



Dear colleagues,

April Board meeting

The Metro North Board held its monthly Board meeting earlier this week at the Rosemount Health Campus, Windsor. This is the first time the Board has visited one of our oldest campuses with construction dating back to 1850.

My Board colleagues and I, along with the senior executive team, enjoyed meeting staff from the Metro North Public Health Unit as well as Multicultural Health and Mental Health teams. We heard about the many services delivered across the Metro North community by the teams at Rosemount campus, gaining a greater understanding of how our health service supports a broad variety of patients and consumers within Australia's largest health service.

Metro North values

The passion and commitment of staff towards delivering exceptional patient care was evident during Board discussions on several important initiatives including innovations in task automation and robotic processes to deliver coordinated care from Digital Metro North, and collaborative partnerships demonstrated by Metro North Clinical Streams, the Helix Hub and the Older Persons Emergency Network (OPEN). The commencement of the *Acute Patient Assessment for Care in the Home Environment (APACHE)* model at Redcliffe Hospital is making great inroads in reducing length of stay in the emergency department, admissions and helping patients get the care they need at home. APACHE emerged from work by our team in Community and Oral Health and was showcased at the Patient Flow and Capacity Management workshop held in January this year. I am very encouraged this innovation is gaining traction across our hospital and health system, showing two of our values - Teamwork and High Performance, working hand in hand!

The Board also heard from the Metro North Public Health Unit on their work to reduce the prevalence of communicable diseases and tobacco product enforcement. The Public Health team's pride in their work was clearly evident and I am equally proud of the important work undertaken by this team.

I would especially like to acknowledge the hard work of staff across our facilities and

services over the last couple of months to help reduce waiting times for our patients within emergency departments, increase surgical activity and see more and more patients on our specialist waiting lists. These efforts allow more patients within the Metro North community to receive the necessary care in a timelier way, and prioritising their individual care and safety.



Board member profile

Each month I will introduce a Board member and talk about the work of our Board Committees. This week I spoke to Dr Peter Aitken, Chair of the Board Finance and Performance Committee.

Dr Peter Aitken

Peter joined Metro North Health in April 2024 and has a background as an Emergency Physician with additional qualifications in clinical education, disaster health and business administration. His most recent role was the Executive Director of the Disaster Management Branch in Queensland Health, an appointment which accompanies extensive professional experience in emergency and disaster health and other prominent positions including Vice President of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, and Chief Medical Officer for St John Ambulance Australia. During the global COVID-19 pandemic, Peter held a variety of roles such as Deputy Chief Health Officer and briefly, Chief Health Officer.

The role of the Finance and Performance Committee is to advise the Metro North Board on the Health Service's budget, monitor cash flow and the financial and operating performance, and matters such as consideration of business cases for change and capital investments.

For Peter, the work of the committee does not happen in isolation. Very simply it's about providing the best care to our community with the dollars we have. The more efficient we are, the more care we can provide to those who need it. Hearing from clinicians and all staff about the day-to-day pressures they face, and the practical ideas they have to save money and improve care, is essential to the work of the committee.

Regards,
Bernard

Metro North Health





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.



Queensland
Government

If you have received this email and do not work for Metro North please follow this link to be removed from the mailing list.

[Email us](#)