

Metro North Hospital and Health Service Review: Paediatric Care at Caboolture Hospital

Terms of Reference

Context

Metro North Health (MNH) is the largest Hospital and Health Service in Queensland and delivers health care services to a population of approximately just over 1 million people from north of the Brisbane River to north of Kilcoy. Metro North Health provides care from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, The Prince Charles Hospital, Redcliffe Hospital, Kilcoy Hospital, Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service, a range of community services, Caboolture Satellite Hospital and Caboolture Hospital.

Caboolture Hospital is on the traditional lands of the Gubbi Gubbi people and has a strong history of delivering care across a diverse range of services including, medical, surgical, maternity, emergency, intensive care and paediatrics including neonatology, inpatient and outpatient services, child and youth mental health services, emergency and diabetes services.

The 17 bed Paediatric Unit caters for children (birth to 16 years) and treats more than 1,600 children and infants each year. The Unit is supported by 30 specialist children's nurses and eight specialist children's doctors.

Many children who are treated at the hospital are suffering with respiratory conditions such as chest infections, asthma, viral infections, whooping cough and bronchitis.

Other medical conditions that are treated include:

- diarrhoea / gastroenteritis
- infant illnesses such as breathing difficulties/infections, croup, jaundice, feeding difficulties
- chronic diseases like diabetes, epilepsy, etc.
- dental – ENT and emergency surgery patients
- musculoskeletal injuries
- children with special needs/disabilities
- children with complex behavioural problems and development delays.

Caboolture Hospital as part of the Caboolture, Kilcoy Woodford Directorate is committed to regularly reviewing services in line with medical and technical advances, ongoing assessment and evaluation of models of care including clinical outcomes and utilisation and new and expanded services (as part of the Caboolture Hospital expansion and Caboolture Satellite Hospital). This includes opportunities to consider how paediatric services should best respond to increasing community need for paediatric services.

Purpose

This Review is established to:

- a. independently consider the treatment and care of paediatric patients at Caboolture Hospital, and
- b. make recommendations in relation to service delivery and organisational improvements to ensure that the current and future models of service delivery across the continuum of care at Caboolture Hospital including paediatric outpatients, the emergency department and inpatient services are optimised for this rapidly growing community.

Objective

Through a detailed analysis and review of the current state of service delivery of care provided to children at Caboolture Hospital, this review will provide recommendations which focus on ensuring positive delivery of clinical outcomes and inform ongoing clinical service delivery for the children of Caboolture.

The review will draw on the recommendations contained in the Case WT at Caboolture Hospital October 2022 (External Independent Review July 2023). This case will provide a detailed case example.

Definition of Paediatrics

In Australia there are no universally accepted paediatric definitions. Therefore, for the purposes of this review paediatrics is defined as 0 to 16 years of age – this embraces, infant, early childhood, children and young people. This review excludes the care of young adults 17-24. The term child acknowledges and includes the relationship a child has with their parents, family or significant others.

The terms of reference do not include care of children and young adults with mental health as a primary diagnosis or outpatient services.

Terms of Reference

1. To specifically review the treatment and care to paediatric patients at Caboolture Hospital including but not limited to:
 - a. The health outcomes of children who present to the Caboolture Hospital emergency department
 - b. The health outcomes of children who present to Caboolture Hospital outpatient clinics.
 - c. The adequacy of care for paediatric patients in the emergency department from presentation to disposition including; inpatient care, transfer, or discharge to primary care or home.
 - d. The optimal configuration of an identified paediatric emergency service appropriately staffed, within the Emergency Department once transferred to the new clinical services building.
 - e. The appropriateness and knowledge of escalation pathways for parents or significant others in the emergency department and inpatient areas if they are worried their child's condition is worsening.
 - f. The optimal configuration of the inpatient and outpatient services.
 - g. The adequacy of support services for children including emergency response, escalation processes, transfer of care, anaesthesia, medical imaging, intensive care, high dependency nursing, allied health professions as well as consultative opinion from paediatric medical and surgical subspecialties both internally and externally to Caboolture Hospital including but limited to Redcliffe Hospital, The Prince Charles Hospital and Queensland Children's Hospital.
 - h. The adequacy of the cultural care, safety and support provided to children and their families or significant others who identify as being an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child /or people.

To make recommendations in respect of:

- a. Any need for reorganisation of services at Caboolture Hospital to ensure best practice care for children.

- b. Improvements in the system of service provision necessary to ensure high quality of health care for children and their families within the Caboolture catchment over the next 5 years.
- c. Any need for organisational improvements in the system of providing education and training for the care of children and their families across medical, nursing the allied health professions and support services.
- d. Any need for improvements to the cultural care and support provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families or significant others.
- e. Appropriate implementation strategies for system improvements for paediatric care from the emergency department through the continuum of care including inpatient, ambulatory care and discharge back to primary care.

If the Reviewer receives information which suggests that there has been a clinical incident or a failure in care provided to an individual patient or their family, or concerns are raised about the performance or conduct of any individual, they are to be provided to the MNH designated contact.

The Reviewer will immediately inform the Health Service Chief Executive if during the review they form a reasonable belief that any individual registered with a National Board may have engaged in notifiable conduct as that term is defined in the Health Practitioner National Law (Queensland).

Review Team

Dr David Krieser is a leader within the Department of Emergency Medicine and Paediatrics at Western Health, Victoria.

Ms Maeve Downes is the Nursing Director Women's and Children's Division – Northern Adelaide Local Health Network, South Australia. Maeve is also a Board Member Women's and Children's Hospitals Australasia.

Ms Wendy Watson is the Deputy Executive Director of Nursing & Midwifery at Western Health, Victoria formerly Divisional Director for Women's and Children's Services, Joan Kirner for Women and Children, Sunshine Hospital, Victoria.

Mr Ty Cleary is a Gubbi Gubbi man and Senior Health Worker at Caboolture Woodford Kilcoy Directorate

Ms Hayley Renouf is a Gubbi Gubbi woman and Senior Health Worker at Caboolture Woodford Kilcoy Directorate.

Ms Leah Hardiman is an experienced consumer representative and has been recently appointed to the Queensland Paediatric Quality Council.

Ms Adele Fahey is an experienced consumer representative and has been recently appointed to the Queensland Paediatric Quality Council.

The review team will engage with consumers and children throughout the review. The team will access experts on an as needs basis including social work and general paediatrics.

The review team will be supported by dedicated administrative support from Caboolture Hospital to deliver scheduling, collection, and collation of information.

Additionally, the team will have support from Metro North Clinical Governance Unit which includes the provision of a writer. It is anticipated the review team will conduct a site visit or visits as required and face to face and virtual meetings with key review participants including staff, consumers, external partners and stakeholders.

Review Report

At the conclusion of the review, the Review Team is to provide a report responding to the Terms of Reference including recommendations.

Timeframe

The review is to be completed by 30 April 2024

Endorsement

The terms of reference are approved by:

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Jane Hancock
Adjunct Professor
Chief Operating Officer
Metro North Health
Date: 08/01/2024