

Metro North Health

# Message from the Executive Director TPCH

Tami Photinos



Dear team,

There's been a lot happening at TPCH this week, with heavy demands on our bed capacity. These periods of heightened activity are challenging, so I thank everyone for their seamless efforts in working together so we can continue providing safe and timely care to our patients.

## Executive update

### *Executive walkaround*

This week, I had the opportunity to visit the Transit Lounge where I chatted to staff about their current activity. Our Transit Lounge plays a key role in helping manage patient flow, supporting the discharge of approximately 170 patients every week as well as providing a comfortable space for patients to wait before admission.

I also dropped in to see some of our Emergency Department (ED) team members who work diligently behind the scenes in administration, data management and business practice improvement supporting Queensland's busiest ED. Great to meet you Kirra-Lee, Braydon and Francis - keep up the excellent work.

I had the pleasure of meeting our new Nurse Unit Manager Children's Ward, Maria Karolson who you can read more about in the staff profile below.

Thanks also to the Thoracic Ward staff, Thoracic Senior Medical Officers and Speech Pathology department for having me along to their team meetings. It's always interesting to learn more about the operation of our services, and get to know staff in the process.



*Transit Lounge*



*Emergency Department*



*Thoracic Ward meeting*



*Speech Pathology meeting*

completed his medical degree at UQ in 2012 and undertook his

### ***Key appointments***

Please be advised that Dr Anthony Silva has been successful in obtaining the position of Medical Director Orthopaedics. Dr Silva will commence in the role on 17 February 2025, continuing for three years.

Dr Silva completed his medical degree at UQ in 2012 and undertook his junior doctor training across Queensland and South Australia. He finished his orthopaedic training in Queensland and has worked as an orthopaedic surgeon at TPCH since 2023.

He is dual fellowship trained in Australia and Canada, with his subspecialist training centred on robotic-assisted arthroplasty and complex primary and revision hip and knee arthroplasty.

Dr Silva is actively involved in orthopaedic research and enjoys teaching and supervising medical students and junior doctors during their training at TPCH. Please join me in welcoming Dr Silva to this role.

I would like to thank Dr Simon Perkins for his successful leadership of the Orthopaedics service over the last couple of years; we have certainly seen it go from strength to strength during this time. Dr Perkins will continue as a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at TPCH.

Also, Gillian Nasato will be the Acting Director of Nursing from Monday 10 February for six weeks while Cherie Franks is on leave.

### ***Metro North Strategic Plan pop up sessions***

Yesterday was the first pop-up session at TPCH for staff to provide feedback on the Metro North Strategic Plan 2024-2028. Chief Executive Jackie Hanson and other members of the Metro North Senior Executive Team were on hand to discuss the Plan and answer questions. Thank you to those staff who took the time to attend the session and share their thoughts.

If you weren't able to attend and would like the opportunity to provide feedback, the following sessions will be held at TPCH throughout February.

**Monday 10 February**  
9.00am – 10.00am  
Education Centre foyer

**Wednesday 19 February**  
12.00pm – 1.00pm  
Education Centre foyer

**Friday 28 February**  
2.00pm – 3.00pm  
Education Centre foyer



*Strategic Plan pop up session*

## Car parking update

The new multi-storey car park (P2) is nearing completion with an expected opening early March, with car park technology installation completed by end of April. As we near the technology install date, the car park team will begin to take applications for staff parking within the new multi-storey. TPCH staff parking QHEPS page will be updated with application forms available sometime in March.

This week, access changes to the existing car park have been implemented as the new express ramp between the two car parks begins to be used. Entry to the existing P1 car park will be via the new ramp which has been built to connect both car parks.

The illuminated data sign has been relocated further along Main Road to provide information to people visiting the campus about access changes to the car park. Temporary signage will be in place to direct vehicles, and directional signage to the temporary car park office (located adjacent to the entry and exit boom gates on the express ramp) will be installed throughout the car park and on the entry and exit boom gates.

The existing multistorey car park (P1) is the only car park on the campus for patients and visitors. Staff should plan to use the dedicated staff car parks.

Staff information on parking options can be found on QHEPS by following this link: [Staff Car Parking | The Prince Charles Hospital \(health.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/staff-car-parking)

## Kallangur Satellite Hospital (Kalangoor) accreditation

I'm pleased to share the news that the Kallangur Satellite Hospital (now Satellite Health Centre) has been recommended for Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) accreditation. This is a fantastic outcome and a very proud moment for everyone who works at the centre.

The centre underwent accreditation yesterday, one year following its opening. It welcomed two assessors from the ACHS who spent time interacting with staff, patients and consumers to observe and evaluate how services are delivered and comply with the national standards. The assessment concluded in the afternoon with a feedback session by the assessors which was overwhelmingly positive, with the centre receiving only two met with recommendations.

The assessors' feedback highlighted Kallangur's great staff culture and good processes. They said that the centre had a great community feel and that consumers felt safe going there.

Thank you to everyone who supported the ACHS assessors, helping them to get to know the centre, and the way its provides the community with safe and quality care. Well done! We will expect a full report with the assessment findings in the next four weeks.

### **Name change**

After a consultation process with clinicians and a survey, a new name for satellite hospitals has been chosen. As of yesterday, Satellite Hospitals are now called Satellite Health Centres. The centres will continue to deliver the same trusted care including minor injury and illness care and outpatient services from dedicated nurses, medical officers, and allied health professionals.

Anyone in the community needing healthcare can access the satellite health centres, with minor injury and illness clinic offering a drop-in model similar to the emergency department while outpatient services are facilitated via referral pathways.

In a life-threatening situation, always call Triple Zero (000) or visit an emergency department.



## Staff profile - Maria Karolson

Maria is the recently appointed Nurse Unit Manager, Children Ward, Short Stay Unit and Children's Outpatients. In this role, Maria is responsible for leading a team of nurses to ensure that best practice, family-centred care is delivered to all paediatric patients who access the service.

Maria brings extensive experience to the role, previously having worked in the Paediatric ICU at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, UK and Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane. She has also undertaken various manager roles at Caboolture Hospital as NUM Children's Ward, Associate NUM Children's Emergency Department, Nurse Manager - Women's Children and Families, and Hospital Coordinator.

Maria is passionate about fostering a positive and inclusive workplace where staff feel safe, supported and genuinely excited to come to work. She enjoys leading a team of dedicated nurses who are passionate about paediatric care and committed to make a meaningful impact on families.

Outside of work, Maria likes reading personal development books and yoga. She also does Taekwondo and is currently training towards her black belt in the next six months.



## Expression of Interest for TPCH Staff Council

The closing date for expressions of interest for TPCH's Staff Council have been extended until Wednesday 12 February. We are currently seeking people from across the hospital, in all streams and disciplines. The Staff Council is the voice of the staff body to 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.

## Shout out

This week's shout out goes to Junior House Officer, Julius Maggs in acknowledgement of his exceptional work. Jules has demonstrated a significant commitment to his colleagues and to the provision of great clinical care, being observed to go above and beyond in his work in multiple ways during the last two weeks. Jules is an example of someone living the Metro North values and we commend him on his commitment and professionalism. Well done Jules!



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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Health**



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