kingaroy, Murgon, Stanthorpe, Dalby and Toowoomba.

"I worked with students to understand their capabilities and provide them with opportunities to support and mentor them. A few months into their traineeships, it was amazing to see, they just looked like an everyday worker within their host organisation. It was very rewarding for me."

Tamika hopes to make a difference in the role as Project Officer for the Deadly Start Program, and continue to grow the number of Indigenous staff within the Metro North workforce.

"For the students I just want to see them grow in confidence and to know they are just as capable as every other student, and knowing that whatever they put their mind to, they can achieve it.

"It's hard work doing a traineeship while being at high school. I didn't do a traineeship at school, but after working with the Aboriginal Employment Agency, I could see how beneficial it really is to not just the lives of the trainees, but their families as well. Their younger brothers or sisters see them going to work and they start to become a role model more so for their family and community, it's a snowball effect, it doesn't just change the life of the trainee, but also for the life of the family.

"Especially being in the health industry, it's a bonus seeing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health students making a difference."

CLOSE THE GAP

Dr Mosh, Senior Medical Officer, Emergency Department, Caboolture Hospital

"What we want to do is make our department at ED Caboolture welcoming for Indigenous, fears for Indigenous coming into ED is very real, we are making our department receptive, banners, posters and videos welcoming Indigenous to the area".

Nerys Brackman, Nursing Director, Emergency Department

"Caboolture district has the highest number of Indigenous population in the area, we need to improve the education, not just in service but every day language and education from management to us down on the ground".

Megan Sinclair Registered Nurse, Caboolture Hospital

"Close the Gap to me is that I hope people feel safe, providing access to good health care, coming together as a community, making the youth feel like they are empowered about their health care".



L-R Megan Sinclair, Nerys Brackman and Dr Mosh with a welcoming banner outside the Emergency Department at Caboolture Hospital

Neressa Johnston, Senior Project Officer, Safety & Quality

"We hear about Closing the Gap and life expectancy, but to me that is more about how we engage at a local level in the process from start to finish".



Neressa Johnston was very happy to be part of the Close the Gap video

Louise Oriti, Executive Director, Redcliffe Hospital

"Focus on improving the quality of life and health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and work with the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander team to be able to work with the community".



Getting the message out about Closing the Gap is exceptionally important to Redcliffe Hospital Executive Director, Louise Oriti.

Associate Professor, Christian Hamilton-Craig, Cardiac Imaging

"The Indigenous Cardiology program is a little different to some other programs, we went and engaged with community, we went to them, and asked them what did they want, it was much more of a partnership approach".



Associate Professor Christian Hamilton-Craig

Jackie Hanson, Executive Director Operations, Metro North Hospital and Health Service

"I believe we need to get the settings right between first Australians and non-Indigenous Australians so that we can connect, and listen and implement things that will make absolute change".



Jackie Hanson

Vivienne Hassed, Acting Executive Director, Health Service, Strategy and Planning



"I have a massive vision for the Deadly Starts Program for future, we have been working with schools and understanding the number of students in the catchment areas, in five years' time we hope to have 200 young Indigenous Australians on our floors and wards across Metro North".

In recognition of Close the Gap Day we invite you to a

Close the Gap Day Event

Thursday March 21 2019

Brighton Health Campus Auditorium, 449 Hornibrook Highway,
Brighton

Event Program

9.30am Welcome from A&TSIHU Director Paul Drahm

9.35 Welcome to Country and dance by Nunukul Yuggera

9.45 Welcome by CE MNHHS, Mr Shaun Drummond

9.50 MN Board Presentation

10.00 Close the Gap video and signing of statement of commitment to Close the Gap

10.15 Morning tea

10.30 - 12.30 Community Consultation to discuss the draft Close the Gap Plan

12.30 Lunch & Networking

1.00 - 3.00pm MN Staff Consultation

RSVP : By Friday 8th March 2019 (07) 3139 4912

A_TSIHU_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au





Meet our Metro North Staff Yarns Ambassador

Mark Budd

Staff Yarns Ambassador
Indigenous Health Worker, Ngarrama
Maternity, Caboolture Hospital

Tell us about your role and why you joined

I have been working at TPCH for over four and half years, my role is to support all Indigenous patients that come in through Metro North. It is important that everyone knows about our culture.

