

Conference Program



IN ACTION
CONFERENCE

SEQ First Nations Health Equity in Action Conference, 2026

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Boulevard Level, Grey St entrance

Day 1 | Thursday, 22 October 2026

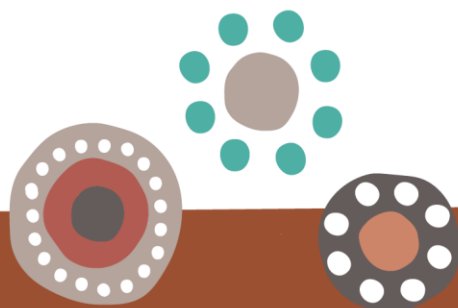
8:30am – 9:00am	Registration	Boulevard Level Foyer
9:00am – 9:30am	Welcome to Country	Boulevard Room
9:30am – 10:00am	Opening address Queensland Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, the Hon Tim Nichols MP.	Boulevard Room
10:00am – 10:30am	Morning Tea: An opportunity to connect	Boulevard Level Foyer

Breakouts

10:30am – 1:00pm

More information about the breakout sessions are on the following pages of this program

Workshop Boulevard Room	Workshop Room: B1	Workshop Room: B2	Showcase Room: B3
Building on our shared workforce initiatives: Graduate rotations	Working Together to Strengthen Practice in Lung Cancer Screening	Open Doors - Supporting First Nations Paediatric Access pathways across SEQ	Staying Deadly – First Nations mental health and wellbeing in SEQ
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch: An Opportunity to Connect		Boulevard Level Foyer & Boulevard Room
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Reflections: Report backs from morning session		Boulevard Room
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Keynote: Queensland's Chief First Nations Health Officer, Samantha Wild		Boulevard Room
3:00pm – 3:30pm	Keynote: Leveraging partnerships for impact – how we know we make a difference		Boulevard Room
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Afternoon Tea: An opportunity to connect		Boulevard Level Foyer



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Day 2 | Friday, 23 October 2025

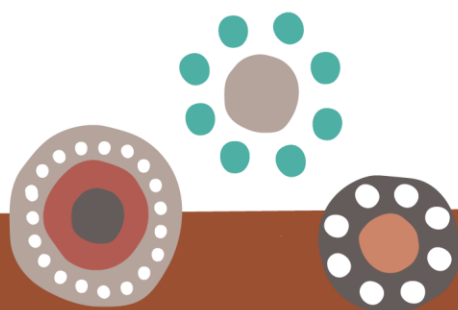
8:30am – 9:00am	Registration	Boulevard Level Foyer
9:00am – 9:30am	Keynote: Leadership in Action, Renee Blackman, Chair, SEQ FNHE Partnership	Boulevard Room
9:30am – 10:00am	Keynote: Queensland Chief Health Officer	Boulevard Room
10:00am – 10:30am	Morning Tea: An opportunity to connect	Boulevard Level Foyer

Breakouts

10:30am – 12:30pm

More information about the breakout sessions are on the following pages of this program

Workshop Boulevard Room	Showcase Room: B1	Workshop Room: B2	Showcase Room: B3
Activating Advanced leadership development for Mob across our systems	Strengthening family agency – supporting our families together	Syphilis, HIV & STIs – our collective response	Partnership to Practice: Community-Controlled Health Research in Action
12:30pm – 12:50pm	Reflections: Report backs from morning session		Boulevard Room
12:50pm – 1:00pm	Closing Address: Renee Blackman, Chair, SEQ FNHE Partnership		Boulevard Room
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch: Continue connecting over lunch		Boulevard Foyer



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About the SEQ First Nations Health Equity in Action Conference

The **fifth** First Nations Health Equity in Action Conference will bring together the SEQ First Nations Health Equity partners - the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health sector, Hospital and Health Services (HHS), Primary Health Networks, Mater Health Service and Queensland Ambulance Service, and other invited stakeholders to focus on systems transformation and cross-sector collaboration to accelerate our efforts to Close the Gap and achieve health equity.

