

Executive Director Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford Clinical Directorate

Jamie Spencer



Summary:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
- CKW Clinical Council update
- The Common Good Research Showcase
- School-based trainee wins regional Queensland Training Award
- Pet of the Week

[Message feedback](#)



Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Dear CKW team,

It has been a fantastic week across CKW, filled with celebrations, achievements, and opportunities to connect with our staff.

On Monday, I had the pleasure of speaking and introducing myself at The Common Good Research Showcase, where I listened to a range of inspiring presentations and keynote speakers highlighting the incredible work being undertaken across our health community.



On Tuesday, I attended the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day event. It was a wonderful occasion to recognise and celebrate the strength, culture, resilience, and potential of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and to reflect on the importance of supporting their future success and wellbeing.

Later in the week, I had the opportunity to congratulate the team who have worked so diligently to establish the new Pregnancy Assessment Service (PAS). The service brings together the former Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit and Antenatal Day Assessment Unit into one dedicated location, enhancing the experience for patients and staff. The PAS has now permanently relocated to the former Neonatal Unit space on Level 2 of the Main Building, with access via the Birth Suite (pictured top right).

I also visited our teams at Kilcoy Hospital (pictured below) and the Bribie Island Satellite Health Centre. These visits provided a valuable opportunity to meet staff, learn more about the excellent work taking place across our services, and hear firsthand about the dedication and commitment that continues to make a difference in our communities every

day.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing efforts and contributions. I look forward to continuing to connect with teams across CKW in the coming weeks.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day in the Caboolture Hospital Main Courtyard this week.

It was wonderful to see so many staff, families and community come together to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, their cultures, identities and connection to community.

The morning was filled with fun activities, including cupcake decorating and games, and we were delighted to enjoy a very special performance from Auntie Sharron Mirii Bell, whose music, storytelling and dance captivated children and families alike.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event such a meaningful celebration of our youngest community members and the rich cultures that continue to strengthen our health service.

Thank you also to Tracy Grant, Janita Adams and Parker Michaels for their work in putting the event together.



Executive Update

Dr Theodore Chamberlain, Director of Medical Services will commence planned leave on Monday 3 August returning on Wednesday 12 August 2026. Dr Robert McGrath will backfill in the Director of Medical Services role during this time. Please note there will be no backfill of the Deputy Director of Medical Services role.



CKW Clinical Council Update

The CKW Clinical Council continues to strengthen opportunities for staff engagement and collaboration across our directorate.

A new CKW Clinical Council QHEPS page is currently under development and will provide a central hub for information about the Council, its initiatives and opportunities to get involved.

The Council is also launching Coffee with the Council, a new monthly initiative held on the second Tuesday of each month, from 10.00–10.30am in the Caboolture Hospital Main Foyer. The first Coffee with the Council kicks off on **Tuesday 11 August**. Staff are encouraged to drop in, enjoy a complimentary coffee in exchange for their ideas, feedback and suggestions in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Finally, congratulations to Sophie Wallace on her appointment as Deputy Co-Chair of the CKW Clinical Council. We look forward to Sophie supporting the Council's important work in giving our clinicians a strong voice and helping shape the future of our services.

The Common Good Research Showcase

On Monday, The Common Good held their Research Showcase at Caboolture Hospital to acknowledge the people with passion, curiosity and commitment to improving healthcare.

At the event, The Common Good acknowledged five grant recipients, totalling more than \$248,000 in support of innovative projects that address the health needs of our growing community.



Caboolture Research Grants

A/Prof Mahesh Ramanan; Als - Ms Emma Williams, Mr Alan Bradley, Prof Kevin Laupland, Miss Felicity Edwards: An electronic medical record-embedded clinical trial comparing restrictive versus liberal phosphate replacement protocols in critically ill patients.

CIs - A/Prof Thuy Frakking; Als - Dr Seiji Humphries, A/Prof Alison Craswell: A/Prof Thuy Frakking - Co-design of an innovative digital swallow sounds app to improve the detection of aspiration.

PhD Scholarship

Ms Emma Williams.

CKW-UniSC Collaborative Grants co-funded in partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast

CIs - Dr Jacqui Peet, Ms Tracy Zammit, Ms Karen Henderson, A/Prof Alison Craswell; Als - Ms Stacey Watts, Ms Karen Zillman

CIs - Dr Apil Gurung, Dr Kamal Singh, Dr Louise Purtell, Dr Jessica Killey; Als - Ms Stacey Watts.

Congratulations again to all of the grant recipients and thank you for your dedication to improving healthcare through research.

