



Dear Team,

As we approach the end of May, it's great to see some of our key projects coming together, including the new multi-storey car park, which is nearing completion. You can find more information in the update further below.

Thank you as always for the work you do every day to support each other, our patients and the broader TPCH community.

Executive Update

Last Friday, the Palliative Care Unit held its annual *Celebration of Life* event that brought together 70 families, friends and staff to honour those who received care in the unit.

The event is an important part of Palliative Care Week, giving families a chance to reflect, remember and reconnect with the staff who supported them through some of life's most difficult moments. Supper and roses were shared, thanks to the support of the Palliative Care Trust and the generous donations from families through The Common Good.

A sincere thanks to the Palliative Care Unit, Social Work, Pastoral Care and our wonderful Charlie's Angels volunteers for organising and supporting this special event. Your ongoing work to bring comfort and closure to families is appreciated and this event is a great example of that.



Have Your Say – one week left!

A big thank you to those staff who have already responded to the Have Your Say staff survey. We have one week left until the closing date – midnight on Friday 30 May.

If you're a manager or team leader, please find 30 minutes for each of your team members to complete the survey this week. I've heard some great stories of managers jumping in to help while their staff visit the Have Your Say hub or take the survey on a shared device. It's amazing to hear about leaders supporting their people to have their say.

We have one more survey hub this coming **Thursday 29 May** from **8am to 2pm** at the Café of the Common Good. iPads will be available to assist with the completion of the survey.



Car parking update

Construction of the new multi-storey car park is nearing completion, with the facility scheduled to open in June. Staff applications for parking will open on Monday 26 May. A link to the Microsoft Form will be shared next week. With demand expected to be high and spaces limited, staff are encouraged to apply. The new car park represents a major step forward in improving on-site access for staff and patients and we appreciate your patience as we prepare for this transition.

Staff information can be found on QHEPS [Staff Car Parking | The Prince Charles Hospital](#).

Special recognition

This week, 19 – 25 May is National Volunteer Week, Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. At TPCH, we're fortunate to have the support of more than 160 volunteers who generously give their time, skills and compassion to support patients, families and staff in meaningful ways.

Our volunteers include:

- Charlie's Angels
- Consumer Engagement Network
- Heart Support
- Justices of the Peace (JPs)
- Mental Health
- Pastoral Care.



Volunteers are an important part of our hospital community. Their presence and kindness help create a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone who walks through our doors.

If you happen to see one of our volunteers, please take a moment to say thank you.

Honouring our TPCH greats

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the recent passing of two of TPCH's most prominent and well-respected cardiac surgeons, Dr Mark O'Brien and Dr Greg Stafford.

Dr Mark O'Brien

Dr Mark O'Brien, age 94, was a pioneering figure in cardiac surgery at TPCH. He served as Cardiac Surgeon-in-Charge from 1967 to 1998 and continued as Senior Cardiac Surgeon until 2002. His groundbreaking research and innovation, including the development of cryopreservation techniques for aortic valve homografts, left a lasting impact not only at TPCH but also on cardiac surgery practices worldwide.

Beyond his surgical achievements, Dr O'Brien was a dedicated mentor and leader who was instrumental in shaping the careers of many within TPCH. He was a driving force behind numerous clinical advances that transformed cardiac care at TPCH. His legacy lives on through the colleagues he inspired and the countless lives he helped save.

He will be remembered with great respect and admiration.

For [service details](#), including online condolences.



Dr Greg Stafford

Dr Greg Stafford was a respected member of TPCH's cardiac surgery team, whose work helped shape the future of cardiac surgery in Queensland.

Joining TPCH in 1973, Dr Stafford performed more than 12,000 heart surgeries during his career, working across both adult and paediatric cardiac services. He was involved in early adoption of life-saving techniques for congenital heart disease and contributed to the development of surgery for obstructed pulmonary blood flow.

Dr Stafford retired in 2005 and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to medicine through cardiac surgery.

Colleagues remember Dr Stafford as a humble and deeply committed clinician, respected by peers, patients and families alike. His dedication to patient care continued beyond the operating theatre - forming long-term relationships with many of the people he cared for.

For [service details](#), including online condolences.



