

Executive Message

Metro North Health



Chief Executive Adj. Prof. Jackie Hanson

Dear colleagues,

With January almost gone, we are now all getting back into our usual busy pace of working in Metro North. I acknowledge that all services are ramping their activity back up with more patients and visitors returning to our facilities for care. As Australia's largest health service, we have an obligation to consistently deliver the best possible care to our patients, and I thank everyone for their shared commitment to this objective.

Executive appointments

Chief Finance and Corporate Officer

Late last year, I announced that our Chief Finance and Corporate Officer (CFCO), Alister Whitta would be finishing up with Metro North to pursue a new professional endeavour in the higher education sector. Alister's final day will be next Thursday 6 February and I would like to thank Alister for his valuable contribution and commitment to Metro North. During his time with us, Alister has been pivotal in Metro North achieving a positive budget outcome for the last three financial years, and in driving numerous key business improvements. His achievements include establishing the Finance Transformation Program to improve culture, capability and business processes; implementing an upgraded corporate records management system, and creating a staff awards program for Corporate Business Services. Please join me in wishing Alister every success for the future.

While we are sad that Alister is leaving us, I am pleased to announce that Robert Graham will be joining us as the new Acting Chief Finance and Corporate Officer (CFCO) Metro North from Monday 3 February.

Many of you may already be familiar with Rob from his previous tenure with us as General Manager, Business Advisory and Commercial Services, where he played a key role in the Finance Functional Review. He has held a number of senior financial leadership roles across various Queensland health services, including at Sunshine Coast



Hospital and Health Service, Metro South Health, Health Support Queensland and most recently at Townsville Hospital and Health Service. In addition to his healthcare expertise, Rob's background spans project consultancy, commercial management, financial accounting, governance, support systems and strategic advisory. I look forward to the valuable insights Rob will bring to the Senior Executive Team. Please join me in warmly welcoming Rob back to Metro North.

Chief Operating Officer

The other important change to our Senior Executive Team is the commencement of Stephen Eaton in the Chief Operating Officer (COO) role this week. Stephen has joined us from Townsville Hospital and Health Service where he was the COO since late 2018, so brings comprehensive experience in the operational leadership of health care organisations. He has also held a number of senior management roles across public, private and non-government organisation sectors, while based in Europe and South East Asia. Stephen will be in the COO role for the next six months. Welcome Stephen!



Metro North Strategic Plan consultation

Metro North is hosting a series of pop-up sessions across the health service in the coming weeks to allow the staff to learn about and provide feedback on the proposed Metro North Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

All staff are invited to attend the sessions at their local facilities, the details for which are below.

Please note today's pop up session at **Redcliffe Hospital, 1-2 pm**, Lecture Room 4 Education Centre.

Herston

Friday 7 February

1.00pm – 2.00pm
RBWH Education Centre foyer

Wednesday 19 February

8.00am – 9.00am
RBWH Education Centre foyer

Redcliffe Hospital

Friday 31 January

1.00pm – 2.00pm
Lecture Room 4, Education Centre

Tuesday 18 February

1.00pm – 2.00pm
Lecture Room 4, Education Centre

Community and Oral Health

Monday 10 February

8.00am – 9.00am
Brighton Auditorium

The Prince Charles Hospital

Thursday 6 February

10.30am – 11.30am
Education Centre foyer

Monday 10 February

9.00am – 10.00am
Education Centre foyer

Wednesday 19 February

12.00pm – 1.00pm
Education Centre foyer

Friday 28 February

1.00pm – 2.00pm
Education Centre foyer

Caboolture Hospital

Tuesday 18 February

12.00pm – 1.00pm
Education Centre Auditorium

Wednesday 26 February

Friday 28 February
3.00pm – 4.00pm
Brighton Auditorium

12.00pm – 1.00pm
Education Centre Auditorium

Thursday 27 February
1:00pm – 2:00pm
Education Centre Auditorium

Distinguished service recognised

Congratulations to Professor John Fraser AO who has been named as an Officer of the Order of Australia for his distinguished service to medicine as an intensive care physician and to global critical care research. Professor Fraser, who is the Director of TPCH's Critical Care Research Group (CCRG) was recognised for his leadership in growing CCRG to become one of the largest multidisciplinary research groups in Australia with a global network spanning more than 60 countries. Well done John!



