



Dear colleagues,

Today we commemorate Anzac Day for 2025.

On 25 April 1915, Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula. These servicemen became known as the Anzacs, a name and spirit that lives on to this day.

Like Australia, Anzac Day has evolved since 1915 and is now a day to honour all those who have served our country, including those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms and rights we enjoy today.

Our military history

The RBWH has a proud military tradition which dates back to our beginnings in 1867, right through to the present day.

One of the first visiting surgeons appointed to what was then the Brisbane Hospital was Dr Kearsey Cannan, who was also the foundation surgeon of the Queensland Volunteer Force.

Two Brisbane Hospital trained military nurses, Sister Susannah Armstrong and Sister Miriam Plover served in the Boer War in South Africa at the turn of the 20th Century.

Hospital staff were at the frontline of both World Wars, with 87 Brisbane Hospital trained nurses enlisted in World War I and 255 hospital staff serving in World War II.

Our commitment has continued since then, including a presence in Korea, Vietnam, Malaya, Rwanda, the first Gulf War, Bougainville, East Timor, Solomon Islands, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other conflicts and peace keeping operations. Our hospital also treated wounded service personnel after evacuation from Afghanistan and Iraq in those recent conflicts.

Today, the RBWH has more ADF personnel on staff than any other hospital in Australia and we are also a preferred training hospital for ADF members, who regularly work with ICU, Trauma Services and the Emergency and Trauma Centre to gain training and experience.

The ADF and Metro North Health share similar values, including teamwork, integrity and mateship that will continue to bind us in close partnership for generations to come.

Our staff who are also members of the ADF bring a unique set of skills and experiences to their work at the RBWH. Thank you for your service and contribution to helping improve the quality of life for others in both organisations.



RBWH Anzac Day commemorations

To commemorate Anzac Day, a service will take place in the atrium on level 1 of the hospital at 8am this morning. The Last Post will then be played over the public address system throughout most of the hospital at 9am.

Whether you are working today, or observing the public holiday, I encourage you to take some time to reflect on the spirit of the Anzacs and what that means in your work and life in modern Australia.

To those who continue to serve today, the spirit of the Anzacs lives on through your commitment and dedication to creating a safer and healthier world for us all.

To those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defence of the values and freedoms we hold dear, Lest We Forget.

Kind regards,

Louise Oriti
Executive Director,
Royal Brisbane and Women's 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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