

MESSAGE FROM THE RBWH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Metro North Health

Louise Oriti



Dear colleagues,

Nursing and Midwifery Open Day

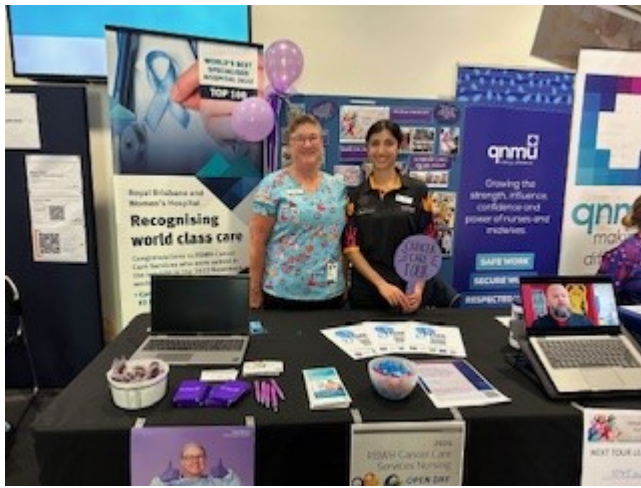


On Saturday 27 July 2024 RBWH Nursing and Midwifery held their inaugural Careers Open Day. This day focused on showcasing what a nursing and midwifery career can offer at RBWH as well as using it as a proactive recruitment opportunity.

The day was a success with approximately 150 attendees from interested experienced staff through to nursing and midwifery students who will be graduating soon. All service lines across RBWH were able to showcase their teams along with Metro North Mental Health. We were lucky to have the support of Staff Wellbeing Officer Liz Crowe to provide a talk on 'How to thrive in health'. The day was also supported and attended by QNMU, QSuper, Griffith University and University of Queensland — it was a great opportunity to link with our partners.

I thought the event captured the energy, expertise and vibrancy of our hospital perfectly. Well done to all staff and external partners who made it such a success.





NICU needs books for babies



In 2021, the RBWH Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) introduced the Little Royal Readers program, designed to foster connection and comfort during the delicate post-birth period for families. This initiative recognises the profound impact of early bonding through reading, particularly in the NICU environment.

Registered Nurse Ellie Kersevani started the program after discovering the joy of reading to her own baby. She says for newborns, it stimulates brain development, enhances language skills and promotes emotional wellbeing during a critical phase of growth. Through soothing voices and familiar stories, babies experience reassurance and a sense of security amid medical procedures and unfamiliar surroundings.

Currently, the program relies on the kindness of NICU staff and families who donate books. However, to sustain this vital initiative year-round, Little Royal Readers urgently seeks sponsorship or community donations as their book supplies are diminishing rapidly. By securing ongoing support for books, the program

can continue to enrich the NICU experience for families.

I love a good bookshop and look forward to making a contribution to this most worthy cause. If you would like to donate new or lightly used books in excellent condition to the program, please contact NICU reception (07 3646 7846) or Ellie Kersevani (Eloise.Kersevani@health.qld.gov.au).

Preventing the spread of infection in our hospital

As we are now in the colder months, it's a good time to remind staff of the most effective ways of preventing the spread of infection in a hospital setting. Here is the advice from our Infection Monitoring and Prevention Service:

- **Hand hygiene.** Hand Hygiene is the single most effective intervention that we can do to protect ourselves in the healthcare setting. It is important that we all practice the National Hand Hygiene [5 Moments for Hand Hygiene](#) when providing care. Queensland Health endorses the principles of '[bare below the elbows](#)'.
- **Minimise patient movement where possible.** This can help minimise infection control risks. This is particularly important for patients with acute respiratory illness where droplet or

aerosols are the main route of transmission and high consequence infections where airborne is the main route of transmission.

- **Vaccination for healthcare workers.** Aside from your regular vaccinations for Influenza and COVID-19 during the winter months, if you are more than 10 years since your pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination, please consider having this updated in line with VPD requirements. You can book these vaccinations at the staff vaccination clinic. Contact them at RBWHVaccinationService@health.qld.gov.au.
- **Cleaning of areas.** Keeping our clinical and non-clinical areas clean is an important infection prevention measure.

Outpatient increase last financial year

So many of you contribute to the care of our community through Outpatients so you will be interested to know that last financial year we saw an increase in appointments from July-June of 64,206 compared with the same period of the previous financial year:

- 2022-23: 817,030
- 2023-24: 881,236

While it's worth noting this increase will also be impacted due to the slowdowns in the 22-23 FY due to COVID's impact on planned care clinics, it demonstrates a return to increased access for our community.

Across the three appointment types, there were 48,444 more in-person visits, 1,893 extra telephone appointments and 7,510 more video conferences – a testament to the extraordinary work Outpatients Services are putting in.

IMES Olympics



In celebration of the 2024 Paris Olympics, and to raise spirits during the winter months, Internal Medicine and Emergency Services are holding a two-week-long event of games with points attached to each game.

The Opening Ceremony was held last Friday to align with the *other* Olympics, and games include:

- Hand hygiene challenge
- Trivia
- BLS race
- Egg and spoon bed-making races
- OVP jeopardy

Be sure to show your support if you see our talented 'athletes' around the Royal. Aspects of the Olympics had a focus on key mandatory training elements as well as the opportunity to have some fun.

National recognition for RBWH's Eat Walk Engage program

Our very own RBWH Delirium Prevention Program Consumer Response Team for the Eat Walk Engage program has been featured in a case study in a national guide – deserved recognition for this brilliant program.



The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care recently released *Partnering with Consumers: a guide for consumers*.

The case studies align with the content of the Guide, focusing on how strong partnerships have developed in different care settings and services and sharing learnings for the future.

Find the new case studies and educational package at safetyandquality.gov.au/pwc-guide.

DonateLife Week



This week is DonateLife Week, where we recognise that transplantation is not possible without organ and tissue donation – a medical process that can save and transform the lives of many Australians.

Six staff from the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital were right in the heart of the action for the start of the week last Sunday.

Held at Roma Street Parkland, teams bonded over three-legged races, sharpened their senses with the blindfold game, and embarked on scavenger hunts during a beautiful 2km Walk To DonateLife through the Parkland.

They were joined by five other hospital teams in raising awareness for organ and tissue donation, while having a bit of friendly competition.

A big shout out to team captains DonateLife Nurses Lorraine and Jess, and their 'Royal Rebels' team. Their vibrant pink tutus and invincible spirit made a lasting impression as they clinched first place.

You can register to become a donor at donatelife.gov.au – it takes less than a minute. And don't forget to also tell your family and friends you want to be a donor. Family consent is always sought before donation can proceed, even if you are registered.

Thank you for the work you're doing to support our community.

Kind regards,

Louise Oriti

Executive Director

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

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.



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