



Dear colleagues,

Most staff would be aware that TPCH has been regularly on Tier 3 internal capacity since the start of the year, and remains on Tier 3 today. I wanted to share some activity statistics that highlight the hard work of our staff and help explain why we have been so busy.

- Our Emergency Department is receiving around 330 patients per day which includes adults and children, making it 4 per cent busier than the same period last year.
- There is an average of 50 medical discharges from acute medical wards per day. This means around 40 per cent of acute medical beds are turned over daily.
- July was TPCH's busiest month so far for surgery, with the service collectively performing 962 procedures.
- Last month, TPCH hosted over 17,000 face-to-face outpatient consultations.
- Around 30 patients are currently awaiting residential care placement, with social work leads working with community partners to identify appropriate facilities.

We acknowledge that many of our teams have also been impacted by seasonal illness with a significant number of staff having to take leave. Our TPCH staff flu vaccination program is still available, with our staff vaccination rate currently only at 63 per cent. To access your vaccination, please visit our Infection Control, Level 3, Administration Building, Monday to Friday between 7am and 4pm.

Thank you to all our teams for working together and supporting each other during these peak times so we can continue to provide high quality care for our patients and community. Well done!

Good news story

This week, we had a great feature article in ABC News online featuring our Respiratory Investigations Unit (RIU) and the various medical advances made throughout the Unit's 60 years of operation.

A special thanks to TPCH RIU founding Director and former Medical Superintendent, Dr Kevin Kennedy for agreeing to be part of the story. Dr Kennedy (pictured right), who is now in his 90s, was Queensland's first thoracic physician, and is a prominent part of TPCH's history.

[Read article – TPCH Respiratory Investigations Unit](#)



TPCH Staff Excellence Awards

Nominations are now open for our TPCH annual Staff Excellence Awards. These Awards are an opportunity to recognise those individuals and teams who have displayed excellence in a particular area or field, while supporting our organisational values of respect, integrity, compassion, high performance and teamwork.

Tell us who you think has done an excellent job!
Nominate a colleague or team in this year's Staff Excellence Awards.

The Prince Charles Hospital
Staff Excellence Awards 2024

NOMINATIONS OPEN!

Nominations close 5pm, Monday 9 September 2024

 **CLICK HERE**  for more information, or contact
TPCH Communications on ext. 4329



Executive update

Executive walkarounds

This week Finance Manager, Darren Ransom and I attended a special appreciation morning tea hosted by the Health Information Service (HIS). The event was to thank the HIS team for their recent significant efforts in supporting the clinical information needs of the hospital. The HIS team, which consists of around 70 staff led by Melinda Scott, comprises Health Information Services, Clinical Coding, Medical Records and Mail Room, Health Informatics and Information Access. Together these teams work in partnership with the hospital to improve knowledge, awareness and compliance in activity counting, clinical coding, data quality, systems management, provision of patient information for ongoing care, clinical forms, clinical documentation, patient privacy, security of patient information and release of information. Keep up the great work team!



As the hospital is currently on Tier 2 of Acute Respiratory Illness, the Executive team has been limiting their number of walkarounds to reduce face-to-face contact. Once we are out of this tier, we will be out and about again more regularly visiting areas and departments.

Last Wednesday was National Day of Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners. Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health staff have a rich and proud history and we acknowledge the unique contributions and knowledge they offer in helping us support a culturally sensitive and respectful journey for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients here at TPCH.



TPCH Health Equity

Working Groups

We are seeking Expressions of Interest for five Working Groups based on the Key Performance Areas of Health Equity.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information or contact:
tpch-healthequity@health.qld.gov.au

Staff profile

Today we will profile Acting Chaplaincy Team Co-ordinator, Judy Burt.

Judy, who is also a part-time Anglican Pastoral Carer, oversees a team of 20 volunteers from different denominations who provide emotional and spiritual support to patients. She is responsible for managing any emergencies and referrals in the hospital which may include distressed patients in the Emergency Department, Palliative Care Unit or Intensive Care Unit. In addition, she coordinates rosters for volunteers based on current inpatients, and ensures they are up to date with their mandatory training and other requirements.

Having worked as a hospital chaplain since 2005 across various locations including Nambour, PAH and RBWH and starting at TPCH in 2016, Judy feels grateful to be able to help patients face big decisions or changes in their lives. She believes all people are spiritual and is passionate about pastoral care being available for patients to support them through their health care journey.

Outside of work, Judy is an avid reader, loves travel, as does her colleague Michael, the Catholic team leader. She enjoys spending time with her family which includes her four-year old twin granddaughters who definitely keep her on her toes!

The Pastoral Care service runs between Monday and Friday mornings. Outside of these hours messages can be left on ext. 4366.

Shout out

This week's shout out goes to those staff who are volunteering their time to support the sale of strawberry sundae ice creams at this year's Ekka. Funds raised from the sale of these ice creams go towards vital medical research at TPCH supported by the Common Good, an initiative of TPCH Foundation.

I am pleased to share that in the first five days of the Ekka, 66,277 ice creams were sold! Wow, that's a lot of ice cream, even despite the rainy conditions this week! Well done to the entire TPCH Foundation team for their ongoing support and to everyone who has helped out with this activity.





The other shout out goes to the Internal Medicine Dementia Research Unit (IMDRU) for their recent Grand Rounds presentation featuring a special presentation from patient Susan Waite and husband, Stephen. Susan, who is currently participating in an Alzheimer's trial with IMDRU spoke with Stephen about their experience of handling a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, and their involvement in the clinical trial at TPCH. It is wonderful to see compassionate engagement with our patients and their families so we can continue to support and guide them through their health challenges.



COMING SOON

TPCH CHARLIE'S WEEK 2024

OCTOBER 21 – 25

VALUES IN ACTION

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE AND APPRECIATE OUR TPCH STAFF!

There's something for everyone:

- Staff awards
- Fun activities
- Staff wellness day
- Hour of Power research showcase
- The Common Good Giving Day
- Food
- And much more!

For more information, contact TPCH Communications on ext. 4329



THE COMMON GOOD
AN INITIATIVE OF THE PRINCE CHARLES HOSPITAL FOUNDATION



Super
Part of Australian Retirement Trust

Metro North Health



Queensland Government

Today's quote

'Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.' - Dalai Lama

Tami Photinos
Executive Director