



Dear team,

TPCH is leading the way once again! More than 25 per cent of our staff are now vaccinated against the flu, which is the best result from hospitals across Metro North to date.

Thanks to everyone who has rolled up their sleeve to protect patients, family, community and themselves.

This is a great start towards Metro North's target of 85 per cent of staff being vaccinated this year.

Encourage your colleagues who haven't had a flu vaccination to do as soon as possible. Clinics continue at TPCH and across Metro North next week.

Find a vaccination clinic that suits you on the [Metro North Staff Extranet page](#).

If you have had a flu vaccination privately (such as a GP clinic or community pharmacy) let us know [here](#) so we can add you to our total.

We have another long weekend ahead. I hope everyone finds some time to relax and recharge. A special thank you to everyone working over the weekend to care for our patients.

Executive update

This week I caught up with Acting Physiotherapy Clinical Lead Alison (Ali) Mahoney who told me about the Cardiac Surgery Preoperative Inspiratory Muscle Training (CARDIAC SPRINT) research project underway at TPCH.

Alison and team are investigating how to best prepare lungs before cardiac surgery in a short period of time and whether we could use an Inspiratory Muscle Trainer device (pictured) to improve breathing muscle strength routinely on patients who require urgent surgery.



This is a pilot randomised controlled trial of 60 patients at TPCH who are having emergent cardiac surgery. Half of the patients train with an inspiratory muscle trainer, half do not.

The team is evaluating whether this training is feasible, acceptable and if the trainer can strengthen the inspiratory breathing muscles.

Alison has just recruited the 40th patient to this trial, which supports our bigger goal of improving pre-operative preparation of patients for surgery at TPCH. Great work!

Hospital infrastructure

The Minister for Health recently released the [Queensland Government Capacity Expansion Program \(CEP\) Independent Review Report](#).

The purpose of the Independent Review was to examine the planning and delivery of Queensland Health's major hospital projects announced in 2022.

For Metro North Health, the report highlights opportunities and specific recommendations for the Redcliffe Hospital Expansion, The Prince Charles Hospital Expansion and the Queensland Cancer Centre.

The report highlighted:

- the importance of working with HHSs including effective engagement with staff and clinicians,
- the need for better planning to ensure delivery of contemporary priorities,
- the need to refresh designs to ensure they meet clinical priorities that match service need.

While the finer details for each project are yet to be worked through, the Queensland Government has announced its Hospital Rescue Plan and again reaffirmed its commitment to the delivery of these projects. It accepted the recommendations for each Metro North Health project, which are detailed in the [Report](#) (*Recommendations 21-23*).

This is a positive step for Metro North in putting these important projects back on track. We acknowledge the work and time that will be involved in the redesign and replanning of the projects and thank everyone for their ongoing contributions to this process. The success of these projects will ensure we can continue to meet the changing health needs of our patient community moving forward.

Administrative Professionals Day

Today is Administrative Professionals Day. Here are some of the great team at TPCH!

It is a great opportunity to recognise the support of our administrative staff, who have such an important role to ensure we can continue to deliver great patient care.

I know there are events planned today to celebrate this important annual celebration. Please enjoy yourselves and thanks for all that you do for colleagues, patients, visitors and the community.



Get ready to have your say

The Metro North Have Your Say staff survey kicks off in just over a week, on 12 May.

I encourage all staff to take part and let us know what we are doing well and where we can improve. We can't change what we don't know so we want to hear from you. All feedback is anonymous.

If you're a people leader, you play an important role in the survey. Please familiarise yourself with the supports available to get the most out of the feedback and plan time for your staff to complete the survey during their shifts.

There is an abundance of resources available on [QHEPS](#) to prepare managers during the survey and for when the results are released.

There is a manager vidcast planned for Tuesday, 6 May on 'supporting you and your team during the survey'.

Please try to [tune into the vidcast](#) and catch up on the other Have Your Say vidcasts you may have missed by watching the [recordings](#).



Out and about - Food Services

Manager Facility and Support Services Bianca Sullivan and I visited TPCH Food Services team recently.

We continue to receive such great reviews from patients about our room service meals. Eating well improves the overall patient healthcare experience for patients.



It was great to meet some of the team and learn more about their roles and the work they do each day to deliver healthy meals for thousands of people every day.

Staff profile

Clinical Nurse Sally Smith has worked in TPCH Infection Management Service for two years. Prior to this, she worked in Endoscopy, RAS and Internal Medicine over the last 20 years at TPCH.

Currently, her main role and the focus of the Infection Management Service is to ensure staff, students and volunteers at TPCH are vaccinated against the flu.

You will see Sally and the team over the next few weeks around the hospital departments with the flu trolley, promoting and ensuring easy access for staff to receive the flu vaccination.

This year we have already started to see an increase in flu numbers within the community and our inpatients in the last few weeks.



Like last year, the Queensland Government has made the flu vaccinations free for all

Queenslanders, so if you miss our service at work, please visit your GP or pharmacy for your FREE flu vaccination.

If you have received your 2025 influenza vaccination privately (eg GP clinic or community pharmacy) don't forget to complete the [Online Poll for Influenza Vaccination 2025](#).

Vaccination can stop or reduce the impact of the flu. Protect yourself, your family and your patients.

Sally is a mother to two tweenagers. She also enjoys baking, gym and is a netball fanatic at heart. She's returned to the court last weekend for the 2025 season with a great win. Well done!

Shout out

Did you see TPCH graduate perioperative nurse Frankie on the [Metro North Facebook page](#) this week? Make sure to add a like!

After graduating from Australian Catholic University Clinical School in 2024, Frankie is now working at TPCH as a Registered Nurse (RN).

She recently started a rotation in cardiac theatres where she is part of the team who sets up for complex cases including heart transplants, coronary artery bypass grafts and valve replacements. Great work, Frankie!

Do you know a high school student interested in a career in nursing? Encourage them to come to TPCH Nursing Career Expo!

The expo will be held in the TPCH Education Centre car park on Friday 16 May from 12pm to 6pm.



Today's quote:

'Be yourself, everyone else is already taken.' - Oscar Wilde.

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.

