



Dear colleagues,

This will be my final message of 2024 and I would like to take the opportunity to say thank-you to all staff who are working over the Christmas period, ensuring our community continues to have access to vital healthcare.

For those who are taking some time off, I hope you enjoy your time with your loved ones and get some well-earned rest.

This year I will be spending Christmas with my mother, three brothers and their families in the Whitsundays. Weather permitting, I will also try and get a day in at Whitehaven as a favourite place to visit, and will then travel further north to visit my son and grandchildren for a few days. The week of New Year will include time with my Brisbane family members.

Christmas time means many things to us all. For me, it's about the original meaning of the day, family time and a pause from the usual schedule. It's also a time to reflect upon the successes and challenges of the previous year and raise hopes and ambitions for the year ahead. I look forward to continuing the great work we do together here at RBWH next year. We should all feel very proud of what we achieve every day for our patients and our community

RBWH application for a proposed expansion

RBWH in partnership with Metro North is currently preparing a 'Gate 0' application for the proposed expansion of the facility. This application is to determine the level of demand and need for a proposed expansion and, if successful, we will then proceed to the next steps of a very detailed process that informs and supports hospital expansions.

This process is supported by the development of the RBWH Health Services Plan, which is the foundation of activity throughout and infrastructure requirements over the past five years, along with modelling of projected future demand. A strong consultation program has been completed with clinical areas which is providing further detail and context to the Health Services Plan.

The Gate 0 application is due for submission in early 2025 and while we await the outcome we will continue to plan and commence developing models for the future.

Christmas Staff Breakfast



Last Thursday's Christmas Staff Breakfast was a huge success. Other members of the Executive and I had a great time seeing you all and serving up some delicious breakfasts, prepared so well by our Food Services team.

The decision was made this year to hold a breakfast rather than a lunch in order to make it possible for those staff finishing night shifts and those starting their morning shifts to come along. It made for a great atmosphere, with people taking the time to sit down and have a chat to colleagues as they ate – and that's exactly what these types of events are all about.

Phins fire up the barbie



The line stretched around the corner and down the Level 6 corridor at lunchtime last Wednesday as the NRL Dolphins came to serve up a free sausage sizzle for staff, thanks to the RBWH Foundation.

With the food, merchandise giveaways and plenty of selfies, there was much excitement among those attending.

It's been great having the Dolphins visit a few times this year – there's a real affinity developing between the club, the Royal and the Foundation.

We hope to see a lot more of them in 2025.

Christmas Decorating Competition

I'm always surprised by the quality of Christmas decorations featured in our annual competition, and this year is has been most impressive. The winners and runners up were truly dazzling, but the entries were quite brilliant across the board. The effort and creativity that goes into them is really impressive.

If you get a chance, go for a tour to see as many of the decorated areas as you can – [here's the full list to guide you.](#)

But there could be only two winners and runners up. Congratulations to the following teams, who all received amazing prize hampers thanks to RBWH Foundation:

Inpatient category

First place: 9AS



Second place: 4C



Administration/Ambulatory category:

First place: Medical Imaging



Second place: Emergency Medical Imaging

Look out for more photos next week on the [Metro North Health Staff Community Facebook page](#).



Thank-you all for your tireless efforts this year, you make the Royal a truly special place to work.

I would also like to personally thank the RBWH Executive team for their valuable support and advice throughout the year.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy new year.

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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