

MESSAGE FROM THE ED METRO NORTH MENTAL HEALTH

Metro North Health

Dr Kathryn Turner



Crisis Stabilisation Facility progress

Six months to go! Works are on track to complete our new Crisis Stabilisation Facility (CSF) at TPCH by the end of August 2024.

The CSF will deliver a new model of service for our community to help reduce gaps in mental health emergency care and respond to increased mental health crisis presentations within a purpose-built therapeutic environment. The model of service provides an alternative to the emergency department and features a multidisciplinary team with a lived experience focus.



Computer generated image of what the CSF will look like upon completion.

Offsite fabrication of the modular building commenced at the end of last year. The construction team has set up on site at TPCH with the installation of site fencing and hoarding and the permanent closure of the small endoscopy unit car park. Civil works will start this month to prepare the site for the CSF modular building to be delivered in May. The practical completion of the facility has changed from July to the end of August to accommodate the inclusion of an ambulance bay as part of this project.



Preparation of the TPCH site is occurring ready for the delivery of the modular building in May.

Crisis Reform Strategy

The CSF forms part of larger reforms in crisis care, which aim to address a shift from individualised solutions to a more strategic, connected regional approach to mental health crisis in the region. In partnership with the Brisbane North PHN, the Crisis Reform Strategy facilitates reform through a

coordinated regional leadership network and shared framework, capturing all stages of the consumer journey from prevention, early intervention, through to crisis response and recovery.

Engagement sessions have occurred across the Brisbane North region engaging mental health staff, consumers and carers, non-government organisations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and lived and living experience representatives. The sessions were aimed at mapping current services, understanding system issues, as well as seeking to design an ideal mental health crisis system.

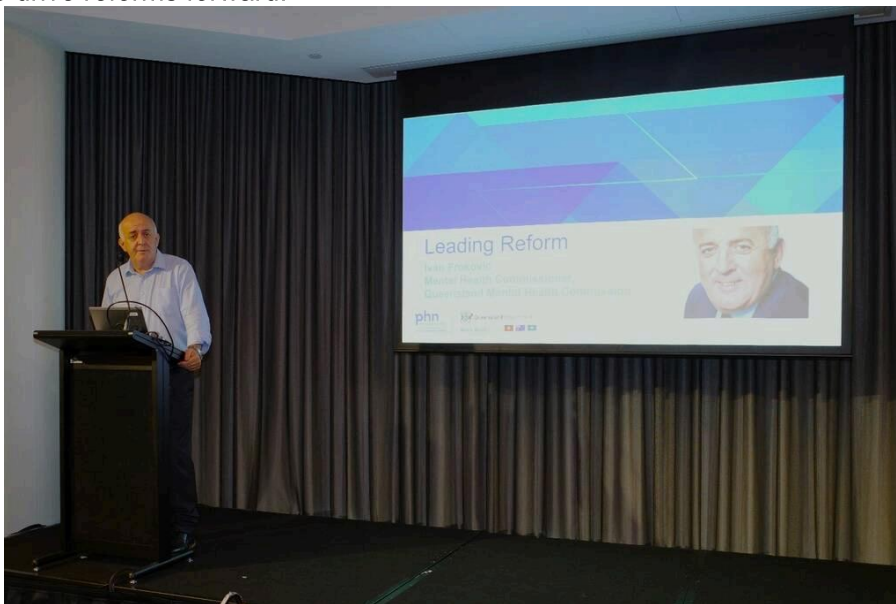
Crisis Reform Planning Day and Yarning Day

In early February, Metro North Mental Health and Brisbane North PHN hosted two key stakeholder engagement sessions with our non-government organisation partners, first responders, Metro North executives, emergency departments, Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander community, and consumers and carers. Both forums were an opportunity to hear from the community their experiences of accessing mental health services in Brisbane North and their feedback on areas of consideration in the Crisis Reform Strategy development.