RBWH Foundation 40th anniversary

This week I attended the launch of RBWH Foundation's 40th anniversary celebrations. It was a pleasure to be joined by Her Excellency Dr Jeanette Young PSM, Governor of Queensland and Board Chair, Bernard Curran to acknowledge four decades of giving by the RBWH Foundation to patient care innovation and research at Metro North's largest hospital.

RBWH Foundation's valuable support has benefitted thousands of patients including Australian Paralympic four-time gold medallist and former RBWH patient, Curtis McGrath who joined the celebration. Curtis was a combat engineer serving with the Australian Army in Afghanistan in 2012, when he lost both legs after stepping on an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). RBWH staff provided life-saving care to Curtis with medical teams treating him for a potentially fatal fungal infection, ultimately allowing a path towards paralympic success.

Patients like Curtis are a reminder of the important contributions made by Foundations like RBWH in helping advance patient care innovation and vital medical research to improve the outcomes of patients within Metro North. Congratulations to RBWH Foundation on reaching this important milestone - 40 years strong!



RBWH Foundation 40th anniversary launch

Staff profile - Prof Michael Sullivan

Michael O'Sullivan is the new Executive Director of the Medicine Stream, Metro North Health. He is also a neurologist at RBWH, with a clinical focus is brain injury and recovery.

Michael works in a multidisciplinary Concussion Clinic and the hyperacute stroke service, aiding with the provision of acute intervention and clot retrieval across Metro North.

As Executive Director of the Medical Stream, he works with medical specialists, clinical directors and executives in internal medicine specialties across all of our facilities to tackle some of the complex system challenges we face. He is also the executive sponsor of the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Project, which is tackling a broad swathe of challenges from concussion care to spinal cord injury and prolonged disorders of consciousness.

Michael completed his training at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London and has been a neurologist for over 15 years. He has been an active clinician scientist over that time, publishing over 70 papers on memory systems, cognition and ageing, stroke and brain injury. He is currently investigating the role of "excitotoxicity" in MND, using a novel type of PET scan, working with the RBWH Departments of Nuclear Medicine, Medical Imaging, Neurology and HIRF.

Michael is excited by the opportunities to work more collaboratively and efficiently created by medical informatics, AI and the science of medical decision-making. As the largest health care organisation in Australia, he says we have the greatest opportunities to benefit from advances made possible by big data.



Shout out

I'd like to shout out to the dedicated Neonatal staff at RBWH who have been operating well over capacity for some weeks. The unusual step of raising the nurseries to Tier 3 status was taken, which gives an indication of the clinical workload and staffing pressures being managed across the Intensive Care Nursery, Special Care Nursery and NeoRESQ. I commend the teams on their exceptional efforts and support of each other during this busy period and thank everyone for their care and commitment to our youngest patients. Well done!

Kind regards,
Jackie

Executive Director, Clinical Governance

Grant Carey-ide



Gender identity updates planned for HBCIS and ieMR

From February 2025, Metro North staff will see HBCIS updated to enable the recording of a patient's sex assigned at birth (Birth Sex) as well as gender and pronouns.

This statewide initiative represents an important first step for Queensland Health in acknowledging and recording health consumer's gender identity within the Patient Admission System (PAS). The ieMR will also be Queensland Health's first clinical system to include gender and related information.

Understanding a patient's birth sex, gender identity, pronouns, and Variations of Sex Characteristics (VoSC) is essential to the delivery of inclusive, safe and effective healthcare.

The state-wide enhancement will commence from Tuesday 4 February with Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and STARS going live on Tuesday 11 February. All remaining Metro North Health facilities will go live on Tuesday 25 February.

Staff are encouraged to understand **how to access the Gender and Related Information Screen** in HBCIS when entering patient information for a Patient Registration, Patient Admission, Maternity Booking and Baby Admission.

Resources created by the statewide team are available that you may find helpful including:

[Clinician Fact Sheet](#)

[LGBTIQ+ terminology, language and communications guide \(health.qld.gov.au\)](#)

[Pronouns fact sheet \(health.qld.gov.au\)](#)

[NEW lgbtiq-flyer-terminology_\(health.qld.gov.au\)](#)

To read more about the changes and access resources for clinicians, administrative staff and consumers visit the [Gender Identity SharePoint page](#).

Your local Health Information Services team will also be providing support during the implementation of these changes in your facility. Please reach out to your local team should you have any queries in the meantime.

Regards,
Grant



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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