I joined as Ambassador to meet new staff and to discuss new ideas as well, so we can process and proceed down the track to discuss any issues we have, and how we can address those, also around employment issues. I like to help the younger generation so they know what is going on.

We can inform them about our roles and responsibilities etc. We encourage our younger generation to come in, not just to be liaison officers, but to become nurses and doctors, the more indigenous staff we can get in the hospital environment the better.

Join up today!

An online community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff at Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

Join the online discussion and the cultural connection within the workplace. Search 'Metro North Staff Yarns' on QHEPS to join.

For further information phone 07 3139 4912 or email MNstaffyarns@health.qld.gov.au

Supported by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit, Metro North Hospital and Health Service



Identification: It's your right to a healthier life

The Accurate Indigenous Identification campaign is designed to highlight the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients to identify when accessing Metro North Hospital and Health Service hospitals and facilities.

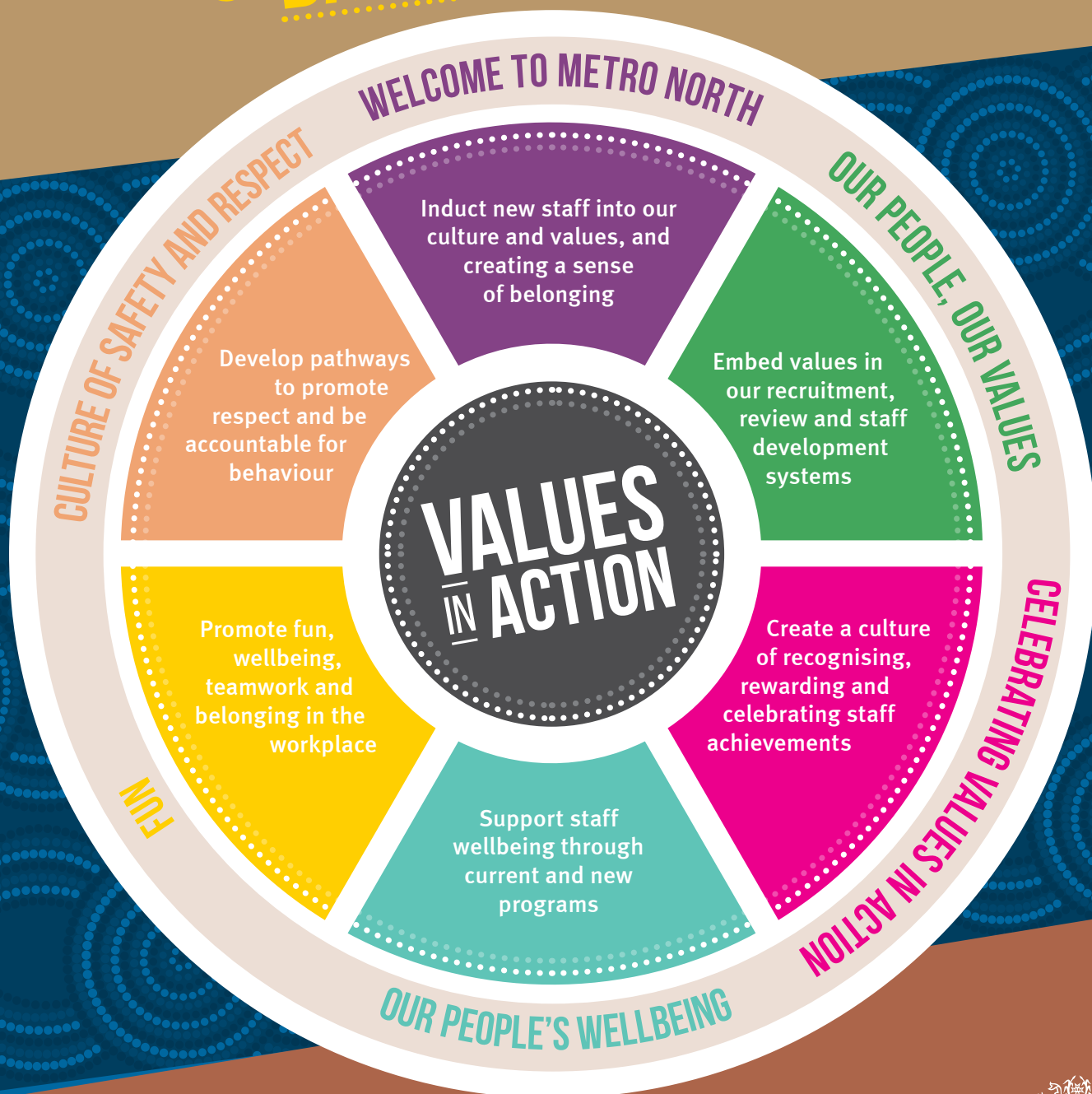
Michelle Gant, Administrative Officer, Material Resources and Asset Management, TPCH wearing her new identification shirt

