



Dear team,

It's hard to believe that today is the last day of February and we're about to head into Autumn. While we welcome the cooler weather, the change of season in health care marks the transition into a more challenging period where we start preparing for a rise in respiratory illness in the community.

In light of this, I would like to remind everyone about the importance of taking care of yourselves and each other. We know that working in health can be high pressure, so taking care of our physical health as well as having positive supports in the workplace is important in enabling us to perform our jobs to the best of our ability and ultimately deliver better patient care. When we feel supported, we can be our best selves and deliver our best work.

Executive update

Executive visits

This week, we had the pleasure of hosting a visit from Queensland Health's Director-General, Dr David Rosengren. David had the opportunity to tour the Adult and Children's emergency departments, Cardiac Investigations Unit, ICU, Orthopaedic Ward 2C and the new Mental Health Crisis Stabilisation Unit accompanied by staff from these respective areas. During the tour, David spoke with teams about their innovations and challenges, learning more about the operations of these departments as well as the broader hospital. As an experienced clinician, David has first-hand understanding of the challenges faced by large tertiary hospitals like TPCH, so we appreciated his time and counsel. Also this week, I attended the Gastroenterology SMO meeting and I thank the team for including me in their discussions.



Emergency Department



ICU





Cardiology



Orthopaedic surgery

Mental Health Crisis Stabilisation Unit

Metro North Strategic Plan - last pop-up session today 2pm

Today is Metro North's final pop-up session at TPCH for staff to provide feedback on the Metro North Strategic Plan 2024-2028. I encourage staff to come along and share their thoughts about the future direction of the organisation.

Friday 28 February

2.00pm – 3.00pm
Education Centre foyer

If you can't attend the session, you can still consult on the draft plan which is [available here](#) and share your feedback by completing a [short survey](#) before COB today.

CRIKEY Research Summit

Also this week, I attended the Critical Care Research Group's (CCRG) second CRIKEY Summit at the Gold Coast which brought together about 60 international delegates for tours, workshops and panel discussions regarding critical care medicine. CRIKEY is a 'think tank' for robust conversations that challenge our understanding of critical care medicine, and build collaborations that have the potential to change practice and improve outcomes globally.



Metro North Board Chair, Bernard Curran addressed guests at a welcome breakfast in the city, focusing on the importance of research in driving improvements in patient care. We also had the pleasure of hosting the delegates for a tour of QUT's Medical Engineering Research Facility (MERF) on our campus followed by a lunch with some members of the Executive team. It was great to welcome our international visitors to TPCH and have the opportunity to showcase some of CCRG's innovative research work being done here.

We also acknowledged CCRG's recently winning the 2024 Game changer award from the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance. CCRG's "Living Heart" project, investigating the extended ischemic time of donor hearts, and the national team behind it received the award for changing the clinical practice of heart transplantation. Congratulations!

Director Medical Services

Dr Julieanne Graham will return on Monday 3 March after taking some well-deserved leave. Thank you to Dr Rosalind Crawford who has been acting in the Director Medical Services role for the last couple of months, we always appreciate her leadership and support.

Car parking information sessions

With the new multi-storey car parking nearing completion, TPCH Car Parking team is hosting a series of staff information booth sessions today and next week.

New Car Park Coordinator Tracy Murovanchik will be on hand in the Café for the Common Good **today until 12pm** to answer questions about the new multi-storey car park and other changes to campus parking arrangements.

Upcoming information booth sessions:

Wednesday 5 March

7am – 12pm

Café of the Common Good

Friday 7 March

7am – 12pm

Café of the Common Good

If your team would like to take advantage of a session with Tracy Murovanchik, please email TPCHCarPark@health.qld.gov.au to book a presentation.

TPCH Staff Council

TPCH Staff Council has recently undergone a refresh of its membership for 2025. We had a positive response to the EOI process which has seen the introduction of new clinical and non-clinical staff members from a variety of disciplines and streams across the hospital.

The Council's first meeting is on 12 March and will be an opportunity to meet with our Executive Leadership Team and discuss its priorities for the year ahead. Priorities include improving communication between staff and the Executive team, working together to support one another, and breaking down silos to help provide the best care to our patients.

One of the Staff Council's first projects will be to work with the Have Your Say survey team to ensure that this year's survey is an effective way for staff to feel heard and provide feedback that will lead to positive changes within our organisation.

Staff profile - Rebecca Ammenhauser

Rebecca Ammenhauser is the acting Nurse Practitioner for TPCH's Advanced Heart Failure Clinic. Her role focuses on optimising heart failure management and providing education to help patients take control of their condition and improve their quality of life.

Having worked as a Clinical Nurse in Cardiology for two decades, Rebecca possesses extensive experience in all areas of cardiology. She enjoys working with patients to improve their quality of life, and is passionate about helping patients understand and take an active role in confidently managing their health to achieve better outcomes.



Rebecca especially values working as part of a team to provide compassionate and supportive care to patients through their health journey.

Outside of work, Rebecca enjoys spending time outdoors walking, hiking and gardening.

Slow for Charlie

TPCH has just introduced a new speed advisory sign, 'Slow for Charlie' (we've renamed Slow for Sam) to support improved safety on campus following a number of incidents resulting from vehicles speeding on site.

The sign will be regularly rotated across key locations around the campus which have been identified as 'hot spots.' to help manage vehicle speed. It will also be used as a way of informing staff about temporary physical changes on campus such as road works and pedestrian access.

A big thanks to Corporate Services, Health and Safety and BEMS for progressing this initiative which will help make our campus safer for staff, patients and visitors.



Blair Schultz and Scott Brazier in front of our new 'Slow for Charlie' sign

Shout out

This week's shout goes to our Heart Valve team for successfully performing Australia's first Harmony™ transcatheter pulmonary valve procedure. This is the first approved transcatheter valve system specifically designed to minimally-invasively treat severe pulmonary regurgitation. TPCH's Cardiology Heart Valve Program, led by Prof Darren Walters and Dr Dale Murdoch, is a national leader in transcatheter valves which were first introduced at TPCH in 2008. Since this time, the program has introduced many new generation transcatheter valves, providing minimally invasive treatment options to thousands of patients who were not deemed suitable for open heart surgery. There were three pulmonary valves inserted on Tuesday to our patients here at TPCH. Well done team!



Another first for our Cardiology team

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



Queensland
Government

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