



TAIHS
Townsville Aboriginal &
Islander Health Service

Newsletter

June-July 2026 Edition

Chairperson's Message



Dorothy Smith

As Chairperson, I am honoured to reflect on the recent highlights within our community.

This edition features stories that showcase our shared commitment to health, wellbeing, and cultural pride.

We began by commemorating Mabo Day, paying tribute to Uncle Eddie Koiki Mabo and his lasting impact on justice and Indigenous land rights.

Our Deadly Choices Netball Carnival brought together thirteen teams, including our own staff, for a day of fun and connection.

The Community Yarning Circle at our Ingham Clinic fostered open dialogue and strengthened community ties, while Kidney Health Week empowered participants with knowledge and resources for better health.

A special thank you to everyone who joined our NAIDOC Family Fun Day. With around 600 attendees, this event truly celebrated the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC Week reminds us of the importance of unity, respect, and ongoing reconciliation.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our strong and resilient community.

Warm regards,
Dorothy Smith



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Congratulations! To Michael Illin

Townsville Hospital and Health Service Staff Excellence Awards

On June 8th, the Townsville Hospital and Health Service Staff Excellence Awards took place at The Ville Resort Casino, where the contributions of their staff were celebrated.

Joined by special guest, the Honourable Tim Nicholls, Minister for Health, Health Service Chief Executive Kieran Keyes remarked on the wonderful opportunity to honour staff members who exemplify the values, vision, and mission of the Health Service. Numerous staff members, including retired surgeons, were recognised for their outstanding achievements.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our Director, Michael Illin, for winning the **Engagement Award**

Engagement Award Criteria

The Engagement Award recognises individuals who:

- Foster strong collaborative relationships
- Promote cultural safety
- Align closely with the vision of the health service

Congratulations, Mick!

CONGRATS!



Primary Health Care

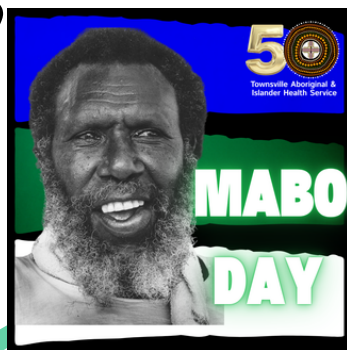


Commemorating Mabo Day

Each year on June 3, we celebrate Mabo Day in honour of Uncle Eddie Koiki Mabo and the landmark 1992 Mabo decision.

Uncle Eddie Mabo significantly impacted our organisation alongside other respected elders from our community. We gather annually to pay tribute to Uncle Eddie and reflect on the history that has profoundly shaped Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

His tireless dedication to justice and equality laid the groundwork for the recognition of Indigenous land rights, reminding us all of the importance of standing up for what is right.



Deadly Choices Netball Carnival

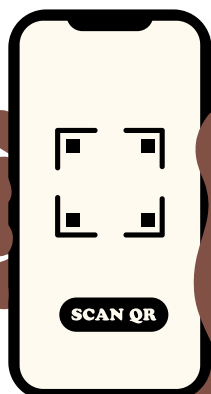
The Deadly Choices NQ Netball Carnival took place on June 6th, and it was an incredibly fun-filled day!

- Thirteen teams participated, along with a Special Guest Team comprised of TAIHS Employees (Tracy's Grey Nomads).
- There were plenty of laughs and some sore bodies, but the camaraderie among the teams made it all worthwhile.

Congratulations to the Following Teams

- Mixed Division Winners: **United Opal**
- Runners Up: **Palm Island Seagulls**
- Women's Division Winners: **FNAE Roos**
- Runners Up: **United Amethyst**

**Check out all the photos
by scanning the QR Code**



Tracy's Grey Nomads



Primary Health Care

TAIHS Ingham Clinic - Community Yarning Circle

On June 16, TAIHS Primary Health held a Community Yarning Circle morning tea at the Ingham clinic, creating connection among community members.

Attendees, including Tracy Tyshing, Gail Keating, Charmaine Knox, and Eddie Ober, engaged in discussions, answered questions, and shared insights.

The event emphasised the importance of community involvement, building trust, and ensuring awareness of available services. Special thanks to Deborah Marsden for organising the event.



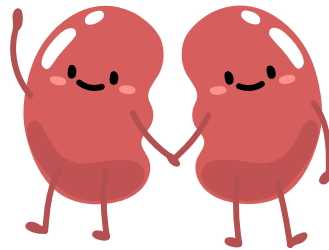
Kidney Health Week

Engaging Community through Kidney Health Awareness

Our amazing Primary Health Care team organized a two-day event focused on engaging with the community and highlighting the significance of kidney health.

Participants had the opportunity to:

- Take part in ****free pre-testing****
- Attend ****educational sessions****



Receive ****free merchandise and materials**** to help reinforce the information learned after each session. The event was designed to be both informative and interactive, ensuring that attendees left with a clear understanding of how to maintain kidney health and the resources available to them.

Our team were on hand to provide guidance and answer questions, creating a supportive environment where community members felt empowered to take charge of their health.

The success of the event was evident in the positive feedback received from attendees. The event not only raised awareness but also strengthened community bonds, reinforcing the clinic's commitment to holistic, community-centered care.



Community & Youth Services

Family Wellbeing Morning Tea

TAIHS Family Wellbeing hosted a delightful morning tea, inviting local services from Townsville and nearby areas to connect with our team and explore our vision and mission for the service.

The meet and greet proved to be a resounding success, and we eagerly anticipate collaborating with all organisations to strengthen professional relationships and create solid partnerships.



Family Wellbeing Community Engagement



On July 17th, we were invited to join the NAIDOC celebrations at Aitkenvale State School.

We gathered to honour the rich history, culture, and accomplishments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as part of their NAIDOC Day festivities.

Families and community members were warmly welcomed to celebrate alongside the students and staff.

Thank you for the invitation!



Our Latest Job Vacancies

- **Data & Quality Officer – Community & Youth Services**
- **Project & Administration Officer – Community & Youth Services**
- **Governance Lead – Community & Youth Services**

[Check our vacancies www.taihs.net.au](http://www.taihs.net.au)

Join
Our
Team



TAIHS Community Events

TAIHS NAIDOC Family Fun Day

On July 8th we hosted an incredible Family Fun Day in celebration of NAIDOC Week.

- A heartfelt thank you goes to the National Indigenous Australians Agency for their support; their funding enables us to offer a variety of enjoyable activities for families throughout the day.
- We are also thankful to Tip-Top Bakery; your generous contribution of bread and burger buns was truly invaluable, and we cherish the opportunity to work with your team.

Finally, a huge thank you to our community; we welcomed approximately 600 attendees, which is a remarkable achievement! Families had a range of activities to enjoy, including free rides, entertainment, and numerous TAIHS information stalls featuring Deadly Choices.

Scan me!



Scan the QR
Code to view all
the photos from
the event



Townsville NAIDOC

