



## Christmas office closure

The Brisbane North PHN offices will close on Thursday 24 December, re-opening Monday 4 January 2021. Our best wishes to all for the season!

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# 2019/20

## Our Year in Review

Our Year in Review brings together highlights from the past 12 months of improving health outcomes for our communities.

Brisbane North PHN's digital review includes a summary of what has been achieved in 2019/20 and includes videos, photo galleries and data about our programs delivered in collaboration with our community partners.

This year, the PHN delivered practice support, commissioned a range of community services and welcomed many new areas of work—all while adapting to an unprecedented healthcare frontier dominated by COVID-19.

Many new services have commenced as we continue to implement Planning for Wellbeing, our joint regional plan with Metro North Hospital and Health Service covering mental health, suicide prevention and alcohol and other drugs.



Take a look at our Year in Review for more of our highlights, including:

Working with artist **Riki Salam** to develop our **Reconciliation Action Plan**

Helping to establish **three new mental health service hubs**

Farewelling a treasured CEO and welcoming our new CEO

Providing 8,279 older people with **Commonwealth Home Support Program**

Providing over **\$42 million** in funding regionally

Leading the work to develop a **COVID-19 HealthPathway**

Launching **three new websites**, including a completely redeveloped PHN site

Distributing over **160,000 masks** to regional practices and pharmacies

Among these, the PHN funded three new integrated mental health service hubs from 1 July 2019 to support people with severe mental illness.

We have also refocused the Brisbane MIND program to provide short-term psychological therapies to underserved population groups who have moderate mental illness and are experiencing financial hardship.

For parents needing perinatal mental health support, we published best practice guidelines for GPs through Brisbane North HealthPathways, providing advice, assessment and service referral information online.

We have also supported the rollout of GP Smart Referrals to enable faster, streamlined management of referrals and less double handling of referrals across Metro North HHS.

Our suicide prevention campaigns gained traction over the past year.

These have included the 'Talking Heals' and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-focused 'Yarns Heal' campaigns supporting LGBTIQ+ people in our region, and the 'Reasons to Stay' campaign—all of which are funded through the National Suicide Prevention Trial.

This year more than \$42 million in Australian Government funding was provided to local organisations, delivering much needed healthcare services.

These accomplishments would not be possible without the commitment of Brisbane North PHN staff and our community partners, who through their hard work and dedication continue to strive to meet our vision of a community where good health is available to everyone.

To read more visit [brisbanenorthphn.org.au/yearinreview](http://brisbanenorthphn.org.au/yearinreview).

**ABOUT NETWORK LINK**

For submissions and advertising or to subscribe, visit [brisbanenorthphn.org.au](http://brisbanenorthphn.org.au).

e [info@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:info@brisbanenorthphn.org.au)  
w [brisbanenorthphn.org.au](http://brisbanenorthphn.org.au)  
t 07 3630 7300

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Artwork throughout by Riki Salam, We Are 27 Creative.



# RETHINKING SPECIALIST OUTPATIENT SERVICES IN THE REGION

The recent impact of COVID-19 on specialist outpatient services in Metro North, along with a rapid transformation to virtual care has highlighted an opportunity for a new approach to the delivery of outpatient services across the region.

Brisbane North PHN and Metro North HHS are collaborating with key stakeholders to identify opportunities for service improvement for patients with Category 3 referrals. Stakeholders included general practice and primary care, Metro North HHS specialist outpatient services and consumer and carer representatives.

After engaging with GPs, several pain points have been identified.

From these issues, four distinct possible solutions emerged:

- establishing GP advice lines
- improving bidirectional communication between GPs and specialist outpatient services
- establishing shared care models
- improving availability of information for GPs.

Insights shared by consumer and carer representatives were captured primarily at a principle-level, which supported the need for:

- timely and effective communication between providers

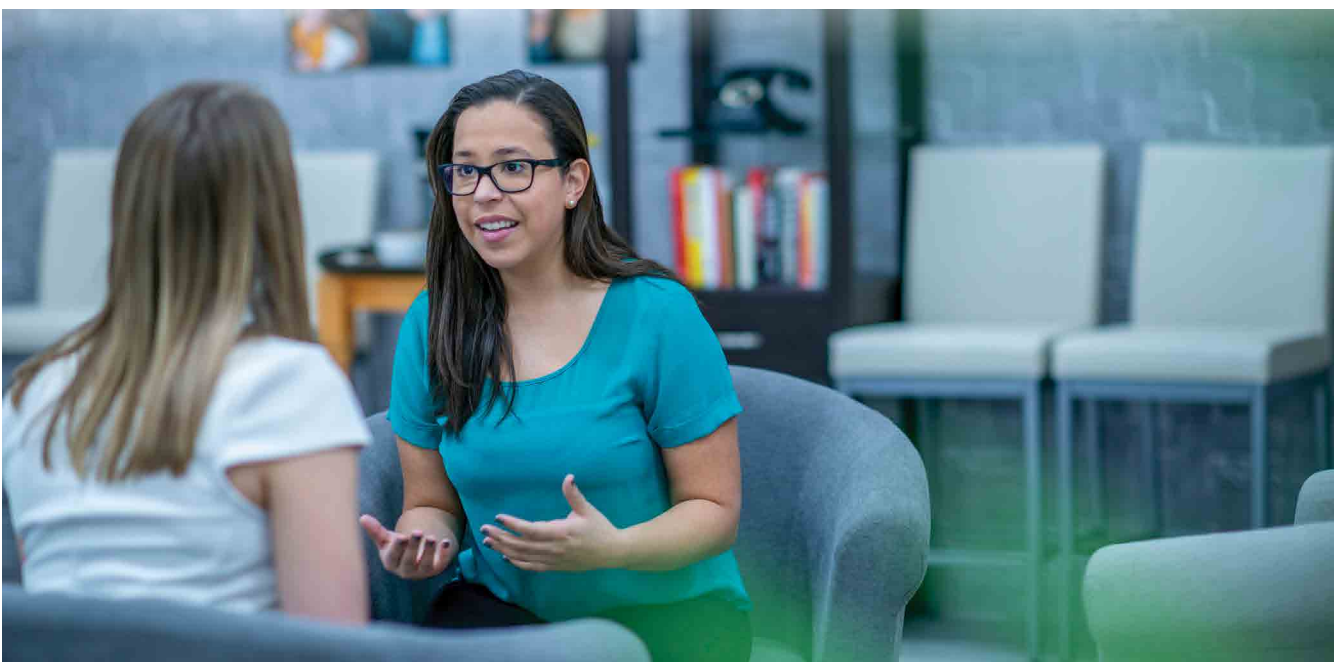
- communication and expectation management for patients
- assistance to navigate health services
- alignment in care planning between providers
- person-centred and compassionate care.

