



Dear team,

It's now officially winter and we can certainly feel the change in the weather. Accompanying this change has been an increase in COVID and other respiratory illnesses within our facility and across the broader health service. As a result, Metro North transitioned to Tier 1 in its Acute Respiratory Illness Response Plan yesterday.

What this means for us here at TPCH is an increased focus on precautionary measures to protect the health of our staff, patients and visitors and prevent further spread of respiratory illness within our hospital community. These measures were outlined in my message from yesterday so please take the time to read this. For more information, please access the Metro North [Acute Respiratory Illness Response Plan Tier 1](#).

On a different note relating to winter, yesterday was Queensland Day preceded by the first State of Origin game. It was great to see some of our teams around the hospital getting into the spirit of this famous sporting tradition despite current demands on our services. It is good when we can still find time within our busy days to acknowledge those parts of our community lives that make us who we are and bring us together. While I'm not a huge rugby league fan, this time of year makes me feel proud to be a Queenslander and wear maroon!



Executive update

Executive walkarounds

Today is Crazy Socks 4 Docs day which focuses on reducing the stigma around mental health issues for doctors and health professionals and maintaining a work-life balance. Members of the Executive team wore our most colourful socks to encourage staff to think about how we support each other to talk about and manage our mental health and well-being.

To acknowledge the day, a special Grand Rounds was held yesterday hosted by Dr Jen Schaeffer, Medical Director for Doctors Health in Queensland who shared her own experiences in achieving a work-life balance as a doctor of more than 40 years. Other activities included a photo competition and refuelling stations set up throughout the hospital to provide medical staff with some pick-me-ups to keep them going strong during their shifts. A big thanks to the Medical Education team for coordinating the week's activities.

And please remember that if you or a colleague needs help, there are a number of supports available. More information [here](#)



Crazy Socks for Docs day

Finance Manager, Darren Ransom and I visited RAMS and DUIT where we met with Assistant Nursing Director Internal Medicine Service, Kate Jakeman to discuss opportunities for improving the delivery of renal dialysis to inpatients. As a short-term solution, the hospital is looking to increase its plumbed dialysis spaces across the facility to reduce patient bed moves, while it explores longer-term options.

Consumer engagement

This week, I also had the chance to chat to some members of our TPCCH Consumer Engagement Network during a workshop to discuss options for developing the role of consumers moving forward. One idea suggested was the proposed standing up of a hospital-wide Partnering with Consumers Committee to oversee the actions for Standard 2 in support of future accreditation requirements. The consumers have already started to progress this idea with the commencement of designing the terms of reference for this committee. Consumers and hospital staff were also invited to visit and trial the NHS 15 Step Challenge within some of our wards. This initiative, which was developed by the mother whose daughter required frequent inpatient stays, explores different health care settings through the eyes of patients and relatives. A great way of helping make the hospital environment more patient-centred.



I was pleased to learn that staff from our Internal Medicine Service last week participated in a mini expo hosted by the Kedron Wavell Services Club and the Common Good about living well with dementia. Sarah Bold, Nurse Practitioner, Delirium, Dementia and Cognitive Support Services and Aldiana Mehicic, Clinical Nurse Advance Care Planning spoke about the risks, impact of and carer support for dementia as well as the important role of advance care planning. It was a great opportunity for our staff to engage with consumers and have meaningful conversations about a very important health issue affecting many people in the community.



Co-naming of Satellite Hospitals

Last Friday Metro North announced the Traditional Owner co-names for the three satellite hospitals:

- Kallangur Satellite Hospital (Kalangoor)
- Caboolture Satellite Hospital (Kabul)
- Bribie Island Satellite Hospital (Yarun)

Co-naming our satellite hospital facilities is an exciting first for Metro North Health, and the adoption of the co-names will assist in the preservation and promotion of Aboriginal language and promotes a deeper understanding of the culture and history associated with the Kabi Kabi, Turrbal, and Undambi (Un-dum-bi) and Djoondoburri (joon-dah-burrie) peoples' dialects.



This was a very visible sign of Metro North's commitment to create more supportive and welcoming environments within our service; places where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel safe, comfortable, accepted, and confident that they will be respected, and listened to, while receiving high quality health care.

Car parking changes

TPCH Expansion Project is about to pick-up pace as the builders prepare to take site possession of several locations across the hospital campus. Site possession activities will impact some patient and visitor parking, as well as some staff parking. To ensure there is no net loss to car park numbers, works are underway to ensure alternative car parking arrangements are in place prior to the builder taking site possession in early July.

