

Executive Message

Metro North Health



Summary:

- Board meeting
- Deadly Start Graduation
- Brighton Health Campus celebrates 80 years
- Metro North Business Case for Change
- SET Forum
- Safe Work Month
- Cyber Security Action Month.

Message feedback

Chief Executive Nick Steele



Audience: All staff



Read time: 5+ min



For: Information

Hi Everyone

This week, I've had the opportunity to attend a number of important meetings and events across the health service which have highlighted some of the great work our teams are doing to improve the health outcomes of our patients and community.

Board meeting

Early in the week I attended our monthly Board meeting at Caboolture Hospital which commenced with a tour of medical wards 3B and 4C and Mental Health's ICU and inpatient wards, accompanied by Board member Dr Peter Aitken PSM. During the tour, we spoke with frontline staff about their daily priorities and challenges, and saw some of the facility's amenities. We particularly enjoyed seeing the patient courtyard and wall mural which are helping create a more comfortable and welcoming experience for CKW patients, families and visitors.

The Board meeting included some important discussions around catchment flow, including that due to Metro North's size and specialities, many clinical teams are



supporting patients from outside Metro North's catchment. As part of the discussion on flow, we talked about continuing to focus on reducing discharge delays to help manage hospital bed pressures – an ongoing challenge for all Metro North facilities.

One of the meeting highlights was the progress update on our Health Equity Strategy. Key areas of strong improvement include healthier starts for babies, workforce growth, community-based care, access, and workforce capability.

I am pleased to share the following outcomes from 2025-26:

- Healthy birthweight outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies increased from 87.5% to 88.9% across Metro North facilities.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce increased from 503 employees (1.96%) to 541 employees (2.04%).
- The Better Together Health Van supported 448 community members to participate in opportunistic health screening activities with 82 specialist referrals made.
- Deadly Feet held 36 community clinics, resulting in 450 appointments booked, 331 patients receiving care, and 152 review appointments completed.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healthy Ageing Clinic grew to approximately 20 new patients per month and supported around 90 active review patients.
- 4,414 staff completed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Program.

Deadly Start Graduation

In light of our good work around the Health Equity Strategy, it was fitting that the 2026 Metro North Deadly Start graduation celebration was held this week. This year, 28 year 12 students graduated from the 18-month program. The Deadly Start traineeship combines formal qualifications with paid work experience, with this year's graduates completing successful placements in various nursing, administration and allied health roles.

The event was a great opportunity to congratulate the students on their accomplishments, and acknowledge the Deadly Start Program's success in providing positive employment pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. These trainees also bring their own unique strengths and perspectives that help support the delivery of more culturally safe and responsive health services for our communities – an important step in our health equity journey. We wish our graduates the very best for their future employment endeavours. Metro North employs several previous Deadly Start graduates in clinical and non-clinical roles.



Metro North's 2026 Deadly Start Graduates

Brighton Health Campus celebrates 80 years

Yesterday I attended Brighton Health Campus's 80th anniversary event, joining well over 150 guests including current and former staff, volunteers and community partners to celebrate this important milestone.

For the last eight decades, the Brighton campus has been a prominent centre of health care for the surrounding community, providing support to older people and other vulnerable individuals living in the local area. In more recent times, the campus has evolved in response to changing community demands, introducing new models of care and services with a strong focus on rehabilitation, recovery and transitional care for the older person. Having these options to support a growing ageing population is important in providing choices for people to remain independent, be supported at home, or gain help to transition into residential care.

Furthermore, as demands on Metro North hospitals rise each year, services that enable people to receive care outside the traditional hospital setting closer to home become more and more essential.

Congratulations to the teams at Brighton and the broader Community and Oral Health Directorate on this significant achievement. The contributions of this service, and the thousands of staff who have supported it during its many years of operations, have had a positive impact on many generations of people and their families across the community. Happy 80th anniversary Brighton!

I invite you to watch the [Brighton Health Campus 80th anniversary video](#).



Brighton Health Campus 80th anniversary celebration

I to r: Nick Steele Chief Executive, Barbara Ferdinand AIN Brighton Rehabilitation Unit, Susan Cawley Duty Nurse Manager Brighton Health Campus, Bernard Curran Board Chair, Michael Elliott former Brighton staff member, Glynis Schultz Executive Director COH

Metro North Business Case for Change

The COO Supplementary Consultation for the Metro North Business Case for Change closes next Tuesday, 6 October. The supplementary consultation provides an opportunity for affected staff, unions and relevant stakeholders to review and provide feedback on the

proposed organisational changes in the Chief Operating Officer (COO) portfolio.

Details of the supplementary consultation along with the Metro North Business Case for Change implementation plan are on the [BCFC extranet page](#).

SET Forum

Yesterday, the Metro North Senior Executive Team (SET) met at TPCCH and held a staff forum. We had updates from SET members and answered questions.