Michelle is proud to identify as Indigenous because her grandfather was Indigenous and although her father was white and has already passed he didn't identify.

Michelle considers her family to be Indigenous. My family were always involved with passing, smoking ceremonies at funerals and blessings. I am proud to wear this identification shirt.

Working at TPCH Michelle interacts daily with Indigenous and is always happy to communicate and help. Michelle was awarded the CE's Award 2018 for Staff Excellence and believes we should all pay it forward every day, saying that healing in this country needs a lot of love, courage to stand up and believe in anything is possible

BINAY **BALBLAGIZA AIMARN** **SIB WANAN** **MARRUMBA** **DAGHU** MAKING OUR VALUES MORE THAN WORDS



Supported by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit, Metro North Hospital and Health Service



* BINAY = Respect – Aboriginal Turubul Language, MARRUMBA = Integrity – Aboriginal Turubul Language, DAGHU = Teamwork – Aboriginal Turubul Language, BALBLAGIZA AIMARN = High Performance – Kalau Lagau Ya Torres Strait Islander Language, SIB WANAN = Compassion – Kalau Lagau Ya Torres Strait Islander Language.

DON'T DELAY

do a bowel test today

Bowel cancer can develop without any symptoms.



The good news is, there is a simple test that can help find bowel changes early.

Australians between the ages of 50 and 74 are sent a free kit in the mail.



If you receive a bowel screening kit in the mail, do it, even if you feel well. It could save your life!

If found early, bowel cancer can be successfully treated.

INDIGENOUSBOWELSCREEN.COM.AU

Call the Program Info Line on 1800 118 868 to check your eligibility for a free kit, if you are eligible a kit will be sent to you.



Australian Government

**NATIONAL
BOWELCANCER**
SCREENING PROGRAM



Lifting the lid on domestic and family violence

Statistics show that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experience high levels of violence and abuse. Indigenous women are 35 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence than non-indigenous women.

Family violence among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people impacts on the health and social outcomes of women and children.

Social Worker with Community and Oral Health and an Aboriginal woman, Madeline Mitchell, is part of a team who deliver The Clinical Response to Domestic and Family Violence face to face training to staff within the health service so they can better understand and address the experience of victims of domestic violence.

Madeline will also be delivering training on the Indigenous perspective of Domestic and Family Violence to new Allied Health Clinicians and how it impacts our communities.

“Education is key to lifting the lid on the silence around domestic and family violence, to be able to make changes in our practices and teaching appropriate referral pathways for new allied health clinicians is a start in helping our people properly tackle these issues.”

“This is an area I’m very passionate about, I’ve seen families destroyed by this and worked with these families my whole professional life and the experience of domestic and family violence is life altering.”

“It’s such a huge issue in our communities. It’s up to us to stop ignoring it and hoping it will go away. It’s just not good enough to get a “flogging” and accept it as part of our lives. Our girls, our women and as leaders in the community, we should be saying to our young girls and boys – NO, that is not acceptable.”

Madeline added there is now a lot of support for victims of domestic and family violence, and encouraged victims to be empowered to come forward, to speak up for themselves and to not be ashamed or afraid.

“One of the messages we teach in training, it’s not about saying why did you go back or why didn’t you leave, that’s victim blaming, but supporting the victims is key. It takes on average at least 7 times for a woman to attempt to leave before they are successful.”

