



June 2024, Edition 1
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Service eNews

Jingeri jimbelung!

'Hello friend/s' in the local Yugambeh language



FIRST NATIONS HEALTH EQUITY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS!



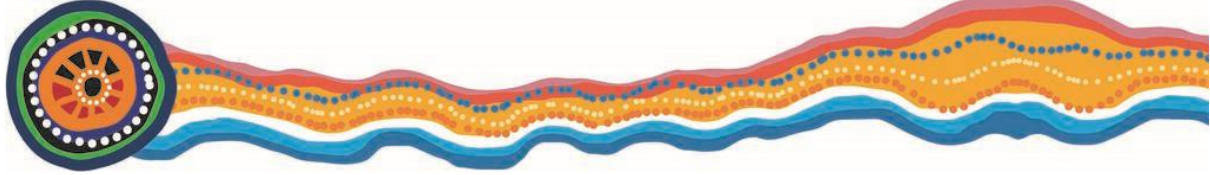
**A word from the Senior Director
Kristy Hayes**

I am Kristy Hayes, Senior Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Division of Corporate Affairs. I am a proud Ngunnawal woman from the Goulburn / Mulwaree region in NSW.

Welcome to the first edition of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service eNews!

It's an incredibly exciting time as we embark on this journey to connect with our community on a quarterly basis. Through this platform, we aim to promote various programs and events, share achievements, shine a spotlight on our services, and much more.

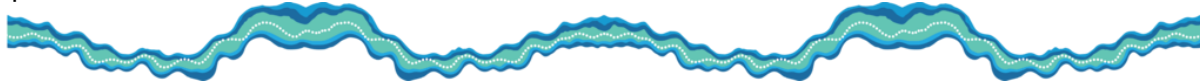
We hope this eNews serves as a source of information and inspiration. Together, let's continue to build a healthier, stronger future. Stay tuned for more updates and insights in the coming quarters!



In this debut edition, we're thrilled to present:

- **Name our eNews:** Enter Our eNews Naming Competition
- **Sistas Shawls:** Free breast screening program for First Nations women
- **Celebrating Professor Cindy Shannon AM FAICD:** Recognising her appointment as our esteemed Board Chair.
- **Close the Gap Day Event:** More than 1,500 people attended the event
- **Hospital Liaison Officers:** Your cultural link to healthcare services
- **Deadly Start Traineeships:** Giving young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school students a head start into healthcare roles
- **Gold Coast Hospital Health Service First Nations Health Equity Strategy:** Exploring our commitment to ensuring health equity for all.
- **Yanbalehla garulbu nga wulalehla "walking together in kindness" Artwork Video:** glimpse of something truly special
- **Get in touch:** Contact details of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service
- **Working together to achieve Healthy Equity:** a collaborative approach to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across our region

We hope this eNews serves as a source of information and inspiration. Together, let's continue to build a healthier, stronger future. Stay tuned for more updates and insights in the coming quarters!



eNews Naming Competition

Calling all creative minds!

Get ready to make history as we launch a competition to name our community eNews. Let your imagination soar, get inspired, and let your creativity shine!

One lucky Winner will take home an exclusive Mary Elizabeth Moreen Coffee Mug, featuring the stunning artwork 'Ningarti Mirrijini Kapiwarta' courtesy of Jilamara Arts & Craft Association. Elevate your coffee experience in style!

Entries close Monday 8 July

Submit your entry for the eNews name via [email](#).



Prize for one lucky person





Sistas Shawls - Women taking care of women

Join the Sistahood!

Women aged 40 and above are invited to attend a free breast screening with BreastScreen Queensland.

The Sistas Shawl program provides First Nations women, who attend a screen at Gold Coast Service locations, with a cultural shawl, which can be worn or used during their screen. Launched in October 2023, the Sistas Shawl initiative has seen a notable rise in screening participation among First Nations women.

For more information, [to make a booking or learn the artwork story review the website](#).



