

Executive Message

Metro North Health



Summary:

- Celebrating research excellence
- Vidcast - Metro North Business Case for Change
- Highlighting our performances
- Executive update
- 5000 shout outs
- VMO2 Consultation period – Information Sessions
- Online Disability Awareness Training and Sunflower initiative.

Message feedback

Chief Executive Nick Steele



Audience: All staff



Read time: 5+ min



For: Information

Hi Everyone

This week has been a big week for research across Metro North with two major events highlighting our proud commitment to research and innovation – Metro North Research Summit and Metro North Research Excellence Awards.

These events demonstrate the broad spectrum of high quality research occurring across our health service and the important role this research plays in driving clinical innovation and advancement. Research and innovation, which are a key focus of our Strategic Plan, are critical in ensuring that Metro North is well positioned to continue delivering and leading world-class patient care moving forward.



I, along with Board Chair Bernard Curran, had the pleasure to attend both events. At the Research Summit, we heard from a number of researchers about their exciting work which will potentially alter the course of patient care in the future. We are fortunate to

have so many talented people across Metro North utilising their knowledge and skills to support the development of new and improved ways of caring for patients. I commend all of our researchers and research teams on their valuable efforts.



Metro North Research Summit



Members of the Metro North Research team

Research Excellence Awards winners announcement

I am pleased to share the winners of this year's Metro North Research Excellence Awards which were announced at last night's event:

Partnering with Consumers Award

Supporting Fathers/Partners Project

Professor Joan Webster Nursing and Midwifery Award

Dr Natasha Roberts

Research Support Award

TPCH Allied Health Research Collaborative Group

Research Implementation Award

Evaluating the Implementation of the Ambassador Occupational Violence Prevention Program

Clinical Research Award

Redcliffe Intensive Care Unit Research Program

Discovery Award

Microbiome driven solutions in Transplant and Cell Therapy

Rising Star Award

Dr Grace Xu

Chief Executive's Award

Dr Cheryl Hutchins

Researcher of the Year Award

Professor Claire Rickard

Congratulations to all of our award winners. You can read more and view a video about our winners on the [Metro North Research Excellence Awards website](#).

Vidcast - Metro North Business Case for Change

I invite staff to join Chief People and Culture Officer Lorna Morton and I for a Vidcast update on the Metro North Business Case for Change next Thursday 6 August at 3pm.

Due to a functional change with Teams, registration is needed for these events. Once you have registered, you can use the same link to join the meeting. The Join option will activate 15 minutes before the vidcast start time.

You will be able to activate your camera and microphone to ask questions or use the Q&A.

[Register for Vidcast](#)

Highlighting our performances

The new financial year brings opportunities to highlight the great work that has been happening across our health service over the last 12 months.

The first round of Estimates occurred this week. This is an important component of our health service's annual cycle where we respond to questions about our performances and decisions. Estimates has been a significant focus for the last couple of months, and I would like to thank everyone for the immense amount of work that has been invested in preparing for these sessions. Your work in the immediate lead up as well as throughout the entire year makes the intensive process of Estimates significantly easier.

The July Board meeting on Tuesday also presented the opportunity to update our Board members on the progress of some key projects. These included *Our Metro North – Stronger Teams, Better Care* culture plan and the proposed master plan for TPCH, a significant infrastructure investment that will support the ongoing delivery of first-class care to our community as service demands grow.

As part of the meeting, we met with staff from the Herston Biofabrication Unit (HBI) and a number clinical leaders from RBWH, joined by Chief Medical Officer Dr Kellie Wren and RBWH Executive Director Louise Oriti. It's always very valuable having the chance to informally connect with our front line staff and senior leaders about some of the important issues facing our health service.

Executive update

Please be advised that Dr Hitesh Joshi, Metro North's current Acting Executive Director (ED) Metro North Mental Health (MNMH) has decided to take up a new opportunity at Gold Coast Health from next month as Deputy Clinical Director (Medical Workforce) Gold Coast Mental Health.

During his 15 months as acting ED MNMH, Hitesh has overseen a number of significant service developments including the new mental health HiTH service at TPCH, new mental health ICU beds at Caboolture hospital and planning for the Mental Health Stabilisation Unit and Behavioural Assessment Unit at RBWH.

These successes accompany important outcomes achieved in Hitesh's substantive role of Director Medical Services Metro North Mental Health (MNMH) and Clinical Director Metro North Mental Health (MNMH) – The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH). We thank Hitesh for his leadership and clinical expertise which have supported the delivery of quality, consumer-focused clinical services in one of Metro North's most complex care environments, and wish him success in his new role.

Permanent recruitment for the role of Executive Director MNMH and Clinical Director Metro North Mental Health (MNMH) – The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) commenced this week. The outcomes of these processes will be shared once finalised. During this period, Ms Sandra Eyre will be acting as Executive Director MNMH. Ms Eyre is a highly skilled mental health executive with a strong focus on driving timely delivery of major planning and service strategies for mental health services. Sandra will commence with Metro North on Monday 3 August.

