

Metro North Health

Message from the

## Executive Director The Prince Charles Hospital

Tami Photinos



### Summary:

- TPCH Charlies Week
- Executive update
- Cultural blessing of the new Clinical Trials Centre
- National Week of Deaf People
- Staff profile - Jenny Peek
- Shout out - TPCH ICU nurses

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read Time: 5 Minutes



For: Information

Dear team,

It's just over three weeks until TPCH Charlies Week, 20 to 24 October.

This is an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the great work of our team at TPCH. It's also our way of saying thank you to all staff for your hard work and efforts throughout the year.

This year's TPCH Charlies Week program includes a range of fantastic activities including staff wellness day, hour of power presentations, Giving Day, staff excellence awards, cultural performances, as well as some individual and team competitions - the famous Master Cake Competition, Race around the Helipad, CPR Relay Challenge, Short Film Competition, Treasure Hunt, Trivia Quiz and a Dress Up Competition. There is something for everyone!

It will be a great week, and I encourage staff to participate if they can. To find out more and to register, check out TPCH Charlies week program.

[View TPCH Charlies Week program](#)

### Executive update

Yesterday, I attended our weekly Grand Rounds session to help present a special award to

Prof Alison Mudge. Alison recently won the Australasian Delirium Association Delirium-ologist of the year 2025 in recognition of her outstanding work with "Eat Walk and Engage". This award was presented at the Australasian Delirium Society's DECLARED meeting however, Alison was unable to collect her award in person, and we wanted her to be recognised in front of her peers. Professor Mudge has been instrumental in building a CRE NHMRC grant to establish a delirium research network. Her research activity relates to the high impact 'Eat Walk and Engage' program. Congratulations Alison!



With spring now here, it was fitting that Director of Operations Heart and Lung, Drew Kear and I were invited to attend Ward 1B's themed afternoon tea – Springtime. It was great to see staff coming together and having a bit of fun during their busy day. Thank you for having us along.

Yesterday was World Pharmacists Day and our Pharmacy team donned some purple scrubs to mark the day. The theme "Think Health. Think Pharmacist", highlights the essential role pharmacists play in ensuring sustainable, resilient health care for patients and the community. Keep up the great work team!



*Ward 1B*



*World Pharmacists Day*

### Cultural blessing of the new Clinical Trials Centre

On Monday, the new Clinical Trials Centre (CTC) at TPCH was honoured with a cultural blessing, led by Refiti Tovi, a proud descendant of the Turrbal Peoples. With the blessing of her Aunt, Turrbal Elder Songwoman Maroochy, Refiti delivered the Welcome to Country on behalf of the Turrbal People of Brisbane. The ceremony acknowledged Country and marked the beginning of the Centre's journey with respect, recognition, and cultural awareness.



The new CTC is a state-of-the-art, phase I-capable, mRNA-enabled facility that will serve as a hub for world-class research at TPCH. It has been purpose-built to accelerate innovation, strengthen our clinical research workforce, and deepen our partnerships with industry and academia. Importantly, clinical trials give our patients access to new therapies and

medical devices they would not otherwise be able to receive, improving outcomes and equity of access across Queensland.

This is a milestone for TPOCH and Metro North, and we look forward to the opportunities this Centre will create for our patients, our staff, and the wider community.

All staff are invited to attend the **All-Staff Open Session on Thursday 9 October between 1-3pm**, to see the centre and ask any questions you might have. A stakeholder tour will also be held that morning.

## National Week of Deaf People

This week we celebrate National Week of Deaf People (NWDP) 2025 (22-28 September).

The theme for 2025, is "No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights". This theme highlights the fundamental importance of [AUSLAN](#) as a linguistic human right for the Australian Deaf community.

To celebrate, our wonderful colleagues at CKW, together with Consumer Cody Skinner, held an in person and online workshop yesterday which we were all invited to. The workshop provided information about Deaf Culture and taught some basic AUSLAN signs. Well done to the team involved and those who attended.

