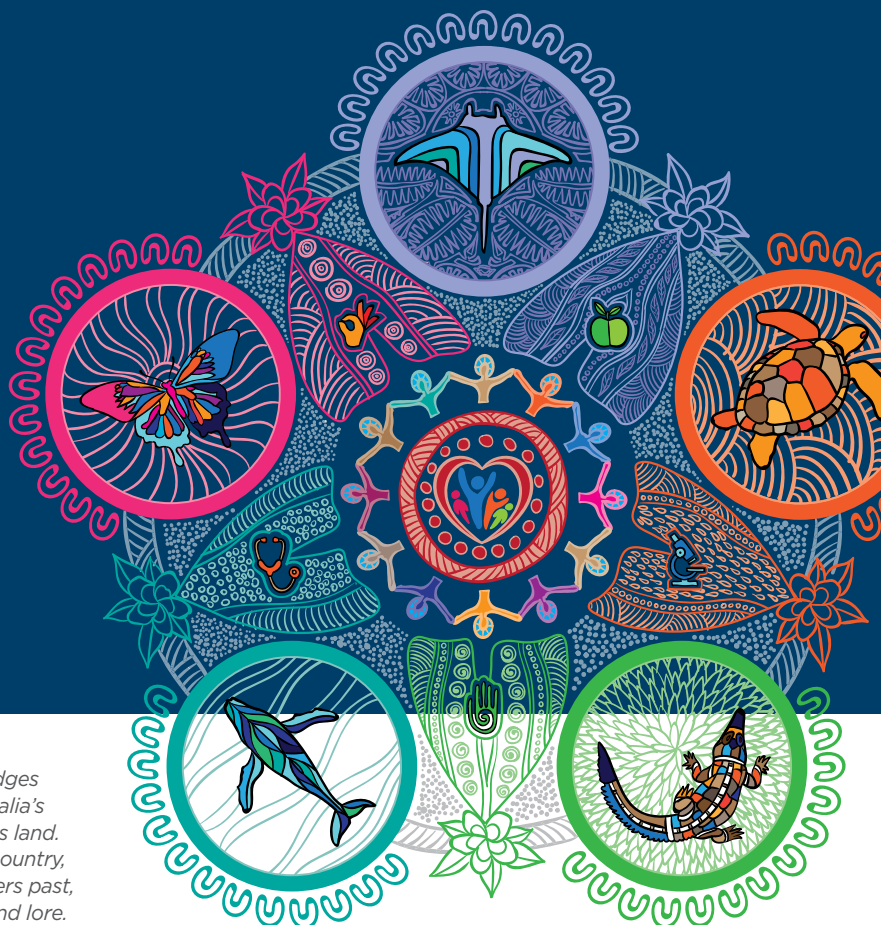




**phn**  
NORTHERN QUEENSLAND  
An Australian Government Initiative

# Get to know us



Northern Queensland Primary Health Network acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We respect their continued connection to land and sea, country, kin, and community. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging as the custodians of knowledge and lore.

## About us

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) is one of 31 regionalised and independent PHNs established nationally by the Commonwealth Department of Health to provide local communities with better access to improved primary healthcare services.

NQPHN is committed to being visionary and innovative as reformers of the primary healthcare system in some of the most geographically challenging and culturally diverse areas in Australia. We are focused on developing and co-designing innovative solutions to these challenges, to ensure every North Queenslander receives the best care possible with available systems and resources.

NQPHN aims to improve health outcomes for all residents by supporting, investing in, and working collaboratively with local Hospital and Health Services, the primary healthcare sector, local government areas (LGAs), other health organisations, and the wider community.

NQPHN invests in primary and preventative health care – that is, the health care that takes place outside of a hospital – **to help ensure North Queensland communities receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time so they can live happier, healthier, and longer lives.**

## Strategic Plan

Our Strategic Plan represents our strategic intent, our role, priorities, and outcomes we aim to achieve between the 2021 and 2026 financial years. View the Strategic Plan 2021-26 at [www.nqphn.com.au](http://www.nqphn.com.au)

### Our vision

Northern Queenslanders live happier, healthier, longer lives.

