

Metro North Health

Message from the

Acting Executive Director Mental Health

Sandra Eyre



Latest staff news 28 August 2026

Good afternoon all,

Thank you for making me feel so welcome in Metro North Mental Health (MNMH) as I fill the gap between Dr Joshi's departure and recruitment of the new Executive Director, MNMH.

It has been wonderful to see some familiar faces, put faces to names and to learn more about teams and services I've known from a Branch or Departmental perspective.

My arrival, as you will be aware, has coincided with a period of intense demand and I've been hugely impressed with the compassion, strength and resilience our teams show each day in facing these challenges.

This week, I want to pay particular tribute to our patient-flow staff. The complexities and challenges you face each day have been unrelenting, yet you continue to show up and deliver solutions each and every day. Thank you for everything you do to keep our consumers safe.

TPCH mental health coronial inquest

Thank you to all of our staff who provided evidence at, attended and gathered information for the inquest which ended yesterday. Your efforts are acknowledged and appreciated and will contribute to the Coroner's findings for future service improvements. This was also a difficult time for the families and carers of loved ones and we acknowledge their courage in participating in this process.

Please remember that the supports put in place for the inquest are ongoing, and I encourage any staff member to reach out for any assistance you need in this space.

- Peer Responder Program: MNPeerResponder@health.qld.gov.au
- Staff Psychology: MNStaffPsychology@health.qld.gov.au
- TELUS Health: 1800 604 640
- More information is available here [Culture, engagement and wellbeing - Staff Extranet](#)
- Reach out to Wendy Muller, Workforce Wellbeing Coordinator, 0448 313 193, mnmhwellbeing@health.qld.gov.au
- Reach out to your line manager or local/MNMH Executive

New services and service planning

Among the demand for beds across our services in recent weeks, the pressure on our MNMH-TPCH service has been the most significant.

The newly-opened MNMH-TPCH mental health HiTH has gone from a staged opening to operating at full capacity in just a couple of weeks – what a remarkable achievement! Congratulations to the team for this rapid response to the needs of our consumers.

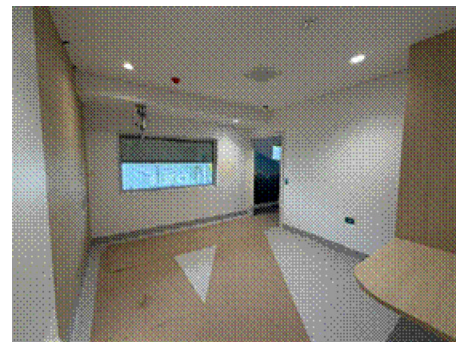
We're now also working closely with the TPCH Executive and the Metro North Infrastructure team to develop options about improving the flow and processes for when consumers present at MNMH-TPCH. I will keep you informed about this work as we consider short- and longer-term options to improve the treatment, care and support for our consumers.

Our four new MHICU beds at the Caboolture mental health service have reached completion. This has been a wonderful transformation (see photos below) of a previously unused space and when open, will give Ward 1 its own co-located MHICU.

This will also allow the SMHRU team to staff and govern its co-located MHICU and allow for 12 MHICU beds to operate within the service. While SMHRU will remain at 19 beds, this approach will allow care delivery for the 3 MHICUs to be aligned to a main ward.

Given the demand for beds across our service, we've opened the four new beds as general mental health beds while final MHICU approvals are received. The RedCab leadership team will keep local staff informed on this approach.

On behalf of the RedCab team, I'd like to thank Wendy Luff and the Metro North Infrastructure team, along with the project team, for their dedication to transforming this space.



MNMH Staff Excellence Awards

You only have 6 days left to [nominate colleagues or teams](#) for the inaugural MNMH Staff Excellence Awards.

We've had a steady flow of nominations but even from my short time here, I know they're not fully representative of the great work happening across MNMH.

Please make time between now and Wednesday to put your nominations in. The process is simple and every nomination for our awards can be included in the broader Metro North awards later in the year.



Let's make sure our great work is recognised!

Executive recruitment update

As you may be aware, the recent MNMH Leadership business case for change split the previous responsibilities of the Executive Director role into two roles.

We now have a standalone Executive Director role (which no longer has medical responsibilities) and the newly created Medical Director of Clinical Services role.

Applications for the Executive Director role have closed, with the Metro North Chief Operating Officer (COO) having oversight of this process.

Applications for the [Medical Director of Clinical Services](#) role close on 18 September 2026 and I encourage suitably qualified staff members to consider applying for this role.

This role will lead the strategic direction, clinical governance and continuous improvement of specialist

mental health and alcohol and other drug services, driving safe, high-quality care and innovation across MNMH.