The training is part of a commitment by Metro North Hospital and Health Service to become a White Ribbon accredited workplace.

Last month, Metro North Hospital and Health Board Chair Dr Robert Stable and Chief Executive Shaun Drummond signed a commitment to stand up, speak out and act to prevent violence against women and domestic and family violence.

Shaun Drummond said that whether it occurs in or beyond the workplace, violence affects the health and safety of employees, families, friends, their wellbeing and their productivity.

“We know that there is no simple solution to ending violence and things must change,” said Mr Drummond.

“The opportunity to bring about that change has never been greater than now.”

Indigenous Health Worker Team Leader, Tracy Grant, said most communities will be personally affected by domestic violence one way or another.

“I lost a cousin a few years back to domestic violence and the impact this had on my family was devastating. It affected everyone from the children, the immediate family, extended family and the whole community.”

“To me domestic violence is everybody’s business, it’s not OK and should not be accepted into our part and way of life. It’s not part of our culture and tradition. It’s something that is learnt and we need to change that. We need to break that cycle, and be more active in education, starting with schools. Some behaviour such as hitting and bullying can be an early indication and taught that this is not acceptable.”

Tracy said, “education also starts within the family unit, and as a mother and grandmother she encourages support and awareness of the signs of domestic and family violence.

“I always tell my daughters and granddaughters, you deserve the best, you do not have to put up with violence in your life. You are free to say, “I don’t want that in my life and I’m not going to accept it”. Also to the sons and the grandsons in my family I tell them, “when you grow up you treat your partner the same way you treat yourself”.

“Something that has stayed with me from a Domestic Violence training over 30 years ago was “a man is the king and the woman is the crown, the man will not be a king without his crown”.

“Never give up on women who are victims, I believe victims of Domestic Violence are not victims 24/7, the gain strength and can become strong when they’ve got the right people around them. Some victims feel like they have no choice but to go back to their situation and become vulnerable and with the hope things will change because they know there is a good person somewhere in their partner, until the violence cycle starts all over again.



Tracy Grant, Indigenous Health Worker Team Leader, Community and Oral Health



Madeline Mitchell, Indigenous Social Work, Community and Oral Health

IN THE NEWS

Indigenous screen talent has dominated the Australian film and TV industry awards in Sydney

Warwick Thornton's outback western *Sweet Country* has taken out six awards at the AACTA and AFI Awards winning the top prize for best film and best actor for its breakout star.

Hamilton Morris, who had barely acted before, was recognised for his portrayal of Sam – an Aboriginal stockman who goes on the run with his wife after killing a white settler in self defence.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2018/12/06/sweet-country-hamilton-morris-australia-aboriginal>

Queensland and South Australia still in funding limbo as Western Australia signs remote housing deal

Despite signing a multimillion-dollar deal with the Federal Government, the clock continues to tick in remote communities in Western Australia.

On Friday 4th January 2019, the WA state government announced they had finally signed a deal with the federal government almost six months after the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Housing had expired

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2018/12/10/qld-sa-still-funding-limbo-wa-signs-remote-housing-deal>

Cashless welfare card trial to be extended to fifth location (Queensland) in 2019

A community somewhere in Australia will become the fifth site at which a controversial welfare card is trialed in 2019.

The cashless debit card trial is also being extended until June 30, 2020, Social Services Minister Paul Fletcher announced on Friday.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2018/12/14/cashless-welfare-card-trial-be-extended-fifth-location-2019>

\$350,000 for online cultural safety training courses for nurses and midwives.

The Federal Government will provide \$350,000 to produce an Australian-first online cultural safety training course for nurses and midwives delivering frontline care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Indigenous Health Minister Ken Wyatt AM made the announcement at a national roundtable in Sydney on developing and rapidly expanding the Aboriginal health workforce.

<https://nacchocommunique.com/2019/01/24/naccho-aboriginal-health-cultural-safety-and-catsinam-news-minister-kenwyattmp-provides-350000-to-produce-an-australian-first-online-cultural-safety-training-course-for-nurses-and-midwives-deliv/>

Aspiring model Ashanta Tolley will represent her culture on an international platform

Nineteen-year-old Tjapukai woman, Ashanta Tolley, will contest the 2019 Miss Global international beauty pageant in the Phillipines this month as a representative of Aboriginal Australia.

