Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation

Metro South Health is committed to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and providing capable services which are respectful and responsive to their needs.

Metro South Health recognises the traditional custodians of the land and waters. We pay our respects to the traditional peoples, the Yugambeh, Quandamooka, Jaggera and Ugarapul peoples, and to Elders past, present and yet to come.

We acknowledge the importance of working in partnership with all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities as we walk together towards a healthier future.

We remain committed to the Council of Australian Governments’ targets to Close the Gap in life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by 2033 and to halve the gap in mortality of children under five years by 2018.

In the spirit of reconciliation we celebrate the uniqueness of the world’s oldest living culture. We respectfully acknowledge the diversity of cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

We are mindful of the negative impacts of colonisation and past government policies, injustices and inequalities that continue to significantly contribute to marginalisation, disadvantage and poor health outcomes experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.

We acknowledge and appreciate the financial contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders towards the expansion of Queensland’s hospitals, health infrastructure and services. We recognise and regret that this was a part of past government policies of control over Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ wages and savings under the ‘Protection Acts’.

Metro South Health is committed to providing equity of access to high quality health care services and building relationships based on inclusion with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities. We strive to improve client and patient confidence in our services.

We will not tolerate racism, prejudice or harassment. We reject racially prejudiced attitudes, actions and ideologies that impede culturally inclusive relationships.

Metro South Health will continue to foster the principles of reconciliation within its everyday practice through the development and implementation of a Metro South Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Closing the Gap Plan.

We are dedicated to developing workforce recruitment and retention strategies which increase participation and representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

All Metro South Health staff have responsibilities towards closing the gap of disadvantage, and working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities for a healthier future.

Terry White AO
Board Chair
Metro South Health
16 March 2017

Robert Mackway-Jones
Acting Chief Executive
Metro South Health
16 March 2017