



Dear team,

I would firstly like to thank all staff across TPCH for working together to care for our patients during the severe weather event.

It was certainly an anxious time for people, with many staff not having been through a cyclone before and not knowing what to expect. Some staff and their families had also previously been impacted by flooding events in South-East Queensland and were extremely concerned about the associated heavy rain.

I commend the many clinical and support staff across TPCH, who despite their concerns for their own families and homes, put their worries aside to come to work and ensure our patients were well cared for. We appreciate that these staff were juggling work commitments with personal cyclone preparations, as well as caring for their own relatives and having children home from school or childcare.

All of these staff contributed to our ability to continue caring for patients safely during this time. Extensive work was done behind the scenes rescheduling and reducing clinics, contacting patients and answering calls – a massive effort which we value greatly.

Over the weekend, we had approximately 200 staff staying over at TPCH so they were able to attend their shift or stay safe following the completion of their shift. I thank staff for their patience around car parking, I acknowledge there were some challenges over the weekend.

Thank you to our Food Services team for providing meals, as well as those staff who organised the accommodation and worked in the Staff Support Centre. These teams certainly played an important role in making sure our people were well looked after while on site.

A special thanks also goes to the Common Good for their generous donation of meals, as well as their direct support to our Food Services team over the weekend. Their provision of additional meals helped make our staff feel more comfortable and meant that patient food options were not as impacted as they could have been.

A big thanks to our BEMS team for their extensive work before, during and now after the severe weather event in preparing and securing our site to ensure it remains safe for our staff, patients and visitors. This team's work is ongoing as they continue to rectify the impacts of the weather event across the facility this week. Please be patient as they prioritise the large volume of requests.

I am also very grateful to my colleagues in TPCH's Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) for their tireless work to prepare our hospital's severe weather response. I have unfortunately been away sick with influenza over the last week and was not able to come to work. The EOC team, like many of our clinical and support teams, was working around the clock to support staff to continue caring for our patients in a safe and secure environment. They did a fantastic job as always and a special thanks to Geoff Grima for his great work as Acting Incident Controller while I was away.

Our thoughts are with any staff or their extended families who have been impacted by the cyclone, associated flooding and/or power outages.

If you were unable to attend work due to the severe weather you may be eligible for [special flood](#).

[cyclone and storm leave](#). Check with your line manager.

With the severe weather event, we have spent the last week prioritising our preparations and responses to ensure the safety of our people and our facility operations. As we head back into business as usual, I will resume my standard weekly Executive Director updates from next week covering current events, activities and staff profiles from across the facility.

Once again, thank you for all your efforts during the cyclone event.

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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