



Summary:

- Ward realignment implementation
- Welcome to our medical interns
- Staff Profile - Dr Ann Mary & Dr Alex
- Bringing tele-echos to regional Queenslanders
- Preventing mould in hot weather
- Collaborative Forums return for 2026

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Dear team

I'm pleased to start today's message with news that the RBWH Ward Realignment relocations have been completed over the last few weeks, with more than 160 patients safely moved to new ward locations.

These changes enable us to continue providing high-quality, accessible care now and into the future. They will also reduce the number of outlier patients, allowing expert teams to work more closely together to deliver improved outcomes for those in our care.

Planning and implementing a realignment of this scale requires significant coordination, careful planning and close attention to detail. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has played a part in making this happen safely and effectively. It has been a true demonstration of teamwork and collaboration across RBWH and Metro North Sustainable Assets and Infrastructure, including BEMS.

Special thanks also to the NUMs, ANDs, NDs, Pharmacy, Food Services, and Patient Support Officers who provided leadership and support to the wards that relocated. I am also grateful to Carmen Mauchline, Lisa Sparks and Tracey Daelman for their considerable efforts in this work.

Welcome to our medical interns

Earlier this month, we welcomed our medical intern 'Class of 2026' to RBWH. Our cohort of 89 graduates (pictured below) is among the almost 200 joining Metro North. As always, the group come from a diversity of backgrounds, with each of them eager to make their mark as medical practitioners. Over the next 12-months, our interns will complete rotations to several areas across the hospital. Please join me in welcoming the group to RBWH!



Staff Profile - Dr Alex and Dr Ann Mary



This week's staff profile features two of our incoming interns, Dr Alex Gotze and Dr Ann Mary Vincent.

Both are graduates of James Cook University in Townsville and have relocated to Brisbane to begin their medical careers at RBWH.

Ann Mary has a particular interest in cardiology and is excited about the opportunities ahead.

"Moving into medicine in the city offers many opportunities and a wide range of areas to specialise in."

Alex is the first doctor in his family, with his mum a proud nurse.

"Mum has given me great advice — to always listen to nurses, be kind to them, and they will look after me."

Thank you for choosing RBWH to start your careers, Alex and Ann Mary. We're delighted to welcome you to the team.

Bringing echocardiography to regional Queenslanders

Recently, we welcomed the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Tim Nicholls, to RBWH to learn about the Cardiac Investigation Team's remote echocardiography pilot. Available to patients in Cloncurry and Longreach, the service uses a robotic system that enables RBWH-based sonographers to perform

ultrasounds for patients who would otherwise need to travel hundreds of kilometres.

Since the pilot began in September, more than 50 patients have accessed the service, with feedback highlighting the significant savings in cost, stress and disruption associated with travel.

This innovative service positions RBWH at the forefront of delivering equitable, high-quality cardiac care to Queenslanders, regardless of where they live.

Thank you to Cathy West, Dr Gus Mugwagwa and James Armstrong (pictured with the Minister) for their work in delivering this service, and for conducting the live demonstration for the Minister and other guests.



Preventing mould in hot weather

Across RBWH, we are all committed to providing a safe environment for our patients and staff. Despite our best efforts, hot and humid conditions during the warmer months can lead to instances of mould in some areas.

Mould can develop in indoor environments where excess moisture or a water source is present. Growth within buildings can be prevented by effectively managing water intrusion and moisture levels.

If mould is identified, staff should notify the manager of the affected area immediately and report the issue in RiskMan.

You can learn more about mould and how to prevent it using the following resources:

- [Mould factsheet](#)
- [Mould remediation action tool](#)

Thank you for your attention to keeping our hospital safe and healthy. If you have any questions, please speak with your line manager in the first instance.

Board Chair & CE Vidcast

Last week, Metro North Board Chair Bernard Curran and recently permanently appointed Chief Executive Nick Steele hosted their first Vidcast of the year. At this session, they detailed key focus areas for 2026, including expanding our out-of-hospital care capacity, continuing to digitise our facilities, and exploring partnership opportunities with universities and other institutions. If you were unable to attend the live session, you can view the recording [here](#).

Collaborative Forums return for 2026

Finally, for today, our Collaborative Forum series will be returning in 2026. The first session of the year will take place on **Thursday, 12 February at 2.00 pm**, featuring speaker Roger O'Gorman, who will explore the role of ethics in a tertiary hospital. More details on how to join the session will be shared soon.

In 2025, the Collaborative Forum covered a diverse range of topics, from responding to mass casualty incidents to the power of compassion. If you'd like to catch up on any of last year's sessions, you can view the recordings [here](#).

Thank you for everything you do for our community.

Kind Regards

Louise Oriti
Executive Director,
Royal Brisbane & Women's 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.



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