



Dear colleagues,

Metro North research impact

I am regularly impressed by the extraordinary breadth and impact of our clinical and non-clinical researchers across Metro North. One of my favourite events is the Jamieson Trauma Institute's annual showcase. The CODI (Community Opioid Dispensing after Injury) project was awarded the Associate Professor Cliff Pollard Award at last week's showcase. Cliff was a former board member and notably was the former Chair of the Queensland Trauma Network and Director of the RBWH Trauma Service. CODI's project focussed on all patients admitted to Queensland Hospitals with rib fractures over a two-year period, identifying that 23 per cent of patients were still being prescribed opioid medications at three months and eight per cent still using two years post injuries. Several solutions have been developed to improve collaborative care as well as education and training resources. The project has also attracted international recognition through a podcast with the Chest Wall Injury Society. Well done JTI!



*Associate Professor Cliff Pollard with
Dr Frances Williams, RBWH Trauma
Service*

March Board meeting

The Metro North Board held its monthly meeting earlier this week at the heritage listed Edith Cavell building on the Herston campus. The Board approved the draft Metro North Strategic Plan 2024-2028 which has been refreshed following extensive consultation with and contributions from staff and consumers over the past three months. Thank you for your invaluable feedback which has informed the direction and strategic priorities for our health service for the next four years.

Dr Alan Yan, Chair of Metro North Clinical Council and Director of Emergency at Redcliffe Hospital, joined our meeting to update us on Clinical Council priorities and queries. Council members are keen to promote the upcoming Have Your Say staff survey to increase staff participation and ensure that survey results and actions in response to feedback are widely

shared with all staff and acted upon.

Additionally, we were presented with the Metro North Health Specialist Outpatients Services report for 2024. The report highlighted the great work being undertaken across all facilities to improve access and timeliness of outpatient care in an environment where patient demand has increased by 17 per cent (equating to 195,850 referrals received) over this period. Some of the great improvements include dedicated First Nations clinics, additional clinics, load sharing between facilities and implementation of ieMR at Redcliffe Hospital and qhRefer at RBWH.



Board member profile

Each month, I will introduce different Board members and highlight the work of our board committees. This week, I met with Adrian Carson AM and Dr Shea Spierings.

Adrian Carson AM

Adrian is Chair of the Board First Nations Health Equity Committee which monitors the implementation of the Metro North Health Equity Strategy.

Adrian joined Metro North Health in May 2017 and has nearly 30 years' experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health across government and non-government organisations. He was formerly the CEO of the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and is a member of the Metro North Board Risk and Audit Committee.

Adrian is focused on addressing disparities in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, advocating that "if we get it right for our First Nations mob we will see the benefits for all communities and peoples."

Dr Shea Spierings

Shea joined the Metro North Board in April 2024 and is a member of the Board First Nations Health Equity Committee.

Shea is a Research Fellow specialising in First Nations health at the University of Queensland, and is also the lead investigator and associate investigator across a series of projects funded by the Medical Research Futures Fund, Australian Research Council and the Lowitja Institute. Shea is the Chair for Country to Coast Queensland, which commissions the delivery of primary health services across the Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay and Central Queensland regions to service 900,000 people. He is also a member of the Metro North Board Safety and Quality Committee.



For Shea, one of the most important functions of the First Nations Health Equity Committee is to work with Queensland Health and partners across all levels of the health system, to address the inequalities generated by the system itself.

Regards,
Bernard



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.



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