

Metro North Health

Message from the **Board Chair**

Bernard Curran



Summary:

- Chief Executive update
- Board meeting - Herston Biofabrication Institute
- Metro North Research Summit and Excellence Awards.

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Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

Chief Executive update

Our Chief Executive (CE) Nick Steele will take a period of leave from 10 August to 13 September. On behalf of the Board, I wish Nick a well-deserved break.

During this period, I am pleased to advise that Naomi Hebson will step into the role of Acting CE.

Naomi is Deputy Director-General, Healthcare Purchasing and System Performance Division, Queensland Health. She is a highly regarded healthcare leader with extensive experience in health policy, commissioning and strategic purchasing.

Naomi's career spans clinical, people and executive leadership roles. Originally trained as a nurse, she has also held senior leadership positions including Head of People and Governance at Children's Health Queensland. Her combination of frontline healthcare experience and system-wide leadership will serve Metro North well during this period.

Board meeting Herston Biofabrication Institute

The Board held its monthly meeting at the Herston Biofabrication Institute on 28 July, taking the opportunity to tour the facility while on site. Board members saw first hand, the significant advances being made in research innovation and the development of new technologies that have the potential to transform patient care and improve outcomes into future.

The Board also took time to visit with several teams across the Herston campus. Board members met with staff from the Mental Health Hospital in the Home team and the Psychiatric Emergency Centre (PEC), where we gained valuable insights into the flexible models of care being delivered to support consumers with complex needs. We were impressed by the team's commitment to providing responsive, patient-centred care and the innovative approaches being used to improve access, outcomes and consumer experience.



During our visit with the RBWH Surgical and Perioperative Services team, we learned more about the scale and complexity of the service, which manages approximately 10,000 outpatient appointments and almost 2,000 elective surgeries every month. We also heard about a range of initiatives designed to improve patient access, experience and flow, including Surgery Connect, SurgiFlow, the Post Operative Discharge Support Service (PODSS) and the Surgical Rapid Assessment Unit (SRAU).

What stood out most was hearing directly from staff about how these initiatives are being embedded into daily practice and the positive impact they are having for patients. Their commitment to identifying practical solutions, improving equity of access and ensuring patients receive the right care at the right time, was evident throughout our discussions and I commend staff on this great work.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all the teams who welcomed us and shared their experiences.

Metro North Research Summit and Excellence Awards

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend both the Metro North Health Research Summit and the Research Excellence Awards. These events continue to showcase the remarkable depth of expertise, innovation and commitment that exists across our organisation.

A highlight of the event was the collaborative spirit on display. Bringing together clinicians, researchers, leaders and partners from across the health sector creates valuable opportunities to share ideas, challenge thinking and work collectively towards solutions that improve care for our communities.

The Summit's theme, *Transforming Healthcare through Innovation*, reflects Metro North's ongoing commitment to delivering world-class care through research and innovation. As demand for healthcare continues to grow and become more complex, research plays a critical role in helping us reimagine how we deliver services, improve outcomes and meet the evolving needs of our community.

I was particularly pleased to see the breadth and quality of work being undertaken across Metro North. Our researchers and clinical teams are making significant contributions to advancing healthcare knowledge, improving practice and translating new ideas into better outcomes for patients and consumers – foundations of the Metro North Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

The Research Excellence Awards provided an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of individuals and teams whose efforts are helping shape the future of healthcare. On behalf of the Board, I congratulate all award recipients and nominees, and thank everyone involved in supporting research across Metro North.

The Board remains strongly committed to fostering an environment where innovation, curiosity and continuous improvement can thrive. The work showcased throughout the Summit and Awards demonstrates the importance of investing in research and creating opportunities for our people to contribute, collaborate and make a lasting impact on healthcare both locally and beyond.

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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