

Message from the

## Acting ED Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford

Dr Ted Chamberlain



### Summary:

- National Apology Day
- Celebrating women and girls in science
- Love is in the Allied Health team
- Metro North Diversity and Inclusion Plan
- Staff movement and recruitment
- CKW Pet of the Week

[Message feedback](#)



**Audience:** All staff



**Read time:** 4 min



**For:** Information

Dear CKW team,

Today on National Apology Day, we commemorate the 18th anniversary of the formal apology by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly the Stolen Generations. The apology acknowledged the intergenerational trauma caused by the forced child removal policies and renewed commitments to reconciliation and healing.



Thank you to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Team for putting on an event at Caboolture Hospital this morning. It gave staff a moment to reflect on the significance of the National Apology, and how each of us can contribute through our roles and interactions to respect, healing, reconciliation and better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.

You can read more about the importance of this day in this morning's [message](#) from Metro North's Chief Executive Nick Steele and Executive Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Sherry Holzapfel.

## Celebrating women and girls in science

On Wednesday this week, The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation hosted its third annual high tea in celebration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

This is a special event where remarkable women connected to the Foundation who have each made significant contributions to healthcare and science share their journeys.



Among the speakers this year were Emergency Staff Specialist Dr Faye Jordan (left), Allied Health Research Coordinator Lisa Franks (centre) and Caboolture Hospital Physiotherapist Helen Edwards (right).

Helen was the Caboolture Hospital Research Grant Recipient (2024): Embracing Menopause in the Workplace - Do we need to Reframe the Path to a Healthier Future?

## February What's On

A graphic titled 'FEBRUARY '26' featuring a green-to-blue gradient background. It includes sections for 'WHAT'S ON' and 'CKW EVENTS' with a list of events.

## Love is in the Allied Health team

Tomorrow is Valentine's Day, so what better time to share a CKW love story.

Kirsch and Kersha Jacobs not only share a surname and a workplace at Caboolture Hospital,



but also a life built across two countries and two careers in healthcare.

The pair met through a mutual friend who was struck by the coincidence of knowing two people with the same uncommon name.

At the time, both were living in New Zealand, where their families had emigrated from South Africa.

Intrigued by the rare connection, they agreed to meet which would be a decision that would shape the rest of their lives.

Married in 2015, Kirsch and Kersha now have two daughters, both born at Caboolture Hospital — the same hospital where they each play vital roles in supporting the local community.

Read more about Kirsch and Kersha's story on the Metro North Newsroom [here](#).

## Metro North Diversity and Inclusion Plan

To provide the best care to our patients, we need to ensure our workforce represents the community we care for. Following two Equity and Diversity Audits at Metro North and in collaboration with our diversity groups, consumers and the Department, the first [Metro North Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan](#) has been published. The plan commits to addressing diversity inequity and supporting and valuing our colleagues of all identities, genders, abilities and cultures.

It is all our responsibility to embed the principles of this plan into our day-to-day work practice, so please familiarise yourself with the new plan.

## Staff movements and recruitment

There are some updates within the Medical Services team at CKW.

While I am Acting Executive Director, Dr Robert McGrath is Acting Director of Medical Services.

Dr Grant Howard is providing support in the Acting Deputy Director of Medical Services role until 20 February 2026.

Dr Gigi Kwan has commenced in the Medical Administration Registrar role from 2 February 2026 – 31 January 2027. Gigi will be working on a part-time basis (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday until 12 noon).

Please join me in welcoming Grant and Gigi to the team, and a belated welcome to Rob in his new role.

Should you have any queries or require assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the DMS office on 5433 8809 or [DMS-CKW@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:DMS-CKW@health.qld.gov.au)



**BEYOND DIVERSITY WORKSHOP**

The **BEYOND DIVERSITY** WORKSHOP is a powerful, personally transforming, two day staff workshop that helps participants understand the impact of race on their lives, their work, and the community they serve.

**All staff are invited to attend!**

How to register  
– Search '**BEYOND DIVERSITY WORKSHOP**' on TMS.

For more information, please call 3170 4467 or email: [ATSLT\\_CapacityBuilding@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:ATSLT_CapacityBuilding@health.qld.gov.au)



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### CKW Pets of the Week

This week's CKW Pets of the Week belongs to Parker Michaels, Manager of Community and Consumer Engagement.

**Name:** Dottie (brown) and Tulip (white and brown)

**Age:** Two years old and one year old

**Breed:** Droughtmaster and Speckle Park

#### About us:

Dottie is my adorable giant baby. She came to us from a friend when she was four months old. We bottle fed her for months to build a bond with her. She will always stand with us when we're outside and even sits with us by the campfire. If I call her name, she will call back to me and come running from wherever she is on our little farm. She loves to stretch out and sleep in the

sun. When she shakes her head, her big floppy ears slap her face.

Tulip is our beautiful boofhead. She came to us from a local calf rescue at one week old. She was so small she fit in the back of my 4WD. Baby cows that don't feed from their mum are susceptible to illness so her first couple of months were stressful. She is a huge toddler now with the softest ears. As we are the only family she has known, she treats me like her mama and has no problem headbutting me when she wants food.



Dottie and Tulip adore each other 99% of the time and will lick each other and snuggle up to sleep. Just don't stand between them when treats are involved... then it's every cow for herself.

To have your pet featured, please send a photo and the above details [here](#).

### Quote of the day

"Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance."

Verna Myers

Kind Regards

**Dr Ted Chamberlain**  
Acting Executive Director,  
Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford

**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.



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