The findings of the project suggest there is considerable need for service improvements that aim to address issues identified in the interface between primary care and specialist outpatient services. These issues will contribute to improving care outcomes for patients, particularly those with common and low acuity conditions.

In particular, the immediate priority emerging from the project is the establishment of a service where GPs can obtain clinical advice from specialist outpatient services about patients in the absence of an existing referral.

As new models for managing outpatients are developed the PHN will keep primary care providers informed.

For more information contact the PHN's Integration Team via [administration.integration@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:administration.integration@brisbanenorthphn.org.au).



# Strengthening health assessment responses for children and young people in care

Brisbane North PHN is delivering the Queensland wide project *Strengthening the health assessment response for children and young people in care*. Known locally as the Out of Home Care Project, the Caboolture Child Safety Service Centre has been selected to implement the local response.

Children in out of home care are likely to have complex health needs such as poorer physical, mental and developmental health than their peers, and also may not be accessing the full range of options within the health service system.

The *National Clinical Assessment Framework for Children and Young People in Out of Home Care* recommends that a preliminary health check is completed within 30 days of a young person entering care, and a comprehensive health and development assessment be completed within 90 days.

The localised health assessment pathway for children entering care within the Caboolture Child Safety Service Centre has been co-designed by key stakeholders from the child safety and health sectors within the Caboolture region. A trial of the local pathway commenced in November 2020 and will be modified and updated from learnings throughout the trial.

## WE AIM TO:

1. improve **access, timeliness and quality** of health assessments for children entering care
2. improve GPs and primary health staff **knowledge and understanding** about working with children in care
3. improve primary health/child safety **integration and case coordination**.

## HOW THE PHN CAN SUPPORT GENERAL PRACTICE:

- development of a **coordinated local health assessment pathway**
- age based health assessment **templates** and **screening tools**
- **HealthPathways** available for children and young people in care (recently updated)
- channels to **address barriers and concerns for GPs**
- **education and peer support** opportunities on working with children in care and trauma-informed practice
- **support** from a **passionate group of health and child safety professionals**.

## HOW GPs AND PRACTICE STAFF CAN BE INVOLVED:

We are seeking expressions of interest from committed and motivated GPs to provide comprehensive health and developmental assessments for children in care. We also require advice from primary care to inform and improve clinical case co-ordination, integration and knowledge of working with children in care.

For more information about the Out of Home Care Project, or to be involved, contact Brisbane North PHN Project Officer, Michele Hayes on 07 3490 3430 or email [michele.hayes@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:michele.hayes@brisbanenorthphn.org.au).



**PRIMARY  
MEDICAL  
ISSUES:**



**14%** of children and young people in care have abnormal growth

**24%** of children and young people in care have incomplete vaccinations

**20%** of children and young people in care have abnormal vision screening

**28%** of children and young people in care have an abnormal hearing test

**30%** of children and young people in care have dental problems

**TRAUMA  
RELATED  
ISSUES:**



**54%** of children and young people in care have emotional or behavioural problems

Up to **63%** of children and young people in care have an eating disorder or obesity

**77%** of children and young people in care aged  $\geq 12$  years smoke every day

**45%** of children and young people in care aged  $< 5$  years have a speech delay.



Children's Health Queensland HHS, Health Service Chief Executive, Frank Tracey, with Brisbane North PHN CEO, Libby Dunstan, pictured in November 2020

## A JOINT PROTOCOL RENEWED

Following a three-year term, the PHN's joint protocol with Children's Health Queensland was recently reviewed and a new joint protocol has been formalised, which will determine the next few years working together.

Brisbane North PHN and Children's Health Queensland (CHQ) are committed to a joint and coordinated approach to the development of strategic and operational plans that are grounded in a common understanding of the health needs of children and young people within the Brisbane North community.

Both organisations, in all of their previous forms, have a long history of working together and achieving improved healthcare outcomes for our communities.

The key objective of the protocol is to adopt a shared and coordinated approach in seeking to address the health needs of the local population in the safest, effective, efficient, patient-centred, timely and equitable manner possible.

In order to achieve these objectives of the protocol, the PHN and CHQ will be working together to:

- identify and prioritise local health needs
- share health information and data
- identify and provide plans and an evaluation mechanism for the key issues identified as requiring cooperation
- enhance service access, coordination and integration across the health continuum
- influence and reform those areas of the health system for which they have responsibility
- engage with clinicians, consumers and community members
- ensure care is delivered in the right place at the right time by and to the right people.

For more information or to download the joint protocol visit [brisbanenorthphn.org.au/about/commissioning-and-partnerships](https://brisbanenorthphn.org.au/about/commissioning-and-partnerships).

