



October 2024, Edition 2

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Service eNews

Jingeri jimbelong!

'Hello friend/s' in the local Yugambeh language

Gold Coast Health acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present, and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of the Yugambeh language region and the continuation of culture, spiritual and educational practices of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples.



A word from the Senior Director Kristy Hayes



Yumalundi in the Ngunnawal language from Goulburn / Mulwaree region in NSW, of my ancestral homelands. I am delighted to present the latest edition of our eNews.

In this edition, we recap the Art of Healing event, where more than 550 people came together to celebrate the unveiling of Wurundjeri artist Grace Brown's public art and the launch of Culture Therapy. This new approach aims to support First Nations concepts and ways of healing in healthcare.

We're also sharing updates on our new initiatives, recent achievements, and opportunities, all focused on our goal of achieving life expectancy parity by 2031.



FIRST NATIONS HEALTH EQUITY
is everyone's business!



Edition 2 highlights:

- **eNews naming competition vote:** Share your thoughts for a chance to win.
- **Art of Healing event:** Celebrating Culture Therapy and art unveiling.
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service:** Local programs and services.
- **Partners:** Kalwun Development Corporation and HealthTech Talk with Griffith University.
- **Education and employment:** First Nations scholarships update.
- **Upcoming events:** Mark your calendars and save the date.
- **Contact us:** We would like to hear from you, connect with our team.
- **Working together to achieve health equity:** Our collaborative approach to improving health and wellbeing for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

We hope this eNews provides valuable information. Together, we can build a healthier, stronger future. Remember, First Nations health equity is everyone's business.



eNews naming competition - vote now

Thank you to everyone who submitted creative names for our community eNews! We have five fantastic entries, and now it's time for you to make your choice.

Options to vote on:

1. Busy Whispers *Kulil Yathgalen*.
2. Which Way Pulse.
3. Wellbeing Vibes.
4. Health Pulse Connections.
5. Wellness Waves.



Prize for one lucky person

Cast your vote by 30 October

Help us choose the perfect name for our eNews. To vote, [email](#) us your favourite name and help shape our vibrant community.

Win a special prize

Two lucky winners will receive an exclusive Mary Elizabeth Moreen Coffee Mug, featuring the stunning artwork 'Ningarti Mirrijini Kapiwarta'. Elevate your coffee experience in style.

1. **Naming competition winner prize:** The person who submitted the selected eNews name will receive a mug.
2. **Random voter prize:** One lucky voter will be randomly chosen from all entries to win a stylish mug.

Thank you for participating and good luck.





On Tuesday August 20 2024, more than 550 people attended the 'Art of Healing' event at the Healing Garden Tugun Satellite Hospital (Banyahrmabah). The event was a vibe of healing energy and cultural celebration, a truly immersive experience as seen in the video below.

The Gold Coast community had the opportunity to engage with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living culture through Gold Coast Health's newly launched [Culture Therapy](#). The [Culture Therapy workshops](#) provided a unique, multi-sensory journey, allowing guests to immerse themselves in experiences that engaged touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste, enriching their understanding and connection to cultural practices.



The unveiling of Grace Brown's stunning sculpture, [Banyahr jagun - banyahr garal janabi nyubani \("Healthy Country – Healthy Community"\)](#) was a highlight. This powerful public art piece symbolises the deep connection between cultural heritage and wellbeing, as highlighted in the video below. Gold Coast Health is committed to creating welcoming spaces by working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers and community members to review the design, use and layout of our facilities.





Gold Coast Health Service Chief Executive reflection



Ron Calvert, Gold Coast Health Service Chief Executive, proudly opened the Art of Healing event, a milestone in our journey towards First Nations health equity.

Ron praised artist Grace Brown's "Healthy Country – Healthy Community" public art piece, calling it a powerful symbol of First Nations strength and connection to country. The artwork reflects a deep sense of identity and enhances our health service.

