

# Executive Message

## Metro North Health



### Summary:

- Future Metro North Workshop insights
- Vidcast - Business Case for Change
- Metro North Clinical Council - Deputy Chair appointments
- King's Birthday Honours List award
- Giving Day.

Message feedback

## Acting Chief Executive Stephen Eaton



**Audience:** All staff



**Read time:** 4 min



**For:** Information

Dear colleagues,

This week I have taken up the reins as Acting Chief Executive while Nick Steele is on leave, returning Monday. It is always a privilege to support the health service in this capacity, even if only for a brief period.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all teams across Metro North as we all navigate the challenges of the busy winter period. All of our facilities are currently experiencing very high demands, with frontline teams working together to prioritise and deliver safe, timely care to our patients. I appreciate this period can be extra challenging, particularly with increased levels of illness among our staff and patient communities.

I would also like to acknowledge our corporate teams for their dedicated work behind the scenes in helping prepare and position Metro North for the new financial year. We are currently awaiting our 2026-27 funding allocation from the Department of Health and will provide more details in the coming weeks.



## Future Metro North Workshop insights

Thank you to all of our staff, patients, families and partners who have provided ideas for what should be included in the *Future Metro North: Reimagining Healthcare 2026–2041*. Last week, over 60 senior leaders from across Metro North Health participated in an in-person workshop to review the draft roadmap including key priorities for action over the next 15 years. As expected, there was a lot of discussion and reflection on how we deliver excellent care through our workforce and enabled by digital, research translation, innovation and infrastructure solutions.

Leaders expressed a deep commitment to drive future-focused health services that support the delivery of excellent care to patients, carers and families from across Metro North as well as those from other health services who come to Metro North for tertiary and quaternary care.

This commitment is starting to be described through the draft principles of:

- **Caring for our people** - patients, carers and families together with each other as staff
- **Empowering patients** to be actively empowered in their care and treatment preferences
- **Advancing health equity** - to ensure equity of access, excellent patient and family experience and improved health outcomes
- **Eliminating racism** - eliminating institutional racism within Metro North Health services.
- **Act as one** - creating a single metro north that ensures timely access to care that is coordinated
- **Partnerships** - maturing partnerships across primary care, private and non-government, research and our education and university partners
- **Sustainability** - ensuring a future-ready health system that is environmentally responsible, financially resilient and equipped to meet evolving health needs.

Following this workshop, a revised roadmap and priorities for the future are currently being prepared and will be available on QHEPS next week. We welcome your continued participation to shape the future of Metro North Health. If you would like to provide targeted input, please email: [MNHHS\\_strategyandplanning@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:MNHHS_strategyandplanning@health.qld.gov.au) or provide feedback via the [survey](#).

## Vidcast - Business Case for Change

All staff are invited to attend a Vidcast next Wednesday 17 June, 2.30pm hosted by Chief Executive Nick Steele and Chief People and Culture Officer Lorna Morton who will discuss the Metro North Business Case for Change.

[Join Vidcast](#)

## Metro North Clinical Council - Deputy Chair appointments

This week, the Metro North Clinical Council announced its two new Deputy Chairs – Jesse Spurr and Dr Lucy Dakin.

**Jesse Spurr** is the Nursing and Midwifery Director Education at RBWH, leading strategic and operational education for the hospital's nursing and midwifery workforce.

Originally from an exercise science background, Jesse is an experienced critical care and emergency nurse with over 18 years in clinical practice and leadership across Metro North and in Retrieval Services. He is also Co-Founder and Producer of the *Five Things Nursing* podcast, Australia's first health-service embedded nursing podcast, which has reached more than 150,000 downloads across more than 100 countries and supports early-career nurses through curated, practice-relevant content embedded in workforce and university programs.



Jesse is deeply motivated by his family - his daughter now working as a nurse and midwife in Metro North, and his son who thrives with autism and ADHD. This shapes his commitment to create inclusive, human-centered healthcare systems and work environments which support diverse staff and patient voices.

**Dr Lucy Dakin** is a geriatrician and the Director of Geriatrics and Subacute Services at TPCH. Originally from the United Kingdom, Lucy worked as volunteer with a medical non-governmental organisation for three years in Afghanistan before relocating to Brisbane and qualifying as a geriatrician.



Lucy's vision for the Metro North Clinical Council is for it to become a strong link between those who work directly to deliver patient care and the organisation's Executive leaders.

Lucy values the privilege of working with talented and dedicated colleagues and doing what she considers one of the most rewarding jobs in the world. She is passionate about seeing staff come together and supporting each other despite the pressures and the challenges to deliver excellent care to people in our community.

Congratulations Jesse and Lucy.

### King's Birthday Honours List award

Congratulations to Associate Professor Michael Steyn, Deputy Director Anaesthetics RBWH who was recognised in the King's Birthday Honours List this week, receiving a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the General Division.

Dr Steyn, who originally trained as a rural GP in Scotland, was honoured for significant service to anaesthesiology and peri-operative medicine, as well as health leadership. Arriving at RBWH in 2003, Dr Steyn is extremely passionate about his profession, and being part of a multidisciplinary team to help patients to cope with all parts of their healthcare journey. He was involved in setting up SWAPNET, the Statewide Anaesthesia and Perioperative Care Clinical Network, which focuses on improving the experiences of patients requiring anaesthesia.



This week, I had the opportunity to attend the RBWH Foundation's Giving Day which supports vital patient-care initiatives and research across both RBWH and STARS. It was a fantastic event with many staff from across the two facilities joining in a day of music, entertainment, bake-sales, fun challenges and games. Special visits from Australian Paralympic athletes Alexa Leary to 7B South at RBWH and Georgia Gunew to the Level 4 rehabilitation gym at STARS, were a particular highlight for staff and patients, reminding us of the important role we play in supporting patients recover from injury and illness.

A big thank you to all staff who supported another successful Giving Day.

Regards,  
Stephen

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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