

Metro North Health

Message from the

Executive Director RBWH

Louise Oriti



Summary:

- Awards ceremony celebrates research excellence
- Renewing our focus on Health Equity
- 5 Things podcast reaches a milestone
- Radiographers share safety messages
- Brisbane State High inducts RBWH legends

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 5+ min



For: Information

Dear team

Last night, I was delighted to attend the Metro North Research Excellence Awards at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The event was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the world-class research that is happening at RBWH and across Metro North.

Well done to all the RBWH winners (listed and some pictured below) and finalists.

Researcher of the Year Award – Professor Claire Rickard (Deputy Director, Herston Infectious Disease Institute).

Rising Star – Dr Grace Xu (Emergency and Trauma Centre).

Professor Joan Webster Nursing and Midwifery Research Award – Dr Natasha Roberts (A/Nursing and Midwifery Director of Research).

Chief Executive Award – Dr Cheryl Hutchins (Cellular Therapy / BMT Laboratory).

Research Implementation Award – Evaluating the Implementation of the Ambassador Occupational Violence Prevention Program – represented by Professor Jed Duff, Kayleene Woollett and others.

Discovery Award - Dr Andrea Henden and colleagues for Microbiome-driven solutions in Transplant and Cell Therapy.

Partnering with Consumers in Research Award – Supporting Fathers/Partners

Project – multi-facility team award, with RBWH represented by Prof Leonie Callaway, Glen Quin (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team), Dale Trevor (Consumer) and Dr Joel Dulhunty (Director of Research).

You can view the full winners list and more information about their research [here](#).



Chief Executive Award - Dr Cheryl Hutchins.



Rising Star Award - Dr Grace Xu

Working towards health equity at RBWH

I am pleased to let you know that the [RBWH Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2026 to 2029](#) is now available. This plan articulates our clear focus on strengthening the cultural capability of our workforce and piloting new and innovative ways of delivering healthcare for this community.

This plan lists four strategic objectives to measure our progress:

- Zero experience of racism at RBWH
- Sustain culturally safe, data-driven equity
- Create safe hospital and healthcare services
- Develop and enhance culturally safe, co-designed, innovative care models.

Service areas will now develop Local Action Plans, aligned with the Health Plan, to define their priority focus areas and key actions that support the delivery of the Health Plan. You can access the plan [here](#). I will keep you updated as we progress this important work.

5 Things Podcast marks a milestone

If you haven't discovered the 5 Things podcast yet, now is a great time to tune in, with the series recently releasing its 100th episode.

Hosted by Staff Wellbeing Specialist Dr Liz Crowe and Nursing and Midwifery Education Director Jesse Spurr, each episode explores a healthcare topic with an expert guest and shares five practical takeaways for listeners.



In a recent episode, Liz and Jesse spoke with GP Dr Emily Watters, whose practice focuses on perimenopause and menopause. Emily discusses why perimenopause is an important public health issue, highlighting the need for ongoing research

and the translation of evidence into practice to improve access to treatment. You can listen to the episode [here](#) or search for '5 Things' wherever you access podcasts.

Congratulations to Liz and Jesse on the 100-episode milestone. Here's to many more great conversations.

RBWH Radiographers share safety messages

This week marks MRI Safety Week, highlighting the important role MRI plays in diagnosing, monitoring and treating a wide range of health conditions, and the need to maintain the highest standards of safety.

While MRI is a safe and highly effective diagnostic tool, its powerful magnetic fields create unique risks. Metal objects can become dangerous projectiles, some implants may be affected, and patient safety relies on thorough screening and adherence to established protocols.

RBWH radiographers have used this week to reinforce the importance of robust safety practices, including comprehensive patient assessments, ongoing staff training and clear communication. Such measures ensure a safe environment for patients and staff while supporting high-quality care.

Thank you to our radiographers and MRI teams for their continued commitment to safety and for the vital role you play in delivering excellent care every day.



RBWH radiographers are spreading the message about MRI safety.



Open Day attendees explore a future at RBWH

Last weekend, more than 200 people attended the annual RBWH Nursing & Midwifery Career Open Day.

The day began with an inspiring presentation from Liz Crowe on nursing and midwifery careers. Attendees, including recent graduates, students and mid-career healthcare professionals exploring a

new direction, then had the opportunity to connect directly with clinicians across a range of service lines and visit clinical areas to see RBWH teams in action.

Events like this play an important role in attracting the next generation of healthcare professionals, and their success relies on significant planning and collaboration. Thank you to everyone involved in organising the day, and to the staff who generously shared their time and experiences with our potential future colleagues.

Brisbane State High School inducts RBWH legends.

Every year, Brisbane State High School inducts distinguished alumni who have made outstanding contributions to public life as 'Legends'. This year, two significant alumni with associations to RBWH joined that list. Associate Professor Cliff Pollard was inducted for his significant contribution to trauma care in Queensland. Cliff is pictured with fellow State High alumni, STARS Executive Director Dale Daly-Watkins and Metro North Deputy Board Chair Dr Meg Cairns.



At the same event, Joyce Tweddell was posthumously inducted for her many contributions, including service in World War II and her pioneering role in establishing therapeutic radiography as a cancer treatment in Queensland. Dr Meg Cairns proudly accepted Joyce's award, which will be displayed at the RBWH building named in her honour. You can read more about Joyce's many achievements [here](#).

SET Staff Forum next Thursday

Finally for today, the Metro North Senior Executive Team will host its next staff forum at 11am next Thursday in the Education Centre. Hear from Chief Executive Nick Steele and senior leaders about what's happening across the HHS, with opportunities to ask questions in advance or on the day. A [Teams livestream](#) will also be available for those unable to attend in person.

Thank you all for everything you do for our community.

Kind Regards

Louise Oriti

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Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital

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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