I will keep you informed on these recruitment processes as information comes to hand.

International Overdose Awareness Day

Please see the article below on International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD), held annually across the world on 31 August to raise awareness about how overdose-related harm can be prevented.

I encourage you to visit our team at the Common Good Café on Monday to recognise this day and to continue to raise awareness. I'll be sporting my IOAD t-shirt on Monday to support the cause.

Thank you all again for your efforts.

Kind regards,

Sandra

Sandra Eyre
Acting Executive Director
Metro North Mental Health

International Overdose Awareness Day (Monday 31 August 2026)

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) is held each year on 31 August to remember those we have lost to overdose and to raise awareness about how overdose-related harms can be prevented.

This year's theme, **"25 Years On. Still Needed."**, recognises 25 years of global action to prevent overdose and acknowledges that overdose continues to affect individuals, families and communities across all walks of life. Importantly, overdose is preventable when people have access to evidence-based information, education, care and support.

Join us



To mark IOAD 2026, clinicians from Metro North's Alcohol and Drug Service will host an information stall at the **Common Good Café** at The Prince Charles Hospital on **Monday 31 August 2026**.

We invite all staff to stop by, enjoy a cupcake, and join us in conversation about how every area of healthcare can play a role in preventing overdose-related harm.

More information

While overdose is often associated with illicit drug use, it can also involve prescription medications and other legal substances. Overdose-related harms are encountered across many healthcare settings and specialties, making prevention everyone's business.

The impact of overdose reaches far beyond the individual, affecting families, friends, colleagues and communities. By increasing awareness, encouraging conversations, and supporting evidence-based approaches to care, we can all contribute to reducing overdose-related harm.

Resources and information about International Overdose Awareness Day are available through the Penington Institute and International Overdose Awareness Day website:

- <https://www.overdoseday.com>
- <https://www.penington.org.au>

Wear it Purple Day (Friday 28 August 2026)



Today is *Wear It Purple Day*, a day dedicated to showing LGBTQIA+SB young people and young adults that they deserve to feel safe, supported, and proud of who they are. The theme for Wear It Purple Day 2026 is *Colours of Courage* which celebrates the many different forms of courage shown by LGBTQIA+SB young people, allies, and communities every day.

You may wish to use this day as an opportunity for team discussions that build awareness. Some conversation starters you might find helpful include:

- How can we visibly demonstrate our support for LGBTQIA+SB young people and colleagues?
- Why is visible allyship so powerful?
- How might we respectfully address inappropriate comments or jokes?
- What more can we do to make our workplace welcoming and inclusive for all?

More resources and ideas are available at wearitpurple.org and [Pride in Metro North](#) | [People & Culture](#) | [Metro North Health](#).

And if you're wearing purple today, please send your photos through to ED-MNMH@health.qld.gov.au so we can share them in the next all-staff forum.

Shout out to Joanie Ghanem, Ambassador, SHCMHC

Spring Hill Community Mental Health Centre Ambassador Joanie Ghanem recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Qld Occupational Violence Strategy Unit, after receiving this lovely feedback via a 5-star Google review.

Congratulations to Joanie, the other staff members mentioned and the broader SHCMHC team!

I accidentally stumbled upon the Spring Hill Mental Health Centre by accident and I'm so glad I did. I was taken to the Crisis Stabilisation Unit at Prince Charles and somehow was referred to Spring Hill. God blessed me that day because I was an emotional wreck and was welcomed on arrival with a hug from the ever so welcoming Joanie. Joanie's role at the centre is key to the first impression of care offered to us in need. She's amazing. All 3 psychiatrists that I have seen were very supportive and reassuring & Dr Tom now has carried on with the same commitment to help me. Thank you Dr Tom. Lastly, a big shout out To Fiona, my caseworker who luckily was assigned to me. Fiona has been so easy to relax with and share my concerns and basically just being an ear for me to vent to. She's been my go between with the doctors and myself, offering suggestions along the way. Thank you Fiona! I hope the funding for this Centre doesn't fall victim to funding cuts and continues to offer the service it does to the community. Thank you S'Hill MHC!.



Five Things About Suicide Prevention - Podcast with Melissa Branjerdporn



Our very own Mel Brandjerporn recently joined Liz Crowe and Jesse Spurr on the *5 Things Nursing Podcast* by RBWH.

In this episode Mel explained:

1. What is suicide?
2. What are the warning signs?
3. Asking about suicide doesn't seed it in someone's mind!
4. When people talk about suicide, take it seriously.
5. Suicide is not necessarily about people wanting to die.

Join more than 400 previous listeners and learn more in this [informative episode](#).

Well done, Mel!

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 we 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