



Dear team,

Here at TPCH we see first-hand the amazing difference that organ donation makes to people's lives. Organ donation gives people a second chance at life or greatly improves their quality of life. You can read about Dominic's journey as a TPCH heart transplant patient [here](#).

Despite four in five Australians supporting organ donation, just over a third of the eligible population are actually registered.

If you are not already registered as an organ donor, I encourage you to take that step and also let your family know about your decision. Registration only takes a minute via the website donatelife.gov.au or a few clicks in the Express Plus Medicare app. This year DonateLife are asking people to get a friend to register along with them in a bid to boost organ donor numbers even further.

You can read more about DonateLife Week and the role of our Donation Specialist Nurse Emily Pritchard's in this week's staff profile.



Donation Specialist Nurse Emily Pritchard and Tami Photinos at the DonateLife stand in the café.

Executive update

On Tuesday we had the pleasure of hosting the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services, Shannon Fentiman. She toured the Critical Care Research Group's ICETLab, the ICU of the Future bed spaces as well as Charlie's Village and the sensory garden at the CAM unit. It was a great opportunity to showcase some of the ground-breaking research and patient care initiatives happening here at TPCH.



Smoking ceremony

Earlier this week the TPCH Expansion Project marked the start of construction with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony performed by Aboriginal Elder, Aunty Kathryn Fisher, on behalf of the Turrbal people. The Smoking Ceremony was an opportunity to cleanse the construction area for the new Healing Garden and new modular accommodation for TPCH staff decanting from Building 14, and to show respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

I attended the event with Kieran Costigan, Manager for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services and it was lovely to see so many staff from both TPCH and across Metro North Health. We received wonderful feedback from Elders that the TPCH Expansion project is continually providing opportunities for community engagement and input, which gives them so much confidence that we are promoting and prioritising culturally safe and inclusive design.



HV cable replacement

On Sunday a high voltage cable that supplies electricity from mains supply to a large portion of the TPCH campus was disconnected and power was rerouted through an alternate mains electricity connection. During this time the affected parts of the site ran off essential generator power. This was a significant piece of work, requiring extensive planning and consultation with numerous stakeholders.

While there were a few minor unforeseen issues on the day, the vast majority of impacts were anticipated and mitigated beforehand, resulting in limited impacts to patient care. There were many staff who came on site on Sunday to ensure everything went smoothly. I would like to extend my congratulations to everyone who was involved in the prior planning, as well on the day. It really was a huge team effort and everyone can be very proud of their contribution. Metro North Chief Executive Jackie Hanson also passed on her congratulations to the whole team in our Monday debrief meeting.



On 18 August another large part of HV remediation will take place. Please look out for future email alerts about this upcoming work.

Executive walkarounds

I dropped in and said hi to medical staff from the Internal Medicine Services Team who come together every Wednesday morning as part of a check-in - a good example of Values in Action. They offered me donuts but I declined!

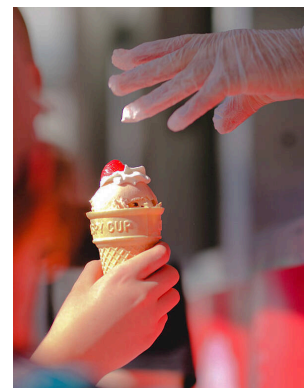


I also caught up with Professor Ian Yang and Professor Kwun Fong on Wednesday during a visit to the Thoracic department.



Ekka Strawberry Sundae night shift volunteers needed

The Ekka Strawberry Sundaes are one of the major fundraising events for The Common Good, raising funds for life-saving medical research. The Common Good are still looking for volunteers for their Ekka night shifts between Saturday 10 August and Sunday 18 August (5.00pm and 9:30pm). Find out more about volunteering for the Ekka Strawberry Sundae night shifts [here](#).



Staff profile

Given that it is DonateLife Week, today we will profile Associate CNC and Donation Specialist Nurse, Emily Pritchard.

Emily's role involves supporting the ICU and ED with any patients who are nearing end-of-life and discussing with the medical staff about the possibility of organ and tissue donation. Emily also supports families throughout the organ and tissue donation process, whilst empowering them to make decisions that are meaningful to them.

Emily started in the role in February but previously worked as an ICU nurse for seven years, four of those at TPCH.

Emily is passionate about organ donation and feels TPCH provides staff with a unique perspective as they get to care for



recipients and see exactly how organ and tissue donations change lives. Emily plans a variety of activities for DonateLife week, including the colourful stand in the cafe, coffee cups with QR codes for donor registration and cupcakes for staff - all to stimulate a conversation about organ and tissue donation and to boost registrations.

Emily sees transplant recipients from all different backgrounds and with different health issues, but what they all have in common is their immense gratitude for donors and their families.

She reminds everyone not to forget to tell their family and friends they want to be an organ and tissue donor - someone's life depends on it!

In her spare time Emily is a Pilates instructor, does Brazilian jiu jitsu and is a national level field hockey umpire.

Today's quote: "Before anything else, preparation is the key to success." — Alexander Graham Bell, inventor

Tami Photinos
Executive Director