Gathering Garden – official opening Wednesday 28 May 9am

With the landscaping works now complete, I'm excited to announce the opening of our new Gathering Garden. Located beside the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services and Administration Services buildings, this space was developed through consultation with staff and community to provide a culturally safe place for rest, connection and healing.

Like the existing Healing Garden, this space will also be used for cultural ceremonies and practices including Sorry Business, Sad News, grief or bereavement. With patients coming from all parts of Queensland, we must ensure that we are providing a holistic cultural focus, including opportunities for patients to sit in nature and connect to Country. It is important to remember that all people using the Gathering Garden remain respectful of cultural practices

and provide space and time for healing.

The Gathering Garden's official opening ceremony will be on **Wednesday 28 May at 9am** to coincide with National Reconciliation Week. This year's theme, Bridging Now to Next, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

Bridging Now to Next

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

#NRW2025



RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU

RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

2025
National Sorry Day
&
National Reconciliation Week @TPCH

All week

- * Info Booth in Café for the Common Good
- Sea of Hands activity

Monday 26th May – National Sorry Day

- 9am Flag Raising Ceremony
Flag Poles near Rode Rd
- 9:30am Yarning Circle in the
TPCH Gathering Garden

Thursday 27th May – Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum

Wednesday 28th May @ 9am
Gathering Garden Opening - Smoking Ceremony and Morning tea
RSVP culturalcapabilityofficerTPCH@health.qld.gov.au

Friday 30th May - Floral Friday
Please wear your best florals to acknowledge and celebrate the diverse cultures of the Torres Strait Islands

Tuesday 3rd June – Mabo Day

- 1pm Education Centre – Screening of the First Australians: We Are No Longer Shadows- 'we'd have to start to get political', Episode 7

All Staff and Community Welcome

Kalangoor cultural space

The Kalangoor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Hub team recently celebrated the opening of their new cultural space, located adjacent to the health hub.

Members of the team are pictured (*right*) in the space proudly wearing their Metro North shirts, reaffirming their commitment to continue providing culturally safe and supportive care to our communities.



Staff profile – Emma Holdcroft

Emma, Nurse Unit Manager, Minor Injury and Illness Clinic and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Hub manager at Kallangur (Kalangoor) Satellite Hospital, recently received the Leadership and Management Award at last week's Nursing Excellence Awards. She was recognised for her compassionate leadership and strong commitment to team development.

With 15 years of nursing experience, Emma joined TPCH in 2020. Her positive and

approachable nature makes her a supportive presence in the workplace. She takes the time to listen, provide thoughtful feedback and helps create a culturally safe and respectful environment for staff and patients.

What Emma loves most about her role is working closely with her team and the community.

“The Minor Injury and Illness Clinic and the work done in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Hub gives us a real opportunity to see the impact we have on the community up close,” she said.

“Both teams are successful because of how closely we partner with the community and the work we do collaboratively.”

In her free time, Emma enjoys travelling, exploring new places and spending quality time with family, friends and her dog Milo, a much-loved Maltese Shih Tzu.



Shout out

Thank you to everyone who supported and participated in TPCH Nursing Careers Expo last Friday. The event was a great success, with strong attendance and engagement from staff and students exploring career pathways, specialty areas and study opportunities.

A big thank you to our Nursing and Midwifery Education team, university partners and staff who took time to share insights and advice. It was great to witness the buzz amongst staff for our next generation.



Mass Casualty Incident Exercise

This week 35 TPCH staff from the Emergency Department, and a variety of critical clinical and non-clinical departments participated in the Metro North Mass Casualty Incident (MCI)

Exercise at the Redcliffe Leagues Club. 'Exercise Carbon' was a simulation of a counter terrorism event where each of the Metro North Hospitals simultaneously exercised the activation and response to a Code Brown MCI event. The observations and key learnings gathered from Exercise Carbon will contribute significantly to the development of future emergency response plans and exercises leading up to 2032 Olympics.

Beyond the external benefits, this exercise was a valuable opportunity for teamwork and collaboration within TPCH, strengthening internal networks and response coordination. Thank you to all participants who attended and helped coordinate the planning of Exercise Carbon.



Today's quote:

"All other pleasures and possessions pale into nothingness before service which is rendered in a spirit of joy." – Mahatma Gandhi

Kind regards,

Melanie Dubbelde
Acting 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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