Ron emphasised our commitment to the *Always Care* philosophy and our dedication to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the activation of First Nations Health Equity.



Board Chair, Professor Cindy Shannon 100 days reflection

Professor Cindy Shannon AM, a respected Ngugi woman and expert in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, has completed her first 100 days as Board Chair of the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service.

In her reflection, Professor Shannon says, *"I've seen the amazing care our Gold Coast staff provide. They truly show our Gold Coast Health values: Integrity, Community First, Respect, Excellence, Compassion, and Empowerment."*

Passionate about health equity for First Nations people, Professor Shannon's initial focus as Chair was on connecting with First Nations staff. She was deeply moved by their warm welcome.

A particularly special moment for her was witnessing three significant events—Gold Coast Hospital Foundation's Giving Day, Close the Gap Day, and Trauma Survivors' Day—coincide. *"These events, though distinct, celebrated the remarkable work of our health service and Foundation. They highlighted the value our partners and community place on our efforts."*

Looking ahead, Professor Shannon plans to visit various parts of the health service, sharing her expertise in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Sexual Health, Mental Health, primary health care, and research. Her upcoming engagements aim to further strengthen connections and enhance the service's impact.





Yarn and Walk for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Are you Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and 18 years or older? Do you want to improve your self-management skills to take better care of yourself? Come join the Mungulli Yarn and Walk program.



Why join?

- Connect with your community in a fun, friendly and safe space.
- Yarn about healthy lifestyles and enjoy the benefits of being active.
- Learn new strategies to better manage your health conditions and ongoing care.

What happens at the Yarn and Walk?

- Starts with a friendly chat while warming up.
- Take a 30-minute walk at your own pace, followed by cool down activities, with support from the team.
- Yarn about a different health related topic each week.

Where and when?

- **Location:** Robina Cheltenham Oval, Cheltenham Park, 1a Robina Town Centre Drive, Robina 4226. [Click here for map location](#)
- **Day and Time:** Every Monday from 9:30am to 11:30am

Before your first walk you will need:

- GP referral.
- A nursing and physiotherapist assessment with a Mungulli team member.

Contact information:

[Email](#) or call 1300 668 936.

Yarn and Walk program is support by Gold Coast Health and the Gold Coast Primary Health Network.



Stay strong and healthy with the support of a dietitian

Are you curious about how the right food can make a big difference to your health? Do you want to feel stronger, happier, and healthier? We've got exciting news for you.

Dietitians are like food champions. They help you understand how different foods affect your health and give you tips to keep you and your family in top condition. Whether you're managing a health issue or just need fresh ideas for affordable, tasty, convenient and healthy meals, there are many ways a dietitian can help.



Did you know you can meet with a dietitian for free?

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of any age can access the Dietitian Health Service.

Ready to get started?

For more information or to book an appointment, call us at (07) 5525 5630 or [email](#).



Indigenous Hospital Liaison Service in Emergency

The Indigenous Hospital Liaison Service is here to help you

If you or your loved ones attend the Emergency Department at Gold Coast University Hospital or Robina Hospital, the Indigenous Hospital Liaison Service is here to support you.

How can Indigenous Hospital Liaison Service support you?

- **Cultural support:** Tailor your healthcare and treatment plans to align with your cultural needs.
- **Communication:** Help explain your care and discuss concerns with healthcare staff.
- **Care coordination:** Assist with understanding care plans and discharge planning.
- **Connecting with services:** Link you to community services and resources that can support you when you leave the hospital.



How to see an Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer?

When you arrive at the reception desk, and would like to access cultural support, ask if you can see an Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer. They look forward to supporting you.

Before leaving, if you have any more questions, ask to talk to an Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officer.