5000 Shout Outs

The [Metro North Shout Out portal](#) recently celebrated a major milestone – 5,000 Shout Outs submitted across Metro North since it launched in 2022.

Our 5000th Shout Out recipient was Danielle Costello from Caboolture Hospital's Switchboard. Her nomination recognised her for exemplifying outstanding teamwork and consistently going above and beyond in her role. To commemorate this milestone, Danielle received a Values in Action prize pack – well done!



The Shout Out portal continues to be a fantastic way to recognise colleagues for the amazing work they do every day, and for the many ways they contribute to making Metro North a great place to work.

To celebrate reaching this milestone, the portal will soon receive a fresh new look. Keep an eye out for the updated branding and I encourage you to take a moment to shout out to someone in your workplace today.

Take care.
Nick

Chief Medical Officer

Dr Kellie Wren



Audience: All staff



Read time: 3 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

Consultation is now open for the proposed Visiting Medical Officers' Employees (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement (No.2) 2026 (VMO2). The consultation period will commence on Friday 31 July 2026 and be open until Sunday 16 August 2026. During this period, Metro North Health is facilitating multiple online information sessions (approx 30 mins) held via TEAMS:

Please see below the consultation sessions that will be delivered virtually.

Date	Time	Teams link
Tues 4 Aug 2026	4:30pm	Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 423 804 700 549 780 Passcode: H2bm7XK3
Wed 5 Aug 2026	7:30am	Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 464 501 621 036 655 Passcode: i4gp7Yb6
Thurs 6 Aug 2026	12:00pm	Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 429 475 474 463 80 Passcode: HN3QN6R2
Thurs 6 Aug 2026	4:30pm	Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 450 092 042 085 859 Passcode: 4UM2Qk62
Tues 11 Aug 2026	4:00pm	Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 489 534 888 826 217 Passcode: i64H9MX6
Thurs 13 Aug 2026	7:30am	Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 493 026 868 445 508 Passcode: UG36Mk7n
Thurs 13 Aug 2026	4:00pm	Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 440 003 681 899 858 Passcode: N44BJ9MD

To join these sessions, you can click on the links above, or enter the meeting information as listed.

I encourage all Visiting Medical Officers to attend one of the sessions or review the available online resources supporting consultation.

Please note: the information presented at each session will reflect the same content, therefore there is no requirement to attend multiple sessions. However, if you wish to attend additional sessions you are welcome to.

Consultation and ballot information will be posted on QHEPS as well as the Queensland Health website.

Thank you for your review of the information and ongoing support and engagement to Metro North Health and its community.

Kind regards,
Dr Kellie Wren

Chief Allied Health Practitioner

Michelle Stute



Audience: All staff



Read time: 2 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

Online Disability Awareness Training

As the Executive Sponsor for the [Metro North Disability Services Action Plan 2024 - 2029](#), I am committed to ensuring we continue to create a health service that is inclusive, accessible and responsive to the needs of people with disability.

People with disability represent a significant proportion of our community and, unfortunately, many continue to experience barriers when accessing healthcare. These barriers can impact health outcomes and the overall healthcare experience for consumers, families and carers.

Queensland Health has recently launched the new [Online Disability Awareness Training Program](#), designed to strengthen our understanding of disability and build our confidence, knowledge and skills in delivering inclusive, person-centred care. The training incorporates lived experience perspectives, practical examples and key concepts including unconscious bias, co-design and responsive care.

The objectives of this training align strongly with the priorities of the Metro North Disability Services Action Plan and our commitment to improving healthcare experiences and outcomes for people with disability.

I am encouraging all Metro North staff to complete this training and apply the learning within your daily practice.

Whether your role is clinical or non-clinical, every interaction is an opportunity to contribute to a more accessible and inclusive health service.

By increasing our disability awareness, we can better identify and address barriers, improve communication, and ensure people with disability are treated with dignity, respect and understanding.

Please take the time to enrol via iLearn or your local Learning Online platform and complete the training within the next six weeks.

Together, we can make meaningful changes that improve the experiences and outcomes of people with disability across Metro North.

Sunflower Initiative for Hidden Disability

Metro North is also continuing to progress plans for the expansion of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program, building on the success of our initial pilot. The program helps create a more inclusive environment by supporting people with hidden disabilities to voluntarily identify when they may need additional assistance or understanding.

If you are passionate about disability inclusion and would like to contribute to the next phase of implementation, please register your interest [here](#).

Thank you for your continued commitment to delivering equitable, person-centred care.

Regards,
Michelle

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**

If you have received this email and do not work for Metro North please follow this link to be removed from the mailing list.

[Email us](#)