

Metro North Health

Message from the

Executive Director The Prince Charles Hospital

Tami Photinos



Summary:

- Staff Excellence Awards nominations
- Executive update
- R U OK? Day events
- Child Protection Week
- Staff profile - Dennis Lavita

Message feedback



Audience:
All staff



Read time:
5 min



For: Information

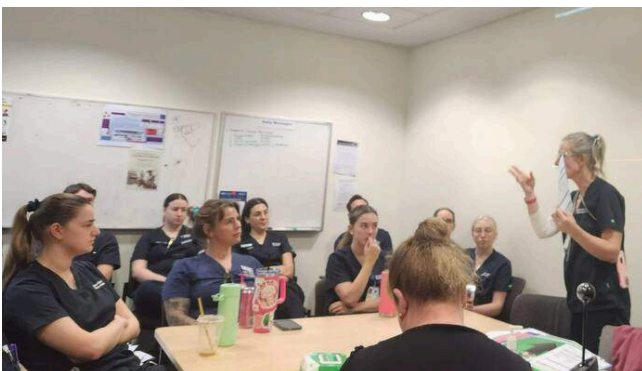
Dear team,

This is your last chance to get your nominations in for TPCH Staff Excellence Awards - they are closing this coming Monday 15 September 2025 at 5pm.

These annual awards provide a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate those individuals and teams who make a significant contribution to TPCH and Metro North.



More information including the award guidelines are [available on QHEPS](#).



Executive update

This week I attended the nursing staff meeting in the emergency department. It was a great opportunity to understand some of the challenges, especially around Occupational Violence Prevention. We spoke about Have Your Say and Sav from Safety and Quality (*pictured left*) provided an update on new initiatives.



I attended the Research Council meeting, where host MERF provided members with a tour of the facility and a chance to learn more about one of our important research partners.

Over the past few weeks we have encouraged conversations around organ and tissue donation on Jersey Day and creating safe, inclusive and empowering spaces for LGBTIQ+ youth through 'Wear it Purple'. Congratulations to TPCH Physiotherapy Social Club for raising \$330 for Wear It Purple with their delicious bake sale.



R U OK? Day

Yesterday we recognised R U OK? Day, an important day on TPCH's calendar. R U OK? Day is about starting meaningful conversation about how people are doing, to make sure they're okay.

Members of TPCH Staff Council and Executive visited areas throughout the hospital, giving out yellow goodies to staff, including bananas and chocolates. In addition, Dr Catherine McDougall presented a R U OK? Day Special Edition TPCH Grand Rounds. TPCH Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service and Social Work team participated in a jewellery making circle in the Gathering Garden, followed by a morning tea.



We also awarded our R U OK? Day Champions - Robyn Brian, Shaun Pandey and Kirsty Rogan. Congratulations and thank you for championing the R U OK? message every day at TPCH.



If you'd like more general information about R U OK? Day and the support services available for staff, please go to the [Metro North Culture, Engagement and Wellbeing extranet page](#).

Child Protection Week (7-13 September)

In recognition of National Child Protection Week, the Child Protection Unit invited staff to a seminar to reflect on how we can protect and support vulnerable young people and children who access TPCH.

Attendees heard from Dakota, who shared her lived experience within the foster care system and accessing health care. Toni (Brisbane Emergency Response Outreach Service) and Libby (Evolve Therapeutic Services) also offered insights into working in a trauma-informed way with vulnerable young people and children.

For more information or for any other support with child protection matters please call TPCH Child Protection Unit on 3139 5259.



PREMS now live for emergency pa



I mentioned this during Safety and Quality Month in August. Patients who attend TPCB Emergency Department now receive a Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMs) survey via SMS two days after their visit.

Inpatient PREMs is tentatively scheduled to start later this year. For more information, visit [QHEPS PREM](#)s page.

The future of Cancer Care in Metro North

TPCB staff are being invited to contribute to the ten-year Metro North Health Cancer Care Clinical Services Plan 2026-2036.

All staff are invited to join a consultation briefing on Tuesday 16 September, ahead of a survey, later this month.

Find out more about how to get involved [here](#).

Extended hours for The Common Good Caravan

The Coffee Caravan will be trialling extended opening hours until 7pm for Wednesdays and Thursday nights from **Wednesday 17 September until Thursday 9 October 2025**.



As well as their usual great coffee, the caravan will have additional menu items including toasted pre-made sandwiches/Turkish bread (including vegetarian and vegan options), a selection of pies and sausage rolls, sweet treats and a larger selection of cold drinks and confectionary items.

Stem cell and blood donation

Next Wednesday 17 September, The Common Good Café are taking part in Brewing for a Match, a national campaign aimed at learning more about joining the stem cell donor

registry. Visit the Café from 9am-1pm to learn how simple it is to join the donor registry and take the first step towards saving a life.

In addition, the Australian Red Cross LifeBlood are urgently appealing for people to donate blood and help boost critical supplies. Record high demand for blood during winter, coupled with appointment cancellations has severely impacted the supply. To book a donation call 13 14 95, visit [Lifeblood](#) or download the Lifeblood App.

We all have a role to reduce mould

This can include preventing and controlling water intrusion, monitoring excess moisture, reducing organic material, such as paper or wood, and cleaning surfaces regularly.

To report instance of mould and ensure a BEMS assessment, send an [email](#) and include pictures, location, details and contact information.

Staff Profile - Dennis Lavita

To celebrate World Physio Day on Monday this week, we are profiling one of our Senior Physiotherapists, Dennis Lavita.

Originally from the Philippines, Dennis has been a physiotherapist at TPCH since 2006, working across the hospital.

"A typical workday at TPCH is very varied - from helping patients with chest infections, stroke patients and the elderly," Dennis said.

"The cases we see are often quite complex, with other factors such as obesity and chronic health conditions impacting the patient's health."

"When a patient is in hospital, they often feel helpless. I like to use humour to lighten the mood and to build rapport. By building trust, I can start to give a patient back their confidence and hope. It's all about getting patients home to their loved ones."

Staff at TPCH might also know Dennis for his DJ skills.

"I've been a DJ on and off for more than 30 years, mostly as a volunteer. I provide entertainment for events in my Filipino community as well as TPCH Week activities like 'Race Around the Helipad', Giving Day and the annual Internal Medicine Services Christmas party."



Kind regards,

Tami Photinos

Executive Director
The Prince Charles Hospital

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**

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