# Take part in the GP Smart Referral revolution



GP Smart Referrals are digital referrals that integrate with Best Practice and Medical Director software to enable faster, more streamlined management of referrals to Queensland public hospitals.

In late October, the PHN hosted a GP Smart Referral information and training webinar, attended by 53 people, including clinicians and practice staff. Participants' feedback from the training included:

*"We have been waiting for a format like this for years. Thank you so much."*

*"Online training via Zoom is so convenient."*

*"A good refresher on how to complete and the tips and tricks were useful. Being a practice manager, I don't actually complete the referrals so was good to go over it again so when doctors ask me questions I can be of help."*

## REGISTER FOR OUR NEXT WEBINAR

The next GP Smart Referrals online training will take place on **9 February 2021 from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm.**

This webinar will cover:

- what is GP Smart Referrals?
- a live demonstration of GP Smart Referrals
- question and answer session.

**Register for this webinar by visiting:**

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_p5mkV0qMQH6s18iAT9GFIA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p5mkV0qMQH6s18iAT9GFIA)

**For more information:** contact the PHN's Digital Health Support Officers via [GPSR@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:GPSR@brisbanenorthphn.org.au).

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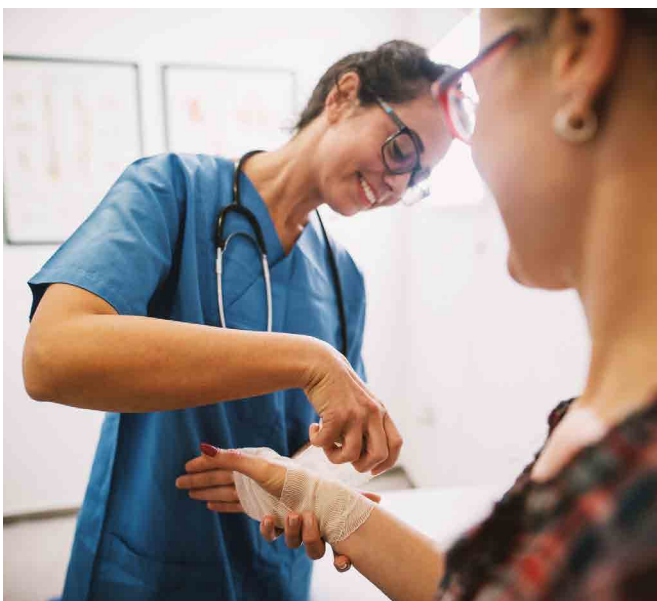
## SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF WOUND EDUCATION PROGRAM

Nurses working in community and residential aged care across Brisbane North participated in the first wounds training workshop last month and are now taking advantage of post-workshop onsite clinical consultations.

Delivered by Wound Innovations and sponsored by Brisbane North PHN, the free education and support program is designed to improve the knowledge and skills of nurses in delivering evidenced based wound care.

Free onsite clinical consultations with a Wound Innovation specialist lead on from the education workshop and include wound assessment, cleansing and dressing as well as the development of an individualised wound management plan.

To register for the February 2021 workshop email [reception@woundinnovations.com.au](mailto:reception@woundinnovations.com.au).





## Queensland PHNs collaborate to promote alcohol and other drugs training

Alcohol and other drug (AOD) use is one of the major causes of disease burden in Australia<sup>1</sup>, yet risk factors attached to it are modifiable and disease and sickness can be prevented.

Recognising this, the Department of Health allocated funding to Australian PHNs to specifically promote targeted AOD training for GPs, conducted by the RACGP and ACCRRM. Whilst specialist AOD treatment services are not located in every community, GPs invariably are, and therefore have a key role to play in supporting their patients to address problematic substance use.

GPs are one part of a larger story; practice staff – including practice managers, practice nurses and receptionists – are key in providing inclusive and non-stigmatising support to patients attending the practice.

The seven Queensland PHNs have collaborated to commission training from Insight Centre for Alcohol and Other Drug Training and Workforce Development, the leading provider of alcohol and drug training, education, clinical resources, practice advice and other workforce development services in Queensland. This training is part of a broader strategy to address the impact of COVID-19.

The training aims to assist busy general practice managers, practice nurses, Aboriginal Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing Workers and practice reception staff to build confidence, skills and knowledge in effectively responding to clients or patients who experience problematic AOD use in Queensland.

The free training in AOD related topics includes COVID-19 and substance use, managing complexity in the general practice environment, and foundational drug knowledge including cannabis, alcohol and methamphetamine. These fun, engaging and interactive sessions will be conducted by Insight clinical educators, and recorded to be made available to participants for review and viewing on demand.

In Brisbane North, general practices will receive backing from the PHN's Primary Care Liaison Officers to complete a quality improvement workbook related to AOD, as well as peer support from Mental Health General Practice Liaison Officer, Dr Matthew Cadman. Practice incentive payments are available for completion of the workbook and education.

Registration for the training is essential and required by 31 December 2020. For further information, contact Amie Horwood, Project Lead | Primary Care Liaison on [amie.horwood@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:amie.horwood@brisbanenorthphn.org.au), or Gai Lemon, Program Development Officer (Alcohol and Other Drugs) at [gai.lemon@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:gai.lemon@brisbanenorthphn.org.au).

1. AIHW (2020) Australian Burden of Disease Study 2015 (updated August 2020) Australian Institute for Health and Welfare.

**REGISTRATION FOR THE TRAINING IS FREE AND ESSENTIAL.**

For further information, contact Amie Horwood, Project Lead | Primary Care Liaison on [amie.horwood@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:amie.horwood@brisbanenorthphn.org.au), or Gai Lemon, Program Development Officer (Alcohol and Other Drugs) at [gai.lemon@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:gai.lemon@brisbanenorthphn.org.au).





