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Artwork throughout by Riki Salam, We Are 27 Creative.



## Nundah Village Family Practice



Pictured above: Nundah Village Family Practice

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR REGIONAL WINNERS IN RACGP AWARDS

This year's annual Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Queensland faculty awards has honoured multiple winners from the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region.

The RACGP awards, announced in October, named **Nundah Village Family Practice** as *Queensland General Practice of the Year* and **Dr Danielle James** of Ashgrove Family Practice as *GP Supervisor of the Year*.

The awards recognise the value of GPs in the community and celebrate the achievements of exceptional individuals who go above and beyond to care for their patients.

Dr Danielle James of Ashgrove Family Practice, awarded GP Supervisor of the Year, has worked in the development, implementation and delivery of education to GP registrars, practice managers and supervisors. Dr James is also involved in community education through her work at Hummingbird House hospice, delivering paediatric palliative care.

Dr James said that one of the constants in her career has been her love of working as both an educator and a GP.



Above: Dr Danielle James

"I've been a supervisor for 18 years and have supervised more than 40 registrars in practice over that time.

"I have always been focussed on the importance of education with my patients; the better a patient's health literacy, the more empowered they are in their health care.," she said.

"I want to help registrars develop the art of practice. Any registrar can learn what's in a textbook or for example, what the parameters for the diagnosis of diabetes are, but how do you engage and empower the patient when delivering that diagnosis?"

"An important aspect of good general practice is about how you make health issues clearer for the patient and assist them to come to decisions about their own healthcare," Dr James said.

RACGP Acting President Associate Professor Ayman Shenouda said the awards highlight the importance of general practice for communities across Queensland.

*"The Nundah Village Family Practice is the perfect example of a practice that seeks out every opportunity to improve the care and treatment of all patients.*

"It is a young, modern and adaptive practice where GPs take part in regular in-house team training and professional development to ensure they stay ahead of curve. With a respiratory clinic next door, the practice has also done an outstanding job in relation to COVID-19 testing and screening," Associate Professor Shenouda said.

Dr Anuj Gupta, Co-Director of Nundah Village Family Practice, said it was heartening to receive recognition as General Practice of the Year.

The practice has been serving the Nundah community for more than 70 years and Dr Gupta said the extent of that experience helped them to respond quickly as the pandemic began earlier this year.

"When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Australia in February, Nundah Village Family Practice decided not to close its doors to the community (and) started seeing patients in a marquee in the carpark.

*"We set up the first respiratory clinic in Brisbane in the span of six days, established in close collaboration with the PHN, Aspen Medical and the Department of Health," Dr Gupta said.*

The PHN's Primary Care Liaison team provides support to primary health care providers across the region, including Nundah Village Family Practice and Ashgrove Family Practice.



Pictured above: Nundah Village Family Practice



# CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL OF THE 2020 RACGP AWARD WINNERS

For more information visit <https://bnphn.org/RACGP-winners>

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Brisbane North PHN continues to provide the latest COVID-19 information on our website. This includes information for general practice; the latest on PPE distribution, GP respiratory and fever clinics; news for aged care providers and PHN-funded service providers; and information for the community, including mental health resources.

Visit [brisbanenorthphn.org.au/covid-19](https://brisbanenorthphn.org.au/covid-19) to keep up-to-date with the latest news.

For more information including queries about Primary Health Insights contact [HealthDataProject@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:HealthDataProject@brisbanenorthphn.org.au) or your Primary Care Liaison Officer.



## PRIMARY HEALTH INSIGHTS heralds a new era of secure data storage

PHNs across Australia are currently in the process of migrating data to Primary Health Insights (PHI)—a secure storage and analytics solution designed to store data collected in accordance with existing Data Sharing Agreements and privacy legislation.

Primary Health Insights brings together:

- robust data governance
- advanced data analytic tools
- leading edge cyber security
- current and scalable technology
- a community of primary health informatics experts to improve population health outcomes for all Australians.

The vision for PHI is to provide easy-to-use reporting and analytics of data to support PHNs and healthcare providers to make informed decisions about Australian primary healthcare delivery.

Brisbane North PHN will be migrating data onto PHI from mid-November 2020.

There are no changes to how general practice or other service providers provide data to the PHN, and no changes to the existing contracts in place with the range of service providers.

### WHY IS THE PHN USING PRIMARY HEALTH INSIGHTS?

Primary Health Insights is a collective solution developed by the majority of PHNs to standardise data security, governance and processes associated with data

storage and analysis. Primary Health Insights provides a safe, robust and scalable data warehouse solution to support PHNs with data analytics and reporting needs.

