### Queensland Milk Bank turns 6!

With a combined total of 6,000 litres of milk to its name, the Queensland Milk Bank at Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH) has certainly been busy over the last six years.

Queensland Milk Bank Director Dr Pieter Koorts said the facility now supplies Pasteurised Donor Human Milk to 16 other hospitals across Australia.

“It is incredible to think how much we have grown in just six years,” Dr Koorts said.

“I am very proud to be making a difference to the survival of not only our tiniest patients, but babies right around our country.”

Queensland Milk Bank employee Karen Langford said to date, the bank had supplied milk to 1,700 babies from 650 donors.

“We couldn’t do this without the selfless donor mums who give without a thought to themselves,” Ms Langford said.

“For so many babies this can be the difference between life and death, and our donors give this gift every day.”

The Queensland Milk Bank documents its milestones and the journeys of its donors and recipients online via its [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) page.
Message from the Board Chair and Chief Executive

Dear colleagues,

It has been another incredibly busy year at Metro North and it is important to take a moment to reflect on what we have achieved.

Among many highlights of 2018, we have fast-tracked health careers for Indigenous high school students through the Deadly Start Education2Employment program and celebrated 80 years of Women’s and Newborns health at Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital and 25 years of caring for the community at Caboolture Hospital. We have commenced refurbishment on Redcliffe Hospital’s emergency department and have seen the amalgamation of two key areas within our health service, community and oral health.

This year we have launched MN32, our living strategy mapping out our rapidly evolving healthcare landscape over the next 14 years. Through MN32, we will match our world-class facilities with teaching institutions and biotechnology campuses that will expand on our culture of innovation and translational research to address the community’s growing healthcare needs.

MN32 will also take us on our digital health journey, led by our Chief Digital Health Officer. Our Digital Metro North strategy will create and seize opportunities to increase the quality of patient experiences and create even stronger clinical outcomes that will deliver a more connected, compassionate and seamless healthcare.

A major highlight of 2018 was the opening of our first step-up step-down mental health facility. Nundah House offers an alternative to hospital admission for mental health consumers who can be best supported in a community setting. This facility is our focus on achieving safe and positive outcomes in mental health recovery, prevention and community re-engagement.

We also revealed plans to open the only specialised adolescent and young adult cancer centre at Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, Sony You Can Centre. The centre will also act as a hub for clinical research to advance treatment and increase survival rates and will open next year.

Staff have also seen construction well underway on our Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service, STARS. The state-of-the-art surgical and complex rehabilitation facility will open in 2020 as part of the Herston Quarter redevelopment.

We have also experienced an incredible act of compassion from Caboolture and Kilcoy staff who have donated more than 500 pairs of footwear needed by patients in rural and remote Queensland. It is through your willingness to embrace these values at work that we are well on our way to creating an ever more positive staff culture that is truly changing patients’ lives for the better.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, volunteers and healthcare partners who have played a part in helping us achieve great work this year. On behalf of the Board and Executive, we wish you all a safe, healthy and happy festive season.

Dr Robert Stable AM
Chair, Metro North Hospital and Health Board
Shaun Drummond
Chief Executive, Metro North Hospital and Health Service

Cancer patients to benefit from donations

For more than 10 years the Wig and Turban Service at Redcliffe Hospital’s Cancer Care Service has been helping oncology patients regain their confidence and to feel better about themselves by providing quality wigs that improve patients’ quality of life during their cancer treatment.

Now, thanks to generous donations from two local organisations, the Service’s library of quality wigs will be further expanded and updated.

The Redcliffe Tigers AFC donated nearly $2,000 to the Wig and Turban Service, and Redcliffe ZONTA donated $4,000 to be shared between the Wig and Turban Service and oncology service.

With more than 100 wigs of various colours and styles available, the service is already helping between 70-80 patients at a time, and is exclusively available to patients of Redcliffe Hospital’s Cancer Care Service.

Because each of the wigs costs between $350 and $600, this funding boost will mean the Service will be able to refresh and renew its collection, which will mean more and better wigs for Redcliffe Hospital cancer patients.

Redcliffe Hospital’s Wig and Turban Service has received donations from the Redcliffe Tigers AFC and Redcliffe ZONTA.
Collaborative improving care for older people

Residential aged care health providers in the Caboolture region have come together to improve the care journey and experience for the growing number of people living in aged care facilities.

Caboolture Residential Aged Care Collaborative meetings include Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) managers and clinicians, several areas of Caboolture Hospital, Brisbane North PHN staff and local GPs within the Caboolture Hospital catchment.