DUE  
TO ROLL  
OUT BY END  
OF 2021 IN  
SEQ

## ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTIONS are rolling out in South East Queensland

The national implementation of electronic prescriptions is underway and after a trial period, software vendors are gradually making the ePrescribing functionality available, in partnership with the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA).

After a successful roll out in Victoria and Metropolitan Sydney, the South East Queensland region is due to be rolled out by the end of the year. This means your practice will be able to update your clinical software and start issuing electronic prescriptions if you meet these technical requirements:

- have a **Healthcare Provider Identifier–Organisation (HPI-O) number**
- have a valid **NASH certificate** (required for your prescribing software to access the Health Identifier service)
- have entered **your HPI-O and all your GPs' HPI-I numbers** in your **clinical software**
- be **registered** and **connected** to a **prescription delivery service** (such as eRx or MediSecure) to enable the Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions (eTP)\*
- use the minimum version of a **conformant clinical software**.†

Once the technical requirements are met, practices will need to also ensure the patient Individual Health Identifier number (IHI) is validated and their mobile or email details are up to date to be able to create a script token.

Initially, prescribers will only be able to issue eScript tokens which are then scanned by pharmacies to download the prescription details from the prescription delivery service (PDS). The Active Script List (ASL) model where a pharmacy can access the prescription details from the ASL registry (following proof of identity and consent from the patient) will be rolled out later, with software vendors due to release updates in early 2021.

Though you may be legally and technically capable of issuing electronic prescriptions, you should check with your local pharmacies to ensure they are able to scan the token to unlock and dispense electronic prescriptions before you offer it to your patient.

### For more information about electronic prescriptions:

- visit the [ADHA website](#) (includes a link to prescribers' eLearning modules attracting CPD points)
- view one of the electronic prescription recorded webinars on the [ADHA YouTube channel](#)
- visit your clinical software provider website.

### NEED SOME HELP?

If you require assistance to get your practice ready, contact your [PHN primary care liaison officer](#) on **07 3630 7300**.

\* at the time of writing this article, Best Practice and Medical Director ePrescribing functionality was only compatible with eRx, though they are working with MediSecure to make it compatible in future updates

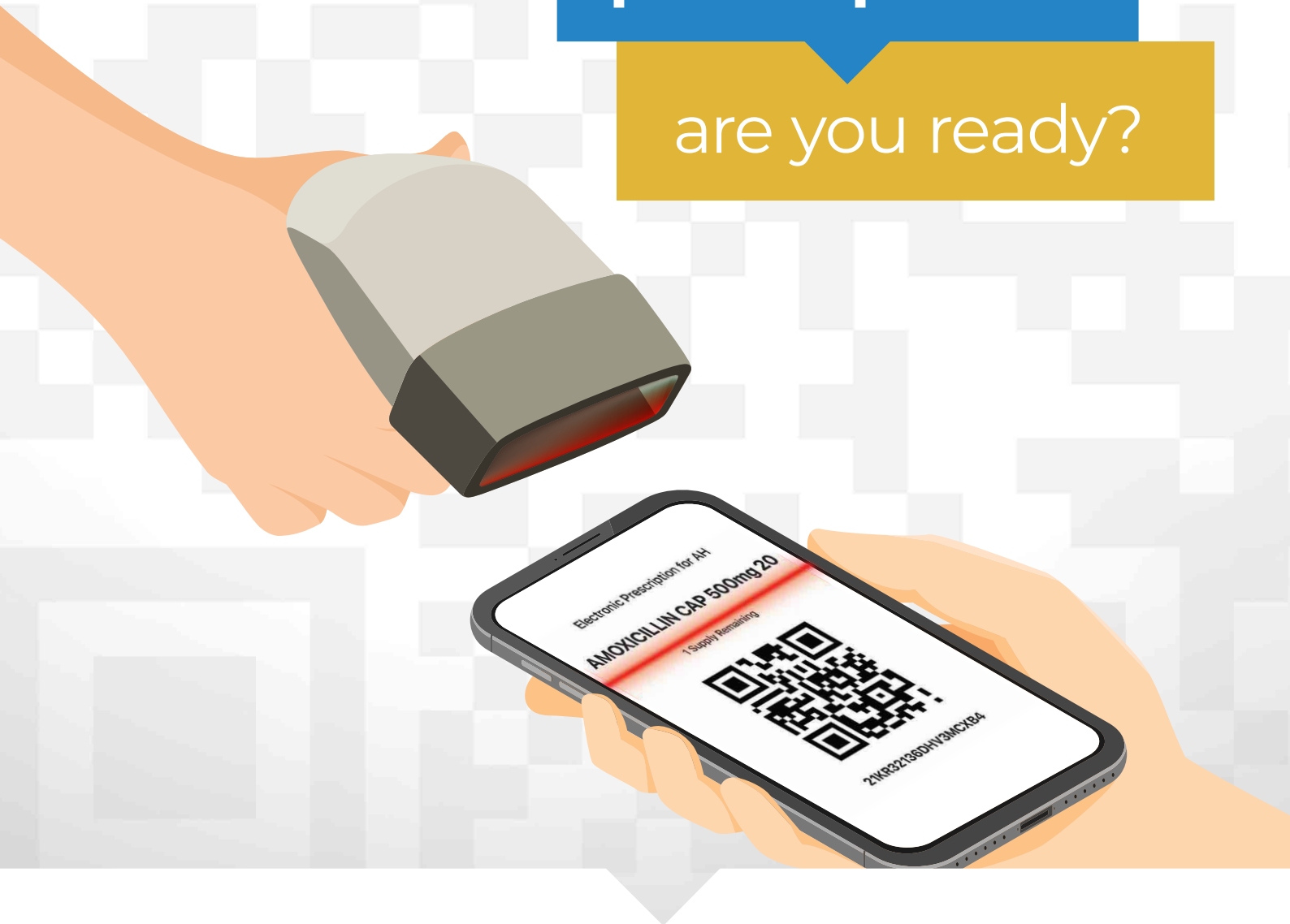
† For Medical Director, when released, the ePrescribing functionality will be immediately available for all practices using MedicalDirector Helix. Practices using MedicalDirector Clinical will need to install a patch.