Contact details

- Emergency IHLO - 0499 825 817
- Ward IHLO - 5687 3049
- [Email](#)

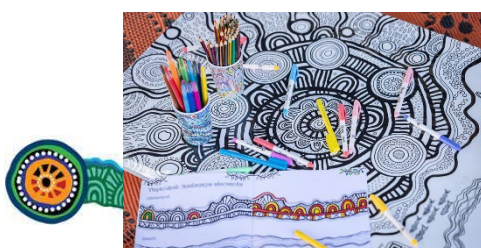


Discover the power of Culture Therapy for your communities

Culture is crucial to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identities and plays a key role in healing and wellbeing as cited in Lowitja Institute (1). Engaging in cultural practices like art, dance, song, and Caring for Country has maintained lore, custom, language, and connections over time. These practices remain a vibrant part of life for communities, families, and individuals. *"When used as a treatment, cultural practice becomes [Culture Therapy](#), a powerful tool for relief and healing"* states Paula Rankmore (2).

A range of Culture Therapy resources (booklet, kappa board, zine, chalk decal and marker decals) have been produced in collaboration with First Nations artist Riki Salam and Traditional Custodian body Yugambah Region Aboriginal Corporation Alliance (YRACA). These resources are available for Gold Coast Health staff and community.

[Click here to learn how you can integrate Culture Therapy into your workplace and home](#) to bring these enriching resources into your community.



Order your Culture Therapy resources or book a workshop

Health Equity update: Advancing First Nations Health Service

Gold Coast Health is working towards achieving health equity by implementing our [First Nations Strategy](#). Two actions to celebrate include:

Key Priority Area 2: Access

2.9 Supporting First Nations concepts and ways of healing. Culture Therapy has been launched, which emphasises the importance of First Nations knowledges and practices in promoting health and wellbeing. This approach fosters a sense of identity and belonging among First Nations individuals, which is crucial for holistic health.



Key Priority Area 5: Service Delivery Partnerships

5.3 Increase awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service programs. This eNews will keep the community informed about health initiatives, resources, and events related to First Nations health equity. This two-way communication aims to build involvement in health equity efforts.

Through these initiatives, Gold Coast Health is making significant strides in promoting health equity, ensuring that all individuals have the opportunity to achieve optimal health outcomes.



Gold Coast Health celebrates Reconciliation Week at Robina

Gold Coast Health is committed to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This year, we marked National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week with impressive events at Robina Hospital that brought Gold Coast staff, elders, and community members together.

On 27 May, the **'Sea of Hands'** event saw more than 50 attendees plant hands in the ground to acknowledge past injustices and show support for First Nations peoples. Each hand symbolised the dedication to reconciliation and healing.

Following this, our **'Designing Our Path to Reconciliation'** event on 30 May celebrated Reconciliation Week and highlighted the ongoing efforts of Gold Coast Health to build an inclusive community. Staff from various departments, including Outpatients, Maintenance, Emergency Department, Medical Assessment Unit, and Palliative Care, came together to mark this important occasion.

The turnout for both events was inspiring, with enthusiastic participation from everyone involved. It was a powerful reminder of our shared commitment to inclusivity within our hospital. Gold Coast Health believes that First Nations health equity is everyone's responsibility. By working with the Gold Coast First Nations community, we are committed to achieving real outcomes and lasting change through co-designed, co-owned, and co-implemented solutions.



October is Breast Cancer awareness month

A free breast screen takes less than 30 minutes.

[Click here to book your appointment.](#)

BreastScreen Queensland Gold Coast Health always care KALWUN Queensland Government



Waijungbah Jarjums welcome jarjum to community event



Waijungbah Jarjums is a special service for First Nations families. The Service was gifted a Yugambeh language name, *waijungbah* (place of mother/s) and *jarjum* (child/children). We offer support to mothers and families throughout pregnancy, right up until their *jarjum* is five years old.

Every year, we celebrate three Welcome jarjum to Community ceremonies. These are special events for all the jarjum born through our service. At each ceremony, local Elders greet everyone with a Welcome to Country. We also enjoy beautiful performances from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dancers.

