



Latest staff news 13 February 2026



Dear colleagues,

Today marks 18 years since then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered the Apology to the Stolen Generations. It was a poignant and powerful moment in Australian history that told survivors of the stolen generations that they had been heard.

Almost 2 decades on from the apology, it's still hard to believe that we once stole from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the right to grow up safely in their own family.

Ian Hamm, a Yorta Yorta man taken from his mother in 1964 when he was just a few weeks old, said the following about the Apology to the Stolen Generations:

"It is perhaps a measure of our maturing as a nation that we are becoming more prepared to own and accept the bits of our national narrative that are unsavoury and uncomfortable as much as we want to celebrate that which makes us proud and confident. That day was when Australia crossed a threshold. It's where we stopped the argument about whether there were Stolen Generations. It marked a critical turning point, and it encompassed something greater too. Indirectly, it was a broader apology to Aboriginal Australia."

As we continue to learn from the mistakes of the past, I look forward to working alongside all MNMH staff as we strive to deliver better mental health outcomes for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers.

Kind regards

Dr Hitesh Joshi
Acting Executive Director
Metro North Mental Health

SAC2 focus and thank you

In recent weeks, staff from all disciplines and across the service have come together at the TPCH and Caboolture to address our backlog of SAC2 clinical incident reviews. This collaborative approach has delivered amazing results, with

only 19 SAC2s outstanding from a list of more than 70 a few weeks back.

It's been brilliant to see everybody working together and helping to improve the safety and quality of our services. Thank you to everyone who contributed – you should be proud of your efforts!

[EOIs](#) to participate at the third SAC2 workshop (Wednesday 18 February 2026 from 9.30am to 2pm at RedCab) close at COB Monday 16 February 2026. The matters considered at this workshop will be from across the directorate.



Release of strategies, plans and models of care

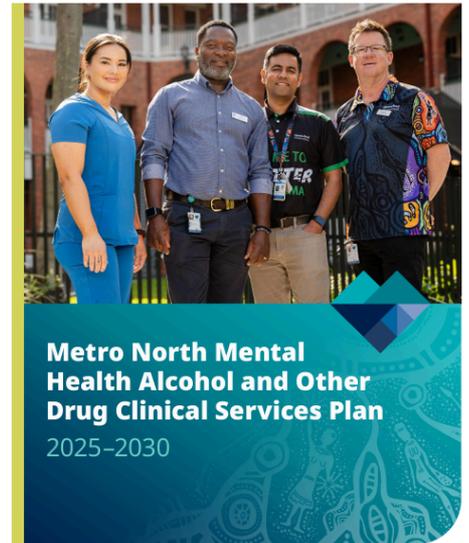
Clinical Services Plan

Following significant effort and consultation, the *Metro North Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drug Clinical Services Plan 2025–2030* (the CSP) has been finalised and [published](#).

This collaborative piece would not have been possible without our colleagues from Metro North Strategy and Planning, the leadership of Louise Durant and then Emma Armitage, and staff from across the whole of MNMH who contributed to the plan.

The CSP outlines key actions guided by core principles to provide person-centred, connected care which is equipped for future challenges. It will inform all of our work for the next 5 years, and work is underway to prioritise and plan implementation of each of the objectives/actions.

I encourage you to take the time to read through the plan and develop a shared understanding with your colleagues of how it relates to your work. I'll also provide more detail on the implementation of the plan in upcoming newsletters.



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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Crisis Reform Strategy

This week, following the significant efforts of staff across the service, the *Mental Health Crisis Reform Strategy North Brisbane Region 2025-2030*, a joint initiative of Metro North Mental Health and Brisbane North Primary Healthcare Network (PHN), was completed. The [Crisis Reform Strategy](#) provides a great opportunity for the region and sets the framework for the next five years to work towards a connected continuum of care to give people the right care, at the right place and time.

It is aimed at improving the system for consumers and carers who experience mental health crisis and includes feedback from health, education, research and emergency professionals, lived experience, carers and consumers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and non-government organisations. As with the CSP, please take a moment to read the Crisis Reform Strategy to help understand how it relates to your work.

