

Metro North Health

Message from the

Executive Director The Prince Charles Hospital

Tami Photinos



Summary:

- Wellness Wagon starts
- Accreditation success
- Staff Expo coming soon
- Celebrating our Perfusionists
- Code Stroke simulation success

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read Time: 5 Minutes



For: Information



Dear Team,

As we move into 2026, I look forward to working with the TPCH Staff Council to build a positive culture of care for each other and for the community we serve.

One of the TPCH Staff Council initiatives is the Wellness Wagon, which is rolling out every Wednesday.

Each week, members of Staff Council and the TPCH Executive Team will visit a different area of the hospital.

The wagon will be stocked with treats, top-up snacks and positive vibes to bring a bit of cheer to TPCH staff during busy days.

We started on Wednesday with Staff Council Chair Dr Lucy Dakin and I visiting the adult and paediatric Emergency Departments, Paediatric Ward, Yellow Outpatients and Finance Team.

Each week, the Staff Council will also recognise a member of staff in your area who you nominate as a champion for wellbeing.

Our inaugural winner in ED on Wednesday was Allison Fifoot (right) for an ongoing culture of

compassion and peer support. She started the ED Resus Trolley, which was the inspiration for the Wellness Wagon.



Basic paediatric and child health training accreditation

The Prince Charles Hospital has received RACP accreditation to provide Basic Training in Paediatrics and Child Health until 2030. The assessors commended TPCH on having dedicated time for supervision and teaching within clinical support time and having an SMO lead overseeing this.

Basic Training in Paediatrics and Child Health is the starting point towards becoming a Paediatrician. This accreditation means that trainees can undertake up to 12 months of training at TPCH.

This is a great achievement for TPCH and congratulations to all involved.

Metro North Staff Expo coming soon!

Our 2026 Staff Expos kick off on March 4 and 5.

This is a great chance to speak directly with our benefit providers about salary sacrificing, super updates and more.

No registration needed — just drop in between 11am and 2pm.

METRO NORTH STAFF EXPO 2026

Vendor information is available on [QHEPS](#)

Celebrating our Perfusionists

Former scientist with the Queensland Tissue Bank Madalyn Hodgetts (left) and former TPCH Anaesthetic Healthcare Practitioner Katrina Swaine (right) have good reason to smile.

Madalyn and Katrina were two of more than 20 applicants for an HP3 trainee Cardiac Perfusionist position at TPCH in 2024.



A perfusionist operates the heart lung bypass machine during open-heart surgeries and other complex procedures. They are responsible for managing a patient's blood flow, oxygenation, and vital signs, temporarily taking over the function of the heart and lungs which allows surgeons to operate.

Perfusion Team Leader Ross Haslam (centre) said both Madalyn and Katrina had been outstanding throughout their training, showing a willingness to learn and commitment to providing the highest possible standard of care to our cardiac patients at TPCH.

As recognition of their performance, Madalyn and Katrina are now full-time HP4 Cardiac Perfusionists with TPCH.

Simulation improves stroke response

Our multidisciplinary stroke service - including nurse educators and clinicians in RED (RAMS, EMU and DUIT) - recently completed its first Code Stroke simulation.

The simulation had a strong focus on improving thrombolysis workflow and team coordination at TPCH. It was based on a patient who developed sudden onset of left sided arm and leg weakness with ataxia and visual disturbance.



A comprehensive debriefing session followed to review successful processes and areas for improvement.

It was a great exercise that has identified workflow tweaks to shorten timing metrics and developed an action plan to improve some code stroke processes.

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.

The first [Metro North Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan](#) has been published. It 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 practices.



1000km ride to help our Child Life Therapy services

The Emergency Department is hosting a raffle for the Chain Reaction Challenge, in conjunction with The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, to support Clinical Director Children's Emergency Department Dr David Wood.

Dr Wood will soon take on an incredible seven-day, 1000 km cycling challenge to raise vital funds for children's charities and our Child Life Therapy service.

Prizes to be won include a luxury escape voucher, Broncos tickets, a family pass to Australia Zoo, Ninja Slushy and more. Entries close Thursday 5 March.

Contact Dr Wood for details or support him through the [Chain Reaction](#) website.

Best wishes

Best wishes to colleagues and friends observing Ramadan this month. Wishing you and your families a peaceful and fulfilling month ahead. Also, best wishes to our Christian colleagues who started Lent on Wednesday, leading into Easter.

Long may we continue to respect and appreciate everyone's diverse beliefs and traditions.

Finally,

I received a lovely patient story this week, describing how Memory Lane had supported de-escalation of a patient ahead of discharge recently.

By focusing on the person behind the behaviour and drawing on preserved long-term memories, reminiscence therapy transformed risk into rapport and distress into calm.

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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