



Dear team,

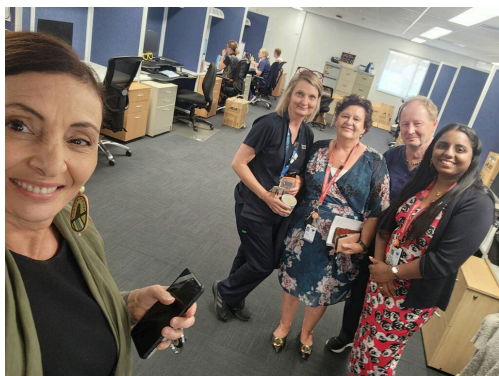
With schools resuming this week, we've had more staff coming back to the workplace. It's good to see everyone getting back on deck and services returning to their usual levels of activity so we can continue doing what we do best – care for our patients. It's also great to welcome the many new staff who have joined our TPCH team in the last few weeks. 2025 will be another busy year with so much happening on our campus - it's definitely an exciting time to be working at TPCH.

Executive update

I am pleased to share that TPCH Expansion Project team successfully relocated all teams from Building 14 into their new office accommodation this week. The majority of teams, including Allied Health, Nursing Education and Workforce and Medical Education and Workforce, have relocated into the new modular accommodation (Building 50) near the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service and Admin Hub.

Despite TPCH staff working hard to declutter and lighten the load before the big move, it was still a massive effort for the project team and 10 removalists who worked two full days to load and unload 20 removalist trucks and relocate 134 workstations. Director of Nursing Cherie Franks and I popped in to see the staff who have spent the week settling into their new home with the support of Director Allied Health Perry Judd who helped fold boxes and clean up. The staff are now enjoying a new open plan office that is fitted out with a new conference room, several small meetings and dedicated telehealth rooms to ensure staff can conduct confidential and private conversations. Thank you to everyone for your efforts in making this happen!

During our walk around, Cherie and I also met Delta therapy dog 'Ruby' and her handler Lynda who had just finished their visit to the Rehabilitation and Acute Stroke (RAS) and Geriatric Evaluation Management (GEM) Units which was very well received by patients.



Building 50 visit



Visit with therapy dog Ruby and handler Lynda

Metro North Strategic Plan pop up sessions

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.

Chief Executive Jackie Hanson and other members of the Metro North Senior Executive Team will be on hand to discuss the Strategic Plan and answer any questions.

I encourage staff to attend the sessions being held at TPCH in the coming weeks.

Thursday 6 February
10.30am – 11.30am
Education Centre foyer

Wednesday 19 February
12.00pm – 1.00pm
Education Centre foyer

Monday 10 February
9.00am – 10.00am
Education Centre foyer

Friday 28 February
1.00pm – 2.00pm
Education Centre foyer

For more information email: MNHHS_PlanningStrategy@health.qld.gov.au

Metro North SET Staff Forum

The Metro North Senior Executive Team (SET) will also host an all staff forum following the first Strategic Plan pop up session at TPCH on **Thursday 6 February, 11.30am – 12.30pm** in the Dr Mark O'Brien Auditorium. This is an opportunity for TPCH staff to hear about the latest activities and initiatives for Metro North and ask questions. I hope to see many of you there.

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. It has a global network spanning more than 60 countries encompassing clinical, pre-clinical and engineering research – all with the singular aim of improving outcomes in critically ill patients. Some of flagship programs led by Prof Fraser include The Living Heart Project, ICU of the Future, Bionic Hearts and Lungs and COVID Critical. Well done John!



New Clinical Trials Centre

TPCH will soon begin the construction of a new Clinical Trials Centre in the area that was used for the Heart Valve Bank on level 1 of building 15. Demolition works in that area will start in the week commencing Monday 3 February 2025.

TPCH Clinical Trials Centre will be a state-of-the-art facility to support the conduct of therapeutic and interventional trials from Phase 1b upwards. It will be one of few centres globally, and the only centre in Queensland, with specific capability to support early phase clinical trials of next generation therapeutics such as mRNA-based drugs, vaccines and first-in-man device trials. The hub will function as a focal point to further expand TPCH's long and proud history of groundbreaking interventions to help patients with chronic and severe diseases.

Construction of new Healing Garden underway

Construction has commenced on our new Healing Garden, which will sit directly in front of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service building. New sandstone bricks have been positioned in a yarning circle configuration and landscaping has commenced in readiness for the new plants and walkways.

Our existing Healing Garden will remain open while construction of the new Healing Garden is

underway; however, it will be temporarily closed on Monday and Tuesday to allow safe removal of the wooden poles and steel dividers. The new Healing Garden is already shaping up to be a beautiful space where staff, patients and visitors can sit and enjoy a calm healing space and connect with nature.



Fire safety

Mandatory training

Thanks to those staff who have kept up with their mandatory fire training. Our most recent data shows that General Evacuation Instruction is currently at 89.2% and First Response Evacuation Instruction is at 89.1% - both just under our 90 per cent target. This is a great result but we still need more staff to undertake their training to ensure an even higher level of compliance across the organisation. Please visit TMS to register.

Electrical safety

Staff are reminded about their role in helping ensure the safety of electrical equipment in the workplace.

What you can do:

- Check that all portable electrical equipment and devices have an approved electrical test tag attached, ensure the tag is current and there are no signs of potential dangers such as damaged, frayed or exposed cords or signs of overheating / burning).
- For appliances requiring initial test and tagging or where the test tag has expired, staff are to raise a BEMS Maintenance requests via S4HANA for test and tag. The appliance or equipment cannot be used until this check has been performed.
- After the initial test inspection, routine testing is required to ensure equipment and devices are in safe working order. Any appliance which tests unsafe cannot be used within the facility.
- Only use microwave safe items in microwaves. Materials such as aluminium foil, metals, single use plastic, take-out containers, styrofoam and cardboard coffee cups must not be placed in a microwave.

For more information please refer to the [BEMS Electrical Equipment Testing and Safe Use procedure](#).

TPCH Foundation news

TPCH Foundation this week announced its decision to step back from the Ekka Strawberry Sundae program. This move will allow the Foundation to focus more intently on initiatives that directly amplify its impact on patient care and life-saving medical research. For 35 years, TPCH Foundation has proudly been the custodian of this iconic program which has raised millions of dollars for vital medical research and patient care initiatives at TPCH.

What began as a small fundraising opportunity in the late 1980s has evolved into a massive operation, requiring nine months of planning, five busy sites, and the help of over 2,000 volunteers each year. Due to rising costs, increased risks, and the ongoing challenge of recruiting thousands of volunteers, the Foundation has made the call to finish up managing this program.

Rest assured that staff will be still able to buy their the much loved Ekka Strawberry Sundae at the Ekka for years to come, with all sites to be operated by the not-for-profit RNA.

My sincere thanks to TPCH Foundation for their many years of efforts and work in managing this popular program which has benefitted the care of thousands of patients at TPCH.

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.

Metro North
Health



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Government



Produced by the Metro North Communication Directorate