



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.

Kia Ora CKW team,

Christmas is truly upon us now - decorations, Christmas food, and it seems that real Grinches are everywhere. This has not, however, stopped the community needing and wanting our services with it being an exceptionally busy and challenging past couple of weeks across all our CKW services. We continue to experience high demand for acute care via ED, high planned care demand through surgery and outpatients and our weather (oh, our weather) affecting our patients health, and flooding and heat impacting our staff and services.



Living in Queensland with the stormy season and the humidity certainly makes this time of the year an even bigger mixed bag of joy and challenge than it normally is in health care where the sad and challenging situations we work with do not stop during festive periods.

While not everyone celebrates Christmas, in Australia and my homeland New Zealand, it is truly a festive time that for Grinches like me it is hard to escape! At times, these festivities and fun can be overwhelming in the health care environment. The positivity, fun, energy and teamwork towards celebration, however, is something that boosts our staff morale. It is also notable that many patients really enjoy and appreciate the positivity as they navigate their challenges.

I certainly take this time to reflect and be grateful for the beautiful place I live, my amazing family, my truly awesome friendship network and the fantastic team I work with. This week as we have navigated Christmas and demand, I certainly thank you all for that!

Christmas decoration competition

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all staff who participated in this year's Christmas Decoration Competition. Your creativity and festive spirit have truly brightened our workplace and brought joy to both our team and the patients we care for. The effort and enthusiasm shown are a testament to the strong sense of community here at CKW. We are grateful for your involvement in making this holiday season extra special.

It is also apparent that we have many staff with amazing creative skills alongside their health worker skills. It was stunning.

Best overall: Caboolture Satellite Hospital Minor Injury and Illness Clinic



Best Clinical Area: SOPD



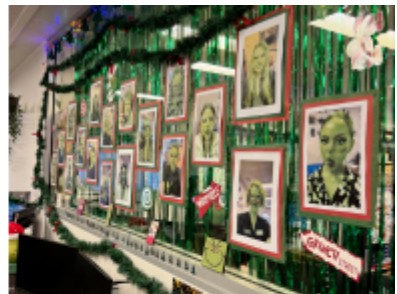
Highly commended Clinical Area: Maternity Green Team



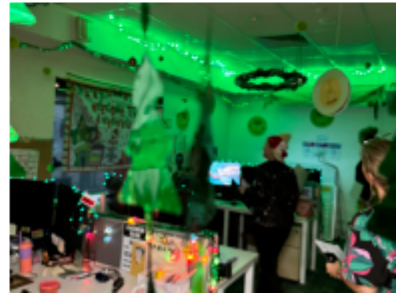
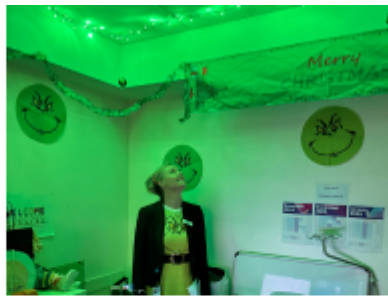
Best Non-Clinical Area: Food Services



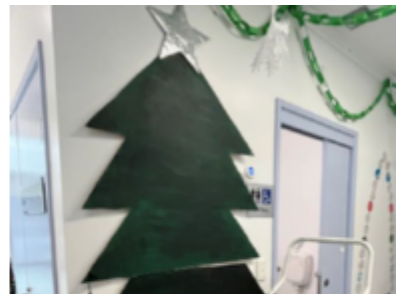
Best Office: Clinical Governance



Highly commended best office: Education Office



Best Commitment to Patient Engagement: Mental Health Ward 1



Most innovative interpretation of the theme: Operating Theatres



Christmas appeals

I have been so impressed at how many Christmas appeal initiatives our teams have supported across the CKW clinical directorate. I have showcased some in previous messages, such as the animal rescue collection at the Caboolture Minor Injuries and Illness Centre, toys for kids, pyjamas and t-shirts for patients - we really are a kind, compassionate, and giving team. This is the most amount of appeals I have seen in a workplace. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

This week, I was lucky enough to be invited to the Administration Services Christmas Appeal morning tea, and although I was late, I got to see the collection and was sent away with a large plate of goodies – thank you Leanne.

Leanne and Emma from Caboolture Administration Services, partnered with Lissa from the Chermiside Safety Service Centre, and coordinated a Christmas toy drive. Thanks to all your generosity, they were able to donate 247 gifts that will go to kids in residential care this Christmas. Congratulations and thank you to Leanne and Emma, what an incredible achievement!



The Common Good toy appeal

Thank you to The Common Good team, Nic Theuerkauf and Merryl Nordstrom from Harvey Norman and David Winters from Rotary Club of Aspley, who this week delivered gifts for kids who'll be in hospital over the Christmas holidays.

They dropped around 40 special Christmas toys for kids across the Caboolture Hospital Paediatric Emergency Department and Ward. This extraordinary act of kindness, thanks to funds raised by the Rotary Club Aspley in connection with Harvey Norman, will surely bring smiles to the kids' faces. Also, a huge thank you to Mr Toys Toyworld, which was open for an extra hour the other day so that the toys could be picked and purchased.