Best Practice users will have to download the ePrescribing Utility File.



# Electronic prescriptions

are you ready?



## Upgrade your software today

People now have the option to choose an electronic prescription as an easy and convenient alternative to paper prescriptions. Make sure your software is up to date.

Learn more at [digitalhealth.gov.au](https://digitalhealth.gov.au)

**Connecting Australia to better healthcare.**

# ACCESS TO PHN MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSIONED SERVICES

To support continuity of access to mental health, suicide prevention and alcohol and other drug treatment services, Brisbane North PHN has compiled service information for PHN-commissioned services during the holiday period.

ORGANISATION	HOLIDAY HOURS	CONTACT/LINK TO SITE
<b>Brisbane North PHN My Mental Health Service Navigators</b>	Closed 25 December 2020 until 4 January 2021, and will operate Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm. During this period, please continue to submit all Brisbane MIND referrals. Referrals will be processed from 4 January 2021. Please see specific opening hours for Brisbane MIND Suicide Prevention providers and contact the provider directly to discuss treatment options. Please make sure the client is provided with appropriate crisis contact details.	1800 752 235 <a href="http://www.mymentalhealth.org.au">www.mymentalhealth.org.au</a>
<b>Recovery and Discovery Centre</b>	Closed on public holidays. Group programs will take a break from 21 December and resume on 18 January.	07 3510 2777 <a href="http://communify.org.au/recovery-and-discovery-centre">communify.org.au/recovery-and-discovery-centre</a>
<b>Living and Learning Centre</b>	Closed on public holidays. Open over the Christmas and new year season with minimal staff.	07 3493 6780 <a href="http://neaminational.org.au/find-services">neaminational.org.au/find-services</a>
<b>Stride Hub Caboolture</b>	Closed on public holidays. Open over the Christmas and new year season with minimal staff.	07 4593 0500 <a href="http://stride.com.au">stride.com.au</a>
<b>The Way Back Support Service</b>	Normal operating hours (8.30am – 4.30pm) for all weekdays except the following. Service will be available on call between 25 December - 28 December as well as 1 January 2021.	1300 180 608
<b>ADIS (Alcohol and Drug Information Service)</b>	24/7	1800 177 833
<b>Lives Lived Well</b>	Closed 25 December until 4 January 2021.	1300 727 957
<b>Brisbane Youth Service</b>	Closed 25 December until 4 January 2021.	07 3620 2400 <a href="http://brisyouth.org">brisyouth.org</a>
<b>QuiHN</b>	Closed 25 December until 4 January 2021. Needle and syringe programs will be open between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm during this period except for on public holidays.	07 3620 8111 <a href="http://www.quihn.org">www.quihn.org</a>
<b>RFQ – New Access</b>	Closed public holidays. Open over the Christmas and new year season with minimal staff.	1300 159 795 <a href="mailto:newaccess@RFQ.com.au">newaccess@RFQ.com.au</a> <a href="http://www.rfq.com.au/newaccess/">www.rfq.com.au/newaccess/</a>
<b>World Wellness Group – Problem Management Plus</b>	Closed 25–28 December 2020. Open 29–31 December for patients seeking GP services only. Brief Therapy services re-opens on the 4 January 2021. Service operations from Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 5.00 pm.	07 3333 2100 <a href="mailto:mentalhealth@worldwellnessgroup.org.au">mentalhealth@worldwellnessgroup.org.au</a> <a href="http://worldwellnessgroup.org.au">worldwellnessgroup.org.au</a>
<b>Neami – Optimal Health and Wise Choices Program</b>	Closed 25 December 2020–11 January 2021.	07 3493 6780 <a href="mailto:strathpine@neaminational.org.au">strathpine@neaminational.org.au</a> <a href="http://www.neaminational.org.au">www.neaminational.org.au</a>
<b>Change Futures – Psychology in Aged Care Wellbeing Program</b>	Closed 5.00 pm on 23 December–4 January 2021.	07 3153 1093 or 0421 493273 <a href="mailto:racmentalhealth@changeutures.org.au">racmentalhealth@changeutures.org.au</a> <a href="http://www.changeutures.org.au">www.changeutures.org.au</a>
<b>Peach Tree – Sunshine Parenting Program</b>	Closed 21 December 2020–11 January 2021.	0410 648 239 <a href="mailto:sunshine@peachtree.org.au">sunshine@peachtree.org.au</a> <a href="http://www.peachtree.org.au">www.peachtree.org.au</a>

