

Metro North Health

Message from the

Executive Director RBWH

Louise Oriti



Summary:

- Central Reprocessing Department update
- Executive Director update
- RBWH asks RU OK?
- Celebrating our health changemakers
- Linen use survey

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 5+ min



For: Information

Dear team

I am pleased to let you know that we have engaged a contractor, and work on our new Central Reprocessing Department (CRD) is scheduled to start next month.

The new, larger CRD will replace the ageing infrastructure in the existing Sterile Processing Centre (SPC), and it will also have capacity to support other clinical areas including gastroenterology procedures, thoracic services, Ear, Nose and Throat and Cancer Care.

The new CRD will be built on top of the Dr James Mayne Building. To enable construction, a site compound will be established in the lower courtyard of the building, with a gantry to be installed to maintain access between the hospital and the busway.

Construction is expected to be complete by late 2028, with the new CRD anticipated to open in early 2029. The existing SPC will remain operational until the new department is ready. Click [here](#) to learn more on QHEPS.

Executive Director update

I would like to share with you all that after more than four years as Executive Director of RBWH and more than 10 years with Metro North Health, I have made the decision to step down on 27 November.

In the work we do, we realise life should never be taken for granted. I have a long list of things I want to do more of that I just cannot seem to find time for now. These include improving my strength and fitness, developing an interest in hiking (not sure where yet), reading as much as I used to do, spending time with my

family, especially the grandchildren and undertaking some serious travel. I yearn to spend a few months in Rome, Sicily and France and get back to the Northern Territory to see and feel that extraordinary land again.

I leave with great appreciation for the work you all do every day to support our community. It has been an honour to serve as Executive Director of our state's largest hospital and work alongside a world-class team of caring and compassionate professionals.

An Expression of Interest for the Executive Director role is currently open to fill the role for 6 months.

RBWH asks RU OK?

Yesterday was R U OK? Day, a reminder to check in with the people around us and encourage conversations about mental health and wellbeing. The movement helps create a culture where people feel supported and comfortable reaching out when they need help.

While working in healthcare is rewarding, it can also be demanding. Taking the time to ask a colleague, friend, or team member how they're really doing can make a meaningful difference. If someone shares that they're struggling, remember that you don't need to solve their problems. Listening with empathy and showing genuine care can be incredibly powerful. Being aware of available support services can also help connect people with the right assistance when needed. More information is available on [QHEPS](#) and the [R U OK? website](#).

It was great to see teams across RBWH supporting R U OK? Day, including Team Royal greeting staff as they arrived at work. While the day highlights connection and wellbeing, our goal is to make asking 'R U OK?' part of everyday culture throughout the year.



Celebrating our health changemakers

Closing equity gaps for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients in the emergency department, potentially capturing lung cancer through a saliva test, and post-discharge food packages for those in need. These are among 19 new projects our RBWH Foundation is supporting as part of its latest grants round that were recently announced.

This round included the inaugural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander project grants, which will be important on our journey toward achieving Health Equity and provide meaningful solutions that are co-created based on the experiences and perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers.

Well done to all of our grant recipients (pictured). I look forward to seeing the results of your work as we seek to achieve even better outcomes for patients. You can learn more about all the grant initiatives [here](#).



SOS = Save our Sheets

Did you know Queensland Health spends more than \$2.5 million each year replacing lost, damaged or misused linen, including sheets, towels and blankets?

To help reduce this cost and improve linen management, Queensland Health's Supply Chain Branch wants to better understand how linen is used across hospitals and healthcare facilities.

If you handle linen as part of your role, please take a few minutes to complete [a five-minute quiz](#) and share your experiences anonymously.

Your feedback will help identify opportunities to improve linen management practices, increase efficiency and reduce linen loss and mishandling across Queensland Health facilities.

A push with purpose

Next Friday, Goondiwindi local David Batterham will arrive at RBWH, having pushed a wheelbarrow all the way to our hospital from Toowoomba. While this may sound like an unusual undertaking, it's all about raising awareness and funds for neuroendocrine cancer, an illness that claimed his beloved wife in 2024. If you'd like to welcome David, our RBWH Foundation is hosting an event outside the Education Centre from 11 am on Friday. You can learn more about David's incredible fundraising endeavours [here](#)

Thank you all for everything you do for our community.

Kind Regards

Louise Oriti

Executive Director,
Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital

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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