

Media Release

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Country to Coast, Qld celebrates NAIDOC Week - "For Our Elders"



Country to Coast, Qld (CCQ) delivers the Primary Health Network (PHN) programs on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. Through needs-assessment of our community, we commission leading health services and coordinated care for our region.

During NAIDOC week, 2-9 July, the team are supporting events that celebrate the rich history, culture and this year's theme 'For our Elders'.

Across every generation, Elders have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities and families across the Central Queensland, Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast region, and the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is a key priority for us.

Elders are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers and loved ones across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

Juanita O'Rourke, Primary Health Coordinator Country to Coast hopes everyone across the region gets the opportunity to attend NAIDOC events across Central Queensland, Wide Bay and the Sunshine Coast this week, celebrating our Elders.

“You may ask, what are Elders, and how do you become an Elder in our First Nations community? It’s an honour and a mark of respect that’s bestowed, it’s earned through respect and being known and present in your community,” Juanita said.

“Elders bring rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, wisdom, learnings and stories to communities, they share this with others.”

Juanita encourages everyone as a courtesy to ask Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People they meet if they would like to be called ‘Aunty’ or ‘Uncle’. Not everyone will be an “Elder” or and Aunty or Uncle.

“This time of the year is also a great opportunity to celebrate and learn the stories of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in your local area, to understand the stories and history, and how you can become an ally in the journey to reconciliation,” she said.

CCQ collaborates with community to enhance PHN’s health priorities: chronic disease prevention and management; maternal and child health services; mental health and suicide prevention; alcohol and other drugs; older persons’ health care; and palliative care.

By engaging in NAIDOC week events, we foster cultural awareness, celebrate diversity, and strengthen our collaboration to improve the health of our community.

You can also visit <https://www.naidoc.org.au/naidoc-week> to find out what’s happening in your local community!

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