Caboolture Hospital Nurse Navigator Geriatric Flow Rosie Trent said the collaborative was developed in partnership between the Brisbane North PHN and Caboolture Hospital.

“The 16 residential aged care facilities in the Caboolture Hospital catchment have more than 1,500 residents,” Rosie said.

“It’s great to have all providers in the one room, working together and sharing information, which assists in identifying areas that we can work on to improve care for residents, improve systems and further educate RACF staff.

Meetings are held every two months at a different RACF in the Caboolture region.

For more details on the new collaborative, contact Rosalee Trent on 5316 5473.

Marathon Man changing the lives of RBWH neurosurgery patients

Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital’s ‘marathon man’ Reece Crawford has given an incredible gift to the hospital’s neurosurgery patients.

The 2018 Metro North Staff Excellence Values in Action Award winner and RBWH physiotherapy assistant has been fundraising all year for a tilt in space commode shower chair, which gives people who can’t support themselves sitting independently the ability to shower or use the toilet safely.

After running marathons to raise the funds, Reece has finally reached his goal and gifted the chair to Ward 8AS.

Reece, who spent time on the ward himself after sustaining a traumatic brain injury in 2014, said his own experience inspired him to help others.

“Four years ago, I was being treated on the neurosurgery ward and I was unable to shower. I had a severe right sided weakness (among many other things) and couldn’t sit or stand,” Reece said.

“I hope the chair brings a little bit of normality to the lives of the patients who need to use it.

“They are in a very difficult spot in their lives and something as small as a shower can make a world of difference.”

Reece fundraises with the help of the RBWH Foundation.

RBWH Physiotherapy Assistant Reece Crawford fundraised all year for this incredible tilt in space commode shower chair for the neurosurgery department.
Ambassador role a first for resident care

Metro North’s Community and Oral Health (COH) facilities have introduced a highly-specialised new role that is helping to de-escalate potential incidents.

COH Acting Executive Director Tami Photinos said the Residential Aged Care Ambassador is an integral part of the care team in our aged care facilities.

“The ambassador acts as a companion, listener and calming influence for our frail and elderly residents, especially those with cognitive impairments such as dementia,” Ms Photinos said.

“The ambassador is highly trained and skilled in de-escalating emerging situations, and diffusing and distracting aggressive behaviours through calm, non-threatening communication and interactions.”

The introduction of a permanent Aged Care Ambassador follows a highly successful trial earlier in the year, which was supported by Queensland Health’s Occupational Violence Implementation Committee.

“The Ambassador trial which ran in early 2018 saw a six-fold reduction in the number of incidents,” Ms Photinos said.

“Safety concerns also fell from an average of 52 per month to now an average of two per month following the trial period.

“Staff, care recipients and families report feelings of increased safety, reduced anxiety and an enhanced environment with the ambassador in the facility.”

Residential Aged Care Ambassador Ashleigh Lloyd said it was important that everyone felt safe and that they were at home and comfortable in their own environment.

The introduction of the role is one of the person-centred care initiatives that was implemented following last year’s Metro North Residential Long Stay Review.

Consumer Showcase celebrates partnerships

Our invaluable partnership with consumers and community partners was celebrated at the annual Metro North Consumer Engagement Showcase.

The Showcase was held at the Brighton Health Campus as a thank-you celebration and chance to network with staff and consumers from across Metro North.

Attendees heard insights about partnerships from staff and consumers including consumer involvement in the Staff Excellence Awards, working with staff to develop education videos for patients, being on the interview panel for a staff specialist role and working at the RBWH Compassion Café.

Consumer Carolyn Wharton had the chance to share her experience being involved in the co-design for Caboolture Hospital’s expansion and development.

“It gives the chance to share my lived experience with people and all staff and to be able to dissect and converse about those experiences to improve the care for future patients,” Carolyn said.

Partnerships such as the Healthy Strong Teeth Project, the Men’s Shed at Brighton Health Campus from the Community and Oral Health Directorate, Compassion Café at RBWH, Caboolture Hospital’s Caring Together partnership and the Metro North Quick Flow project were also recognised.

Additional highlights and case studies will be featured in the Metro North Consumer and Community Engagement Annual Report available early 2019.
The community engagement initiative, being led by TPCH’s Emergency Department Patient Engagement team is being undertaken in recognition of the large number of north Brisbane residents who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, with 30.6 per cent of residents in this category.