### WHAT DATA WILL BE STORED ON PRIMARY HEALTH INSIGHTS?

The PHN will be storing the Population Health Dataset provided by general practices using the PEN CS tools and the Primary Mental Health Care Minimum Dataset, collected by referrers and providers delivering PHN funded mental health and suicide prevention services.

Eventually, the PHN will move all of its data warehouse requirements to the PHI platform.

### WHO HAS ACCESS TO THE DATA?

There will be no changes to who has access to the data we currently collect from general practice and other service providers.

### IS THE DATA SAFE AND SECURE?

Yes, the Primary Health Insights platform lives in the Australian-based Microsoft Azure data platform which is accredited to ISO 27000 compliance and has met the requirements of the Australian Government for secure storage of both 'sensitive' and 'protected' information through the Information Security Registered Assessors Program (IRAP).

The PHN has a robust Data Governance Framework and Information Security Management System. We comply with all applicable laws in relation to the collection, storage, access, use, disclosure or transmission of data including Privacy Law.



Pictured above: Images from the PHN's suicide prevention campaign, Reasons to Stay.

## UNCOVERING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

A new real time data monitoring system launched by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the National Mental Health Commission (NMHC) is helping to determine if the social and financial impacts of the pandemic have led to an increase in the rate of suicide throughout the country.

The National Suicide and Self-Harm Monitoring System and public website brings together the most comprehensive collation of data to date (including ambulance service data) for suicide deaths and self-harm across the eight States and Territories into a single web-based interactive and integrated platform.

The public website includes interactive data visualisations and geospatial mapping to illustrate and explore the current statistics and data sets as well as text to assist with their interpretation.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the AIHW has been collating data weekly on the use of mental health

services and on suspected suicides from existing registers and findings include:

- There is no evidence to date that COVID-19 has been associated with a rise in the rate of suspected deaths by suicide in Australia.
- In Queensland, the number of deaths by suspected suicides from 1 January to 31 July 2020 (454) was similar to the same period in 2019 (445) and 2017 (456).
- Increases in the rates of use of mental health services and increases in psychological distress, particularly among young people, have been seen during the pandemic.

You can view the **National Suicide and Self-harm Monitoring system** at [www.aihw.gov.au/suicide-self-harm-monitoring](http://www.aihw.gov.au/suicide-self-harm-monitoring).

The **Brisbane North HealthPathways Suicide Risk pathway** is available at [www.brisbanenorth.communityhealthpathways.org](http://www.brisbanenorth.communityhealthpathways.org). For more information on the PHN's **Reasons to Stay** campaign visit [www.reasonstostay.com.au](http://www.reasonstostay.com.au).

### SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING FOR PEER AND SUPPORT WORKERS

Many people are surprised to learn they are far more likely to save a life with suicide intervention than with CPR.

Peer workers, support workers and others in professional caring roles may be crucial in identifying and protecting someone from suicide. Suicide is preventable and with the right skills, you can save a life.

Brisbane North PHN is funding the **LivingWorks Start** training program for 80 peer workers and support workers in the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region.

**LivingWorks Start** is a 90 minute online training that will help you to:

- identify that someone may be considering suicide
- safely and confidently ask about thoughts of suicide
- respond appropriately and connect someone at risk of suicide to services and resources that can assist them.

For more information visit <https://bnphn.org/LivingWorks> or contact Tiana Gordon at [mhaod@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:mhaod@brisbanenorthphn.org.au) (please note, this inbox is monitored 8.30 am – 5.00 pm, Monday – Friday).



## NEW MY MENTAL HEALTH WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The My Mental Health Service Navigation team is excited to announce the launch of our new website, now live at [www.mymentalhealth.org.au](http://www.mymentalhealth.org.au). After many months of consultation and design, our new website is easier to navigate, more responsive and more user friendly than ever.

My Mental Health is a resource for consumers, carers, service providers and health professionals, which provides information about mental health, alcohol and other drugs and suicide prevention services in the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region. The My Mental Health Service Navigation team also support health professionals, consumers and carers making a referral to our commissioned services.

The site brings to the fore what users have told us is important: easily accessible and interactive information for consumers, carers and service providers.

It's easier than ever to contribute an event to the website, with a simple interface that allows users to register and manage their listings.

