

Announced: Innovative First Nations focused headspace for Moreton Bay

Opening this year, Staying Deadly | headspace Deception Bay will help meet the growing need for mental health support in the region, while providing culturally safe support, care and connection for First Nations teens and young adults.



L to R: IUIH CEO Wayne Ah Boo, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention the Hon. Emma McBride MP, headspace CEO Jason Trethowan, Uncle Alex Davidson, Brisbane North PHN CEO Libby Dunstan.

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Mental health concerns continue to impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people disproportionately, with a suicide rate that is more than double that observed among non-Indigenous Australians. Tragically, almost 80 per cent of suicide deaths among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were those aged between 15 and 44.

Brisbane North PHN is committed to addressing these health gaps and inequities and is proud to work with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (UIIH) and headspace to deliver Staying Deadly | headspace Deception Bay.

A unique, nation leading service as the first co-branded headspace in Australia, the new site is being established with a strong community focus and understanding of the disproportionate and devastating impact mental health concerns and suicide has on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Staying Deadly | headspace Deception Bay will be a safe and supportive place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, and their young friends and family. As well as access to specialised mental health services, young people will have access to comprehensive wellbeing care, connection to culture and community, and pathways to training, education and employment.

The service will enhance mental health literacy, increase help-seeking behaviours, and offer support to reduce suicidal and psychological distress in First Nations young people through the delivery of culturally safe mental health support on Country.

This is in addition to headspace's core focus of supporting young people aged 12 to 25 who are experiencing, or at risk of, mild to moderate mental health concerns.

The Staying Deadly | headspace Deception Bay workforce will be made up by a diverse, integrated team including care coordinators with lived experience, specialist mental health clinicians, health practitioners, and support staff. Five of the roles will also be identified positions.

The PHN was pleased to join Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention the Hon Emma McBride and representatives from UIIH for the announcement during a recent visit to the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region.

Consultation with stakeholders and young people continues, with further service information to be shared closer to the centre's opening later this year. UIIH is working with community in the Moreton Bay region on how the service needs to look, feel and be to support the goals and aspirations of young people.

Quotes attributable to Brisbane North PHN CEO, Libby Dunstan:

“Brisbane North PHN continues to work closely with our stakeholders and community to deliver local, innovative solutions to meet identified needs.”

“The Staying Deadly | headspace Deception Bay service will be an important addition to mental health and wellbeing services available in the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region, tailored to supporting the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.”

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“Staying Deadly | headspace Deception Bay is the first headspace service in Australia to be specifically established for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, and their young family and friends.”

“Brisbane North PHN welcomes the opportunity to work with The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) and headspace to deliver this unique, nation leading service.”

Quotes attributed to IUIH CEO, Mr Wayne Ah Boo:

“We listened to the local Community about the need for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led culturally safe mental health and wellbeing service for our young people.”

“Our Staying Deadly services support mental health – our way. We walk alongside our people and provide holistic support and specialised health and wellbeing services based on their goals. Staying Deadly | headspace Deception Bay will be a safe and supportive place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.”

“This new service will be a valuable addition to our South East Queensland IUIH network’s integrated system of care, and another step forward in responding to Community goals to build healthy and strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities.”

Read the Hon. Emma McBride MP, Assistant Minister for Mental Health's [media release](#).

For those who prefer online support, [ehespace is available online](#) or by calling 1800 650 890.

Visit [FindCareFast](#) to explore available urgent care options in the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region.

Editor’s note:

High-resolution images are available. Please contact Hugh Suffell, Coordinator Public Relations and Communications for high-resolution imagery. E: hugh.suffell@brisbanenorthphn.org.au M: 0456 940 110

About Brisbane North PHN

Brisbane North PHN is one of 31 Primary Health Networks nationwide and supports clinicians and communities in Brisbane’s northern suburbs, Moreton Bay, parts of Somerset Regional Council and support to people of Norfolk Island. The PHN covers approximately 4,100 km² of urban, regional and rural areas, with a population of over one million.

The key objectives of the PHN are:

- increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and
- improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

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