



Dear colleagues,

It has been a busy time for anniversary celebrations recently. Over the last week, we have celebrated the 30th anniversaries of the RBWH Birth Centre and Genetic Health Queensland.

The birth centre event saw current and former staff come together with former patients to celebrate more than 10,000 new arrivals born there since 1995.

Among the speakers on the day was patient Prue, who is due to have her fourth child at the birth centre in the coming weeks. For each of her deliveries, Prue has been supported by midwife Marion Lengronne, who has now become an important friend of the family. As well, midwife, Sarah Clarke (pictured right) talked about how the experience of having her first child at the birth centre inspired her to become a midwife.



Over its 30 years, the birth centre has been a popular option for those experiencing low risk pregnancies. It is one of only two such facilities at public hospitals in Queensland and provides a home-like environment for mums and their partners to welcome new additions to their family.



## Genetic Health Queensland celebration

The celebrations continued on Friday, when I had the opportunity to attend the Genetic Health Queensland (GHQ) 30th anniversary event (pictured with RBWH ED Operations, Luke Shorten and GHQ Director, Julie McGaughan).

While GHQ is a statewide service, it is housed here on the Herston campus and remains one of the very few clinical genetics services available to Queenslanders.

Much has changed in the medical understanding of genetic conditions in 30-years and GHQ has also changed to keep pace. Their services now include many more subspecialty clinics and expanded cancer genetics services as knowledge about inherited cancers increases.

With more than 11,500 referrals into GHQ in 2024, demand for its services is continuing to grow. Genetic medicine is an area that will see significant technological change in the years to come. Regardless of those advancements, the need for GHQs clinical care and expertise will undoubtedly remain strong.

Thank you to the birth centre and GHQ teams for the contribution they have made to the community over the last 30 years. Here's to many more years of improving quality of life for Queenslanders.

## Have you been fit tested?

You may recall that one of the responses to the Covid pandemic was the introduction of a fit testing requirement for clinical staff. This annual test ensures respirator masks are adequately sealed to offer protection.

Our compliance rate for fit testing is currently 70 per cent, which means around 2000 RBWH staff who should have been tested in the last 12 months are yet to complete it. If you are among them, please click [here](#) and scan the QR code to make an appointment, or you can drop into Room 6614 on level 6 of the Ned Hanlon Building between 7.30am and 4.15pm Monday to Friday.

For larger groups, the team will visit locations around RBWH. If you're not up to date with fit testing, please take the time to drop in or make an appointment as soon as possible.



### Staff Profile - Kim Chambers

In healthcare settings, there are a diverse range of potential risks that can affect patient and staff safety. Identifying and mitigating these risks is an important part of Risk Manager Kim's role.

"At their core, a risk is an uncertain future event that may impact our ability to achieve an objective, whether related to patient care, staff safety or a broader strategic goal," Kim said.

"Everyone at RBWH has a role to play in identifying and helping manage risks."

Once a risk is identified, Kim and the team work through a robust process to treat it.

"Risks are firstly assessed based on the likelihood of them occurring and potential consequences, and then a risk mitigation plan is put in place," Kim said.

Kim has a takeaway message for all staff about managing risks.

"Risk management starts in the planning and it's an essential component of our work each day," she says.

"When staff are empowered to identify and manage risks, we become a more resilient and proactive organisation."

For more information, on risk management responsibilities, click [here](#).

## 14-day Self Care Challenge

This week is World Wellbeing Week, where we learn about and celebrate the many aspects of wellbeing. This year, Staff Wellbeing Officer, Dr. Liz Crowe is again leading the RBWH 14-day Self Care Challenge. All staff are invited to intentionally check-in with themselves through a short daily activity that examines a different aspect of wellbeing.

Our jobs in healthcare are always busy and often stressful, which when combined with demands outside of work, means we can sometimes neglect our own mental and emotional wellbeing. I encourage you to get involved in the 14-day challenge and spend some time each day focusing on what you need to improve your wellbeing. Click [here](#) to learn more and get started.

## NAIDOC Week 2025

National NAIDOC Week is almost with us for 2025. Running from 6 to 13 July, this year's theme is, '*The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy*', which celebrates the bright future ahead as young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders forge a vision for the future while remembering the legacy of their ancestor's achievements.



**THE NEXT  
GENERATION:  
STRENGTH,  
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6-13 JULY 2025

As part of the celebrations, RBWH will host a NAIDOC Week Market on Monday 7 July at the main entrance of the hospital. The market will feature Aboriginal and Torres Islander stall holders selling products including coffee, artwork, jewellery, supplements and more. I encourage you to show your support for these small businesses and our First Nations colleagues and community across the week.

## SET Staff Forum - Thursday 3 July

Before I sign off today, another event to mark in your calendar is the SET Staff Forum on Thursday 3 July at 11.30am in the Education Centre or on Teams.

The forum is your opportunity to hear from and ask questions of Chief Executive Jackie Hanson and other members of the Metro North Senior Executive Team.

I encourage you to take the time to attend either in-person or online to hear about the latest organisational priorities.

Thank you for everything you do for our community.

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.

**Metro North  
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