This year's conference has two key aims:

- 1. To showcase progress made in the past 12 months by working together towards health equity across the SEQ health system.**
- 2. To workshop priority areas and the actions that need to be taken over the next 12 months aligned with the SEQ FNHE Strategy and current health system landscape.**

Which Breakout shall I attend?

On both days of the Conference, between morning tea and lunch, up to four breakouts will be running concurrently (at the same time).

These breakouts will be run as either workshops or showcases, and more information on the topics is outlined in the following pages of this program.

Conference delegates are invited to attend workshops based on their areas of expertise or interest.

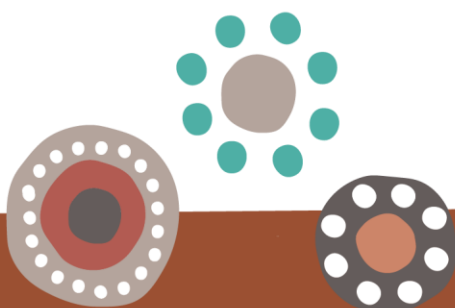
If you were approached to attend a particular breakout session due to your area of expertise, please attend that breakout.

If you are unsure about which breakout to attend, please talk to someone at the registration desk.

More information about the SEQ First Nations Health Equity Partnership

You can access more information about the SEQ First Nations Health Equity Partnership, including our Statement of Commitment, our 10-year Strategy and other resources on our website:

<https://www.seqfnhe.org.au/>



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Breakout Session Overviews

Day 1 | Thursday, 22 October 2025

Workshop: Building on our shared workforce initiatives: Graduate rotations

The [SEQ First Nations Health Equity Workforce Strategy 2023-2031](#) was a deliverable under our [SEQ First Nations Health Equity Strategy 2021-2031](#), and developed up through a series of workshops, including at previous SEQ First Nations Health Equity in Action Conferences.

This collective Workforce Strategy is critically important to inform how we work together to increase the First Nations workforce across the whole health sector in a non-competitive way. The Workforce Strategy aims to build a workforce for our current and future needs by strengthening the recruitment, retention, support and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into health and related employment opportunities.

Building on the momentum of the Shared Workforce Memorandum of Understand (MOU), shared cadetships, shared traineeships and the role of UIH's [Pathways Our Way Academy \(POWA\)](#) as a Group Training Organisation, this workshop will develop practical actions to expand First Nations workforce pathways across South East Queensland and explore models for regional graduate rotations commencing in 2027. This builds on the SEQ First Nations Health Equity Workforce Sub-Committee's focus on graduate rotations and entry-level pathways.

Workshop: Working Together to Strengthen Practice in Lung Cancer Screening

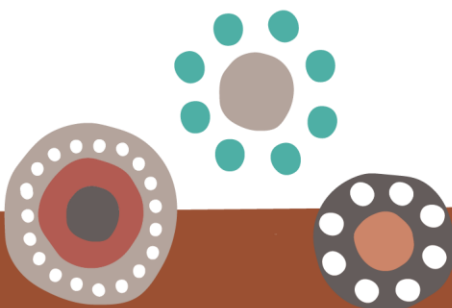
Implementing Optimal Care Pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Cancer is a key action in the [SEQ First Nations Health Equity Strategy 2021-2031](#), and at our 2024 SEQ First Nations Health Equity in Action Conference we held a Cancer Care Workshop.

An outcome from the 2024 conference was a commitment to work together on a coordinated approach to implementation of the National Lung Cancer Screening Program – introduced in 2025 – for our First Nations community, and we've held two more workshops since, including at last years conference.

Through our collaborative approach UIH and Metro North Health were able to successfully secure funding to progress this work for the region.

This year's workshop aims to build community and clinician confidence to navigate culturally safe lung cancer screening pathways.

Through reflection and discussion, participants will strengthen their understanding of the lung cancer services and referral pathways to identify ways to ensure every patient receives timely support, follow-up, and access to services.