We invite you to take a look, bookmark your favourite pages, subscribe to our newsletters, submit an event or connect with us on social media.

Visit [www.mymentalhealth.org.au](http://www.mymentalhealth.org.au) or email your comments and feedback to [mymentalhealth@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:mymentalhealth@brisbanenorthphn.org.au).



## BOOSTING QUEENSLANDERS' HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The eight-episode *My health for life Wellbeing Series*, now available online, explores what it means to live well as it interviews everyday Queenslanders, health professionals, and some of our most-loved local identities.

The series was developed by the free, healthy lifestyle program in partnership with Health and Wellbeing Queensland as part of its *Boost Your Healthy* initiative and features a variety of health topics, ranging from mindset to sleeping well.

*My health for life* program director, Louise Natusch, said she was touched how Queenslanders got behind the series, sharing their experiences of living well and what good health has come to mean to them during COVID-19.

"The Wellbeing Series is a positive celebration of community, connection, and healthy living, reminding us why we're proud to be Queenslanders in these challenging times," she said.

"It shows us that times of struggle can bring huge opportunities for personal growth."

To view *The Wellbeing Series* online, head to <https://bnphn.org/wellbeing>.

For more information on *My health for life* visit [myhealthforlife.com.au](http://myhealthforlife.com.au) or call 13 74 75.

## STAYING WELL WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS GUIDE - NOW AVAILABLE

The *Staying well with chronic conditions* quality improvement guide is designed to support practices to keep their most vulnerable patients well and reduce their likelihood of adverse outcomes.

Vulnerable patients including older patients and patients with chronic and complex conditions benefit from regular, proactive care throughout the year. This guide outlines a simple approach your practice can take to identify your vulnerable patients and provide them with proactive support through the implementation of Sick Day Action Plans. To further support this work, Brisbane North PHN has also provided a snapshot of annual hospitalisation data in the region. When personalised and regularly reviewed, these action plans are associated with an increase in patient self-efficacy, fewer unplanned hospitalisations and timely contact with a GP or health professional when they need it.

To start using the guide at your practice contact your Primary Care Liaison Officers on 07 3630 7300 or to download the guide visit [www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au/practice-support/qi](http://www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au/practice-support/qi).



# Register now for STARS refresher workshops

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY!

Brisbane North PHN is funding two STARS refresher workshops and is now inviting registrations for health professionals who have completed STARS training in the last two years.

STARS stands for Systematic Tailored Assessment for Recognising Suicidality and it was developed to provide an initial insight into the complex world of a suicidal person to inform immediate collaborative and compassionate client care, including further examination of suicidality.

Annual accreditation is generally required. However, COVID-19 has impacted our ability to deliver the one day course this year. Therefore, we will be holding two one-day refresher courses in February to provide 50 professionals the opportunity to update their STARS qualification.

The workshops are scheduled for **10 and 11 February 2021** (please note, attendance at only one workshop is required). Venues to be determined.

To register your interest in attending, please contact Tiana Gordon, Program Support Officer – Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs program on [mhaod@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:mhaod@brisbanenorthphn.org.au).



## PracticeHub, the trusted experts in practice operations

**Gemma Gough**  
Australia Health Alliance Clinics  
PracticeHub user since 2018



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Kerri Haines, Practice Manager, Thirroul Medical Practice

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<sup>^</sup>Accurate as at 25.8.20. Terms and Conditions \*The offer applies to the first years' subscription cost of PracticeHub. The additional three months will apply to the core PracticeHub module and Task Management module, when purchased before 15 December 2020. The offer is only available to new PracticeHub customers. We reserve the right to change the offer conditions at any time.  
\*\*The offer applies to the ongoing annual subscription cost, and excludes the initial set-up costs of PracticeHub  
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## FORMER MINING BLASTER ROCKS NEW CAREER IN HEALTH

After leaving a lucrative career in the mining industry, one of Wide Bay's newest Bachelor of Nursing students has taken out a top honour at the 2020 Queensland Training Awards. Morgan Engstrom, now the Assistant Practice Manager at Branyan Clinic in Bundaberg, was named the regional Vocational Student of the Year at the awards, after completing a Certificate IV in Medical Assisting.

The former Gin Gin High School student said winning the award was further confirmation she had made the right decision to pursue a career in healthcare. "I started working in the mining industry after finishing school and worked for three years in the drill and blast crew, before starting a degree in primary school teaching," Ms Engstrom said.