Emergency physician and chair of the hospital’s Emergency Department Patient Engagement team Dr Rajeev Jarugula said that understanding the diverse cultural needs of patients is an essential component in improving and individualising patient care.

“We treat a significant number of patients and families who have specific cultural needs when it comes to receiving their health care,” Dr Jarugula said.

Northside residents from all cultural backgrounds are being invited to have their say in an effort to improve the experience of patients who visit The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) Emergency Department (ED).

The community engagement initiative, being led by TPCH’s Emergency Department Patient Engagement team is being undertaken in recognition of the large number of north Brisbane residents who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, with 30.6 per cent of residents in this category.

The Program is seeing oral health screening days delivered with volunteer dental professionals and University of Queensland dental students at The Wesley Mission, Salvation Army, New Farm Neighbourhood Centre and Queensland Injectors Health Network.

Salvation Army Team Leader Paul Maunder said the partnership provided a great connection to public dental health services.

“Not being aware of these cultural distinctions can cause staff not to address a patient’s cultural beliefs which can result in a patient being dissatisfied and disengaging themselves from health care services. This can then lead to a patient avoiding important hospital visits and treatment.

“Language can also be a major barrier for individuals and families in understanding their own or their child’s treatment, which has the potential to cause insufficient information sharing, misdiagnosis and incomplete treatment.

“Engaging with individuals and families in our local community will help us identify any potential gaps in our health care delivery method, and develop support services that could assist patients during their visit to the emergency department.”

TPCH emergency department will host a community forum in early 2019. Interested members of the community are invited to register early interest by emailing rajeev.jarugula@health.qld.gov.au
Clinic combines forces to improve heart failure care

In a Metro North first, a nurse practitioner and clinical pharmacist have combined forces to improve outcomes for patients with heart failure.

The Nurse Practitioner Combined Pharmacy Clinic (NPPC) at The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) aims to ensure patients can appropriately self-manage their heart failure through effective education and medication use.

Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner Haunnah Rheault said the clinic was established to address low health literacy levels among patients and its subsequent impact on clinical care.

“Research shows that 60 percent of the adult Australian population have low health literacy levels,” Haunnah said.

Health literacy refers to the way people obtain, read, understand, and use healthcare information to make appropriate health decisions and follow instructions for treatment.

“Low health literacy levels can directly affect a patient’s understanding of how to effectively self-manage their condition and adhere to medications. This can ultimately result in poor outcomes and higher rates of hospitalisation,” Haunnah said.

Planning for wellbeing

Consumers have played a key role in shaping a plan to improve mental health, suicide prevention, and alcohol and other drug treatment services in North Brisbane and Moreton Bay.

Planning for Wellbeing (2018-2023) was launched during Queensland Mental Health Week.

Sponsored by Metro North Hospital and Health Service and Brisbane North PHN, Planning for Wellbeing establishes future directions for the region, and has been developed in partnership with healthcare providers and practitioners, people with a lived experience and carers.

Metro North Mental Health Executive Director Professor Brett Emmerson AM said the plan presents both organisations with the opportunity not only to lead work on ensuring those needing healthcare can access the right services at the right time in the right place, but to engage stakeholders in identifying shared objectives for the future.

“The plan outlines our shared objectives and priority actions to bring about whole of system and whole of community changes, including for carers and diversity groups, sustaining good mental health and how we commission and deliver services,” Prof. Emmerson said.

“Planning for Wellbeing is a ground-breaking plan that presents both organisations with the opportunity not only to work together, but to support people to access options that mean better physical health, care for children and families, housing, training and employment,” Brisbane North PHN Chief Executive Officer Abbe Anderson said.

“This presents a broader challenge for those working in healthcare, not only to work together, but to support people to access options that mean better physical health, care for children and families, housing, training and employment.”

Brisbane North PHN Executive Manager Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Paul Martin joined Metro North Mental Health Executive Director Professor Brett Emmerson AM and Queensland Mental Health Commissioner Ivan Frkovic to launch Planning for Wellbeing.

“We have also adopted patient education methods such as ‘teach-back’ and ‘show-back’ by using plain language to help improve our patients’ understanding of how to manage their condition.”

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Brisbane North PHN Chief Executive Officer Abbe Anderson said the commitment shown by stakeholders to the development of the plan has been demonstrated by the sheer number of participants.

“The groundswell of feedback from the many and diverse stakeholders who engaged with us over 90 consultation events, paints a clear picture of a complex service system and the need for consumers, carers, government and non-government healthcare providers and our own organisations to lead the changes proposed in this plan,” Ms Anderson said.

