



Dear CKW team,

The review of paediatric care at Caboolture Hospital is now complete and the external reviewers have provided their final report to Metro North.

The review was undertaken by independent paediatric experts from across Australia who were asked to evaluate the way that Caboolture Hospital provides care to paediatric patients and offer their recommendations for improvement.

The report highlights the growing number of paediatric patient presentations – including a 47.8 per cent rise in 2023 for patients aged four years or less.

We want to thank staff, patients and the community who took the time to tell their story and provide feedback during the review process. The review deadline was extended by two months due to extensive community participation.

The result is a large document with 76 recommendations across eight key areas. Metro North has committed to implementing all recommendations to ensure we can provide the quality of care that our community expects for children, adolescents, and young adult patients.

The good news is that we have already completed several of the recommendations with many more already well underway.

We have already started a separate triage for children, adolescents and young adult patients presenting to the Emergency Department which is reducing wait times and we're well underway on a new \$15 million dedicated paediatric outpatients building, which is due for construction from mid-2025.

The reviewers also identified the need for specialist paediatric staff. We've recently employed a Clinical Director Paediatric Emergency, Associate Nurse Unit Manager Paediatric Emergency, Assistant Nursing Director Paediatrics, Nurse Navigator Paediatrics and several other dedicated nursing roles.

We've also recently embedded the Child Protection Unit into the Paediatric Ward and have been working on making our paediatric spaces more child friendly.

Metro North Health is establishing an Action Plan to implement the remaining recommendations, which includes establishing a Children of Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford Collective, recognising many other agencies involved in paediatric care, including the Brisbane North PHN, Institute of Urban Indigenous Health, Queensland Children's Hospital, and the disability sector.

The review recommendations and action plan will be released to the public today and we expect some media coverage over the next few days.

Metro North recently launched the [Year of Children, Adolescents and Young Adults](#) which focuses on care for patients up to 25 years of age, which including paediatrics. We expect CKW will have many opportunities to engage over the next 12 months.

A copy of the report recommendations and Metro North Action Plan [have been published](#).

This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance the care we provide to our community.

This may be a challenging time for staff so please reach out if you would like support. CKW has several Peer Responders and a range of services available - more details are [available here](#).

We will be holding a staff forum at 12pm on Monday at Caboolture Hospital to talk about what's happening and next steps.

Warm regards,
Jane and Karlene

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our facilities are built. We also pay respect and acknowledge Elders past, present and the future.