



Dear colleagues,

Budget allocations for 2024/25

The budget allocations for the new financial year have been finalised. Here are some key numbers worth noting:

- The RBWH budget for the financial year is \$1.4 billion.
- 72 per cent of that is attributed to labour.
- Our budget accounts for 32.3 per cent of Metro North's total budget allocation.
- There continues to be a strong focus on delivering good quality and safe care and ensuring our patients gain timely access to health services.

Reducing patient wait times

We were successful in obtaining temporary funding to support additional activity focusing on reduction in patients waiting longer than clinically recommended in the second half of the last financial year. This funding has rolled over to September 2024. There have been some great success stories from this period. Some examples of large reductions of Outpatient Department long waits in specific specialties for January to July of 2024:

- Endocrine
- Respiratory
- Liver
- Ophthalmology
- GHQ
- Pain

Many thanks to all teams supporting this work.

Staff profile: Nurse navigator Suzie Thistlethwaite



Nurse navigators have a very important function at RBWH – and this was highlighted recently when Nurse Navigator Cognitive Advocate Suzie Thistlethwaite received a very special gift from one of her long-term patients.

Suzie is part of the Frail Older Person Service which supports our most vulnerable and complex older patients.

In July, 98-year-old Gordon gifted Suzie a beautiful portrait of herself on her birthday as a way of saying thank you for the years of care she has provided him and his family.

“I don’t know what we would do without Suzie,” Gordon said.

“Sometimes I get overwhelmed and don’t know what to do. She always helps and makes sure we get the care we need.”

Gordon is an award-winning local artist who this year took out his fifth portrait award at the Royal Brisbane Show.

Nurse and midwife navigators are senior advanced-practice registered nurses who provide a vital service for patients who have complex health conditions and require a high degree of comprehensive, clinical care. Navigators are highly experienced and have an in-depth understanding of the health system.

Navigators support and work across system boundaries and in close partnership with multiple health specialists and health service stakeholders to ensure patients receive appropriate and timely care.

Suzie said: “As nurse navigator I have been able to support Gordon with his own health care needs, link him in with community services and a GP. Nurse Navigation is a holistic service that spans the continuum of care, I have also supported Gordon’s three siblings as they have at times required care and support themselves.”

[Read more about Suzie and her role here.](#)

Reece joins Physiotherapy for push-up challenge



I'm sure you all know Physiotherapy Assistant Reece Crawford well by now from his marathon efforts on Giving Day. This week he celebrated 10 years of recovery since the road accident that almost killed him.

Dolphins Mascot Phinny joined RBWH Physiotherapy, Allied Health and Neurosurgery to help Reece complete a staggering 3,650 push ups, one for each day since his accident. Teamwork also raised close to \$1,700 for the RBWH Foundation.

"We gave ourselves an hour to complete the challenge and it only took half an hour," said Reece.

"Physiotherapy are an incredible bunch: the support I get from this department blows me away every time. They are always ready to step up and help me out."

Next RBWH Foundation grant round opening

A reminder that the RBWH Foundation's next grant round opens at the end of next week, Saturday 1 September.

Every department is eligible, so if you have ever thought about extending your patient care or research efforts, this is the opportunity to secure up to \$50,000.

Join an RBWH Foundation Information Session to learn more:

<https://www.rbwhfoundation.com.au/grants/round-3>.

Jersey Day next Friday



Metro North Health and DonateLife Queensland are urging RBWH staff to pull on a sports Jersey on **Friday 30 August**, to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation.

National 'Jersey Day' is a legacy of teenager Nathan Gremmo who donated his organs and tissues in 2015 at the age of just 13, saving the lives of six people – more information here <https://www.jerseyday.com.au/about-nathan-gremmo/>.

It only takes one minute to register as an organ and tissue donor at donatelife.gov.au or with three taps on your Express Plus Medicare app.

Don't forget to tell your family you want to be a donor – someone's life may depend on it.

Positive feedback

I'd like to share this lovely note sent to us by someone going through a difficult time.

"A massive heartfelt thank you to all the nurses and doctors involved in Mum's care during her stay in ICU. The compassion, empathy, support and care shown to both Mum and myself during three of our toughest days was just incredible. To feel so listened to and heard by the Palliative Care team gave Mum the autonomy she deserved and to be supported by the Social Worker and ICU team gave me the strength to ride the roller-coaster alongside Mum in her final days. Thank you all so, so much for everything you do for your patients and their loved ones."

Thank you to all staff for the kindness and compassion you provide to patients, families and 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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