

MESSAGE FROM THE ED METRO NORTH MENTAL HEALTH

Metro North Health

Dr Kathryn Turner



Dear Staff,

This week's message puts a spotlight on the very important topic of domestic and family violence (DFV) and the role that we can play here at Metro North Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Service. We also farewell one of our long-standing staff members.

Domestic and Family Violence response

I would like to highlight some valuable work happening to enhance our response to domestic and family violence. From 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2021, Queensland witnessed 375 DFV related homicides, claiming the lives of women, children, and men who were either family members or intimate partners of persons using violence. In 76.5% of these homicide cases, the offender was male.

DFV remains a pressing concern within Metro North Mental Health due to a complex interplay between DFV, substance use and mental health. Metro North Mental Health and Alcohol and other Drugs staff have a crucial role to play in identifying signs of DFV and delivering safe and appropriate responses to impacted consumers and their families/carers.

In response to DFV presentations across our services, A/Director of Allied Health, Matteo Brunetti (*pictured left*) engaged a dedicated group of social workers which included Metro North Health DFV workforce specialists, MNH DFV High-Risk Team, MNMH-RC Social Work Professional Lead, and MNMH-ADS Biala and Youth Team Leader in the development of the MNMH [Responding to Domestic and Family Violence \(DFV\) Procedure](#)



This procedure provides a comprehensive framework for responding to, addressing, and preventing DFV as experienced by consumers and their families/carers of our health services.

To ensure the successful implementation of the DFV procedure, additional project funding has recently been secured to support a temporary part-time MNMH DFV Specialist Practitioner. This position will conduct a comprehensive needs analysis of the current clinical responses to DFV amongst our social workers, develop and strengthen referral pathways, and provide targeted training to the senior and advanced social worker workforce. These efforts are aimed at improving clinical responses within Metro North Mental Health services to ensure the provision of optimal care to those affected by DFV.

For this project to succeed, active engagement and participation from all social workers is essential across Metro North Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Services. Their engagement will serve as the foundation for the needs analysis and subsequent meaningful, impactful, high quality and scalable training programs tailored to the needs of clinicians responding to DFV.

Additionally, be sure to access current local DFV training available to all staff delivered by the Metro North DFV workforce specialists. See [this link](#) for dates in March and April 2024.



It's in our control to end coercive control

www.qld.gov.au/domesticviolence



Retirement of Chris Russell

After a few false starts, the time has come to say farewell to Chris and congratulate her on her retirement, after 17 years at the RBWH. Andrew Patrick (Team Manager, Northern CCT) reflected that during this time Chris has chased countless bloods, arranged thousands of dispensations and talked to many families and private providers. She has also provided extraordinary support to our medical staff, pharmacy staff, clinicians and to the consumers of the RBWH across inpatient and community. Chris is always helpful, kind, and considerate of others, and has been well known for her kitchen efforts and feeding her colleagues.

Whilst we will all miss Chris in her role, what will be missed more is her presence and friendship. Chris humbly thanked all her colleagues for their support and acknowledged the contribution everyone makes every day working with consumers and their families. All the best to a fabulous nursing professional.



Team Leader Andrew Patrick (left) and Chris Russell (right) at her farewell.

Best wishes

Kathryn