The project team will be rolling out a range of communications to ensure staff, patients and visitors are fully informed of car park changes, including information booths at the café and messaging via internal communications channels. Information will also be on display in staff areas and tea rooms. I'd like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding while our hospital campus is host to a number of construction projects that are all working towards improving our services and will support us to deliver better patient care.

Safety on campus

With the days becoming shorter, it is essential that staff remain alert and vigilant when walking throughout campus and surrounding streets to access their vehicles.

TPCH has a strong safety culture whereby we encourage staff to consider safety as everyone's responsibility. This includes reporting all safety hazards, incidents and near misses as well as looking out for one another.

To support staff when traversing across the campus, TPCH has safety controls in place such as 24/7 Security presence, Security patrols of carparks at shift changeover times, duress alarms and effective lighting throughout common walk routes and carparks. Staff should make themselves aware of where duress alarms are located on their regular walk routes, and are encouraged to use these alarms if they feel like their safety is being threatened in any way.

When walking to and from vehicles, staff are reminded to take a few key measures to keep themselves safe:

- Walk in pairs/ groups wherever possible (you may wish to ask a staff member who you may not know, if you can walk with them)
- Only walk on designated walkways/common walk routes (these areas have superior lighting and duress alarms in strategic positions)
- Be alert and vigilant to your surroundings (i.e avoid being distracted by your mobile phone)
- Contact Security (3139 5908) to request an escort to a car park if you have concerns (Security will try to accommodate any requests if able)
- Report any suspicious behaviours to Security, and contact them should you need assistance or feel unsafe
- Report any lights that are not working as soon as possible
- Have your keys in your hand when approaching your vehicle.

Metro North Research Excellence Awards

Nominations are now open for Metro North's annual Research Excellence Awards. These Awards provide an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our research community

across TPCCH and Metro North. This year, the Metro North Research Excellence Awards event as well as the inaugural Metro North Research Summit will be held on Thursday, 5 September.

Nominations are open to all researchers of all stages including early career, well-established, and anywhere in between. Researchers are also encouraged to nominate themselves and share their accomplishments.

Nominations close on Wednesday, 26 June at 5 pm.

[NOMINATE NOW](#)

Please read about some of the excellent work happening across Metro North in the annual [Research Snapshot](#).

Staff profile

Today we will profile Infectious Disease Staff Specialist, Dr Kanthi Vemuri.

Kanthi provides expert advice on the management of infectious diseases particularly pertaining to immune compromised patients and transplant patients. She provides inpatient and outpatient care, trains medical students, registrars and advanced trainees, and also works in infection prevention, contributing to guidelines targeting prevention of hospital-acquired infections.

Commencing at TPCCH in 2023 as an Infectious Diseases Physician after completing a Transplant Infectious Diseases fellowship in USA, Kanthi enjoys combining patient-centred care with evidence-based medicine to produce an outcome congruent with patient wishes and safe competent care. She enjoys working as part of a collegial and respectful team, and is a passionate about promoting the recognised importance of transplant specific expertise in patient outcomes.

Outside of work, Kanthi loves spending time with her family, playing badminton, cooking and participating in a walking group with friends.



Shout out

This week's shout out goes to those TPCCH staff who are assisting with the Metro North Waiting for What Survey being conducted this week and over the weekend. We have around 50 staff who are undertaking chart audits on every inpatient within the hospital over a three-day period to help gain better understanding of what challenges are causing delays in discharge with the view the improve patient flow. This is a huge effort and we thank staff for their patience and support.



The other shout out goes to long standing staff member, Marylou Tones who retired last week after more than 40 years of nursing service to Metro North, most of which were at TPCCH. Marylou commenced her career at the RBWH in 1992, working for many years in the Orthopaedic unit before joining TPCCH's Ward 2C as one of the mainstay orthopaedic nurses.



Marylou finishes her distinguished nursing career in the Rehabilitation and Acute Stroke Unit where she is well known for delivering high-quality and nurturing care. Considered the true professional, Mary has always gone the extra mile for patients under her care, and will be remembered for her warm smile, effervescent personality

and her world class spring rolls. We thank Marylou for her dedicated service to the patients of TPCH and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

Today's quote

"Remember upon the conduct of each depends the fate of all." – *Alexander The Great*

Tami Photinos
Executive Director