

Executive Message

Metro North Health



Summary:

- Facility visits
- Celebrating our Deadly Star stars
- Staff Excellence Awards - nominations open
- Metro North Mental Health executive update

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Acting Chief Executive Naomi Hebson



Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Hi team,

It's a great pleasure to support the team at Metro North while Nick Steele takes some well-earned leave. Some of you would be aware that I am normally the Deputy Director-General, Healthcare Purchasing and System Performance, Queensland Health, so am pleased to have the opportunity to support our State's largest health service in a more hands-on way.



My first week as acting Chief Executive has been primarily spent meeting with our members of the Senior Executive Team to learn about current priorities and pressure points. I respect that there is a lot of change occurring across the health service at the moment, while we balance the obligations of our day-to-day work.

Over the coming weeks, I will be making time to learn as much as possible about the numerous services offered by Metro North, and hopefully meet many of you. If you see me around, please feel free to come and introduce yourself.

I began my orientation today with a visit to TPCH and Caboolture Hospital, where I had the opportunity to meet and speak with some of our frontline teams about their work. As a nurse in my earlier career, it was good to get back into the clinical environment where the most important work happens.

At TPCH, I joined Acting Executive Director Dr Julieanne Graham on a tour of Charlie's Village in the Cognitive Assessment Management Unit, ICU, Cardiac Investigations Unit and Emergency. This provided some good insight into the many different and complex patient groups we care for within our facilities.



TPCH visit - Charlie's Village (left) and ICU of the Future (right)

At Caboolture Hospital, I visited emergency and maternity services accompanied by newly appointed Executive Director Jamie Spencer who was keen to show me around. It was great to experience a different hospital within Metro North, while learning more about the valuable services that support our growing community.



Caboolture Hospital visit - Emergency (left) and Maternity Services (right)

Throughout all of my interactions, what impressed me most was the obvious dedication and passion of staff towards the work they do in caring for patients. There is some amazing work being done across our health service, and I commend all teams across Metro North for your commitment to providing high-quality care to our very large and diverse community.

I am looking forward to meeting more of you at the upcoming Metro North Equity Engagement Forum – *Connecting the Journey: Growing Strong Kids* later this month. This will be a good opportunity to reconnect with key partners and our community and look at how we can continue to close the gap and improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, as part of our health equity journey.

Celebrating our Deadly Start stars

I am delighted to recognise the outstanding achievements of two Metro North Deadly Start students who are undergoing a traineeship in nursing, Baylee Proctor and Amira

Ahmat, who were both named finalists in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year category at the 2026 Queensland Training Awards Metro Regional Final.

Baylee was announced as the regional winner and will now progress to the 2026 Queensland Training Awards State Final, being held at The Star Brisbane on 19 September. Remarkably, Baylee had only returned to Australia with his family on the day of the awards after competing in Texas, where he won a world title in bull riding. To achieve success on the world stage while maintaining such a strong commitment to his education, traineeship and future career in healthcare demonstrates extraordinary discipline, resilience, focus and determination.

Well done also to Amira, who has been an outstanding student throughout her traineeship. Being recognised as a finalist among some of the region's most talented young trainees reflects Amira's hard work, dedication and the positive contribution she continues to make.

The success of these students highlights the important role the Deadly Start Program plays in creating meaningful education, training, and employment pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, while supporting the development of a strong, skilled and culturally responsive future health workforce.



Metro North Deadly Start trainees Amira Ahmat and Baylee Proctor

Staff Excellence Awards - nominations open

A reminder that nominations for the annual Metro North Staff Excellence awards are currently open.

The Staff Excellence Awards recognise individuals and teams who demonstrate excellence, leadership, innovation, collaboration, and a strong commitment to the Metro North values - both within local facilities and across the broader health service within the past 12 months.

This year, you can submit an award for your facility or directorate's Staff Excellence Awards, and with the simple ticking of a box, your submission will be included in the Metro North Staff Excellence Awards.

If you miss the deadline for your local awards, you can still submit an entry directly to the Metro North Staff Excellence Awards.

For more information and to nominate, visit the [Metro North Staff Excellence Awards website](#). Nominations close 5pm Wednesday 9 September.

Kind regards,
Naomi

Chief Operating Officer

Stephen Eaton



Audience: All staff



Read time: 1 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Hitesh Joshi, Metro North's Acting Executive Director (ED) Metro North Mental Health (MNMH) for his contributions over the last three and a half years. Hitesh finishes up with Metro North this week to take up a new role at Gold Coast Health as Deputy Clinical Director (Medical Workforce) Gold Coast Mental Health and we congratulate him on his new appointment.

During his period of leadership, Hitesh has overseen a number of important service developments which have supported the delivery of enhanced mental health services across Metro North. These include the commissioning of the Crisis Stabilisation Unit and oversight of the new mental health HiTH service at TPCH.

These achievements 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), where he capably supported specialist teams to provide quality, person-centred clinical care to one of our most complex patient cohorts.

Permanent recruitment for the role of Executive Director MNMH is currently underway. While recruitment is finalised, Ms Sandra Eyre is the current acting as Executive Director MNMH. Sandra, who commenced with Metro North earlier this month, is a highly skilled mental health executive and we are pleased to have her on board.

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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