The Common Good is also donating care packs to the Mental Health Services and have confirmed some funding for a number of initiatives that I hope to announce shortly. They really are an amazing philanthropic partner. I really encourage people to support them through using the café, even if just for your regular coffee or through a donation if you are able, knowing these come back to support us! You can donate [here.](#)

Christmas Carols by the Gallery Singers

If you heard Christmas carols being sung through the hospital on Wednesday, it was not your imagination, but the lovely voices of the Gallery Singers. These lovely ladies sang to the patients throughout the hospital in the foyer on level four, and to the kids in the Paediatric ward, followed by a service in the chapel. They sang songs like Holy Night, The Little Drummer Boy and Silent Night. I am told that patients and staff got involved and sang along with them, bringing lots of smiles to faces



I was so disappointed I missed the carollers. While not big on Christmas, I do love singing joy across the halls. When I was little, my Nana use to take me with her while she sang carols at aged care facilities, and I remember how happy the residents were.



Elder's Day at Woodford Correctional Facility

Some of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Team recently visited our Woodford Corrections Centre. The team coordinated an 'Elder's Day' at the facility with the help of the Woodford staff. It was a great opportunity for them to connect with the elders and discuss their services, particularly the men's group sessions they have been running at the facility. They also had the opportunity to reach out to other identified patients within the facility, who weren't able to attend, to invite them to the next men's group session. This is such a positive way for the men to wrap up the year.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Team - 2024 the year that was

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander team have been compiling some events and achievements the Health Services team have been involved with over the course of 2024. You can check out the presentation [here](#).



ieMR Program
Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospitals
7 May 2025

ieMR Go-Live
Days Hours Minutes
137:21:46

Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospitals ieMR Project Update

In this week's update, we'll be hearing about the integrated electronic Medical Record (ieMR) from someone who has an abundance of experience working with digital clinical systems.

Dr Stephen Priestley works as a Senior Staff Specialist in Emergency Medicine at Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) and holds the position of SCHHS's Clinical Director of Digital Transformation. He has been involved in many ieMR go-lives across the state, with particular expertise in FirstNet implementations within emergency departments.

Q: What should we be looking forward to when the ieMR comes to Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospitals?

A: Being on board Queensland Health's integrated electronic Medical Record (ieMR) means patients' complete records are stored in one, easy to access place, which health staff can quickly



look up from any facility. Our patients can attend any site and all their information, in terms of treatments, operations, medications, and consultations, is more easily available to clinicians.

This saves a lot of time, without having to go in and out of different systems or wait for the arrival of paper records to trawl through.

The ieMR also allows some automatic in-built safety checks, such as drug allergy checking and drug interactions checking. While we have always had allergy information on paper records, the alert pop-ups in the digital system are an extra safety net for our patients.

Q: What advice would you have for someone who's a little nervous about transitioning from paper-based to digital workflows next year?

A: Whilst the amount of training and change can seem daunting at the outset, ieMR support teams and trainers are experts in supporting staff through the learning and change management process to adopting your new workflows.

The experience is that after a very short amount of time (typically days, if not weeks), the majority of staff feel comfortable and confident in using the ieMR to assist in providing great care to their patients. Surveys tell us that once Queensland healthcare staff have experienced great care using the ieMR digital patient record, many attest to its functionality and typically never wish to use paper medical charts ever again.

Finally, coming into Christmas and the new year, our ieMR Program colleagues have extended their best wishes to all of us across CKW for a safe and happy holiday period.



(Pictured above: Maree, Sean, Jodie, and Michael from the ieMR Program Leadership team)

We are all looking forward to the work ahead in the new year, and our continued collaboration in preparing for a successful ieMR go-live in May 2025.

Reflection



While the Christmas decorations are sparkling in the CKW clinical directorate, in New Zealand (my homeland) the Pohutukawa's (NZ Christmas tree) will be flourishing. It is a season I love and here we have many natural occurrences I look forward to each year – the jacaranda season, the frangipani season and the fire tree season. In New Zealand, I fondly remember Pohutukawa's as they signalled summer, warmth and blue sky.

Christmas is the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Although not all of us celebrate in this way, the festivities give us an opportunity to see family, and friends in, more often than not, a happy way.

I like to take this time to reflect on the people, of who there are many, who have sad and challenging times at Christmas. The commercialisation of Christmas can often create pressure on people to buy presents or host events that they really cannot afford. There are those who have lost loved ones at a time expected to be joyful, have anniversaries of losses, or first-time Christmases without loved ones. I do encourage you all to check in with people, to continue to smile, say hello with kindness, and treat everyone with an open inquisitiveness and compassion as we truly do not know what is going on for them.

With many of our non-clinical services going on a break over the Christmas period, Brie, our communications guru who is working with us at CKW currently, is taking some well-earned leave, so this will be my last formal message of the year. However, I will send some information out next week to our managers to circulate to their teams (I will include a dog photo for those of you who tell me they look for them each week).

It has been such a big year at CKW, there have been many challenges but so many more achievements. I will certainly take time to reflect over this period of all the achievements, that we as a team have made. I am really interested in your reflections, so please send them through to me [ASK KARLENE](#).

I sincerely want to thank you all for the commitment to our community, and how much of yourself aside from your professional self, you bring to work and give to our patients and families every day. Each and every one of you who work, or volunteer for us, support the care that we provide and make it possible for us to look after our patients and community. THANK YOU!



Also, for those of you I don't get to see or speak to, I also wish you a happy and peaceful new year and look forward to engaging with you in 2025. Please take care over this period and be safe as you celebrate.

Quotes of the day

"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future." - Agnes M. Pahro

I have to include this one too, which someone pointed out was for me:

"All I need is coffee and my dog, it is too peopley outside" – The Grinch



Got a question or suggestion for the CKW Executive Director?

EMAIL ASK KARLENE



Kind regards,

Karlene Willcocks

Executive Director,

Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford



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Health**



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