### Our role

NQPHN is the lead organisation for developing – with our partners – an integrated and coordinated primary healthcare system that delivers the best care possible to achieve measurable health improvements for the people of North Queensland.

### How we are going to do this

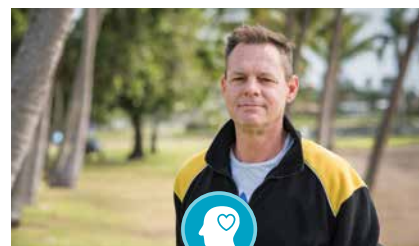
We are going to do this through a focus on:

- » purposeful engagement
- » partnerships and collaboration
- » building capacity and capability
- » innovation for outcomes
- » embracing technology enabled care
- » strategic and transparent commissioning.

### Our priority areas



Population Health  
Priorities



Mental Health and Alcohol  
and Other Drugs



GPs and other Primary  
Care Professionals



First Nations  
Health



System  
Integration



## Our commitment to reconciliation

NQPHN is focused on working towards achieving our unique vision for Reconciliation. We are committed to Closing the Gap in health inequalities between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Indigenous Australians. We recognise that better health outcomes are achieved when First Nations Peoples have a say in the design, development, and delivery of services that affect them.

NQPHN launched its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in 2018, marking an important step in the organisation's reconciliation journey, followed by the Innovate RAP in November 2020. NQPHN is now beginning the journey of embedding reconciliation through the development of its Stretch RAP.



## How we deliver funding

NQPHN commissions services and activities to meet the health needs of the communities in our region, particularly those at most risk of poor health outcomes.

NQPHN's commissioning decisions are underpinned by evidence-based rigorous planning, consultation, stakeholder engagement and service design. NQPHN consults extensively with the community as part of the commissioning process and listens to what people say about the health system in their region.

NQPHN also analyses data from a variety of sources to understand the population in the region and its health needs, mapping existing health services and analysing where there are gaps or inefficiencies.

### How to apply for funding

To be kept informed of NQPHN's commissioning/funding opportunities and to receive up to date information directly to your inbox, register at [www.nqphn.com.au/commissioning](http://www.nqphn.com.au/commissioning)

## How we use technology and data

Technology is transforming primary healthcare. It is changing how North Queenslanders engage with the healthcare system and plays a huge role in how patient information is collected, stored, and accessed.

NQPHN supports the digital capability of local general practitioners through our GP Data Program. Through the program, deidentified general practice data is extracted, analysed, and then used to positively influence patient health outcomes within the primary healthcare setting.

Members of the data program are provided access to a clinical auditing tool that is widely used by Australian general practices. This tool supports teams to drive data-driven quality improvement within the practice.



The program also benefits the practice by assisting with continuous quality improvement (CQI), identifying opportunities to maximise appropriate utilisation of MBS billing, and improving data quality for accreditation preparation.

## Our region

With offices in Cairns, Townsville, and Mackay, the NQPHN region extends from Moranbah in the south, up to the Torres Strait in the north, and west to Croydon and Kowanyama.

The majority of our population is located within the regional centres of Cairns, Townsville, and Mackay, but a significant amount of people live outside of the cities in rural and remote areas, including Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait Islands.

### Our region includes:

4 Hospital and Health Services (HHSs)    9 Aboriginal Medical Services (AMSs)    31 Local Government Areas (LGAs)





## A snapshot of the NQPHN region

As of June 2021.



Estimated population

707,887

As of 30 June 2020.

↑ 30%

estimated increase from 2016 to 2041.

Projected population from 2016 to 2041

692,832 → 933,709

67,752 (10.1%) of these residents identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.



21 out of 31

LGAs have people living in very remote areas.



80.3% of our population live in 'outer regional Australia'

4% of our population live in 'remote' areas

3.8% of our population live in 'very remote' areas



26.6%

in the most disadvantaged quintile of the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage.



27.3%

% of total personal income less than \$20,800 per year.



53.0%

% completed year 11 or 12 education.



Aged 18+, life time risky drinking.

27.1%



People who do sufficient physical activity at least five days a week.

60.7%



Daily smokers.

13.8%



People eating sufficient vegetables.

8.5%



Overweight and obese.

61.6%



People eating sufficient fruits.

52.8%



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