

Executive Message

Metro North Health



Chief Executive Adj. Prof. Jackie Hanson

Dear colleagues,

With Christmas almost here, many of us are looking forward to taking a well-earned break to spend some quality time with family and friends. For most of us, the festive season is something we welcome as it represents relaxation and recreation with the people we care about most. For others however, the festive season is not necessarily a happy time as it can be a reminder of life's pressures whether that be personal, domestic or financial.

If you or a colleague are struggling and need support, Metro North offers a range of options through the [Metro North Staff Wellness Portal](#). I encourage you to reach out and access these channels if you feel like you need some extra support. It's important we take care of ourselves so we can continue to take care of others.



Executive update

Yesterday you would have received a message from the Chief Operating Officer, Jane Hancock advising that she has made the decision to resign, effective 10 February 2025 and will be on leave until this time.

Jane has been the COO for just over two years and has overseen some of Metro North's major developments including the opening of the Satellite Hospitals and the Caboolture Hospital Redevelopment Project among other service initiatives.

We will be recruiting early next year to the role. Glynis Schultz, ED COH will be acting COO from Monday 16 December for two weeks.

Please join me in thanking Jane for her leadership and commitment, and we wish her all the best for the next stage in her professional journey.

Board Chair and CE Vidcast

Next Thursday 19 December, from 1 - 2 pm, Metro North staff are invited to attend the final Vidcast for the year. The Vidcast will be hosted by the Board Chair, Bernard Curran and myself. This is opportunity to receive updates about the latest activities across Metro North and ask questions. I look forward to seeing many of you online.

Join Vidcast

Deadly Awards

Earlier this month, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Leadership team hosted their very first Deadly Awards as part of a special Better Together staff gathering at Zillmere. The Awards provided an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and services in improving the health outcomes and health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Congratulations to all award recipients and a big thanks to Sherry Holzapfel and her team for holding this successful event.



Deadly Awards event

New staff appointment

We are pleased to welcome Tara Denaro to the position of Metro North Nursing and Midwifery Director, First Nations Women, Children and Families (Identified). This position is the first of its kind within Metro North, representing our commitment to improving health outcomes for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Tara is a Mununjali woman who grew up on the southside of Brisbane, surrounded by a strong and proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. She brings 20 years of experience in health, having worked in both Queensland Health and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health sector.



Tara is a registered nurse, midwife, and child health nurse with experience in both hospital and community settings. She is a strong advocate for holistic healthcare that addresses physical wellbeing as well as the cultural, social, and emotional wellbeing of families and communities. Welcome Tara!

Safety and Quality news

Metro North Health has been recently recognised at the 27th ACHS Quality Improvement Awards for its excellent project submission – *Minimising iron staining – an 8-year quality improvement journey* in the Clinical Excellence and Patient Safety category.

The project, authored by Martin Canning, Consultant Safety and Quality Pharmacist, Metro North Clinical Governance and Assoc Prof Chris Freeman, Safe and Effective Medication Practice Research Collaborative, has led to improvements in patient care through earlier identification and intervention, resulting in smaller stain sizes. Congratulations to Martin, Chris and all the staff across Metro North who contributed to this important body of work. Well done!

Renaming Satellite Hospitals

Staff are invited to have their say on a new name for satellite hospitals via an [online survey](#). The opinions of staff are important. A clinical advisory group will be established to review the consultation findings. A name change is designed to help reduce confusion and ensure more patients can access the care they need, when and where they need it. The commitment to consulting clinicians on a new name is a part of the Queensland Government's 100-day plan. The survey closes **Friday 20 December** and only takes a few minutes to complete. For more information [visit the website](#).

Staff profile

Caboolture Hospital Surgical Ward Nurse Unit Manager, Colleen Herrmann was recognised for her tremendous 50 years of service to Queensland Health this week.

Starting at the PAH in 1975, Colleen worked at Redcliffe Hospital for 20 years before making the move to Caboolture Hospital in 2000 where she has continued caring for patients with great dedication.

For Colleen, nursing is a calling and she finds great reward and humility in helping unwell people through hard times.

She says that going through her late husband's 10-year journey with cancer gave her invaluable insight into the emotions of others, their highs and lows. She is grateful for the support she received from her work family at Caboolture to help her get through this difficult time. Colleen has no immediate plans to retire, she enjoys her work caring for patients too much.



Congratulations on your amazing career milestone Colleen!

Shout out

This week's shout out goes to the RBWH Trauma team who recently received prestigious

honours for their research work. The team's work was presented at the Australia and New Zealand Trauma Society Trauma Conference 2024, where Deputy Director of Trauma Services Frances Williamson and her team won Best Medical Oral Presentation for her paper on community opioid dispensing after rib fracture injuries. Frances's paper also won a UQ Critical Care Research award.

Advanced Occupational Therapist (Burns) Andrea McKittrick won Best Poster for her work around 3D scanning and printing of masks for burns patients, which was a collaboration with the Herston Biofabrication Institute, Burns and Occupational Therapy.

This is a fabulous achievement for RBWH in receiving top awards at a multi-disciplinary event with representation from every major trauma centre across Australia and New Zealand. Well done!



Frances Williamson and Andrea McKittrick

Sad news

We are saddened by the news of the recent passing of former TPCB cardiologist, Dr Andrew Galbraith.

Dr Galbraith was the first director of the Queensland Heart Failure and Transplant Unit at TPCB which led to the State's first heart transplant in June 1990. Since this time, over 510 heart transplants have been performed with many thousands of patients benefitting from Dr Galbraith's care.

