

Message from the Executive Director TPCH

Tami Photinos



Dear team,

It's been another busy week at TPCH and despite the warmer weather, demands remain high across all areas of the hospital. My thanks to all staff for their hard work and efforts in continuing to deliver high quality care to our patients, especially with the constant challenges around patient flow, staff illness and other changes on the hospital campus including car parking.

Car parking update

Impact of recent changes

Recent changes to car parking and access is proving challenging for many staff. These changes include the temporary closure of the After-Hours car park, the reservation of car parking in the Webster Road staff car park for afternoon and night shift staff, and the new one way traffic flow around the helipad. These arrangements are necessary as the campus prepares for our major TPCH expansion program to commence in mid-September.

Unfortunately there have been a number of incidents of staff members parking other staff members in, preventing them from being able to leave car parks after their shifts. While I appreciate there are significant parking pressures on our site at present, this sort of behaviour is completely unacceptable and not at all in line with our organisational values. If you are unable to park in a marked bay, you will need to seek parking in the overflow "dustbowl" or surrounding streets ensuring compliance with local council parking restrictions. Works on the 'dustbowl' are commencing this Sunday 1 September to help address some of our parking constraints with further details below. Please ensure you leave adequate time to find a carpark prior to your shift. Line managers remain supportive of assisting staff with paid time to move their vehicles closer to site if finishing work after dark.

To help prevent these types of incidents from occurring, we will be increasing our monitoring of staff car parking areas through extra security patrols during peak times where possible. However, if you see someone parking where they shouldn't, please write down the details of their vehicle and report to security as a priority on 3139 5908.

Dustbowl' car park works starting Sunday

TPCH Expansion Project team will commence 'Dustbowl' car park works this Sunday 1 September to maximise the number of informal parking spaces in this car park. These works will deliver over 100 additional car parks. The works will be rolled out across three stages to ensure only a small section of the 'Dustbowl' is closed during each stage, ensuring the majority of the car park remains open and available for staff use. Additionally, new car parks will be installed on the traffic island near the Dustbowl, prior to Dustbowl works commencing to ensure there is no net loss to car park numbers during these works. It is important for staff to note that during the second and third stages of works, running from 8 to 13 September, staff will need to enter the 'Dustbowl' via Farnell Street as the existing vehicle entry will be closed while works are underway. Temporary signage will be installed and traffic controllers will be onsite to safely direct the flow of vehicles around the work zones.

Good news

I'd like to share recent achievements of some of our teams:

Last weekend after the hospital being on Tier 3 for 13 days straight, our **Emergency Department (ED)** team delivered two days in a row of 100 per cent transfer of care (TOC) for our

patients who present via Ambulance. TOC refers to the time from triage to bed allocation and our ED team were able to transfer all patients within the required 25 minutes, supporting the delivery of more timely care for our patients. Great result!



Our **Critical Care Research Group**, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, received some positive media coverage last weekend regarding the revolutionary hypothermic oxygenated perfusion (HOPE) technology. HOPE allows donor hearts to remain outside the body for longer and travel further than ever before and has now been used in 100 lifesaving transplants. Congratulations to Prof John Fraser and the CCRG team!
Read [Sunday Mail](#) article.



Allied Health research has had some big wins:

- Sarah Mackay from Dietetics won the 'New Researcher Award' at the Dietitians Australia Conference for her presentation around exploring perspectives on malnutrition technology as part of her PhD work.
- Angela Matson, also from Dietetics was recognised for her work on bowel cancer screening which made one of the top five highlights of this month's 15th Australasian Cystic Fibrosis Conference.
- Speech Pathology Team Leader, Ann Finnimore achieved top-cited author status for the second time in the *International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders* on behalf of Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists for her article on the development and trial of a supported self-management program for people with Parkinson's disease following intensive speech intervention.

TPCH Staff Excellence Awards

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 is Speech Pathology Week, so Director Allied Health Perry Judd visited the Speech Pathology service, where he had the opportunity to watch our speechies in action with Team Leader Ann Finnimore delivering a session to patient Gillian Mott who has been attending the Rehabilitation Day Therapy Unit for speech pathology since July. Our Speech Pathologists support many patients like Gillian who experience speech and language disorders as a result of various clinical conditions, working with them to improve their communication and swallowing functions.



Yesterday, some of our Executive team attended a special multicultural lunch hosted by the Rehabilitation and Acute Stroke (RAS) Unit, to celebrate the many different cultures within the RAS team. It was a great opportunity to chat with staff in a more relaxed environment and recognise the diversity of our workforce here at TPCH. Not to mention, it was a chance to taste some delicious culinary treats! Thanks RAS team for the invitation!



RAS Unit multicultural lunch

Health Equity update

Working Groups

Thanks to those staff who have already registered to participate in our TPCH Health Equity Working Groups. Staff from all streams are invited to register for one of the five working groups which are aligned to the five Key Priority Areas of the Health Equity Strategy, with the aim of improving outcomes for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander consumers. The first meetings of these groups are planned for October so if you're interested in joining, please email your expression of interest to: tpch-healthequity@health.qld.gov.au

For more information visit the [Metro North Health Equity QHEPS page](#)

Acknowledgement of Country

The Queensland Government has legislation that each Hospital and Health Service has a health equity strategy. One of the strategies and actions we undertake to highlight our commitment to health equity, is to ensure that all meetings start with an Acknowledgement of Country.

The Acknowledgement of Country can be long or short. It respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country and the speaker may add their own learnings around health equity and the purpose and intent of the meeting. An Acknowledgement to Country should include the following:

The Prince Charles Hospital and Metro North Health acknowledges the Turrbal people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land upon which we live, work and walk, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

For more information about Welcomes and Acknowledgements go to:

Staff profile

As it's Speech Pathology week, today we will profile Senior Speech Pathologist, Pip Tindall. Pip works in TPCH's Rehabilitation and Acute Stroke Unit providing assessment and therapy to patients with swallowing or communication problems following a stroke.

Having started at TPCH in 2015 in her first speech pathology role, Pip enjoys getting to know patients during their rehabilitation stay and seeing their improvement throughout their admission. She values the opportunity to make a positive difference to the outcomes of patients in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team, and is especially passionate about advocating for patients with communication impairments to receive the best care possible.



In her spare time, Pip is kept busy by her two young sons. She enjoys pilates and trying new restaurants with friends.

Patient compliment

Here is a wonderful compliment received from a mother about the support her daughter received from our Child Life Therapist during a visit to the Children's Emergency Department.

"We recently had an unexpected visit to the emergency department when my 12 year old cut her inner thigh with an ice skate. The Child Life Therapist came in to talk to her. I understand the need to "distract" a child in order for the doctors to do their work. However, I was very impressed and to see the therapist advocating for my daughters needs and interests.

After she declined to watch TV or read a book, the therapist could tell she was interested in what the doctor was doing. The therapist then asked if she wanted to be informed and have the doctor tell her what was going on. "Yes please!" was her response. The doctor described the numbing agent and why adrenaline was used to stop the bleeding, then talked through the process of suturing.

My daughter very much enjoyed the process (obviously not the pain so much) and was disappointed that she wasn't coming back to ED to have the sutures removed. Children are so often overlooked; I was presently surprised to see she had a representative looking after her rights. Thank you!



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

Today's quote

"I believe that the greatest gift you can give your family and the world is a healthy you" – Joyce Meyer

Tami Photinos
Executive Director