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Workshop: Open Doors - Supporting First Nations Paediatric Access pathways across SEQ

Priority Area 2 of the [SEQ First Nations Health Equity Strategy 2021-2031](#) is increasing access to health care services by establishing models of care that deliver care closer to home in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Organisations in SEQ.

Access to paediatric services across South East Queensland is increasingly challenging. Growing demand, driven by population growth and increasing service complexity, is placing pressure on a system that is striving to meet the needs of children and families in a timely and culturally responsive way.

Despite these challenges, clinicians, families, community organisations and health service providers share a common goal: ensuring First Nations children and their families can access the specialist paediatric care and support they need, when they need it.

In this workshop we'll explore opportunities to strengthen access pathways for First Nations children and families across South East Queensland. Informed by the Open Doors model of care developed through the partnership between IUIH and CHQ, participants will examine current challenges, share insights and identify how we might leverage and expand the Open Doors to improve coordination, cultural responsiveness and equity of access.

Through collaborative discussion and shared learning, the workshop will help test our thinking, shape future approaches, and inform the principles that underpin how we work together.

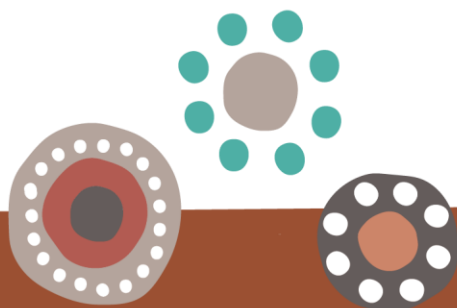
Showcase: Staying Deadly – First Nations mental health and wellbeing in SEQ

An action in the [SEQ First Nations Health Equity Strategy 2021-2031](#) is to establish regional community controlled specialist mental health services (Staying Deadly Hubs) for people with moderate to severe mental health needs, which have strong referral pathways into, and partnerships with, primary and acute mental health services. With support, advocacy and funding from the SEQ First Nations Health Equity Partners positive progress over the last five years.

In this showcase, discover how the three Staying Deadly Hubs and Staying Deadly | headspace services in South East Queensland are creating culturally safe spaces where First Nations people can connect, thrive and access the support they need.

This showcase will share stories of collaboration, innovation and community leadership from across South East Queensland, highlighting the power of culturally responsive services to improve social and emotional wellbeing outcomes.

Delegates will hear firsthand about the journey, achievements, challenges and lessons learned, with opportunities to explore how culturally responsive, community-informed models are improving access to care and strengthening outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our region.



Day 2 | Friday, 23 October 2026

Concurrent Workshops

Workshop: Activating Advanced leadership development for Mob across our system

The [SEQ First Nations Health Equity Workforce Strategy 2023-2031](#) was a deliverable under our [SEQ First Nations Health Equity Strategy 2021-2031](#), and developed up through a series of workshops, including at previous SEQ First Nations Health Equity in Action Conferences.

This collective Workforce Strategy is critically important to inform how we work together to increase the First Nations workforce across the whole health sector in a non-competitive way. The Workforce Strategy aims to build a workforce for our current and future needs by strengthening the recruitment, retention, support and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into health and related employment opportunities.

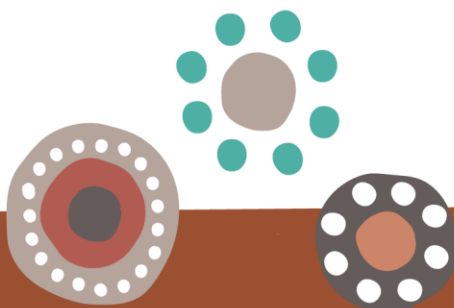
This workshop will advance the work of the SEQ First Nations Health Equity Workforce Committee to progress a practical regional approach to identifying, supporting and developing future First Nations senior leaders and executives across SEQ First Nations Health Equity partner organisations.

Participants will hear about the leadership initiatives mapped across SEQ and hear from a panel of First Nations Executives about what supported their leadership journeys. This will be an action-oriented workshop to plan for advanced leadership growth in 2027 and beyond.