Women under 40

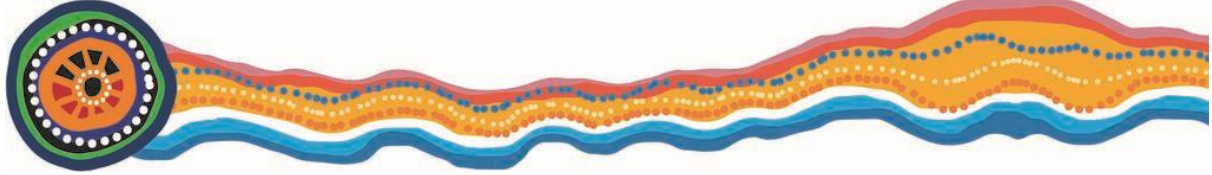
While BreastScreen Queensland does not offer breast screenings for women under 40, your breast health is still incredibly important. If you notice any changes that concern you, such as abnormal lumps or differences between your breasts, we encourage you to prioritize your well-being by scheduling an appointment with your doctor.



Congratulations

Professor Cindy Shannon AM FAICD, a Ngugi woman and esteemed advisor in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, has been appointed as the Chair of the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service Board. Professor Shannon's significant contributions to First Nations health, includes her role in establishing the first-ever bachelor's degree in Indigenous Primary Health Care at the University of Queensland and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) and demonstrate her commitment and capability to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

[Read more about our new Board Chair here.](#)



CLOSE THE GAP



Close the Gap Day Event

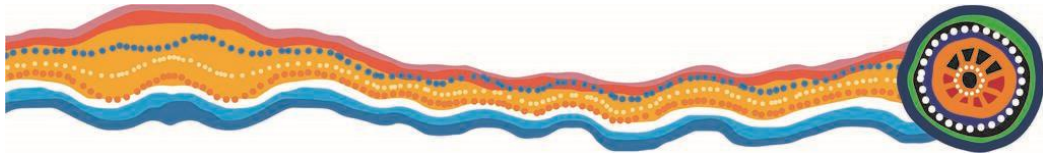
Gold Coast Health's First Nations Healthy Equity team, in collaboration with the First Peoples Health Unit Griffith University and Kalwun Development Corporation, hosted a remarkable Close The Gap Day event on Wednesday, 15 May 2024.

The event, held at the Gold Coast University Hospital Parklands, witnessed an impressive turnout, with more than 35 elders, 29 dedicated stallholders, and more than 1,500 attendees comprising Gold Coast Health staff, patients, and community members.

We are excited to share the Close The Gap Day 2024 [Gold Coast Health social media event wrap](#).

This will be a yearly event. If you want to be involved or kept up to date, [email the team](#).





Hospital Liaison Officers

Your cultural link to healthcare services

Our [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Hospital Liaison Officers](#) act as a cultural link between health professionals, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, and their families. In this video you will hear from Jordan Scott, the Senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Hospital Liaison Officer. He is a proud Gamilaraay man from Moree NSW.



Deadly Start Traineeships



Deadly Start Traineeship: Transforming Lives and Building Futures

Deadly Start Traineeships offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in years 10-12 a vocational qualification and work experience, in a variety of clinical and non-clinical health disciplines, while completing high school. This one-year initiative is much more than just a program, it's a gateway to immersive hands-on work experiences and invaluable mentorship within Gold Coast Health. This opportunity is delivered in partnership with the Metro North Hospital and Health Service and the Gold Coast Health Organisational Capability team.

Nine Remarkable Additions to the Team

We are thrilled to announce the commencement of nine Deadly Start trainees, who join Gold Coast Health in September. Trainees will be immersed in the health industry, gaining real world experience, while studying their high school certificate and a vocational certificate which in turn strengthens Gold Coast Health's future workforce and talent pipeline.