"But working away was hard and that all changed when I got the part-time reception job in general practice which quickly went full-time and halfway through studying the Certificate IV I was promoted to the role I have now.

"The Certificate IV in Medical Assisting means I can now do a lot of things a nurse can do; dressings and wound care, removing sutures, assisting doctors in excisions, conducting ECGs, spirometry, and writing care plans and health assessments."

*"Doing the training was such a good experience; it's given me so much confidence, the opportunity to further my career and there are cool rewards - like this regional Vocational Student of the Year award."*

Morgan was nominated for the award after completing the course in just one year, rather than the recommended 18 months.

Morgan, who beat out 700 applicants to take out the regional award, has since enrolled in CQU's Bachelor of Nursing degree, with the aim of becoming a registered nurse. "I really enjoy helping people, working with a diverse range of people, and having that satisfaction of being able to help people's lives and enhance their health," she said.

"Working in general practice you tend to see the same patients week in week out, so you can develop a real and personal connection with them."

UNE Partnerships delivers the Certificate IV in Medical Practice Assisting in Queensland, in association with Brisbane North PHN. The program is funded by the Department of Education and Training Higher Level Skills funding.

With thanks to Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN for permission to reprint.





## SAFEGUARD YOUR VACCINES THIS STORM SEASON

With storm season upon us, Metro North Public Health unit is reminding practices to ensure plans are in place to safeguard vaccines against power outages.

In the event of a power outage, vaccine refrigerators can only maintain an adequate temperature of below eight degrees Celsius for up to 20 minutes.

It is important to have a back-up plan and alternative storage if a power failure occurs, such as a backup power supply, a monitored offsite refrigerator, or alternative safe storage such as a transportable hard-walled cooler or esky.

When moving vaccines to a hard-walled cooler box, it is important you do not remove them from their original packing to help prevent damage during transportation, protect vaccine potency by reducing exposure to UV and florescent light, and maintain a stable temperature around the vaccine.

The Metro North Public Health Unit recommends all practices check contingency plans, to prepare for the event of a power failure:

- Do you have the appropriate number of eskies to hold all vaccines?
- Do you have enough ice bricks to chill the eskies?
- Do you have a freezer where the ice bricks can be stored ready for use?
- Do you have sufficient packing material such as bubble wrap or shredded paper to prevent direct contact between the vaccines and the ice packs?
- Do you have a functioning digital minimum and maximum thermometer for each esky?
- Do you have a written procedure for staff to follow?

A trial run of cooling your eskies and maintaining them between two and eight degrees Celsius is recommended to be sure the plan works effectively in your practice.

For more information, refer to the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for Five' (third edition) on the Department of Health website: <https://bnphn.org/strive-for-five>.



## Specialist dementia care units in Queensland

The Specialist Dementia Care Program funds specialist dementia care units in residential aged care homes. The units provide specialised care to people with very severe behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia that aim to reduce or stabilise symptoms so that people can move into less intensive care settings.

The three Specialist Dementia Care Program units in Queensland all have vacancies and are ready to receive referrals. Referrals can be made from outside the PHN region where the unit is located. Generally, referrals nationally are coming from acute health settings, older persons' mental health services and residential aged care.

The Specialist Dementia Care Program provides a person-centred, multidisciplinary approach to care for people exhibiting symptoms of dementia whose behaviours may put themselves or others at risk or otherwise mean they are unable to be appropriately

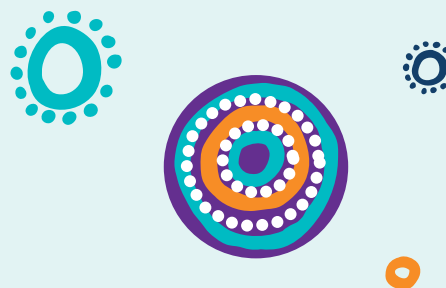
cared for by mainstream aged care services. The program offers transitional care to reduce or stabilise symptoms and enable people to move to less intensive care settings.

The Australian Government is establishing a national network of units under the Specialist Dementia Care Program, with at least one unit to be established in each of the 31 Primary Health Network regions. The prototype unit opened in Inglewood, Perth in September 2019. Between January and August this year, nine additional units have opened across Australia, including three units in Queensland.

All Queensland units are currently receiving referrals, including the North Brisbane unit at St Martin's Nursing Home in Taigum. There are specific eligibility requirements for referral to the program.

For more information, including referral guidance visit Dementia Support Australia at <https://dementia.com.au/contact/referral>.

