



Summary:

- Interim Chief Executive
- Performance and Accountability Framework
- Board Consumer and Community Forum
- Research Summit and Excellence Awards

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read: 4 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

Following on from the announcement of Adjunct Professor Jackie Hanson's retirement as Chief Executive of Metro North Health, the Board has invited Mr Nick Steele to act as Chief Executive. This appointment will be until a new CE is commissioned into the role. Recruitment for the new appointee will commence shortly.

Nick is well known to many in the Health Service and across the state health system. His current role is Deputy Director General, Clinical Support Queensland and he previously held the role as Deputy Director General, Healthcare Purchasing and System Performance for a 7-year period. Nick has also had experience acting as CE for other HHSs including Mackay Hospital and Health Service.

We look forward to welcoming Nick to Metro North HHS and working with him. Knowing Nick, he will be out and about our health services and I hope many of you get to meet him.

Dr Liz Rushbrook, who is currently Acting CE, is going on annual leave on September 5, 2025, and will assist with a handover to Nick who will commence on September 3.

Upon her return Dr Rushbrook will continue as our Chief Medical Officer and alongside our outstanding Senior Leadership Team will support the Acting CE and the Board in our work. I would like to thank Dr Rushbrook for generously stepping up to act as our CE and

the broader leadership team. They are outstanding leaders and people, and we are lucky to have them.

Performance and Accountability Framework

One of the significant projects our HHS has been working on is the review of its Organisational Structure and Performance Accountability Framework. Many of the structures in place currently were established when the HHS commenced back in 2012, and they have served us well. The Board with our senior leadership team undertook the recent review to establish the business structures appropriate for Metro North for the next 10 years to ensure we can continue to delivery outstanding healthcare services and meet the growing needs of the communities we serve. These structures will support the organisation deliver on our new [Strategic Plan](#) and our vision *Creating healthier futures together—where innovation and research meets compassionate care and community voices shape our services*.

The review recommended Metro North strengthen our Performance and Accountability Framework. This project is well advanced and will continue. Its outcomes will leverage our values and support and enable those delivering frontline care and all support services across the organisation.

Given the priority and significance of this work, the Board has agreed that the other recommendations of the review, including the proposed Business Case for Significant Change, should be paused for a period for consideration by our new Chief Executive. The Board will continue to engage with our Acting Chief Executive, our Senior Leadership Team and leaders across the organisation for any immediate changes necessary to support you in the work you do for our consumers and community. We will consult appropriately prior to making any changes.

Consumer and Community Engagement workshop

I attended the Metro North Hospital and Health Service Research Summit and our Consumer and Community Engagement workshop at Brighton last week. Both wonderful events!



care and solutions to health problems.

The summit brought together our diverse and extensive innovation and research work, including our research institutes. One of the key themes across the presentations and panel discussions was the collaborative work between clinicians and researchers, within Metro North HHS but also with our partners outside including QUT, UQ and QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute.

I had the opportunity to meet and talk to many wonderful staff members at these events. You are all part of the rich tapestry of life in our hospital and health service. Following the Research Excellence Awards dinner, I received a note with a patient's compliment on our food service team, which emphasises the beauty of teamwork to deliver on our commitments to our patients. I thought I would share:

"I wish to sincerely thank the unsung heroes who support RBWH frontline service. Your ability to provide timely, effective and very efficient service is the backbone of this wonderful health provider. Without your diligence, wide choice of food items and your polite, friendly and almost invisible presence the frontline service would collapse."

On behalf of your Board, can I thank you for your service. It means so much to have such a great team.

Regards,
Bernard Curran

Pictured: A/CE Dr Liz Rushbrook, CE's Award recipient Prof Jeffrey Lipman, Board Chair Bernard Curran

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.

Metro North Health's vision

Creating healthier futures together—where
innovation and research meets compassionate
care and community voices shape our services.



**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](#)