Safer workplaces - OV update

In Metro North, workplace safety is a key priority—protecting you so you can come to work and care for our patients in the safest possible environment.

We acknowledge that occupational violence (OV) is a major issue for our staff and reducing instances of OV is an ongoing focus for Metro North. Across our facilities and services, we care for a large number of patients with clinically complex and challenging conditions and behaviours.

With all care delivery, we encourage mutual respect and treat patients and consumers with compassion to de-escalate abusive and aggressive behaviours.

Equipping staff with the necessary tools and resources to respond to these behaviours is key to helping prevent and reduce instances of work-related violence and aggression. We work closely with the QLD Occupational Violence Strategy Unit (QOVSU) to ensure Metro North staff have access to training, support and reporting to manage the impact of OV.

There are a range of OV support resources available online via the following links:

- Queensland Health handbook - [Prevention and management of work-related violence and aggression in health services and toolkit](#)
- [Metro North OV Prevention Resources](#)
- [QOVSU Initiatives and Resources](#)

Caboolture Hospital school-based trainee wins regional Queensland Training Award

Congratulations to Harmony Lakatos who won the school-based trainee award at the 2026 North Coast regional Queensland Training Awards.

The awards celebrate the outstanding apprentices, trainees, students, teachers, employers and organisations who are helping build Queensland's skilled workforce.

Winner



Harmony Lakatos

Qualification: Certificate III in Health Services Assistance

School: Caboolture State High School

Registered Training Organisation: SWC Training

Employer: Australian Training Company

Host Employer: Metro North Health – Caboolture Hospital

10 years of competitive gymnastics and repeated rehabilitation shaped the way Harmony sees healthcare, not as a system, but as a collection of human moments. Now School Captain at Caboolture State High School and completing a nursing traineeship at Caboolture Hospital, Harmony has moved through uncertainty and family challenges without stepping back from a single shift commitment. Staff welcomed Harmony as a team member from day one, and Harmony has brought exactly that energy to every ward since.

Safety Spotlight Board Competition

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Communication Saves Lives Safety Spotlight Board Competition.

It was fantastic to see so many teams embrace the campaign through creative displays, local improvement initiatives and meaningful staff engagement. Your boards highlighted how effective communication supports safe, high-quality patient care across our services.

A special shout out to Ward 4A, ICU, Cardiac Science Unit and Ward 3C.

As our July focus month comes to a close, thank you to everyone who supported the campaign.

Throughout the month, we explored four key pillars of safe communication:

- Bedside Clinical Handover
- Patient Identification
- Clinical Documentation
- Connected Care

While the campaign has ended, the message remains the same: every conversation, handover, patient identification check, clinical note and referral contributes to safer, more coordinated care.

Let's keep the conversation going by continuing to make communication a focus in Safety Huddles, team meetings and everyday practice.

August What's On

AUGUST

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WHAT'S ON

- ★ WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK 1-7 AUGUST
- ★ JEANS FOR GENES DAY - 7 AUGUST
- ★ DAFFODIL DAY - 20 AUGUST
- ★ SIDS RED NOSE DAY - 27 AUGUST
- ★ WEAR IT PURPLE DAY - 28 AUGUST

CKW EVENTS

- EKKA PUBLIC HOLIDAY - MON 10 AUG
- ATSI CHILDREN'S DAY - TUESDAY 4 AUG
10AM-12PM
- AUGUST STAFF FORUM - TUES 25 AUG
- WEDNESDAY FOOD TRUCKS FROM 5PM



CKW Pet of the Week

This week's CKW Pet of the Week belongs to Roslyn Nibbs, People and Culture Partner at CKW.

Name: Twiggy (Twiggy Nibbs)

Age: 8-years-old (rising 9)

Breed: Australian Stock Horse / Quarter Horse - mare

Please meet Twiggy Nibbs - a very cherished member of our family. While horses are more commonly classified as livestock rather than pets, they are absolutely part of our family. The strong emotional bonds we form make our relationship far more personal than practical.

When Twiggy isn't happily snacking or spending time with her paddock mate, Missy, we're often out chasing cattle, on a long trail ride, or enjoying a good roll in the sand. Some of our favourite moments are the quiet ones; Twiggy and I sitting under a shady tree enjoying cuddles and smooches.

Twiggy makes every day all the brighter.

We are chasing more pets! To have your pet featured, please send a photo and the above details [here](#).

Quote of the day

"Quality is not an act, it is a habit."

- Aristotle

Kind Regards

Jamie Spencer

Executive Director,
Caboolture, Kilcoy and Woodford

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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