Dr Galbraith was known for his inquisitive mind, keen research focus, and his benevolence and empathy towards his patients. He will be remembered as an excellent physician, dedicated mentor and caring human being who was greatly respected by colleagues and patients. Our thoughts are with Dr Galbraith's loved ones during this time.



Find our Christmas Elves

Congratulations to Doreen Vieira from Redcliffe Hospital (pictured below left) and to

Karina Forster and Anuradha Singh from RBWH (pictured below right) who were the first staff members from these facilities to submit their elf selfies.



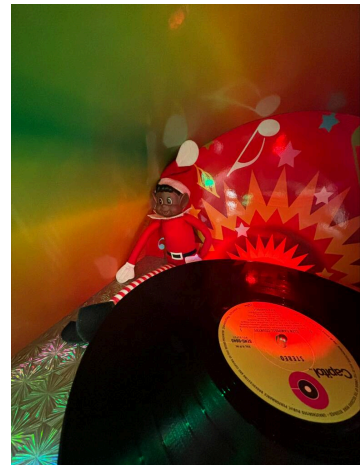
This week, our two Christmas elves have moved to two new locations within the health service to spread some more festive cheer.

The first staff members at each location to email their 'elf selfie' to MetroNorth-Communications@health.qld.gov.au will win a prize.

Photos and clues about the two elf locations are below:

CLUE 1:

*No ankle-biters here, only cool cats and hipsters
kicking this pad.
Rattling and rolling. Having a ball.
Come on razz your berries. Find this Daddy-O.*



CLUE 2:

*In a place for prince-iplid study, take a peek,
and you may find this festive elf you seek.
Amidst the books and journals near,
find the elf that's hiding here.*

Kind regards,
Jackie

Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer
Adj. Prof. Alanna Geary



Dear colleagues,

Over the past two weeks, we have observed a sustained increase in COVID-19 cases, evidenced by higher presentations to the emergency department and rising hospital admissions. This trend aligns with patterns emerging statewide and nationally, as well as in other Metro North and SEQ regions. Based on this assessment, we will make a planned transition to Tier 1 in the Metro North Acute Respiratory Illness Response Plan on Tuesday 17 December 2024.

Please be mindful of the following:

- **Acute Respiratory Illness Response:** Ensure you check with your line manager for any additional requirements specific to your directorate's Acute Respiratory Illness Response Subplan.
- **COVID-19 and flu precautions:** Continue wearing masks in clinical areas in line with PPE guidelines. Ensure that your flu and COVID vaccinations, as well as annual fit testing are up to date, and stay compliant with mandatory training programs.
- **Stay home if unwell:** If you're feeling unwell, please stay home, notify your line manager, and submit your leave request promptly via the Smart Leave form on MyHR.
- **Pertussis (Whooping Cough):** Consider pertussis in patients presenting with a cough, particularly if it is paroxysmal, prolonged or associated with post-tussive vomiting—regardless of age or vaccination status.

We will continue to encourage visitors to wear masks, use hand sanitiser and refrain from visiting if they have any respiratory symptoms. Masks and hand sanitiser will remain available at facility entrances.

As we stay vigilant, it's important to remember that a new wave of acute respiratory illness could arise at any time. Our commitment to monitoring, preparedness and proactive measures remains strong.

Thank you for your ongoing hard work, dedication and positive attitude over the past few months. I'm incredibly proud to be part of such a fantastic team.

Warm regards,
Alanna

Executive Director, Clinical Governance
Grant Carey-ide



Dear colleagues,

Over the past few months, I've highlighted the Clinical Skills Development Service (CSDS) on several occasions - and for good reason. This year, CSDS celebrated its 20th anniversary with two standout events: a symposium and a hackathon. Both were so well-received that there's already a strong push to bring them back next year.

An important focus for CSDS is healthcare education. CSDS provides invaluable opportunities for healthcare professionals to enhance their clinical skills performance and deliver better patient outcomes. Their diverse range of face-to-face, blended and online courses cater to a wide array of needs including maternity, trauma, safety and quality, and much more.

I encourage everyone to explore what CSDS has to offer. With limited spots available, now is the time to secure your place for 2025: [Courses - Clinical Skills Development Service \(clds.qld.edu.au\)](https://clds.qld.edu.au).

Regards,
Grant

Chief Finance and Corporate Officer
Alister Whitta



Dear team,

With the festive season here, it's timely to remind everyone about our obligations under the [Gifts and Benefits Procedure](#). As public sector employees we need to be mindful of the perception of gifts and benefits.

All staff should be aware of the procedure, when it is appropriate to accept a gift, and the requirements [declaring gifts and benefits](#) valued over \$50 or where there is a real or potential conflict of interest.

In all cases, regardless of value, cash and items easily converted to cash such as gift cards and vouchers, lotto tickets and scratch-its must be refused.

Examples of gifts and benefit include (but are not limited to):

- Gifts of alcohol such as beer, wine, spirits
- Flowers
- Gift baskets
- Tickets to events
- Restaurant meals
- Lucky door prizes at external events
- Preferential treatment
- Discounts on commercial items.

If you have any queries about gifts and benefits, please contact our [Financial Control Reporting Policy team](#).

Regards,
Alister

Metro North Health



We uphold our commitment to health equity through our Values in Action
Respect | Integrity | Compassion | High performance | Teamwork

Metro North Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land upon which we live, work and walk, and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.



Queensland
Government

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[Email us](#)