At the end of the ceremony, each jarjum gets to connect with the Elders. They participate in a smoking/cleansing ceremony, where they are blessed and officially welcomed to community through an ochre ceremony.

If you'd like to book your jarjum in for a child health check with one of our nurses, call 07 5687 9851 or [email](#).



First Nations flags celebrate diversity at Robina Hospital

We are thrilled to announce that a new flagpole has been installed at Robina Hospital, allowing us to proudly fly the Australian flag, the Aboriginal flag, and the Torres Strait Islander flag. This is a meaningful way to show our support and recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our community.



Thank you to everyone involved in making this important initiative happen, including the incredible support from our community and the dedicated staff at Gold Coast Health.

Kalwun Development Corporation marks 30 years



Kalwun Development Corporation has a rich history spanning more than three decades. It originated from the Gold Coast Aboriginal and Islander Housing Co-operative Society Limited, which was established in 1981. In 1994, the Kalwun Development Corporation Ltd was formed, succeeding the Co-op's operations.

Today, Kalwun is a community-controlled corporation led by elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander directors, alongside one independent director.

Kalwun offers a comprehensive range of services, including medical and allied health care, dental services, community health programs, family support, foster and kinship care, early education, playgroups, aged care, in-home care, day respite, and community housing.

[Watch the video created by Kalwun to celebrate their 30-year journey.](#)

Please note: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers should be aware that the video may contain images, voices, and names of deceased persons.

Kalwun unveils a new logo

Kalwun Development Corporation is thrilled to unveil its new logo, which seamlessly merges respect for the past with a vision for the future. This vibrant design incorporates the colours of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and carries profound cultural significance. It honours the lands Kalwun serve, their ancestors, and the founders of the organisation, reflecting their unity and shared vision.

As they introduce this new logo, Kalwun celebrates its strength, enduring culture, and steadfast commitment to the community.

[View the Kalwun Development Corporation New Logo Rationale video.](#)



Culturally appropriate health care - what can our feet tell us?



Tune in to the latest episode of HealthTech Talks by our Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct partner, Lumina.

Hear from Professor James Charles, Director of the First Peoples Health Unit at Griffith University. Professor James is a Kurna man and has a Master of Podiatry, along with a PhD in First Nations foot health.

This episode explores culturally appropriate health care and how our feet can tell us more about our health than we realise.

Listen to the Episode [here](#).



First Nations Cadetship Program are now live on Smart Jobs

Queensland Health is offering First Nations Cadetships in Nursing, Midwifery, Allied Health, and Corporate Services for 2025.

As a cadet, you will be employed part-time in your chosen field, gaining valuable on-the-job skills while completing your full-time studies for a bachelor's degree in Australia.



Positions available: Nursing and Midwifery, Physiotherapy, Social Work, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Nutrition and Dietetics, Exercise Physiology, Medical, Imaging/Radiation Therapy, Podiatry, Medical Laboratory Science, Audiology, Biomedical Science, Pharmacy, Psychology and Sonography.

Applications close 25 October 2025.

Smart Job links below:

- [Corporate Services Cadet](#)
- [Allied Health Cadet](#)
- [Nursing Cadet](#)
- [Midwifery Cadet](#)

For more information [click here for the flyer](#), [email](#) or phone 0429 118 916.



Queensland Ambulance Service supports Indigenous students



In a significant step towards promoting inclusivity and diversity in the healthcare sector, the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) provides multiple [**scholarship programs**](#) specifically aimed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school and university students. These initiatives seek to provide financial support and encourage Indigenous students who aspire to pursue careers in emergency medical services and foster greater representation and participation in the field.

QAS also offers the [**Indigenous cadet paramedic program**](#) as an alternate pathway into the healthcare sector. This program provides practical training and education, enabling students to gain valuable skills and experience while contributing to their communities.

For more information on the scholarships offered by QAS or the Indigenous Paramedic Program, please go to [**Ambulance Careers**](#).



Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme supporting students

The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship aims to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to excel in their undergraduate studies. Scholarship benefits include:

- **Financial support:** Up to \$15,000 per annum (full-time) for the normal duration of the course.
- **Additional resources:** Access to cultural, mentoring, and other supports tailored to students studying in health-related fields.

Application closes on 20 October 2024.

For detailed information and to apply, visit: [**Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme - Indigenous Allied Health Australia**](#)

This scholarship continues Puggy Hunter's legacy of advancing education and opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

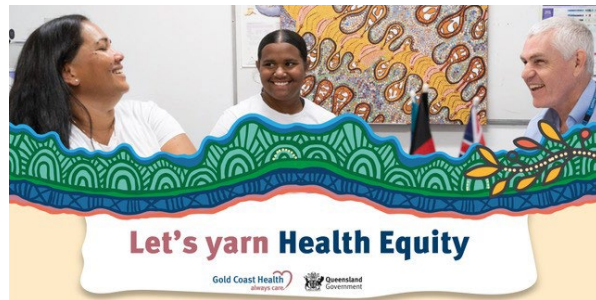


Register now - Let's yarn about First Nations Healthy Equity

Join us for an important yarn on health equity.

We are keen to listen to community experiences and ideas that will make positive changes at Gold Coast Health.

This Yarn will highlight our achievements and plan the next steps forward in our First Nations Health Equity journey.



Event Details:

- **Date: Friday, 22 November**
- **Time: 10.00 AM – 1.30 PM**
- **Location: Mantra at Sharks & Event Centre, Southport, Corner Olsen & Musgrave Avenue, [map location](#).**

Register now to help us plan for catering and resources. Don't miss your chance to be part of the change — your voice matters.

Register now - Let's Yarn



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](#)
- [Workforce Development Officer](#)
- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service Business Support Officer](#)
- [Health Equity Team](#)

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



We want to hear from you

Your feedback matters to us. If you have suggestions for future topics, questions about our services, or thoughts on this edition, we'd love to hear from you. Please [email](#) the Health Equity Team. Thank you for being a valued member of our community.



Working together to achieve healthy equity

Our collaborative approach to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing

Gold Coast Health is dedicated to improving health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by offering visible, culturally safe care. Our partner organisations are crucial for working together to enhance the health and wellbeing of these communities in our region. Gold Coast Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service works alongside many organisations including:

- [Kalwun Development Corporation Ltd \(Kalwun\)](#)
- [Griffith University First Peoples Health Unit](#)
- [Yallburru Community Service](#)
- [Krurungal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Welfare](#)

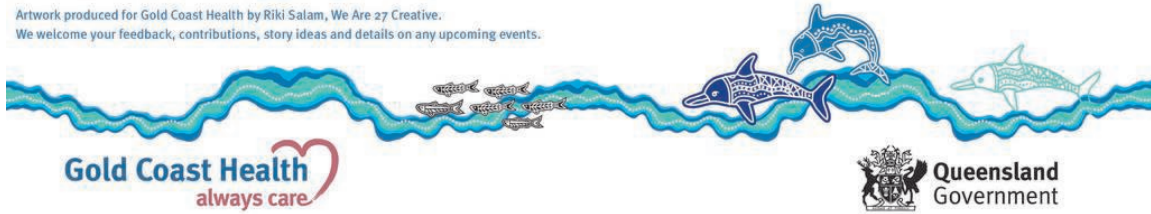




References

1. Lowitja Institute, 2020. We Nurture Our Culture For Our Future, And Our Culture Nurtures Us. A report prepared by the Lowitja Institute for the Close the Gap Steering Committee. Online [CtG2020 FINAL4 WEB-1.pdf \(lowitja.org.au\)](#) Accessed Jan 20204.
2. State of Queensland (Queensland Health), 2024. Culture Therapy. Written by Rankmore P. Brisbane.

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.



Our Values: Integrity | Community First | Excellence | Respect | Compassion | Empower

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