ORGANISATION	HOLIDAY HOURS	CONTACT/LINK TO SITE
<b>IUIH – Social Health Program</b>	Closed on public holidays.	<a href="http://www.iuih.org.au">www.iuih.org.au</a>
<b>Brisbane MIND (Suicide Prevention): Health4Minds – AT Psychology</b>	Closed 25 December – 5 January 2021.	07 5432 4118
<b>Brisbane MIND (Suicide Prevention): Health4Minds – Young Minds</b>	North Lakes and The Gap closed from 24 December–1 January 2021. Stafford and Redcliffe closed 24 December–11 January 2021	07 3857 0074
<b>Brisbane MIND (Suicide Prevention): Health4Minds – All About Kids (Adult Services)</b>	Closed 24 December–6 January 2021.	07 3262 6009
<b>Brisbane MIND (Trauma or Abuse): Axis Clinic</b>	Closed 24 December–11 January 2021.	07 3254 0333
<b>Brisbane MIND (Trauma or Abuse): Health4Minds – AT Psychology</b>	Closed 24 December–5 January 2021.	07 5432 4118
<b>Brisbane MIND (Trauma or Abuse): Health4Minds – Young Minds</b>	North Lakes and The Gap closed from 24 December–1 January 2021. Stafford and Redcliffe closed 24 December–11 January 2021.	07 3857 0074
<b>Brisbane MIND (Trauma or Abuse): Health4Minds – All About Kids (Adult Services)</b>	Closed 24 December–6 January 2021.	07 3262 6009
<b>Brisbane MIND (LGBTIQ): QC for LGBTI Health</b>	Closed 19 December–4 January 2021.	07 3017 1777
<b>Brisbane MIND (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) – World Wellness Group.</b>	Closed 25–28 December 2020. Open 29–31 December for patients seeking GP services only. CALD Psychological Therapies Service reopens on the 4 January 2021. Service operations from Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 5.00 pm	07 3333 2100 <a href="mailto:mentalhealth@worldwellnessgroup.org.au">mentalhealth@worldwellnessgroup.org.au</a> <a href="http://worldwellnessgroup.org.au">worldwellnessgroup.org.au</a>
<b>Brisbane MIND– (Regional): Bribie Island – Dr Sue Eaglesham</b>	Closed 25 December–4 January 2021.	07 5494 0656
<b>Brisbane MIND (Regional): Kilcoy – Rhonda Lawson and Associates</b>	Closed 23 December–11 January 2021.	07 5498 9642
<b>Brisbane MIND4KiDS – yourtown</b>	Closed midday 24 December–4 January 2021.	07 3888 0758
<b>Brisbane MIND4KiDS – Stride</b>	Closed 25 December–4 January 2021.	07 3447 6500
<b>headspace Nundah</b>	Closed 25 December–4 January 2021.	07 3370 3900
<b>headspace Caboolture</b>	Closed midday 24 December–4 January 2021.	07 5428 1599
<b>headspace Redcliffe</b>	Closed 24 December–4 January 2021.	07 3897 1897
<b>headspace Strathpine</b>	Closed 24 December–4 January 2021.	07 3465 3000
<b>headspace Taringa</b>	Closed 24 December–4 January 2021.	07 3157 1555
<b>Redcliffe Area Youth Space</b>	Closed midday 24 December–4 January 2021.	07 3283 8769

# News from Metro North Public Health Unit

The Metro North Public Health Unit focuses on protecting the community from communicable diseases and other illnesses, as well as promoting health and wellbeing. For further information on any of the updates below contact 07 3624 1111.



## Food safety awareness over the holidays

During the recent Australian Food Safety Week, which ran from 14–21 November 2020, we were reminded that each year in Australia at least 4.1 million cases of gastroenteritis occur as a result of eating contaminated food.

Metro North Public Health Unit would like to remind GPs of the importance of pathology testing to confirm the cause of foodborne illness, and of the need to promptly notify Public Health Units of foodborne illness outbreaks or any foodborne illness in a food handler.

Early intervention helps us to identify potential clusters and laboratory analysis helps identify the source of infection or contamination, which in turn may help prevent further cases of illness.

If you identify a suspected foodborne illness outbreak (two or more cases of a similar illness after consuming a common food or meal) or clinically diagnose foodborne

illness in a food handler, immediately notify Queensland Health by telephoning or forwarding a completed copy of the Notifiable conditions report form to your local Public Health Unit on 07 3624 1111.

For further information on notifiable conditions in Queensland including fact sheets, clinical guidelines, notification/surveillance forms and epidemiological data, see Queensland Health's Communicable Disease Control Guidance website at [disease-control.health.qld.gov.au/#n](https://disease-control.health.qld.gov.au/#n).

**For more information call Metro North Public Health Unit on 07 3624 1111.**

# THE HIV EMERGENCY TREATMENT FUND

World AIDS Day, held on 1 December each year, is a day for the community to show their support for people living with HIV (PLHIV), and to commemorate those that are no longer with us due to AIDS and HIV-related conditions.

Globally, the theme of World AIDS Day 2020 is Global solidarity, shared responsibility; chosen in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has exacerbated the burdens of social isolation, stigma, mental ill-health and financial hardship, which are more commonly experienced by PLHIV.

Similarly, the 2020 Queensland World AIDS Day message acknowledges this and provides a call-to-action regarding support for PLHIV. This year's messaging: *Now more than ever*, acknowledges how marginalised groups in Australian society have been the hardest hit throughout the pandemic and emphasises the need to support these communities more than ever.

Clinicians are a vital source of support for PLHIV. The provision of appropriate, supportive care following a HIV diagnosis can have a significant influence on future engagement with care and treatment services.

Referral to peer-led community services such as Queensland Positive People (QPP) can provide PLHIV with the opportunity to connect with peers to support them with a diagnosis of HIV and navigation of health systems. QPP also provides case management services to address social determinant barriers to engagement in HIV care.

One such service is the HIV Emergency Treatment Fund (ETF). The ETF is funded by Queensland Health and managed by QPP and available to all PLHIV in Queensland. The fund provides emergency funding for HIV related treatment and services such as medication, transport, food and phone credit.