# NEWS in brief



## New Cancer Australia resource for the investigation of lung cancer symptoms

Cancer Australia has released a new evidence-based resource for health professionals to support the optimal and timely investigation of lung cancer symptoms—*Investigating symptoms of lung cancer: a guide for all health professionals*.

The guide outlines a systematic pathway for the appropriate investigation and referral of people with symptoms or signs of lung cancer. It includes the optimal timeframes for action at each step in the pathway and emphasises the importance of multidisciplinary care.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in Australia. Diagnosis at an earlier stage of lung cancer leads to better outcomes for patients, however, diagnosing lung cancer can be challenging. Symptoms are often non-specific, which can impact on both patient and health professional awareness.

The guide is available to download at [canceraustralia.gov.au/ISLCguide](https://canceraustralia.gov.au/ISLCguide). The accompanying evidence report is at [canceraustralia.gov.au/ISLCreport](https://canceraustralia.gov.au/ISLCreport).

## Multicultural Connect Line

Recently Queensland Health provided funding to deliver a state-wide mental health telephone helpline called the **Multicultural Connect Line** until December of this year.

The purpose of the Multicultural Connect Line is to provide a centralised state-wide contact point for Queenslanders of multicultural backgrounds who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to access information, support and assistance in accessing mental health services in their language.

The helpline number is 1300 079 020 and operates Monday to Friday from 9.30 am – 4.30 pm. For more information visit <https://bnphn.org/multicultural-connect>.

## Providing a picture of the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Last year, the Australian government announced a new health study called the *Intergenerational Health and Mental Health Study* (IHMHS). The IHMHS will run over three years from late 2020 to 2023 and comprise surveys of health, nutrition and physical activity, and an optional biomedical survey.

Similar to the *Australian Health Survey* conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in 2011-13, the IHMHS will provide an opportunity to measure Australia's health, including providing a picture of the health and wellbeing of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The results will be useful in helping to inform policy, services and programs supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to live healthier lives. To inform the development of the survey the ABS are hosting a series of online workshops and delivering an online self-paced consultation package for people who aren't able to attend a workshop.

Your participation will help us shape the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander components of the IHMHS. We want to hear from you about things like what information should be collected, and how it should be collected to ensure the surveys are culturally appropriate.

For more information visit <https://bnphn.org/ABS-survey>.

## Technology boost in North West Private expansion

A major expansion at North West Private Hospital is boosting healthcare treatment options for patients on Brisbane's northside. The \$55 million project has vastly improved capacity—expanding the hospital from 101 to 150 beds, enlarging the oncology service from six to 10 chairs, increasing the number of theatres and procedure rooms from nine to 14 and including the commissioning of a new six-bed Intensive Care Unit. North West Private Hospital CEO Chris Murphy said population growth and changing demographics were driving new opportunities for the hospital.

"We're expecting growth in the number of specialists and surgeries at North West Private Hospital and this recent investment in facilities, including the addition of intensive care, will further support sound clinical decisions, surgical confidence and help enhance patient care."

Part of Ramsay Health Care, the hospital expansion in Everton Park includes a new Day Rehabilitation Unit with therapy areas and gym, an Early Parenting Centre, plus free multi-level car parking. For more information visit [www.northwestprivatehospital.com.au](http://www.northwestprivatehospital.com.au).

# NOTICEBOARD

## **PALLIATIVE CARE MEDICINE APP NOW AVAILABLE**

caring@home, a national palliative care project funded by the Australian Government, has launched an updated palliative care medicine app and community guidelines as a part of the suite of free resources supporting people to be cared for, and to die at home.

The popular free prescriber app, palliMEDS, has been updated to now include an opioid calculator. This supports switching a patient from some, or all, of their current opioids, to a replacement opioid delivered by the subcutaneous route.

For more information visit [www.caringathomeproject.com.au](http://www.caringathomeproject.com.au) or phone 1300 600 007.

## **MY HEALTH RECORD ONLINE LEARNING FOR NURSES**

The aim of this learning activity is to develop confidence and expand the basic knowledge of primary health care nurses in the use of the My Health Record system. The module has been developed by APNA in partnership with the Australian Digital Health Agency.

Once completed primary care nurses should have an expanded understanding to confidently embrace and promote the usage of the My Health Record to patients and colleagues and actively use My Health Record to be part of the solution to improve patient continuity of care.

For more information visit <https://bnphn.org/APNA-MHR>.