Celebrating Success Stories

As our current cohort completes their journey this June, we celebrate their remarkable achievements and the pathways they are forging. Among them, stories abound of triumph and aspiration, from securing part-time employment to pursuing higher education in Occupational Therapy and Midwifery. We are inspired by their accomplishments determination and commitment.

Get Involved

For further details on how you can be part of the transformative journey of Deadly Start Traineeship, reach out to our [First Nations Workforce Development Officer](#).

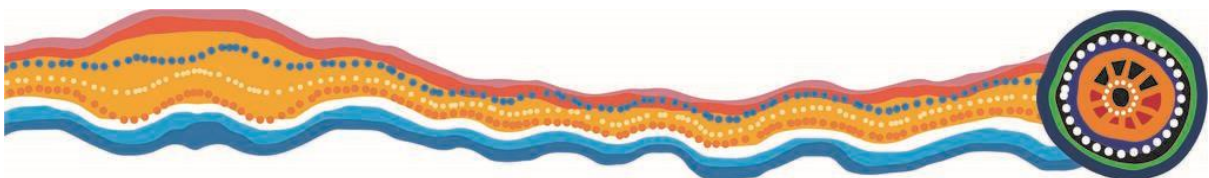
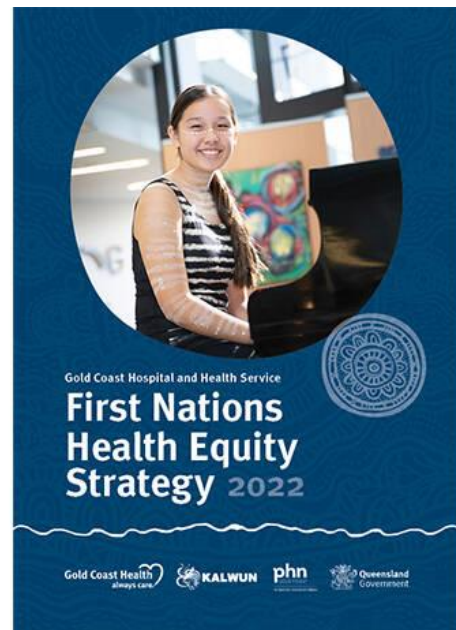


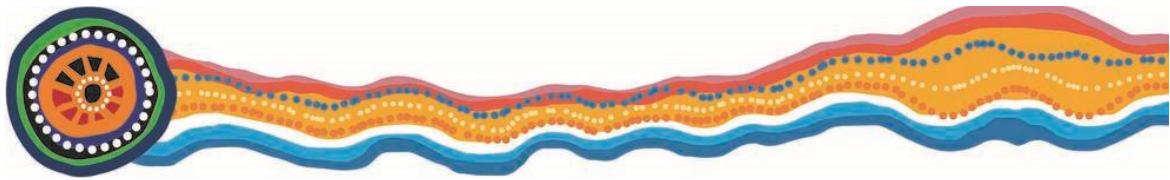
[GCHHS First Nations Health Equity Strategy](#) details our commitment to work with the Gold Coast First Nations Community, delivering real outcomes and lasting change through a genuine partnership approach of co-design, co-ownership and co-implementation.

Together, let's create a healthier, more equitable world for all.

Have your say

Register your interest to review our Strategy via [email](#).





Yanbalehla garulbu nga wulalehla “walking together in kindness” Artwork Video

At the Close the Gap Date Event on 15 May, Gold Coast Health unveiled the art video: "[Walking Together in Kindness.](#)"

This artwork was commissioned by Gold Coast Health to Riki Salam from [We Are Creative 27.](#)

Riki Salam is an accomplished artist and graphic designer with more than 20 years' experience, specialising in contemporary Indigenous art, design and communications. Born and raised in Cairns on Yidindji land, Riki has connections to Muralag, Kala Lagaw Ya, Meriam Mer, Kuku Yalanji peoples on his father's side and the Ngai Tahu people in the South Island of New Zealand on his mother's side.

