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Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues

It was wonderful to meet staff from our corporate teams earlier this week when the Metro North Board held its monthly Board meeting at Green Square, Fortitude Valley.

Board members spoke to staff from Finance, Digital Metro North, Corporate Information Management, Procurement and Supply, Sustainable Assets and Infrastructure, Health Funding and Data Insights, and Finance Improvement and Innovation Team. We also met staff from Oral Health and Healthcare Excellence and Innovation. This was a great opportunity to hear about the variety of important work being done across our corporate teams to support improved clinical service delivery across the health service.

The Board also had the opportunity to hear from Dr Melissa Eastgate, Executive Director Cancer Care Stream and Peter McGuire, Program Manager about key highlights from 2025 which included:

- Delivered 110,787 outpatient occasions of service.
- Delivered 32,564 systemic therapy treatments including chemotherapy, hormonal therapies and immunotherapies.
- Delivered 30,546 fractions of radiotherapy.
- Managed our dedicated oncology inpatient wards at an average bed occupancy of 99%.

Other initiatives commended by the Board were the Metro North Shuttle which operates four times daily between Caboolture and RBWH to take patients who need specialist treatment at RBWH e.g. radiotherapy. Shuttle bookings have increased significantly from just eight in the first month to 240 by the fourth month of operation. This is an excellent initiative in supporting the health care journey of our patients.

The Sistas Shawl project has achieved a 55.7% participation rate in Metro North for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, exceeding the statewide rate. This project directly addresses the cultural barrier of women feeling embarrassed during screening by providing a beautiful cultural shawl for modesty and to wear during their breast screen.

Dr Alan Yan, Chair of Metro North Clinical Council continues to update the Board on Council priorities and I am pleased to advise that Board member Aimee McVeigh who chairs the Board Consumer and Community Engagement Committee is the board representative on the newly established Mental Health Staff Council.

The Board was also briefed on the progress of the Herston Precinct master planning and TPC Expansion projects. These projects are critical in supporting Metro North hospitals to continue meeting the health care needs of our local and statewide communities into the future.

The Board continues to work closely with Metro North executive and staff to create and support opportunities to improve outcomes and experiences for our community. One of the key challenges facing all Metro North facilities is managing long waits. So we were very pleased to hear of some recent work undertaken at RBWH in Plastics which resulted in the significant reduction of the number of category 1 long wait patients through a single dedicated day, supported by five consultants and a team of registrars, to complete all cases. This was a massive undertaking and a great example of patient-centred care. Well done to the RBWH Plastics team.

Board member profile

Each month I will introduce you to a Board member and talk about the work of our board committees. This week I spoke to Linda Lavarch, who is a member of the Safety and Quality Committee and the Board representative on the RBWH Staff Council. Linda is also a member of the Health Alliance Joint Board which enables us to work collaboratively with primary healthcare and the community to consider holistic approaches to improving health services in the north of Brisbane.

Linda Lavarch

Having lived in Brisbane North for most of her life, Linda knows how important Metro North Health's services are to the community. Both of her children were born at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, and like many local families, hers benefited from the care and compassion of our public health system.

After 12 years representing the community in State Parliament, and later working closely with nurses and midwives through the QNMU, Linda wanted to find a way to continue contributing to the community she cares so deeply about. Seeing firsthand the dedication of those who keep our health system strong only strengthened her belief in the importance of a robust public health system and the difference it makes in people's lives. That is what inspired her to seek appointment to the Board.



As a Board member, Linda's focus is on ensuring Metro North continues to deliver high-quality, equitable and sustainable health services for our growing region, and on supporting the foundations that enable our workforce to continue delivering exceptional care.

Regards,
Bernard

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.



**Queensland
Government**

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