Models of care

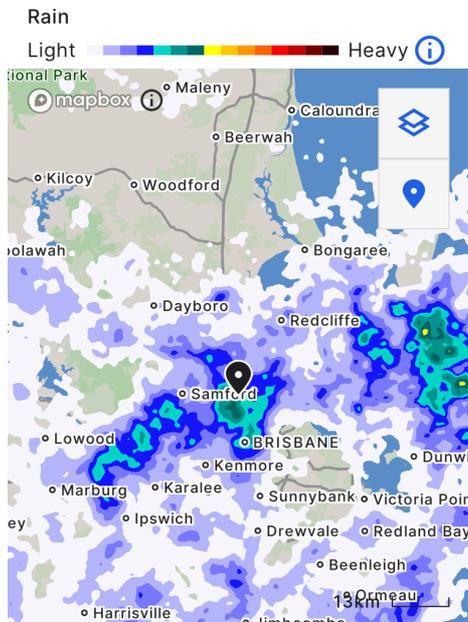
Also finalised and approved this week were three important models of care including the:

- [MNMH Hospital in the Home \(HiTH\) Model of Care \(MoC\)](#)
- [MNMH-TPCH Crisis Response Team \(CRT\) MoC](#)
- [MNMH-TPCH Acute Care Team \(ACT\) MoC](#).

Finalising these models is an important milestone and will help us close out a number of important recommendations from the Part 9 investigation, while paving the way for a new mental health HiTH service at TPCH. Sincere thanks to staff from the TPCH and across MNMH who contributed to this work.

Severe weather warning

While it hasn't started yet, the Bureau of Meteorology is still predicting areas of heavy to locally intense rain across parts of southeast Queensland during Friday and into Saturday. Localised flash flooding may become an increased



risk across the area during Friday, persisting into the weekend.

In the past heavy rain and flooding has affected the ability of some staff to get to or from work. If you have concerns about getting to or from work over the next few days, please discuss this with your supervisor now.

Staff are asked to be mindful of where you park when coming to and leaving work as some areas on or near our campuses are prone to flooding. Take care when walking to and from your vehicle and remain undercover until it is safe to move around. Be mindful that the wet weather may also cause difficult driving conditions. Please remain safe, take extreme care on the roads and under no circumstance cross flooded waterways.

Please stay tuned across the weekend for the latest advice from the Metro North Health EOC/IMG.

Mental Health Nurses' Day 2026



While Mental Health Nurses' Day is officially on 21 February, the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) will celebrate the incredible work of mental health nurses a day early this year.

Mental health nurses transform lives through knowledge, empathy, and advocacy and this day honours their important role in our services and communities.

With nurses making up more than half of the MNMH workforce, please make time next Friday 20 February 2026 to celebrate the wonderful mental health nurses in your team and the contribution they make to improving mental health outcomes for our consumers.

To celebrate Mental Health Nurses' Day 2026, the ACMHN is hosting a webinar including a special keynote address from Dr Lesley Barr and to present the Mental Health Nurse of the Year award.

The webinar will run from 3-5pm AEDT on Friday 20 February 2026. More information including a calendar appointment can be found on the ACMHN [website](#).

Staff movements

Today marks the official handover of the Dietitian role at MNMH-TPCH, with **Donna Finland** departing the role after 4 years. Donna (right of photo) is a Credentialed Eating Disorder Clinician (CEDC) and has contributed to a range of initiatives supporting consumers with eating disorders during their admission to MNMH-TPCH. She always approached her work with dedication and compassion, with consumers describing her as 'a source of calm, support, and understanding during some of their most feared experiences'. In good news, Donna is not totally lost to the TPCH and has secured a permanent full-time Senior Dietitian role, working across both the Adult Surgical and Paediatric teams. Thank you, Donna.

Georgia Magub (left of photo) will fill the Dietitian role from next week to June 2026. Georgia has previously provided cover for the TPCH mental health wards and has recently completed a 12-month secondment with QuEDS and RBWH H-Floor, bringing a breadth of mental health clinical experience to the role. Congratulations Georgia.