This workshop is based on the premise that Advanced Leadership growth happens through:

Exposure + Experience + Reflection + Accountability

The aim is design a pilot for 2027 with a cohort of advanced leaders to participate in potential experiences, relationships and opportunities across the SEQ First Nations Health Equity partnership.



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Showcase: Strengthening Family Agency – supporting our families together

To achieve health equity in health outcomes requires us to be able to influence the social, cultural and economic determinants of health – this is an area of focus of the [SEQ First Nations Health Equity Strategy 2021-2031](#).

A result area of the Strategy is working in cross-agency partnerships as appropriate, to co-design and co-implement services, programs and supports that strengthen family agency.

Building on the discussions at the 2025 SEQ First Nations Health Equity in Action Conference, this showcase will highlight how our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Organisations in South East Queensland support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and young people through programs that work across the health system, including with Children's Health Queensland and our other Hospital and Health Services in the region, with Mater Health Services and with the Department of Child Safety.

The session will provide an overview of how this system of care has evolved since the inception of the SEQ FNHE Strategy 2021-2031 and since our first Conference, supported by discussion of the programs and data that help strengthen outcomes for families.

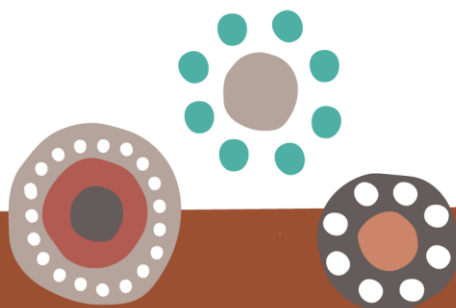
Workshop: Syphilis, HIV & STIs – our collective response

This interactive workshop will build a shared understanding of current sexually transmitted infection trends across South East Queensland, including the factors contributing to rising rates and the disproportionate burden experienced by First Nations peoples.

Participants will explore the enablers and barriers to culturally safe STI testing and treatment, and identify practical next steps for a coordinated, cross-sector response to eliminating syphilis and HIV.

Through this workshop we aim to:

- Achieve a shared understanding of syphilis and HIV trends in SEQ
- Determine synergies between community controlled, hospital and health service and other partners in response to concerning rise in syphilis and HIV cases in SEQ
- Plan collective action to reducing incidence of syphilis, HIV and other STI



Showcase: Partnership to Practice: Community-Controlled Health Research in Action

Utilising case studies and a panel discussion, this showcase session highlights how community-controlled research can support service improvement, strengthen culturally responsive models of care, and generate practical benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Drawing on three case studies from the IUIH Network Knowledge and Research Centre, presenters will share examples of research conducted by the community-controlled sector in partnership with external organisations. The session will explore a range of innovative models of care, including holistic perinatal care, team-based primary health care, and community-led health and wellbeing programs.

- Case Study 1, undertaken in partnership with university researchers, examines the IUIH Pod Model and its contribution to access, continuity of care, and multidisciplinary teamwork within primary health care.
- Case Study 2, a partnership with universities and mainstream health services, explores experiences of families and care providers participating in the Birthing in Our Community (BiOC) program, highlighting the value of wrap-around, culturally grounded care delivered by a strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce.
- Case Study 3, also undertaken in partnership with university researchers, focuses on the Deadly Fit Mums program, demonstrating the importance of community-embedded, culturally safe approaches to both research and services supporting health and wellbeing during and after pregnancy, and the critical role of staff in fostering engagement and connection.

Across these examples, there are common insights point to the importance of community control, culturally safe care, strong Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander leadership, and service models that centre relationships, family and community.

The showcase concludes with a panel discussion focused on researching with the community-controlled health sector. Panellists will reflect on how researchers and services can establish meaningful partnerships, what respectful and mutually beneficial research relationships look like in practice, and common pitfalls to avoid. The session will provide practical insights for anyone interested in undertaking research that is relevant, accountable and responsive to community priorities.