Executive Director Strategy and Planning Jodi Hallas updated staff on *Future Metro North: Reimagining Health Care 2027-2042*, Chief Allied Health Practitioner Michelle Stute updated staff on patients experiencing discharge delay, and Chief Finance Officer Ian Wright updated staff on the Timely Investment in Infrastructure Maintenance (TIIM) infrastructure funding, which for the first two years of the four-year program includes \$295M allocated to Metro North. Of this, \$50M is directed to TPCCH. The funding allocation is informed by clinical and operational needs which identifies investment to maintain performance, maintenance and additional assets.

I acknowledged increased mental health presentations to emergency departments (ED) which means some patients are waiting a long time and ED is not always the best environment for this cohort. However, I know that our mental health teams always strive to provide kind and compassionate care and are working with the TPCCH executive to develop other strategies to ensure patients receive appropriate and timely care.

We also discussed the Metro North Business Case for Change which is progressing well. There are a few areas that fall under the Chief Operating Officer portfolio that we need to sharpen, including our outpatient referral process to ensure patients receive the same access to care regardless of where they live.

We also discussed ieMR implementation at TPCCH next year and Chief People and Culture Officer Lorna Morton spoke about the importance of safety at work. You can find Safe Work Month events during October [here](#).

Can I congratulate the Brisbane Lions on a remarkable victory in the AFL Grand Final and also give a shout out to Dean Izzard, Acting Nursing Director Patient Access and Clinical Effectiveness, and the numerous other nursing, operational, BEMS and trade staff at Caboolture Hospital who managed a significant water leak (just as Kylie Minogue was about to start her pre-game show) in a timely and efficient manner which minimised disruption to patient care. A true example of Metro North values in action.

Can I also thank those staff working over the long weekend for your commitment to caring for our patients and community.

Take care.
Nick.



Chief People and Culture Officer

Lorna Morton



Audience: All staff



Read time: 1 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

A safe workplace is everyone's responsibility

October is National Safe Work Month — an opportunity to shine a light on the importance of a safe and healthy workplace.

The theme for this year's campaign is *Safe work is for life: Designing Work that Supports Healthy Workers and Safer Patient Care*.

The campaign recognises that work health and safety is about more than preventing harm in the moment. It's about designing safe and healthy work that prevents injury, illness and long-term harm that can affect every part of life — at work, at home, and well into the future.

Over the month there is a busy [calendar of events](#) and information that I encourage you to take part in, including competitions with prizes, safety walks and talks, SafeTea conversations, and a wealth of information on key safety topics, webinars and resources for everyone to get involved.

I encourage every leader at their next team meeting to take 5 and highlight the important role each employee plays in maintaining and promoting a positive safety culture. You can visit the Metro North [Safe Work Month QHEPS page](#) for support to have these conversations, find information on promoting a healthy workplace and register to join events.

Kind regards,
Lorna



Audience: All staff



Read time: 2 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

Cyber security is shaped by the small choices we make every day. Creating a passphrase, postponing an update or sharing information, are small actions that have an impact. Each choice is an opportunity to protect ourselves, our patients, our information and the services we rely on; it's a shared responsibility.

This Cyber Security Action Month, make those moments count. This year's theme, Take a second. Stay secure., highlights how cyber threats often rely on speed and distraction. Taking a moment to stop and think can help you spot something unusual, avoid potential risks and stay in control.

Staying secure online does not need to be complicated or time consuming and you don't need to be a cyber expert. Simple actions, built into your daily routine, can make a real difference in protecting your information, your devices and the people around you.

Register to attend short online sessions held across October:

- **AI and online risks for children and young people**
An eSafety Commissioner webinar – [Wednesday 7 October at 12:30pm – 1:15pm](#)
- **Everyday Cyber Safety Tips**
Take 30 minutes to discover practical ways to strengthen your cyber security, protect your information and make safer choices online. [Thursday 8 October at 11:00am – 11:30am](#) | [Tuesday 13 October at 10:00am – 10:30am](#) | [Thursday 22 October at 2:00pm – 2:30pm](#)
- **Goodbye to SMS and Voice for Multifactor Authentication**
A safer way to sign-in is coming. Discover what's changing, why it matters, explore options and learn what you need to do to prepare. [Thursday 15 October at 11:00am – 11:30am](#) | [Monday 19 October at 1:00pm – 1:30pm](#)
- **Recognising online coercive control**
An eSafety Commissioner webinar – [Tuesday 20 October at 12:30am – 1.15pm](#)
- **Phishing and social engineering *What the Phish* webinar**
Learn the latest trends and tactics, build confidence to recognise and report suspicious emails and social engineering at work and home. [Wednesday 21 October at 10:30am – 11:00am](#)
- **Secure by Design – Building a safer future**
Discover what it means, why it matters and how it helps Queensland Health build safer, more resilient systems and services. [Tuesday 27 October at 1:00pm – 1:30pm](#)
- **Cyber Escape Room challenge – TheMadHackr**
An interactive cyber security activity designed to build awareness through problem-solving and hands-on learning. Participants can complete the escape room individually or as a team. Available on the [iLearn catalogue](#).

Get involved this October and be part of a more secure Queensland Health.

[Discover more of what's happening this Cyber Security Action Month.](#)

Regards,
Jason

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**

If you have received this email and do not work for Metro North please follow this link to be removed from the mailing list.

[Email us](#)