Metro North values people of all abilities and their right for equitable access to quality health services. Together, we are working towards making our health service more welcoming and inclusive for all members of our community. You can find out more by reading the [Metro North Disability Action Plan](#).

## Health Equity update

### Elders reflect on Health Equity journey

At TPOCH, our journey towards creating a more equitable health care service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples has been guided and strengthened by the wisdom of local Elders.

Health equity is only possible when we listen, learn, and walk alongside Elders and community in true co-design. Elders are knowledge holders and teachers, and their voices continue to shape a health service that reflects the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

At the Metro North Health Equity Strategy Launch held in July, Elders shared powerful reflections on this journey. I encourage you to take the time to watch this special [film](#), alongside the official health equity launch film, to hear their voices and perspectives.

### CPP and Identification Training Now Mandatory

In September, a new [Mandatory Training policy](#) was released across Metro North Health. I am pleased to announce that, under this policy, all staff are now required to complete the

newly mandated Cultural Practice Program (face-to-face) and Identification Training (available both face-to-face and online).

The Talent Management System (TMS) automatically assigned these courses to all staff starting Monday, 15 September. Any new starters will have 90 days from their commencement date to complete the training.

Completion of these courses is not optional. It is an organisational expectation that all staff complete the required training. This reflects our shared commitment under our Health Equity agenda, working towards building a culturally capable organisation and providing safety and excellence in care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Upcoming dates for the Cultural Practice Program and Identification Training can be found on TMS.

### Staff Profile - Jenny Peek

Jenny Peek is the Assistant Nursing Director – Clinical Trials, Nursing Workforce and Innovation, the first role of its type in Metro North.

Having recently led the establishment of the new Clinical Trials Centre at TPCH, Jenny provides professional leadership for the clinical trials nursing workforce. Her role focuses on ensuring trials are delivered safely and to national accreditation standards, while also engaging with stakeholders across research groups, hospital services, and industry to build capacity and collaboration. This ensures the Centre is positioned as a high-quality, patient-centred research facility that expands access to innovative therapies.



For Jenny, who previously project managed an MRFF-funded research collaboration to implement a randomised controlled trial of smoking cessation interventions within lung cancer screening research into business-as-usual practice, the best part of her role is advocating for and building capacity within the clinical trials nursing workforce.

"I am excited that this role has been created —recognising the specialty nature of clinical trials nursing.

"I want to see clinical trials nurses formally acknowledged for their expertise, and to build momentum towards workforce permanency so this specialty can continue to grow and thrive."

Outside of work, Jenny enjoys cheering on her team the Dolphins, cooking up a storm, spending time with my family, and she's proud to be part of the queer community.

### Shout out - TPCH ICU Nurses take Kokoda

A team of eight Intensive Care Unit (ICU) nurses from TPCH alongside close friends



recently completed a nine-day trek across the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea.

Led by ICU nurse Susan Blinkhoff, the team trekked approximately 96km through the rainforest, encountering treacherous terrain and tough conditions. It was a true test of resilience, teamwork and determination – the same traits they draw on every day in the ICU.



“This was a trip of a lifetime – the most unbelievable and gruelling thing we had ever done – but we loved every second of this life-changing journey,” said Susan.

More than just a physical challenge, the nurses also used their skills to support the health needs of local communities. Along the way, they provided informal medical care through dressing wounds, offering hydration support and assisting with a minor surgical procedure at Kokoda Hospital.

Reflecting on the experience, Susan said individually everyone has come back stronger, with the feeling of ‘now I can conquer anything’.

“As a team, we’ve gained a deep trust and respect for each other that will last a lifetime.”

Well done to the nurses involved. To read more, visit the [Metro North Newsroom](#).

Kind regards,

**Tami Photinos**

Executive Director

The Prince Charles Hospital



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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