This video tells Riki's artwork story highlighting connection to Country and place through First Nations narrative, aligning with our commitment to First Nations Health Equity. Creating a welcoming environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in healthcare involves ensuring they feel safe, comfortable, accepted, and confident in receiving high-quality care.





Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Team:

✉ gchfirstnationshealthequity@health.qld.gov.au



(07) 5667 3200



goldcoast.health.qld.gov.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-service



We'd love to hear from you:

Your feedback matters to us! If you have suggestions for future topics, questions about our services, or simply want to share your thoughts on this edition, the Health Equity Team would like to hear from you via [email](#). Thank you for being a valued member of our community!

Contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service

Our dedicated team is ready to assist you. We can link you to a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services tailored to your health needs. Click here for the website and contact details of the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service](#).

The health services include the following and link directly to their email address:

- [Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer](#)
- [Mungulli Chronic Disease Clinic](#)
- [Yan Coorara](#)
- [Nurse Navigator for Chronic Disease/Complex Care](#)
- [Dietitian](#)
- [Better Cardiac Care](#)
- [Waijungbah Jarjums Service](#)
- [Cultural Capability](#)
- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service Business Support Officer](#)

Click here for the website and contact details of the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service](#).



Working together to achieve Healthy Equity

Gold Coast Health is committed to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by providing visible, culturally safe and capable care. Partner organisations play an essential role in ensuring a collaborative approach to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across our region. Gold Coast Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service is working with various organisation including:

[Kalwun Development Corporation Ltd \(Kalwun\)](#)

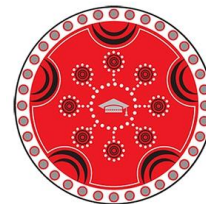
Kalwun is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation providing comprehensive primary health care, family services and seniors services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities in southeast Queensland.

Kalwun is also the parent-company to [Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre](#) in Burleigh Heads, which forms part of the company's commitment to delivering essential cultural knowledge to people of the Gold Coast and wider community about the Yugambah speaking people of this area.



[Griffith University First Peoples Health Unit](#)

The Griffith University [First Peoples Health Unit](#) is committed to Closing the Gap in health outcomes by improving the cultural capability of Australia's health workforce through quality education, training, and awareness. Our work includes delivering high-quality cultural learning experiences for health educators and students, including the [VR Dreaming](#) program that is an integral aspect of our Truth Telling approach. Another important piece of our work is how we can [Be a Catalyst for Change](#) by fostering an environment that honours the cultural engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their resilience to remain a committed learner.



Yallburru Community Service - YCS

Yallburru is a successful Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Organisation at the forefront of service and program development, especially in the Elder Care space.

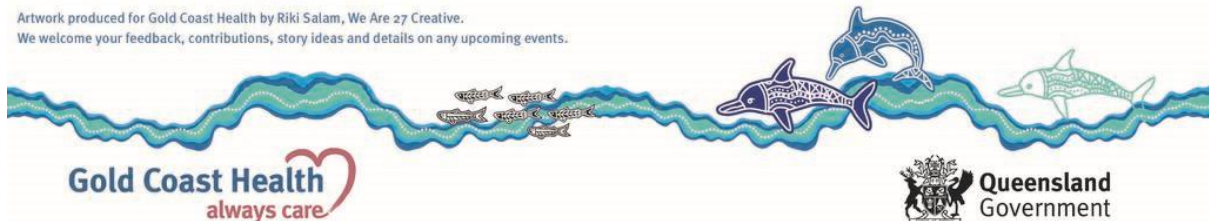


Krurungal

Krurungal has supported its local community in the Gold Coast area for nearly 30 years. We are registered with the Australian Government Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) as an Indigenous Incorporation delivering health and community services.



Artwork produced for Gold Coast Health by Riki Salam, We Are 27 Creative.
We welcome your feedback, contributions, story ideas and details on any upcoming events.



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Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Service eNews

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