Deadly Start
EDUCATION 2 EMPLOYMENT (E2E)

A Deadly Start in Health

Hospitals and schools across Brisbane have teamed up to boost the number of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students taking up careers in health.

Metro North Hospital and Health Service’s Deadly Start education2employment program aims to encourage young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to choose a career in health.

Indigenous students from as far away as Torres Strait and Weipa already have been offered a school based traineeship in either nursing, allied health or dental at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, The Prince Charles Hospital and Oral Health Centre.

Woodcrest State College Year 11 student Sharde Smith is thrilled to be one of the first Deadly Start participants to enter nursing.

With more experience in a hospital than most people her age following a childhood diagnosis of Leukemia, the now-16-year-old says she wants others to know there is someone there to help them through their hard times.

“This program is going to have a huge impact because I’m going to be doing what I love, giving back, changing people’s lives, saving them, so I think it’s going to be something that I look forward to everyday,” she said.

Almost 20 schools have signed up to the program.

The Deadly Start education2employment program is part of a newly-established Health Hub, which is a partnership between Metro North Hospital and Health Service, Brisbane North West Trade Training Centre, Mater Education, and state, independent and private schools.

Help just a call away

Two Indigenous courtesy phones housed in bright yellow hoods and highlighted with Aboriginal artwork have been installed in two entrances at Royal

Chris Henaway, Paul Drahm, Dr Amanda Dines and Gene Blow unveil the Indigenous phone adjacent to Admissions at Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital.

Metro North Hospital and Health Service staff member, Ronald John Abala Wurraghantha – “little spirit man”, designed the artwork for the phones, which are in the Emergency and Trauma Centre and at Admissions desk on lower ground floor.

The phones are designed to streamline access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients to maternity, mental health and hospital liaison services, which is a significant step for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who seek medical attention at Queensland’s largest tertiary hospital.

By providing an instant service, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visitors to RBWH will now be able to be met by an Indigenous health worker, which will expedite the health care process.

Upon entry to the hospital, an Indigenous patient’s line of sight will immediately be drawn to the bright yellow hoods covered in Indigenous artwork, and will go a long way to helping them on their healing journey by alleviating any fear or concern from the outset.
What is Neurofibromatosis (NF)?

Neurofibromatosis or NF refers to several variable conditions which cause tumours to grow on nerves in the body. NF can affect both males and females and is diagnosed in people from all ethnicities and backgrounds.

NF type 1 (NF1) is quite common and is thought to affect around 1 in every 2,500 people. NF type 2 (NF2) is much less common and affects around 1 in 35,000 people. Schwannomatosis is also a type of NF which is rare in the community.

How is it detected?

Detecting NF can be difficult, and each person diagnosed will have a unique medical journey.

There are specific diagnostic criteria for NF1, NF2 and Schwannomatosis. These criteria have been laid out by the National Institute of Health (NIH) Consensus Development Conference Statement 1988.

For the most common type of NF, NF1, the tell-tale signs are having more than 6 café-au-lait spots (brown “birth marks”) on the skin together with freckling in the armpits or groin.

Neurofibromas, which are lumps that grow just under the skin, can also be some of the first and only visible signs of NF1.

Most people with NF2 are diagnosed as young adults following investigations for unexplained headaches, dizziness, balance problems, ringing in the ears or hearing loss.

Who is affected by NF and what impacts can it have on a person’s life?

NF is something that you are born with, but it is not contagious.

NF is a genetic condition which comes about due to a genetic change (mutation) in an important gene which is needed for tumour protection.

Some people with NF (about 50%) will be the first in their family to have this gene change. This means it is not inherited but caused by a “new mutation” in that NF gene.

For the other 50% of people with NF, the gene change will be inherited from one of their parents who may or may not have a milder form of NF. When a person with NF has children, there is a 1 in 2 chance that they will pass on the NF causing gene.

How will this role support families or GPs?

My position is a point of contact for GPs to refer their patients and families for support. In this role, I can link patients and families to appropriate community support services, individualising this support to their circumstances. By working closely with patients, family members, GPs, and specialist services, I am helping to raise awareness of NF, promoting the great work that CTF does, and in the process hopefully making a difference to people with this condition. I can also help coordinate appointments, and manage patients’ ongoing needs.

What is your role?