If you know anyone who may benefit from support from QPP services or the ETF, please contact QPP on **07 3013 5555** or visit [qpp.org.au/treating-hiv/emergency-treatment-fund](http://qpp.org.au/treating-hiv/emergency-treatment-fund) for more information.



## ADVERTISEMENT



Ray White Commercial Northern Corridor Group are pleased to offer the proposed Caboolture Medical Hub at 120-124 McKean Street, Caboolture for Lease.

The opportunity exists to secure an unrivalled medical space directly opposite the Caboolture State & Private Hospital.

### FEATURES:

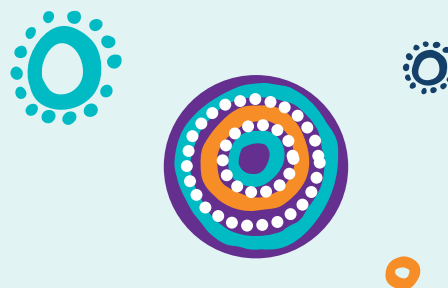
- Various tenancy options available 103m<sup>2</sup> to 601.5m<sup>2</sup>
- Medical tenancies catering to General Practitioners, Dental, Radiologist, Specialist and other allied health professionals
- Perfectly located close to Public & Private Hospital, School's, Child Care Centre, Shopping Village with Woolworths and Central Lakes residential estate
- Ample on-site car parking
- Ambulance Bay
- Turn-key fit out solutions available

Contact leasing Agents Chris Massie on 0412 490 84 or Aaron Canavan on 0447 744 948 to discuss your requirements in detail.

## MEDICAL OPPORTUNITY OPPOSITE THE CABOOLTURE STATE & PRIVATE HOSPITAL

RayWhite

# NEWS in brief



## Spirometry infection control recommendations

Spirometry in an infected person, carries a high risk of transmitting viral infections, even if the patient is asymptomatic. Testing generates aerosols that can spread infectious droplets in the air, for several metres. The respiratory plume of exhaled particles may contain virus that remains airborne for more than 30 minutes, lasting up to several hours and surfaces may retain viruses for several days. National Asthma Council Australia has advised recommendations for performing point-of-care spirometry in primary care settings under the current circumstances of no, or small numbers, of COVID-19 cases and no known community transmission.

Read the full list of recommendations via <https://bnphn.org/spirometry>.

## Report on the health of Queenslanders

The 2020 Chief Health Officer's Report 'The Health of Queenslanders' was recently released. The biennial report reflects a resilient state despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, drought, bushfires and floods.

Some of the standout achievements reported include:

- the life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples has improved by 4.4 years for males and 2.7 years for females in the 10 years to 2015–2017
- survival for our major cancers continues to improve with the five-year survival rate for prostate cancer now at about 95 per cent
- the burden of cardiovascular diseases has dropped by 15 per cent since 2011.

To read the full report visit <https://bnphn.org/CHO-report>.

## New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 13 HEALTH service

The Health Contact Centre has launched the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) Nursing Service to provide health advice for communities during COVID-19

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) Nursing Service forms part of the existing state-wide triage service and is staffed by a team of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registered nurses and aims to provide culturally appropriate, evidence-based health advice and recommendations to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander callers.

Patients can call **13HEALTH** (13 43 25 84) to access this service.

## Planning next year's vaccine supplies

The COVID-19 pandemic led to an unprecedented level of demand for influenza vaccines in 2020 across all vaccine channels including GPs, pharmacies and other immunisation providers.

Influenza vaccination will be more important than ever given the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is anticipated that demand for influenza vaccines will remain high next year.

Noting the demand experienced this year, now is the time for practices to consider their private market ordering requirements for next year. State and Territory Departments of Health will be in contact with GPs and practices to facilitate ordering and distribution of NIP vaccines and no further action is required regarding these vaccines at this time.

For more information visit [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au).

## Veterans' Health Check

The Veteran Health Check is a comprehensive health check designed specifically for veterans. It provides an opportunity to access early intervention care and appropriate referrals.

The Veteran Health Check allows for early engagement between a primary health care provider and a veteran, to be able to act on any issue early and help them stay well after they move into civilian life.

For more information visit <https://bnphn.org/vet-health>.

## All new Vaccination Matters website

Queensland Health has recently launched the new Vaccination Matters website, providing the latest immunisation resources for Queenslanders of all ages.

From December 2020, the VacciDate app will no longer be available for download – however, existing users can continue to save their information until 30 June 2021. All current users will be notified of these changes, receive ongoing reminders and offered alternative ways to track their immunisation information.

With the VacciDate app phasing out over the coming months, the new Vaccination Matters immunisation planner will help Queenslanders to track their vaccination information.

For more information visit [vaccinate.initiatives.qld.gov.au](http://vaccinate.initiatives.qld.gov.au).

# NOTICEBOARD

## INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE DELIVERY OF IMMUNISATION

The Commonwealth Department of Health has recently contracted Monash University to undertake a research study investigating the impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of immunisation services in Australia.

The survey, aimed at immunisation providers in Australia, includes questions regarding vaccination for children, adults, pregnant women and school-based programs. The survey also addresses other topics including influenza vaccine demand and workforce issues due to COVID-19.

For more information or to complete the survey visit <https://bnphn.org/monash-survey>.

## FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON COMMUNICATIONS MATERIALS

The Commonwealth Department of Health is seeking to understand how the primary healthcare workforce engages with the national cancer screening programs. Findings from this study have led to the development of communication materials to assist in boosting participation, education and engagement.

GPs, practice managers and practice nurses are invited to provide feedback on the developed communication materials.

For more information email [kristi.milley@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:kristi.milley@unimelb.edu.au) or phone 0411 873 253.