## **PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE DIRECTORY**

e-COPE is Australia's first service directory listing professionals with demonstrated expertise in perinatal mental health, designed to meet the challenge of finding timely support and treatment for mental health problems and associated risk factors during and after pregnancy.

It can be used by referring health professionals, women and their families, and has been developed with support from the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

To search the directory visit <https://bnphn.org/cope-directory>.

## **HELPING CHILDREN WHO HAVE SURVIVED A CRITICAL ILLNESS**

Every year in Australia, over 10,000 children experience a life-threatening illness or injury. While improvements in care means paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) survival is extremely high, there has been an increase in the number of children with new or developing morbidities.

Currently, there are no formal follow-up pathways to monitor children following a PICU admission. We invite GPs to participate in a survey on your perceptions of looking after children following a PICU admission utilising a shared care pathway.

To participate visit <https://bnphn.org/PICU-survey>.

## **SYPHILIS IN PREGNANT WOMEN PROJECT**

A new project is exploring the screening and treatment of syphilis in pregnancy and congenital syphilis and is being led by the Children's Health Queensland.

Phase two of the project involves interviews with healthcare professionals involved with screening, diagnosis and/or management of syphilis in pregnancy and or care of neonates born to women diagnosed with syphilis in pregnancy.

Participation will involve a 30-minute interview. For more information contact Mattea Lazarou via [m.lazarou@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.lazarou@uq.edu.au).

# GP BULLETIN – NOVEMBER 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:

- psychosis – first episode
- psychosis – established
- antipsychotic medications.

Login at: [brisbanenorth.communityhealthpathways.org](https://brisbanenorth.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 [www.bnphn.org/subscribe](https://www.bnphn.org/subscribe).

### Virtual GP education

- **7 November** – GP alignment program: Maternity workshop
- **25 November** – Children and adolescents' mental health

To register for these events visit [www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au/events](https://www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au/events).



This is an initiative of the General Practice Liaison Officer Program.

## CHANGES TO GUARDIANSHIP LAWS AND FORMS

The Department of Justice and Attorney General has confirmed that there are new versions of the Enduring Power of Attorney and Advance Health Directive forms. They have been approved for use from 30 November this year—to coincide with changes to the law that commence on 30 November 2020.

For more information go to [www.qld.gov.au/guardianship-reform](https://www.qld.gov.au/guardianship-reform) or for more information on advance care planning visit <https://bnphn.org/advancecare>.

## REMINDER TO INCLUDE ESSENTIAL REFERRAL INFORMATION

Queensland Health has standardised statewide referral criteria to specialist outpatients in Queensland hospitals. These criteria ensure equitable access for all patients, enable services to be provided in order of clinical urgency, and allow provision of optimal care at the first specialist appointment.

Metro North Hospital and Health Service is continuing efforts to apply the statewide referral criteria to support patient-centred care.

In order to accurately determine clinical need, and avoid delay in care for your patient, please include all essential referral information.

The easiest way to access this referral information is by using the new GP Smart Referrals system.

To register your practice email [GPSR@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:GPSR@brisbanenorthphn.org.au) or contact the PHN's Digital Health Support Officers on 07 3630 7300 for more information.

## MBS MENTAL HEALTH BETTER ACCESS SESSIONS

From 9 October 2020 until 30 June 2022, the number of Medicare supported mental health sessions has been increased from 10 to 20 per year to all Australians needing mental health treatment.

Medicare rebates are available for up to 10 additional individual mental health sessions. This quota may be claimed in each calendar year from 9 October 2020 to 30 June 2022, with a maximum of 20 individual Better Access sessions available each year.

For more information visit <https://bnphn.org/MBS-changes>.

## NEW TGA RESOURCES ON MEDICINAL CANNABIS

The Therapeutics Goods Administration has just released information on their website for Health Professionals.

It provides details of cannabis prescribing guidance documents and videos on how consumers can access medicinal cannabis, developed to support health professionals.

For more information visit <https://bnphn.org/mc-guidance>.

## BRISBANE MIND PROGRAM UPDATE

The Brisbane MIND Trauma or Abuse stream is currently receiving significantly more referrals than forecast and service providers are implementing strategies to ensure the program remains open as a sustainable referral pathway.

Clients who are referred under Brisbane MIND Trauma or Abuse stream may experience a delay in service commencement of up to a few weeks. Clients will be contacted to advise of any delay in scheduling a first appointment.

For further information please contact the My Mental Health Service Navigators on 1800 752 235.