

Metro North Health

Message from the

# Executive Director The Prince Charles Hospital

Tami Photinos



## Summary:

- Executive Update
- Transit Lounge expansion
- Improving our culture
- TPCH Foundation 40-year celebrations
- Staff profiles

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read Time: 5 Minutes



For: Information

Dear Team,

Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to another great year ahead with you at TPCH.

I have returned to TPCH after acting in the Metro North Chief Operating Officer role, backfilling Stephen Eaton. Thank you to Mel Dubbelde for acting in the TPCH Executive Director role during this time. I worked closely with Nick Steele who was permanently appointed to the Chief Executive role this week.

This week, I attended the Cardio Thoracic Surgery Mortality and Morbidity meeting, which provided a valuable opportunity to learn more about the complex cases being managed at TPCH. I also met with the radiology team to discuss some of the challenges they are currently experiencing.

Yesterday, I attended the TPCH Emergency Department (ED) Emergo exercise (right) to test the recently released Mass Casualty Incident Plans for the adult and children EDs.

I welcomed Metro North Acting Chief People and Culture Officer, Lorna Morton, to TPCH. We had a broad discussion including the TPCH *Have Your Say* Action Plan and goals.



Stephen Eaton and I attended the first TPCH Staff Council meeting for 2026. Key topics

included the Metro North Sustainability Plan, *Have Your Say* goals, Transit Lounge expansion and exploring options for non-acute patients.

## Executive Update

- Dr Kristy Rogan is Acting Director of Operations EPIC.

From Monday 2 February:

- Gareth Davies will backfill the Director of Operations EPIC role.
- Kandy Davis-McGlone will recommence as Administration Manager Quality and Data.

This week, we farewelled former Corporate Services Director Bretine Curtis (right).

Bianca Sullivan is now Acting Director Corporate Services and Melissa White is Acting Manager Facility Support Services.

Sharyn Trappett will recommence as Manager Ambulatory and Outpatient Services in early February.

Jodi Hallas has been appointed as Executive Director of Metro North Strategy and Planning.



## Transit Lounge expansion update

Our Transit Lounge expansion project was officially announced by the Minister yesterday.

The TPCH Transit Lounge will be refurbished and expanded to 24 patient spaces. This will improve utilisation and meeting growing patient demand.

The project team continues to meet fortnightly with an opening planned for late 2026.

Yesterday's announcement also included the RBWH Transit Lounge, which will also be refurbished and expanded to 46 patient spaces.

## Improving our culture

Last year, Metro North started a dedicated piece of work around improving organisational culture. We know that culture matters to staff – how staff feel when they come to work and how they are supported to do their best work.

This included about 2000 staff from across Metro North, including TPCH, participating in the Culture Fitness Diagnostic (CFD) survey late last year.

The culture work builds on the findings from the Have Your Say (HYS) survey, helping to understand why some of the common themes identified in the HYS survey continue to trend.

Findings from the CFD survey, together with insights from the completed one-to-one and group diagnostic sessions, as well as HYS data, will inform upcoming co-design sessions with staff and leaders.

These sessions will help shape an organisational culture plan, expected to be in final draft by the end of February and released later in March.

Thank you to those staff who have taken the time to participate in this important initiative. I will continue to share updates as this work progresses.



### Vidcast - Board Chair and Chief Executive

Join Metro North Board Chair Bernard Curran and Chief Executive Nick Steele to discuss the strategic priorities and focus areas for Metro North Health in 2026.

**Date:** Tuesday 20 January

**Time:** 1pm

[Join via Teams](#)

You can [ask a question in advance](#).

### Let's celebrate 40 great years with the TPCH Foundation

Since 1986, the TPCH Foundation has provided more than \$78 million for life-changing research, innovative equipment, purposeful projects and compassionate care programs at TPCH.

To recognise this incredible milestone, everyone is invited to the 40 years milestone launch event on Tuesday.

Festivities will run from 10am until 2pm, including live music, markets, food and dessert trucks, face painting and a guinea pig petting pen.

Location is the On Call car park, adjacent to Building 50. See you there!



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Program EOI extended to 31 January 2026



Metro North is committed to health equity and part of this is growing, developing and supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce.

The Metro North Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Program is a unique opportunity for development and there's still time for eligible staff to apply, with the closing date extended to 31 January 2026.

They are seeking both identified and non-identified staff to become program mentors and join the Metro North Mentoring Program pool.

If you're passionate about supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and shifting the dial in the Health Equity space, please express your interest.

Find out more about the program, how to apply and becoming a mentor on [QHEPS](#).

### Staff Profile - Dr Vanessa Grayson

Dr Vanessa Grayson recently joined TPCH as a Staff Specialist in Emergency Medicine with a special interest in Geriatric Emergency Medicine and Palliative Care.

She has a Clinical Diploma of Palliative Medicine and worked for three years with the Older Persons Emergency Network (OPEN).

She also continues to work at the Caboolture Hospital Emergency Department.



### Staff Profile - Dr Nikunj Vaidhya

Welcome to Dr Nikunj Vaidhya, who has joined TPCH as a Cardiothoracic Surgeon. Dr Vaidhya previously worked at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, where he acquired skills in Heart and Lung transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Support. He also obtained FRACS in Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Apart from surgical work, Dr Vaidhya has been involved in research related to Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) heart preservation techniques.

### Finally,

Please prioritise your fire training. Being prepared in case of fire is an important part of the kind and compassionate care we provide for patients.

For more information, contact your supervisor or TPCH Fire Safety Coordinator Danny MacGregor.

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 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.



**Queensland  
Government**

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