The aspiring model told NITV News she is proud to be representing her culture and intends on incorporating ochre and art in her performance.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2019/02/01/aspiring-model-will-proudly-fly-our-flag-global-beauty-pageant>

Government announces funding to halt increase in Indigenous youth suicides

An emergency meeting is held in Western Australia after the rate of Indigenous youth suicides this year rises to almost one every three days. What has been reported as five suicides in the first nine days of the year has now been confirmed to be eight.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Health, Ken Wyatt, announced \$3 million dollars will immediately flow to Western Australia to target measures that can decrease the loss of young Indigenous lives to suicide.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2019/01/27/government-announces-funding-to-halt-increase-in-indigenous-youth-suicides>

Word of the Month: “Daghu”

from Turubul Language

Teamwork, Aboriginal Turubul Language

Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion calls it quits

The federal government's minister for Indigenous Affairs has called time on his federal political career saying he will not contest the next election. Senator Nigel Scullion will not contest the next election after announcing his resignation from federal parliament in a statement today.

The Country Liberal Party Senator for the Northern Territory has sat in the federal parliament since October 2001. He served as the Minister for Indigenous Affairs for the past five years and was leader of The Nationals in the Senate between 2007-2008, and since 2013.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2019/01/26/indigenous-affairs-minister-nigel-scullyon-calls-it-quits1>

Delma Gisu uses love for mum to fuel drive to become an AFLW star

A 22-year-old from the Torres Strait Islands is looking to make her mark in the AFLW. The first-ever Torres Strait Islander drafted by the GWS Giants' is looking to make her mark in the women's Australian rules football league, the AFLW.

Delma Gisu hails from Mer Island in the Torres Strait (also known as Murray Island), a community with a population of less than 500 people.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/delma-gisu-uses-love-for-mum-to-fuel-drive-to-become-an-aflw-star>

Introducing Carl Francia



As a proud Torres Strait Islander man, Carl Francia stood on the podium to receive his degree from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Queensland, after studying physiotherapy for four years as well as one year of nursing.

It was a noble moment for Carl and his sister Victoria who also graduated the same day. Carl's determination to succeed also saw him bestowed the honour of being Valedictorian for the graduation Ceremony. This is awarded for having reached the highest level of academic achievement, something that Carl said he was very honoured to be able address his fellow graduates, adding "We all worked very hard."

The decision to undertake study in physiotherapy eventuated after Carl was injured playing football, the rehabilitation that he received wasn't ideal and sparked his own interest in health, his own wellbeing, and getting himself to the gym. This sowed the seed of helping others on their rehabilitation journey.

Carl is a member of the Koranga Saibai Koedal Dancers and even throughout his study continued his performance schedule, Carl said "I am fortunate enough to have access to my uncles down here in Brisbane, it was a way of reinforcing the family ties and those of up north," Carl's heritage and culture keep him grounded.

The Deadly Starts program for students to gain a certificate 3 in health care is something that Carl is keen to see continue, saying "When I was growing up I was only aware of doctors and nurses, not allied health, the first time I was exposed to physiotherapy was as an outpatient after my knee reconstruction" adding "It is exposing our people to the opportunities out there and planting that seed for them."

Carl said it is very important for First Nation's People to continue to receive their health checks, our hospitals need to make sure follow up appointments are kept as a way of responsibility of care.

Being a Torres Strait Islander man, Carl is proud to identify, adding that he is fortunate to know his culture, some First Nation's People do not have that connection to go back to country and tend to go on their own journey.

Over the next 12 months, Carl is determined to develop and refine his clinical skills, and is thoroughly enjoying the great environment and team at The Prince Charles Hospital.

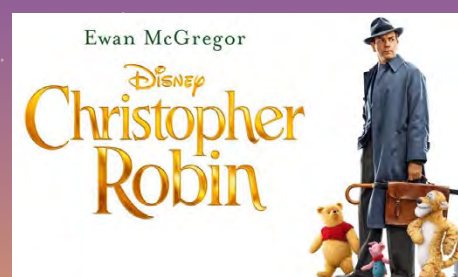
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