

# Message from the Executive Director RBWH

Louise Oriti



Dear colleagues,

## Supporting Cognitive Impairment across RBWH

There is currently an [EOI now out](#) for an RBWH priority project supporting Cognitive Impairment across all services at RBWH.

This is a focus for us as dementia is the number one cause of death and burden of disease for women in Australia today, and prevalence is increasing with an ageing population. Delirium is a leading hospital-associated complication. Dementia is the major risk factor for delirium, and delirium increases risk of future dementia.

A 2023 prevalence audit of patients with cognitive impairment found 40 per cent of all inpatients had cognitive impairment. The prevalence audit demonstrated that patients with some form of cognitive impairment span all admitting units and service lines. Optimal care for patients with cognitive impairment is therefore everyone's business and will not be improved by a single model of care or action within a single discipline or service line.

The project mentioned above will support the development and implementation of a program supporting the unique needs of people with cognitive impairment, including delirium and dementia. The program of works will enable our environment, systems and workforce to deliver safe, integrated person- and family-centred care, in order to preserve autonomy, prevent harm and maintain health and wellbeing. Professor Alison Mudge will play a key role in overseeing this work.

## 2024 Herston Health Precinct Symposium 2024

A reminder that the 2024 Herston Health Precinct Symposium starts on Monday (2 September) with networking and coffee from 8.30am and Session One commencing at 9am in the Education Centre (auditorium).

We have a fantastic program on offer and we encourage you to attend as much of the program as possible – to network with and learn from others, support your research colleagues and celebrate the research achievements on the Herston campus.

### Highlights of the three-day Symposium (Monday – Wednesday) include:

- A didgeridoo performance by Elwyn Henaway (Gungu) at 8.45am (Monday) and opening of the Symposium with Acknowledgement of Country by Geoffrey Binge at 9am on Monday
- Oral presentations covering a wide range of topics across two morning sessions (9-11.50am)
- A panel discussion on innovative pathways for clinicians and consumers (Monday, 12-1pm)
- The Great Debate – quantitative research is better than qualitative (Tuesday, 12-1pm)
- The keynote presentation by Professor Elizabeth Powell and the Symposium Award Ceremony (Wednesday, 12-1 pm)
- Coffee and networking (from 8.30am each day) with morning tea and lunch (from 1pm) provided
- Poster presentations on Monday and Tuesday (1-2 pm)
- Institute tours (Monday and Tuesday from 2pm) – registration required (see program for details)

- Music by Stairwell Project musicians.

Registration for the Symposium is desirable, but not mandatory.

Please encourage your colleagues to attend. Hope to see you there!

[Find a copy of the program here.](#)

### **2024 Metro North Health Research Summit**

Following the Symposium, MNHHS will be hosting the inaugural Metro North Health Research Summit.

This event will bring together expert minds across the healthcare sector, academic and industry based clinical research settings to hear from world leading guests and learn about new developments and innovations in health and medical research.

The summit will provide an excellent opportunity to not only hear from some of the leading experts in health and medical research, but also to network and engage directly with healthcare professionals across the medical, nursing and allied health professions.

To register for a ticket, visit the [Tickets](#) website.

For more information, contact the Metro North Office of Research. Phone 3647 9631 or [send an email](#).

### **Metro North Occupational Violence Roadshow is coming to RBWH**

The Queensland Occupational Violence Strategy Unit (QOVSU) is coming to us on Wednesday 27 November at the Education Centre. This is your opportunity to talk with the team and to hear how QOVSU and Metro North can support you in Occupational Violence Prevention.

Four education sessions are available between 9am – 4pm.

Learn about:

- Unacceptable Behaviour Discharge from Care procedure
- Post critical incident supports in Metro North
- Occupational violence initiatives.

What you will take away:

- New learnings to add to your OV toolkit
- QOVSU merchandise.

There will be limited spots available [so register here](#).

**Staff profile: Clinical Director of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Dr Cameron Mackay**



Dr Cameron Mackay wants people to move away from many of the modern connotations associated with plastic surgery, which are quite different from the vital work that actually goes on in public health.

“Plastic surgeons in public health systems are primarily involved in complex surgery to reconstruct patients following oncologic surgery or trauma. Plastic surgeons mould, reconstruct and restore normal anatomy following misfortune,” Dr Mackay says.

He and his team are endeavouring to rejuvenate Plastic Surgery Services at the Royal to ensure the department evolves and adapts to demand.

“Like many governance roles, my work is taking place three to five years in the future, while the department operations continue to take place in the present,” Dr Mackay says.

The Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at RBWH performs over 8,000 outpatient encounters and over 3,000 procedures per year, the majority involving malignancy.

Outside of work, Dr Mackay spends much of his spare time watching his three active teenagers with pride as they participate in a variety of sporting activities.

“I’m kept very busy between rugby, cricket and rowing events and I wouldn’t have it any other way,” he says.

[Read more about Dr Mackay and his team here.](#)

### **Metro North Staff Community Facebook Page**

Metro North Health is trialling a new way for everyone to share good news about what's happening at RBWH.

The new Metro North Health Staff Community Facebook Page is now open, and all Royal staff are invited to join.

The page has been designed to give Metro North staff more options for sharing fun events and good news in a more convenient and interactive way.

Joining the page is optional, and it won't replace any of our traditional information channels, or be used for confidential or clinical information. The Code of Conduct will also apply to everyone using the page.

It's something that has worked well in other Health Services in Queensland, and I encourage everyone to give it a try by [clicking here](#).

## Thanking Gary Power



I recently had the pleasure of presenting a certificate of recognition to Mr Gary Power, expressing heartfelt thanks for his exceptional leadership as the Chair of the RBWH Consumer Advisory Group and as a key member of the RBWH Executive Committee from April 2018-2024.

Gary's guidance and dedication have been invaluable to the RBWH Consumer Advisory Group and the RBWH Executive Committee. His insightful counsel and unwavering commitment to person-centred care have been instrumental in delivering high-quality care to the communities we serve.

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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