I’m the NF Support Coordinator (Queensland and Northern Territory), Children’s Tumour Foundation (CTF), based at Genetic Health Queensland, Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH). CTF is the only national entity focussed on raising money to improve the lives of people with NF, and to achieve its ultimate goal: CONQUER NF! CTF has a Support Manager based in Sydney, a Support Coordinator in Melbourne, and has now expanded to my role in Brisbane. As one of the most common genetic disorders, NF is considered to be as common as Cystic Fibrosis, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and Huntington’s Disease, but community awareness of NF is still very low. CTF aims to help children, parents, and adults with NF by providing supportive care, advocacy and education, and advancing medical research and clinical capacity.

As part of my role, I’m establishing the support service for Queensland and the Northern Territory. This includes meeting with patients and their families to provide practical and emotional support, help CTF with fundraising events such as the NF Hero March and Cupid’s Undie Run, and liaise with key stakeholders such as QHealth hospitals to increase awareness of NF and to provide a streamlined support network for patients when they have appointments.

Where do people go for more information?

Phone: 07 3646 1262; email: Daniel.Hinson@ctf.org.au or visit https://www.ctf.org.au
Supporting chronic respiratory conditions in the community

For Bellmere resident Kerry Mary Wyatt doing simple things we all enjoy, like going out socially with friends, was becoming a lot more difficult due to an ongoing chronic respiratory condition.

That has now changed after eight weeks of dedication and hard work, plus some great support through the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program being delivered by Community and Oral Health (COH) at the Caboolture GP Super Clinic.

Kerry is like many people in the Caboolture and surrounding region who suffer from a respiratory disease which affects their lungs, that makes it a lot more difficult for them to maintain their independence and remain active.

“I am very happy with the help I have received. The program has given me more energy and overall I have better general wellbeing,” Kerry said.

“It has pushed me forward to exercise more regularly, and this is making everyday activities like vacuuming a lot easier.”

Kerry has suffered from a chronic respiratory condition for many years, which more recently has had a big impact on her life and ability to socialise and go out.

As part of COH Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program, she undertook two gym sessions each week over a period of eight weeks at the Caboolture GP Super Clinic participating in a range of exercises including a walking program, resistance training, weights and rowing, and walking tests.

“It’s easier to exercise with a group who are in a similar situation; it makes you more motivated and committed,” Kerry said.

“The more we do the more chance we have to stay out of hospital and have a better quality of life.”

So far more than 100 people across North Brisbane and Moreton Bay have benefited from COH’s Pulmonary Rehabilitation program.

Participants needed for lung screening trial

The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) is seeking suitable people to undergo scanning as part of an international trial aimed at detecting and treating lung cancer before it becomes fatal.

TPCH lung specialist Professor Kwun Fong said more than 4000 smokers and ex-smokers aged 55 and over in Australia and Canada would be recruited for the study.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in Australia, with most cases only detected at an advanced stage.

More than 12,000 lung cancer cases are predicted to be diagnosed in Australia this year – 7000 men and 5000 women.

Professor Fong, who leads the Australian leg of the trial, said interested people would be checked for risk factors before having low-dose CT scans.

“This research aims to determine which people at risk of lung cancer would benefit most from screening,” Prof Fong said.

“Being able to identify at risk people most likely to benefit from a scan, allows us to minimise unnecessary tests and radiation from a CT scan, thereby reducing the potential harm to the patient,” he said.

To be considered for the trial, individuals must be a current or former smoker, age between 55 and 80, and be in good general health.

People wanting to join the trial can call 07 3139 6632 or email ILST@health.qld.gov.au

Power Pack for surgery patients

Caboolture Hospital surgical patients now receive a ‘Power Pack’, which aims to educate and support them through their journey from pre-admission to discharge and recovery at home.

Surgical Service Improvement Officer Karen Champion said surgical patients receive the pack at pre-admission, which contains information to help improve their hospital experience.

“Coming to hospital can be a stressful time for patients, so we wanted to make their visit with us as comfortable as possible,” Karen said.

“The Power Pack is a simple yet highly effective idea designed to improve the health literacy of our surgical patients and empower them to take control of their care.

“We encourage patients to read the information comfortably at home before admission and refer back to it if they have any questions or concerns.

“The Power Pack also acts as a great reference tool for patients to peruse and find answers to their questions while recovering in hospital following surgery.”

It also features links to websites with peer-reviewed and relevant health resources for patients who want to find more detailed information about their condition and treatment.

The Power Pack was developed with the Caring Together Consumer Network. It will soon expand to cover patients in Caboolture Hospital’s Day Procedure Unit.

For more details, contact Service Improvement Officer Karen Champion on 5433 8363.

