

Executive Message

Metro North Health



Acting Chief Executive Dr Elizabeth Rushbrook

Dear colleagues,

I'm honoured to be the Acting Chief Executive for the next four weeks while Jackie Hanson takes some well-deserved planned leave. During this time, Dr Luis Prado will be the acting Chief Medical Officer.

An extra week to Have your Say

The Have Your Say staff survey closing date has been extended to Sunday, 8 June. We're currently sitting at a response rate of 32%, but we need more voices to ensure the results truly reflect the experiences our workforce.



If you have completed some or all the survey, thank you! I know it's a demanding time across our services and I appreciate you taking the time for this important feedback.

Your feedback helps us understand what's working well and where we need to improve. It's a key part of shaping a positive culture across Metro North.

You don't need to complete the survey in one go — you can log in and out and respond to the questions that matter most to you. Every response contributes to the bigger picture.

For more information or support, visit [QHEPS](#).

[Take the survey now](#)

Health Equity update

National Reconciliation Week

This week is National Reconciliation Week when we reflect on our commitment to work

together to achieve improved outcomes and experiences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Metro North Health supports a comprehensive [health equity strategy](#) aimed at improving the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who experience poorer health outcomes than non-Indigenous Australians. We have many initiatives and activities in place as part of our strategy which focus on creating more culturally safe and appropriate health care services through co-design and engagement with our consumers and community. I look forward to continuing our positive work to ensure we can continue to be a culturally astute and sensitive organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and for all people who require our services.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and Engagement Framework

Metro North Health has developed a new framework and practical guide for engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as part of our health equity commitment.

The framework highlights the importance of collaboration, cultural understanding, and trust-building. By tailoring engagement methods and measuring outcomes, Metro North Health can interact respectfully and meaningfully, strengthen relationships, and improve health outcomes for the community.

The [framework](#) and [guide](#) are now available, and all staff are encouraged to use these resources when designing programs, engaging, and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health across the organisation.

If you have any questions, email the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team - A_TSILT_MNHHS@health.qld.gov.au

Executive update

The report containing recommendation for the recent Tier 1 structural review of the Senior Executive Team conducted by Create Health Advisory, was received this week. These recommendations will be considered and further detailed communication will occur with staff when Jackie Hanson returns from leave.

Flu vaccine is excellent protection this year

This year's flu vaccine is doing exactly what we need it to — protecting people.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) develops an annual influenza vaccine for Australia, based on the strains it expects to be prevalent during winter in the southern hemisphere.



The vaccine can change from year to year as new strains of flu appear, which is why it's important to have a vaccination annually. More than 98 per cent of flu cases recorded

across Australia this year match the strains chosen, meaning the vaccine is excellent protection from the flu this year.

If you haven't already had your flu vaccination this year, please make it a priority today. So far, 47 per cent of Metro North staff have had a vaccination this year, well short of our target of 85 per cent.

Dedicated clinics continue at CKW and TPCH with vaccinations available from Infection Control offices at other facilities. If you have your free vaccination at your GP or pharmacy, please [record it here](#). For more details, visit the staff flu vaccination [Extranet](#) page.

LGBTQIA+ Domestic Violence Awareness Day

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQIA+) [Domestic Violence Awareness Day](#) is held annually across Australia on 28 May.

It is about helping to end violence and abuse within LGBTQIA+ communities by increasing visibility and understanding and giving hope and courage to victims and survivors.

This year, Metro North encouraged staff to wear a bright t-shirt and be in a photo with colleagues to show their support, including RBWH and TPCH teams pictured below.

For more details, contact Domestic and Family Violence Workforce Specialist [Jelena Senic](#) (southern) or [Lillian Flannagan](#) (northern).



RBWH



TPCH

Sad news

Metro North acknowledges the recent passing of two of TPCH's prominent cardiac surgeons, Dr Mark O'Brien and Dr Greg Stafford whose work helped shape and change cardiac surgical practices in Queensland and beyond.

Dr O'Brien was a pioneering figure who served as Cardiac Surgeon-in-Charge at TPCH 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.

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.

Both surgeons were highly respected for their skills and dedication to improving the lives of the many thousands of patients they served. We honour their life changing work and extend our sincere condolences to their families and friends during this time.



Dr Mark O'Brien



Dr Greg Stafford

Regards,
Liz

Acting Executive Director, Clinical Services

Dr Jason Jenkins



Critical Care and Exercise Carbon

Last week, Healthcare Excellence and Innovation's (HEI) Critical Care Stream, in partnership with the Metro North Emergency Management Business Continuity Team, ran Exercise Carbon – a highly coordinated simulation exercise to assess Metro North's readiness and response to a mass casualty incident with a major surge of patients to our Emergency Departments (ED).

Exercise Carbon was the first of a multi-agency series, involving staff and clinicians from ED, critical care and clinical support areas from RBWH, TPCH, Redcliffe Hospital and Caboolture Hospital, as well as PACH, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), Queensland Police Service, Department of Health and other SEQ HHSs, with the staff from the Critical Care Stream facilitating the exercise for each of our hospitals.

The exercise was designed to test and strengthen preparedness for mass casualty and counter-terrorism scenarios through a system-wide approach and communication pathways between the QAS and our health service, as well as the logistical requirements to respond to the incident.

In this test scenario run from the Redcliffe Leagues as the scene of the incident, the exercise saw QAS distribute 85 patients from scene (17 red, 21 yellow and 47 green) whilst a further 45 patients made their own way from scene to Metro North facilities. There were also approximately 20 business as usual patients arriving throughout the morning.

Great collegiality amongst facility teams was demonstrated. Each facility had independent outcomes to test from communication pathways, department disaster plans and resource utilisation. Some of the recommendations from Exercise Carbon included widespread messaging, imaging reporting capability, theatre utilisation and testing the next phase, as the disaster patient journeys through the hospital.

The Critical Care Stream will play a prominent role in the evaluation of facility exercises. The next exercise will occur in July with RBWH leading the continuation, with the Stream's support, to further test and refine clinical functions, and communications and emergency response protocols. STARS will also join this exercise to inform the development of their inaugural disaster response plan.

Exercise Carbon observers from the other hospitals will be invited back to follow the scenario's evolution at RBWH. This involvement will support broader situational awareness, promote shared learning across the system, and to take insights back to their own facilities, with other exercises to be replicated across other sites.

I would like to congratulate the Critical Care Stream which played a very important role to help bring the event together, as well as key facilitation roles during the exercise and evaluation functions so we continue to strengthen our readiness and response.

The Critical Care Stream will also participate in the SEQ Disaster Alliance next week to contribute to a separate readiness and resilience plan for SEQ.

The Critical Care Stream and HEI look forward to working with the Emergency Management Business Continuity Team in the disaster readiness space and to enhance our capability in the face of complex emergencies.





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

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