Crisis Reform Planning Day representatives: Danielle Ritche (Brisbane North PHN), Jane Hancock (MNH COO), Sally Wuerschling (QAS), Jordan Williames (QAS), Jay Pickard (QPS), Lisa Jones (MNMH Lived Experience), Lee-anne (Consumer), Dr Kathryn Turner (ED MNMH), Louise Durant (Crisis Reform Project Manager), Liz Nguyen (Brisbane North PHN).

On 2 February Ivan Frkovic, Queensland Mental Health Commissioner, addressed the Crisis Reform Planning Day providing a powerful reminder that a systemic approach to crisis provides the opportunity for compassionate, trauma informed, and recovery focused care for all consumers, with a focus on implementation to drive reforms forward.



Queensland Mental Health Commissioner, Mr Ivan Frkovic speaking at the Crisis Reform Planning Day.

The Yarning Day held on the 7 February was attended by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons from community, services and Elders. The day was successful in hearing the community needs for mental health crisis care and will inform the development of the Crisis Reform Strategy, with a follow-up event being planned for May.

Mental Health Intensive Discharge Team profile

Metro North is establishing an exciting initiative to transition long stay mental health consumers to their homes sooner. The Mental Health Intensive Discharge (MIND) team will be providing a Metro North Wide service to inpatient mental health consumers with a psychosocial disability to arrange sustainable discharge supports to improve their health outcomes and length of stay.

Consultant Lead for MIND, Carissa (*left*) is a mental health clinician with 19 years' experience.

"People joining the MIND team will be part of this innovative initiative, using discipline specific skills and applying specialist skills in assessment and advocacy to achieve positive outcomes".

The service is currently recruiting Psychologists and Neuropsychologists to the team to undertake advanced level diagnostic assessments for these consumers.

See Smart Jobs for more information.

- [Advanced Neuropsychologist](#) role
- [Psychologist Advanced](#) role

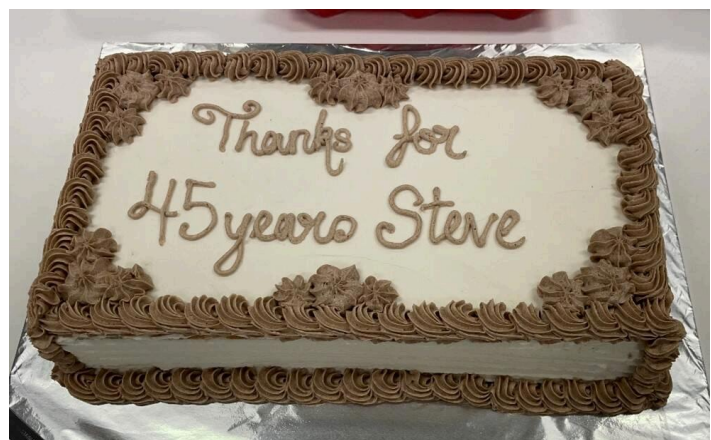


Thank you to Steve Riccardi for 45 years of service!

The Metro North Mental Health and Business Advisory Team celebrated Business Manager Steve Riccardi's remarkable 45 years of dedicated service to Queensland Health on Wednesday 21 February. Over this time, Steve has made invaluable contributions to both the Finance and Mental Health departments, leaving an enduring legacy of professionalism and excellence.

As many of you will know, in the realm of Finance, Steve has been a cornerstone of stability and expertise, navigating the intricacies of fiscal management especially within the Mental Health sphere. Steve has a wealth of knowledge, demonstrated by his ability to know the background and history on almost any query put to him – which many of us benefit from. He has played a significant part in the growth of Metro North Mental Health Services and brings a calmness and sense of humour the team can always rely on.

One of Steve's famed quirks is playing music out loud on a Friday afternoon, a small gesture to get the team's morale up at the end of a busy week. Please join us in congratulating Steve on this significant milestone!



Rob Graham Metro North Business and Finance, Steve Riccardi and Dr Kathryn Turner (ED MNMH) Mental Health

Finally, today March 8 is International Women's Day, a day about celebrating women's achievements, advocating for equal rights and creating inclusive spaces for all women. The day serves as a reminder that when we understand and value women's inclusion, we build a better world for everyone.

Best wishes

Kathryn