Twenty-four participants recently graduate from a Satellite Pulmonary Rehabilitation program at Caboolture. From left, COH Allied Health Assistant Cherryl Bell, graduate Kerry Maree Wyatt and John Laufer, and COH Physiotherapist Stella Just.
What’s happening at Herston Quarter in 2019?

Throughout the year, we expect to see the structure and façade of STARS completed and works commencing on the external public realm.

STARS will provide a range of specialist surgical and complex rehabilitation services and will be delivered in a patient-centric model of care which will put individuals needs at the centre of care.

Once complete the facility will comprise 184 beds, seven operating theatres, three endoscopy procedure rooms and consultation space for a range of specialties.

The next stages of the Herston Quarter redevelopment are anticipated to get underway in 2019, including development of a new 1150-space carpark and redevelopment and adaptive reuse of the heritage buildings.

Master Developer of Herston Quarter, Australian Unity, proposes to lodge Development Applications with Economic Development Queensland for the heritage precinct in late 2018 and for the Northern Carpark in early 2019.

Royal Brisbane and Women’s, The Prince Charles and Redcliffe Hospitals were three of 14 Queensland hospitals to participate in the DonateLife led art project dedication, recognising the generosity of life saving organ and tissue donors and their families.

Donors, transplant recipients and staff gathered at each of the hospitals to officially dedicate the colourful 1.2 m dome mosaic created by Brisbane based international ceramic and mosaic artist Jane Du Rand.

Each hospital’s dedication event featured personal accounts from donor family members and transplant recipients about the difference that organ and tissue donation can make to the lives of others.

Heart transplant recipient Madison Annibale, 28, shared her heartfelt appreciation towards the organ donor who gave her a second chance at life.

“Without the gift of organ donation, I would not be here today,” Madison said.

“Because of my transplant, I have been able to start a career, find love, travel the world, and just live a normal life.”

As the State’s centre for heart and lung transplantation, TPCH was one of three Metro North Hospitals to receive the mosaic in honour of organ and tissue donors.

More information will be available when Development Applications are lodged. To keep up-to-date, visit www.herstonquarter.com.au.
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Early Christmas for Redcliffe volunteers

Redcliffe Hospital said thank you to its volunteer workforce with a festive and fun Christmas lunch.

Susan Law, Redcliffe Hospital’s Volunteer Coordinator said that around 70 of the hospital’s more than 100 volunteers were able to attend the lunch, which was held in the hospital’s Education Centre.

“The lunch brings together our Hospital Volunteers, volunteer chaplains, Auxiliary members, and Justices of the Peace, who all work each week at the hospital.”

“It’s a large and diverse volunteer community supporting Redcliffe Hospital, and the Christmas lunch is a favourite event of our volunteer calendar,” Ms Law said.

30 Years of Chaplaincy at Redcliffe Hospital

For more than 30 years, volunteer chaplains have been at work at Redcliffe Hospital, caring and comforting patients with respect and compassion.

The hospital’s chaplaincy service began in 1988 when nuns from the local Bridgine community began regularly visiting hospital patients.

Thirty years later, the hospital’s volunteer chaplaincy service comprises 14 chaplains, drawn from several religious faiths and local churches.

Left: The Redcliffe Hospital chapel was donated by the Hospital Auxiliary.

Redcliffe Hospital Executive Director, Louise Oriti said the care and compassion the hospital’s chaplains provide was greatly appreciate by patients, and their families.

“Our chaplains are very much a part of our hospital community. In areas like Palliative Care, they work alongside our clinicians and social workers to provide real comfort and care,” Ms Oriti said.

On track for career in health

Forty-nine young Moreton Bay region students are on track to begin exciting new careers in the health industry after graduating from the Caboolture Health Care Academy and Metro North School-Based Traineeship programs.

Coordinator Education and Youth Engagement Kylie Boccuzzi said the students had trained across a diverse range of Metro North facilities – including the Community and Oral Health Directorate, plus Redcliffe, Caboolture and Kilcoy hospitals.

The two programs represent a unique and innovative partnership between the Australian Training Company and TAFE Queensland Brisbane (Caboolture Campus) and Metro North HHS hospitals and health facilities.

The intake of students increased this year across various streams including nursing, administration, allied health, operations and food services. A further increase is planned for 2019.

Caboolture Hospital has also triall an Internship Program this year, linked to the Caboolture Health Care Academy. Three interns received a 12-month full-time contract with Food Services and Operational Services after leaving school to help them continue growth into future health care workers.

For further information, email Caboolture.Engage@health.qld.gov.au