An invitation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Metro South Hospital and Health Service (HHS) region

Host a Yarning Circle to inform the Metro South HHS Health Equity Strategy

Health Consumers Queensland invites Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health consumers, carers and community members to host a yarning circle to hear from local people who would like to help shape healthcare in the Metro South HHS region. We are seeking four Yarning Circle hosts for this opportunity.

*Closing date: 1pm, Thursday 16th June*

## About this Opportunity

Metro South is embarking upon a new way of working on health equity. We aim to reframe the relationship with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of our region and to remain responsive to their voices. Our commitment is to build strong relationships with our stakeholders and carry this through with ongoing collaboration, co-design and implementation activities that truly make a difference to the health of our First Nations People.

Metro South has developed a First Nations Health Equity Strategy with six key priority areas.

* Priority Area 1: Actively eliminate racial discrimination and institutional racism within the service
* Priority Area 2: Increase access to healthcare services
* Priority Area 3: Influence the social, cultural and economic determinants of health
* Priority Area 4: Deliver sustainable, culturally safe and responsive healthcare services
* Priority Area 5: Actively eliminate racial discrimination and institutional racism within the service
* Priority Area 6: Strengthen the First Nations Workforce

**The commentary we want to create is one of moving forward together. The strategy has set the direction, now we need the community to play a vital role in assisting us to plan, design and deliver better health services for people living in the Metro South Area. We are seeking to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are committed to improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and who are willing to talk to their experience using our services themselves or their families’ or communities’ experience using our services.**

To do this we are seeking **four** community members who would like to host a yarning circle with up to 10 people in their local town and region.

You can learn more about the Health Equity Strategies on the Queensland Health: Making Tracks Together website [First Nations Health Equity | Queensland Health](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/groups/atsihealth/making-tracks-together-queenslands-atsi-health-equity-framework)

**About the Yarning Circles**

The Health Equity Strategy Yarning Circles are yarns led by local people for local people. They allow small groups of up to 10 community members to discuss a number of questions provided to them, at a time of day, and in a location, that suits them. The yarning circles enable health consumers, carers and community members who do not ordinarily participate in healthcare consultation to have their say in a safe, informal and supportive circle.

Each Yarning Circle will be led by a **Consumer or Carer Host** with a strong community network and can reach community members who would like to have their voice heard.

At the completion of the yarning circle the host provides their participants’ feedback to Health Consumers Queensland who will prepare a report for Metro South HHS.

**Role of the Yarning Circle Host**

As the host, your role will be to plan, coordinate and host a once-only 90-minute to two-hour discussion with community members. This includes:

* Inviting your participants.
* Choosing a time, date, and location,that works for your participants.
* Host the yarning circle.
* Complete and provide the discussion feedback to Health Consumers Queensland.

To support you with this, you will receive:

* **A short video about our Yarning Circle process and Health Equity**
* **Opportunity to attend an online 45 minute briefing and training via a Zoom video conference call. Zoom is free to download.**
* A comprehensive Yarning Circle Host Guide and all printed documentation.
* Questions to discuss during the yarning circle.
* Ongoing support from Health Consumers Queensland to ensure you have a successful session.

Who are we looking for as Consumer or Carer Hosts?

We would like to hear from the following groups within the community.

1. Youth: younger First Nations people, youth workers, parents of young people: the topic will be focused on preventative health measures and messages that may have an impact on this demographic.
2. Special needs/High health needs: First Nations people with disabilities/complex health needs: the topic will be focused on healthcare integration and how to improve the interface between different elements of the healthcare system.
3. Rural communities: First Nations people who live far from primary health and hospital: the topic will be focused on how to bring healthcare closer to home and what partnerships are needed to deliver specialist services in the community.
4. General: All elements of the First Nations community: the topic will be focused on improving cultural and spiritual safety in healthcare and on developing the pathways for First Nations people to enter the healthcare workforce.

Remuneration and Support

**Hosts –** you will be remunerated at Health Consumers Queensland’s day meeting rate of $374.00 for hosting an in-person yarning circle at a venue of your choosing. You will also be reimbursed up to a maximum of $100.00 to cover catering and venue costs for your in-person session (on return of receipts).

**Participants –** Health Consumers Queensland will provide a $60 gift voucher for each participant for giving their time to share their stories.

How to apply

**Please complete this application form and return it to*****projects@hcq.org.au*****by 1.00pm on *Thursday 16th June.***

**To complete this form online please click this link:** [**< CLICK HERE TO APPLY ONLINE >**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=AzIBLWsEzUaykAfhE64hFz0-sKCh_sJGlbFbSAtFZ_JUQTg3NUNTRjRQTzg3VjcyMFZPNUhYVUdWOCQlQCN0PWcu)

For assistance completing this application please contact Health Consumers Queensland via projects@hcq.org.au or by phone on 07 3012 9090.

For queries relating to this opportunity*,* please email Anne Curtis, Engagement Consultant – Specific Projects, Health Consumers Queensland at anne.curtis@hcq.org.au or Lynda Maybanks, First Nations Consultant at Lynda.maybanks@hcq.org.au

**Consumer and Carer Application Form**

**Yarning Circle Host for the Health Equity Strategy Metro South HHS**

Full name:

Preferred phone number:

Email:

Postal address:

Postcode:

* By completing this application, I consent for my details to be added to the Health Consumers Queensland network database [ ]  YES | [ ]  NO
* I would like to receive email updates from Health Consumers Queensland [ ]  YES | [ ]  NO
* Would you like us to retain this application for future vacancies? *(Applications not retained are destroyed once the application process is complete.)* [ ]  YES | [ ]  NO

Please highlight any group you identify with:

[ ]  Elders/Older people

[ ]  Lived experience of complex health conditions

[ ]  Young people and families

[ ]  Living in rural locations

[ ]  Chronic Health conditions

Do you identify as: [ ]  Aboriginal | [ ]  Torres Strait Islander | [ ]  Both | [ ]  Prefer not to state | [ ]  Neither

Are you a: [ ]  Consumer | [ ]  Carer

Age range: [ ]  16-24 | [ ]  25-29 | [ ]  30-39 | [ ]  40-49 | [ ]  50-59 | [ ]  60-69 | [ ]  70+

* **In 250 words or less, please describe your community connections that you can help you host an inclusive Yarning Circle to inform into the Metro South Health Equity Strategy.**
* **In 250 words or less, please describe why you would like to host a Yarning Circle with people from your community and in particular those who are Elders/Older persons**, **Youth, Families, community members (and not just leaders), people with Chronic Disease and consumers that regularly visit at the interface between primary care and tertiary care (Hospital) like outpatients (elective surgery) or are patients with more than one complex health conditions.**