



Dear Team,

This week I've been attending Senior Medical Officer meetings where I have had an opportunity to engage and learn more about key issues and operational management that are essential to keeping TPCH functioning smoothly for our patients, staff and the broader community. So far, I've participated in meetings with Cardiothoracic Surgery, ICU, Anaesthetics and attended the MAC, gaining valuable insights into the challenges and priorities across these areas. I'm particularly looking forward to continuing with staff meetings as they provide a great opportunity for frank and fearless feedback and foster solution-focused discussions that help drive meaningful improvements. The only thing that I'm disappointed about is that I didn't take any selfies!

On Tuesday, Metro North moved to Tier 0 (BAU) on the Acute Respiratory Illness Response Plan due to a decline in both attendance and admissions for ARI. Please be mindful of the following:

- Continue wearing masks in clinical areas as per PPE guidelines.
- Keep your flu and COVID vaccinations up to date
- Keep your annual fit testing and mandatory training up to date
- Stay home if you're unwell and notify your line manager as soon as possible.

Visitors will still be encouraged to wear masks, use hand sanitiser, and avoid visiting if they have respiratory symptoms. Masks and hand sanitiser will be available at the facility entrances.

Heatwaves conditions - Hasn't it been hot?

This week we experienced a severe heat wave, with higher-than-average daytime and nighttime temperatures. While the elderly, young children, pregnant women and those with existing medical conditions are most at risk during heatwaves, anyone can be affected by [heat-related illness](#).

Heatwaves are also associated with higher incidence of strokes, heart attacks and mental health conditions. The health effects are often felt a few days after a heatwave so it is likely our facility will still feel the impact in the coming days.

Remember to stay hydrated (drink 2-3L of water through the day) and if possible, keep any activity to a minimum during the hottest part of the day. For other tips see Metro North's newsroom article on [how to keep safe during a heatwave](#).

Metro North has also created an extranet site to keep staff across our [emergency and disaster response activities](#), including heatwaves.

HBCIS update for gender and pronouns

From February 2025, HBCIS will be updated to enable the recording of a patient's sex assigned at birth (Birth Sex) as well as gender and pronouns. This represents an important first step for Queensland Health in acknowledging and recording health consumer's gender identity within the Patient Admission System (PAS).

If you require more information about the HBCIS update please see the [Gender Identity SharePoint page](#).

Car parking update

With the school holidays coming to an end next week and more staff returning to work, the demand for staff car parking will inevitably increase. Just a reminder that the Emergency On-Call Car Park (also known as the after-hours carpark) temporarily closed on 13 January. Emergency on-call staff can park in Executive Car Parks 1, 2 and 3 on Main Road (via Rode Road) or park in the existing multi-storey car park (P1) and email their parking receipt to: mnh-tpch-expansion@health.qld.gov.au. The existing multi-storey car park is the only car park on the campus for patients and visitors, so where possible, please use the dedicated staff car parks.

The inside fit out of the new multi-storey car park (P2) is now taking place, including the installation of end-of-trip facilities (see right).

We are looking forward to works on P2 being completed in the next few months. We all can't wait to have more car parks when we eventually open.



From next week, access changes to the existing multi-storey car park (P1) are likely to be implemented as the new express ramp between the two car parks begins to be used. Entry to P1 will be via the new ramp which has been built to connect both car parks. The illuminated data sign on Main Road will provide information to people visiting the campus about access changes to the car park.

Building 50

On Wednesday, the TPCH Executive Team toured the new Building 50, before Block 14's relocation. The new space is modern and bright and I'm sure the teams won't take long to settle in. Please take into account that Allied Health may have some delays today and Tuesday the 28 January as they relocate into Building 50.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the establishment of Building 50 and the decanting of Building 14.



Expression of Interest for TPCH Staff Council

TPCH's Staff Council is currently seeking EOI from people across the hospital, in all streams and disciplines. The Staff Council is the voice of the staff body to the TPCH Executive, Metro North, and the Board, providing leadership and advocacy on behalf of all TPCH staff. By engaging staff, fostering a positive workforce culture, and promoting well-being, the Council supports staff to provide exceptional care for our patients.

The Staff Council hold a monthly one-hour meeting as well as opportunities to participate in activities such as representing the Council at hospital and Metro North meetings, speaking at forums, and engaging with consumers.

[Click here](#) if you would like to submit an EOI. Remember, your voice matters.

You can also read more about TPCH Staff Council's Chair, Dr Lucy Dakin (above) in today's Chief Executive message.



Shout out to the Rehab Team

This week's Shout Out goes to Ling and Tik and the TPCH Rehab Team for the work they do getting patients into rehab. Their willingness to take patients earlier in their inpatient stay, and at greater levels of acuity, means that patients are rehabilitated while they are treated, improving patient outcomes and making a difference to patient flow throughout the hospital. Thank you for your wonderful proactive work.

Staff profile

Kevin Hamilton, Manager Protective Services

Kevin Hamilton recently commenced in the role of Manager Protective Services TPCH on 13 January. Kevin comes to Health after a long career in the British Military. He emigrated to Australia in 2005 as a member of the ADF, before transitioning into Diplomatic Security in a hostile environment. From there he moved into Managing and Directing large corporate entities on security and risk management.

Outside of work Kevin is a keen Harley Davidson rider, can regularly be found in a gym and is a

member of the British Ex-Services Association who conduct a number of charity events for mental health awareness. I'm sure you will all give Kevin a warm welcome to TPCH.



Farewell to Dr Jonathan Reinders

Next week we farewell Dr Jonathan Reinders from The Prince Charles Hospital – Metro North Mental Health after an incredible 24 years of dedicated service. His last day with the service will be Friday 31 January.

Dr Reinders started at The Prince Charles Hospital in 2000 as a Senior Registrar and completed his training here before starting as a Consultant Psychiatrist. He has held several clinical roles including with the Chermside Integrated Team, Acute Care and his role for the last 10 years providing clinical care and leadership across the TPCH MHICUs.

Along with his clinical roles, Dr Reinders has also been an important part of the MNMH–TPCH executive leadership team in his role as Deputy Clinical Director Acute Services and Director of ECT.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr Reinders for his hard work, dedication, and leadership and wish him well as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.





Kind regards,

Tami Photinos
Executive Director
The Prince Charles 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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