

Metro North Health

Message from the

# Executive Director The Prince Charles Hospital

Tami Photinos



## Summary:

- Acknowledging our doctors
- Advance Care Planning Week
- Overnight coffee starts
- World Social Work Day
- TPCH Foundation Gala raffle
- Future Metro North Roadmap

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read Time: 5 Minutes



For: Information

Dear Team,

I was invited to a roundtable discussion this week with Metro South Health Chief Executive Noelle Cridland (below centre). Noelle and I were guest speakers for the Department of Health System and Performance Branch staff, which focused on developing confidence and negotiation skills for women in leadership.



Earlier this week, Chief Executive Nick Steele and I attended the Health Equity community consultation event at Rothwell.

It was a valuable day discussing how we continue to work together to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families across Metro North.



Yesterday, we held National Close the Gap Day events at TPCH.

National Close the Gap Day is a day of action, urging Australians to support health equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

It highlights the significant life expectancy gap and advocates for structural change to ensure equal access to health, education and services by 2031.

Metro North is committed to achieve life expectancy parity for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples by 2031. We still have much work to do.

The [Health Equity Strategy 2025–2028](#) has more details.



### TPCH celebrates Doctors' Day

As part of our International Doctors' Day events on Thursday (26 March), you're invited to write a note to acknowledge a doctor at TPCH.

This may be for their leadership, their commitment to the team, clinical expertise, professionalism, or any other reason why they should feel proud of their contribution at TPCH.

The cards will be displayed as part of a TPCH Doctors Day honour wall and given to the individual doctor to keep afterwards.

Please [fill in the card](#) and return it via [email](#) by Wednesday 25 March.



## Focus on Advance Care Planning

Advance Care Planning is a process of planning for your future health and personal care needs, so your values, beliefs and preferences are made known.

This can help guide decision-making at a future time, should you be unable to make or communicate decisions yourself.



This year's theme is *Their story, their choice*, which focuses on each person's unique story being theirs to tell, emphasising that our experiences shape our healthcare choices.

A stall at The Common Good Café this week (above) included a host of consumer and staff resources. Learn more about Advance Care Planning [here](#).

For more details at TPCH, contact Advance Care Planner [Aldiana Mehicic](#).

## Overnight coffee starts

Emergency CNC Zak Tilbury recently pitched an idea to the TPCH Staff Council for an overnight coffee service.

As a result, mobile coffee van *Night Grind* now comes to TPCH at 2am six nights a week (Sunday - Friday), setting up in front of the Emergency Department. Night Grind provides barista-made coffee and a selection of snacks with \$1 from every coffee sold on Monday mornings going towards TPCH Staff Council initiatives.

Thanks Zak, the TPCH Staff Council and everyone else involved in getting this very welcome service up and running for our overnight teams.



## Highlighting the vital role of social work at TPCH

The TPCH Social Work Team celebrated World Social Work Day (WSWD) on Tuesday with a celebratory lunch.

The theme for WSWD this year is *Co-building hope and harmony: a harambee call to unite a divided society*, which highlights the vital role of social work in bringing people together across communities, cultures and systems to shape a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow.



Additionally, TPCH social workers are facilitating a clothing/toiletry drive. Drop off points have been set up in staff tea rooms and Common Good Café throughout March. Any donations will be greatly appreciated to replenish the TPCH clothing cupboards.



### Staff Profile Social Work New Graduate, Amber-Lee Kogels

Amber-Lee Kogels started at TPCH as a third-year social work student. Upon completion of her placement, Amber-Lee obtained a Social Work Assistant (HP1) role for the remainder of her studies.

After completing her degree late last year, Amber-Lee was the successful candidate for the TPCH Social Work New Graduate role (HP3), which includes six months in GEM and six months in Internal Medicine with acute patients. After completing the New Graduate program, she will receive application support for other TPCH HP3 social work roles.

Amber-Lee said she enjoyed providing direct emotional support to patients and their families during important transitions.

"The most important thing to me is upholding the dignity and autonomy of older people," she said.

"I am passionate about social work because it allows me to put my values of empathy, compassion and empowerment into action, helping patients maintain control over their lives."

Outside work, Amber-Lee enjoys slowing down and appreciating her natural surroundings.

## What a compliment!

We received this great compliment recently for social worker, Nadia Karam:

*"I wanted to take the opportunity to say how much I appreciated the help from Nadia and the support we received recently when my mother was admitted to TPCH after a fall at home.*

*"We found Nadia's knowledge and understanding to be extremely valuable. Nadia explained everything to me that I would need to do for mum to be able to be placed in a nursing home and be looked after in a safe environment, something mum was no longer able to do on her own at home.*

*"Thank you Nadia, you are a professional and an advocate for the patient."*



## Win a table to the Gala!

Would you like to win a table for 10 people to the TPCH Foundation's 40th anniversary Jacaranda Gala?

The TPCH Foundation has two tables for 10 people each to be won. Each table is valued at \$3650. Tickets are \$10 each, with proceeds supporting The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation.

For raffle ticket purchases and full terms and conditions, visit [Tcg.org.au/galaraffle](https://tcg.org.au/galaraffle)

## Finally,

A reminder to visit the [Future Metro North - Reimagining Healthcare 2026-2041](#) roadmap and provide your feedback.

This long-term plan outlines the major transformation ahead and guides how Metro North will deliver care through to 2041, in line with our growing population and changing service needs.



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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