Thank you also to **Dr Sophie Burke** who this week completed 6 months in the Clinical Director role at MNMH-TPCH. During a busy and challenging period, Sophie demonstrated exceptional leadership while representing the needs of consumers and staff with compassion and care. Sophie will now return to her substantive role while **Dr Darren Neillie** will act in the role of Clinical Director MNMH-TPCH from 16 February 2026 to 29 March 2026.

Congratulations also to **Dr Katrina Chiu**, recently appointed to the new role of Deputy Director QFMHS and **Carissa Uzabeaga**, recently appointed to the role of Director of Social Work MNMH.

Thank you also to 2 nurses who have dedicated more than 70 years to Queensland Health, and most of that time to mental health. **Clive Moutrey**, Clinical Nurse with the Southern Continuing Care Team and **Ron McDonald**, NUM at HADS, are both commencing their transition to retirement. Both Clive and Ron are highly respected and their dedication to their consumers and teams will be deeply missed. We wish both of you good health and happiness as you enjoy life outside of work.

Robin Counsel also recently commenced as the temporary Nursing Director MNMH-RBWH, during Kathrin Peisker's secondment to HADS.



National LiFE Awards nominee



Anna Asnicar, MNMH's ASPIRES CNC has been nominated for the Suicide Prevention Australia - LiFE Award.

The 2026 [National LiFE Awards](#), hosted by [Suicide Prevention Australia](#), recognise outstanding individuals, communities, and organisations, including workplace initiatives, that demonstrate exceptional commitment and innovation in suicide prevention. The LiFE Awards highlight best practices, fostering collaboration to reduce suicides and supporting those affected.

Nominees and recipients of the Queensland LiFE Awards will be celebrated on Wednesday 11 March at a gala dinner. **Congratulations Anna** on your nomination and fingers crossed you bring home the award!

Important updates from the Standard 4 Medication Safety Committee

Checking QScript

'Relevant practitioners' practising in Queensland (medical practitioners, pharmacists, intern pharmacists, nurse practitioners, endorsed midwives, dentists, podiatric surgeons and endorsed podiatrists) **must check QScript for patient records** before the following dealings (unless an exemption applies or the practitioner has a reasonable excuse):

- prescribing a monitored medicine for a patient
- dispensing a monitored medicine for a patient
- giving a treatment dose of a monitored medicine for a patient.

Checking QScript is a legal requirement. For further information please refer to [QScript](#).

GLP

The glucagon-like-peptide-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1 RA) prescription medicines are used primarily to manage type 2 diabetes mellitus and obesity. Product warnings across the GLP-1 RA class of medicines have been aligned to ensure consistent information regarding the potential risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviours.

The updates follow investigations by Therapeutic Good Administration (TGA) and other international regulators. The following wording has been added to the Product Information for all GLP-1 RAs (except Saxenda as it already included suitable wording):

Psychiatric disorders

Suicidal behaviour and ideation have been reported with GLP-1 receptor agonists. Monitor patients for the emergence or worsening of depression, suicidal thoughts or behaviours, and/or any unusual changes in mood or behaviour. Consider the benefits and risks for individual patients prior to initiating or continuing therapy in patients with suicidal thoughts or behaviours or have a history of suicidal attempts. For further details refer to [GLP-1 RAs: warnings aligned over potential risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviours | Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#).

Changes to the LAM (List of approved medicines)

Abilify Asimtufii, once every two months – aripiprazole modified release injection 720mg, 960mg is available on the LAM. Patients who are already established on Aripiprazole Maintena can be transitioned to Aripiprazole Asimtufii. Note that administration is by slow intramuscular injection (IMI) into gluteal muscle only. For further details refer to the [LAM](#).

Risperdal Consta, once every 2 weeks – risperidone modified release injection 25mg, 37.5mg, 50mg LAM listing has been amended. The indications are for treatment of:

- a) Treatment of schizophrenia in patients already established on this long-acting injectable preparation.
- b) Maintenance treatment, in combination with lithium or sodium valproate, for refractory bipolar I disorder.

Therefore, if Risperdal Consta is commenced an Individual Patient Approval (IPA) is required prior to starting.

Risvan, once every 28 days – risperidone modified release injection 75mg, 100mg is approved for the treatment of Schizophrenia. For further details, please refer to the [LAM](#).

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 we 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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