An invitation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Cairns and Hinterland region

Host a Yarning Circle to inform your regional Hospital and Health Service 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 Cairns region. We are seeking four Yarning Circle hosts for this opportunity.

**Why Health Equity? All First Nations People deserve to have a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.**

The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (CHHHS) acknowledges the deep pain and intergenerational impacts that colonisation has on the health and wellbeing of First Peoples. We accept our responsibility and accountability to continue to build and improve upon the system of health care, to ensure that it is free from all forms of racism and consistently delivers meaningful healthcare outcomes for the First Peoples of these lands.

The CHHHS First Peoples Health Equity Strategy 2022-2025 reinforces progress towards the broader Closing the Gap targets agreed in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (2020), which extend across the social, cultural, and economic determinants of health. Actions taken across these broader targets will have a positive influence on health outcomes.

The HHSs goal is to improve access to care, health and wellbeing outcomes and experiences, and eliminate health inequity and equalise the life disparity experienced by First Peoples.

Health Equity authorises communities to develop local solutions to local issues and focuses on addressing the structural and systemic inequities and enabling the provision of culturally safe and accessible healthcare services.

Cairns and Hinterland HHS welcome the voices, lived experiences and cultural expertise of Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders as integral stakeholders in the co-design, co-ownership, and co-implementation of the Health Equity Strategy.

## Have your Say

To assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities to have a say in their health service Health Equity Strategy, Health Consumers Queensland has been engaged by Queensland Health's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Division to support Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service with their Health Equity community consultations.

Cairns & Hinterland HHS want to hear from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people to ensure the health services they provide address the barriers people may have in accessing care.

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.

**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, which 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 Cairns and Hinterland 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 between **22nd August and 5th September 2022** that works for your participants.
* Host the yarning circle.
* Complete and provide the discussion feedback to Health Consumers Queensland by **6th September.**

To support you with this, you will receive:

* **A short video about our Yarning Circle process and Health Equity.**
* **Opportunity to attend an online 30-minute project briefing 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?

This opportunity would suit people who:

* Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
* Live in the Cairns and Hinterland HHS region including rural communities
* Have strong local networks and connections
* Have an interest in improving healthcare for their people and their community.

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 Visa card 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***

**To apply online or on your mobile please click this link:** [**< CLICK HERE TO APPLY ONLINE >**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=AzIBLWsEzUaykAfhE64hFz0-sKCh_sJGlbFbSAtFZ_JUN1o3UFlKUVJIRU5TQU5DUTBVVDNPODY4SyQlQCN0PWcu)

For assistance completing this application please contact Health Consumers Queensland via projects@hcq.org.au or by phone on 07 3518 1092.

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

**Consumer and Carer Application Form**

**Yarning Circle Host for Cairns & Hinterland HHS Health Equity Strategy**

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 Cairns and Hinterland Health Equity Strategy.**
* **In 250 words or less, please describe why you would like to host a Yarning Circle with people from your community about the health care services provided by the Cairns and Hinterland HHS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people.**