



Summary:

- Ethics in healthcare
- Farwell, Barry
- News from our Foundation
- Trauma Verification happening soon
- Our commitment to safety and quality

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Dear team,

The topic of ethics in healthcare has been the subject of increasing research in recent years, as we navigate advances in technology and an increasingly diverse patient population. Recently, I attended the first RBWH Collaborative Forum for 2026, which focused on ethics.

At the session, ETC Physician and ethicist Dr Roger O'Gorman led a fascinating discussion that covered the types of ethical considerations we encounter in our work and how we can respond.

At its heart, clinical ethics is about making good decisions in ethically complex situations that are aligned with our patients' values and choices. And the more we discuss ethical considerations, the more likely we are to make sound decisions.

Thank you to Roger for bringing his experiences, and to those who attended for openly sharing their stories of times when they have been faced with complex ethical choices. If you missed the session, you can watch the recording [here](#).

The next Collaborative Forum will take place in April. Thank you to Liz Crowe and Jesse Spurr for their work in bringing these fascinating topics and presenters to us.

Farwell, Barry!

Last week, I had the opportunity to join the Surgery and Perioperative Services team for one of the farewells to their Executive Director, Dr Barry O'Laughlin.

Barry will shortly leave RBWH after an incredible 50 years of service. He departs having earned deep respect and admiration across service lines, not just through his title, but for his respectful, thoughtful, and inclusive leadership.

I have sought Barry's advice on countless occasions during my time at Redcliffe Hospital and here at RBWH. I have always appreciated his steady guidance and ability to calmly reframe issues and use his wisdom to help move them forward.

Barry's contributions have been recognised beyond RBWH when he received an Australia Day Medallion in 2006 and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2023.

Thank you, Barry. You leave a lasting legacy at RBWH and in the lives of the patients and staff you have supported.

Barry's departure date will be advised soon.

News from our Foundation

Last week, our RBWH Foundation awarded almost \$600,000 in funding for grant initiatives across RBWH and STARS. Projects include research into wearable technology to measure energy expenditure in burns patients and an early prognostic test for inflammatory kidney disease to predict long-term outcomes for those at risk of kidney failure. Funding has also been provided for a new transport buggy to help those who need assistance move around the campus. The desire to enhance outcomes for patients stood out in all of the grant applications. Congratulations to all the recipients (pictured below). You can learn more about this grant funding round [here](#).



Trauma verification happening in March

Our hospital is recognised as a leader in trauma care for Queensland. To ensure we continue to provide the highest standards of care for trauma patients, we are participating in Trauma Verification — an internationally recognised quality assurance process that validates the care we provide.

Scheduled for 12 & 13 March, this comprehensive process includes every stage of trauma care, from the critical moments of pre-hospital emergency response to acute treatment, rehabilitation, and discharge back into the community.

This process reflects our commitment to excellence and continuous improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for trauma patients through coordinated, multidisciplinary care. Your manager will let you know if the reviewers will be visiting your area while onsite.

Our commitment to safety and quality

Finally, for today, last week, along with Acting Director, Safety and Quality, Jared Grayling, I had the opportunity to meet with the Metro North Safety and Quality Board. Patient safety and quality lies at the heart of everything we do, and the discussion with the Board was an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment in this area, including acknowledging our challenges and how we identify and mitigate risks. We will continue to work with you to strengthen the safety and quality culture across RBWH.

Thank you all for your work in delivering high-quality services safely and 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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