## A CONTINENCE SPECIALIST IS JUST A CALL AWAY

With over five million Australians affected by incontinence, the National Continence Helpline 1800 33 00 66 is a valuable tool for primary health providers, providing information and advice to health professionals. Practices can order a wide range of free information brochures, including resources in languages other than English. The helpline operates 8.00 am–8.00 pm, Monday to Friday.

For more information visit <https://bnphn.org/helpline>.

## BLOOD PRESSURE SURVEY FOR GPs

The High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia in collaboration with the Heart Foundation, Stroke Foundation, Kidney Health Australia and the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance, is conducting a survey to collect views from GPs to inform future educational initiatives on high blood pressure diagnosis and management.

The study findings will be used to create educational activities based on areas of concern and preferences of respondents. For more information or to complete the survey visit <https://bnphn.org/redcap-survey>.

## CHANGES TO RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE GUIDELINES

The Australian guideline for prevention, diagnosis and management of acute rheumatic fever (ARF) and rheumatic heart disease (RHD) has recently published changes within the 2020 edition.

The 2020 edition of the ARF/RHD guideline is available online on [RHDaustralia.org.au](http://RHDaustralia.org.au).

It is also available as a 295-page A4 book, at no cost to the clinician, by emailing [ArfRhdRegister@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:ArfRhdRegister@health.qld.gov.au).

## WORLD WELLNESS GROUP HEALTH SERVICES

World Wellness Group aims to deliver a high quality, accessible and affordable multicultural health and wellbeing service for marginalised migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum.

World Wellness Group offers a range of services including a multicultural connect telephone support service and primary health services. GPs can refer to the clinic, based in Stones Corner, by visiting [worldwellnessgroup.org.au/referral-forms](http://worldwellnessgroup.org.au/referral-forms).

# GP BULLETIN – DECEMBER 2020

News from General Practice Liaison Officers at Brisbane North PHN and Metro North Hospital and Health Service. Please provide feedback to the GPLO program [mngplo@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:mngplo@health.qld.gov.au).

## HEALTHPATHWAYS UPDATE

### Newly released HealthPathways:

- new palliative care patient
- end-of-life care.

Login at: [brisbanenorth.communityhealthpathways.org](https://communityhealthpathways.org) or phone 07 3630 7300 for login details.

To submit feedback about HealthPathways, please contact [administration.integration@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:administration.integration@brisbanenorthphn.org.au).

### HealthPathways is now integrated with GP Smart Referrals

You can now open relevant HealthPathways from GP Smart Referrals. For more information about GP Smart Referrals speak to your practice liaison officer or visit [brisbanenorthphn.org.au](https://brisbanenorthphn.org.au).

### COVID-19 updates

Find local information on testing criteria, FAQs on COVID-19, how to preserve PPE, current services available and more on the COVID-19 HealthPathways.

To receive regular COVID-19 email updates visit <https://bnphn.org/subscribe>.

### GP education

To provide suggestions for future events, or to request a practice visit to hear the latest information from your local hospitals and the PHN please email the GP Liaison Team at [mngplo@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:mngplo@health.qld.gov.au).

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Hospital and Health Service

## NEW PULMONARY REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Australian Catholic University (ACU) Allied Health Clinic at Banyo is now delivering pulmonary rehabilitation in partnership with Metro North HHS at no cost to the client. The new pulmonary rehabilitation programs at ACU Banyo campus last eight weeks with assessments prior to and on program completion. Consider referring patients diagnosed with a chronic respiratory condition who are willing to participate, who are stable or recovering from an acute exacerbation and independently mobile with or without an aid.

For more information or any queries contact Rebecca Chambers, Project Lead at **0437 157 019**.

## NEW GP ADVICE

A new GP advice line is supporting GPs and women from the point of referral, pre and post termination of pregnancy. The service aims for women to have their first appointment within five working days of receipt of referral. Supported by Metro North HHS gynaecologists, maternal fetal medicine, pathology, radiology, pharmacy, and social work.

Email [nursenavigator-top-mnhhs@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:nursenavigator-top-mnhhs@health.qld.gov.au) or call the advice line on **0408 940 183** 7.30 am–4.00 pm, Monday–Friday.

## NEW ADVANCE HEALTH DIRECTIVE AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FORMS

New versions of the Advance Health Directive (AHD) and Enduring Power of Attorney (EPOA) forms have been approved for use from 30 November 2020, to coincide with changes to the law underpinning Queensland's guardianship system that commenced on 30 November 2020. Clinicians are encouraged to review and familiarise themselves with the new AHD/EPOA forms and accompanying explanatory guidelines.

To support awareness of the new documents and key changes, the Office of Advance Care Planning has developed the following information sheet: <https://bnphn.org/MSHHS-ahd>.

## MY HEALTH RECORD CLIMBS TO 22 MILLION RECORDS

There are now over 22 million My Health Records with 86 per cent of these containing data. Uploading shared health summaries can be useful for hospital staff to provide continuity of care if recent pathology results and medication records are included. Patients' My Health Records include information from Queensland Health hospitals including recent discharge summaries, pathology and radiology results, medication dispense records and advanced care planning documents.

For more information contact your Primary Care Liaison Officer on **07 3630 7300**.

## STARS: A NEW SPECIALIST PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITY

Metro North HHS is opening a new specialist public health facility – the Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS), which will commence clinical and outpatient services from February 2021. STARS is a new 182-bed sub-acute, non-emergency hospital that specialises in rehabilitation and geriatric services and elective surgery and planned procedures. It will provide new and expanded health services to increase patient access to general and specialist rehabilitation services, elective surgical and endoscopic procedural services and specialist outpatient services.

For more information contact the Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service on **07 3647 7111** or visit [metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/stars](https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/stars).