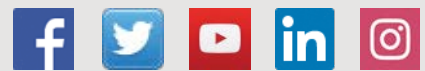


# Network Link

June 2020



In this edition:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Rapid flu vax response at RACFs amid pandemic   | 1  |
| Latest COVID-19 updates are online  | 2  |
| Kenmore Clinics swings into action  | 3  |
| GP Smart Referrals proving popular in Brisbane North                                      | 4  |
| Now seeking new PHN board directors   | 4  |
| Metro North Public Health Unit News – Public Health Unit’s outbreak project for aged care | 5  |
| New specialist dementia care program unit for Brisbane North                              | 6  |
| Facilitating access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities                 | 7  |
| Support in the face of expected increase in suicide rates                                 | 7  |
| Connecting people at risk with an eFriend   | 8  |
| News in brief   | 9  |
| Noticeboard   | 10 |
| GP bulletin – June 2020   | 12 |

## Rapid flu vax response at RACFs amid pandemic

Residential aged care facilities (RACFs) in Brisbane North and Moreton Bay have vaccinated staff and visiting workers against influenza, following an Australian Health Protection Principal Committee recommendation issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer, the Committee is the key decision making body for health emergencies and had set a 1 May 2020 deadline for the vaccinations to be completed.

To support this national vaccination program, the Australian Government Department of Health provided funding to Primary Health Networks to:

- **undertake a Health Needs Assessment (HNA)** of each residential aged care facility and
- **coordinate influenza vaccination programs** for those RACFs that have an identified need.

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1



Dubbed 'Operation 13' – a nod to the number of days Brisbane North PHN had to complete the activity – the deadline was met with the support of local GPs.

To gather key information needed for the HNA, 14 staff across the PHN were recruited into a 'Call Army' to telephone the region's 83 RACFs.

**Dr Kristin Riley** (*pictured*) was engaged as a GP vaccine administrator, providing immunisations to RACF staff at one local facility via two vaccination clinics.

Dr Riley said it was especially important this year to protect residents of aged care facilities from both COVID-19 and influenza.

"However the logistics for some facilities and GPs to achieve the sheer number of vaccinations required, in a relatively small window of time, was challenging," Dr Riley said.

"I appreciated the opportunity offered by the PHN to be involved with providing vaccine clinics to one of the facilities that was experiencing such a challenge, with 120 staff to vaccinate," she added.

"It has been particularly heartening to realise the extraordinary efforts that have been made by RACFs, their staff, GPs and the sector to achieve the most timely vaccination, and ultimately

protection, of our valued elderly population this year," Dr Riley said.

Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians, Richard Colbeck, said it was particularly important staff and residents of residential aged care facilities received the flu vaccination this season as the fight to combat the spread of COVID-19 continues.

"The Government has asked Primary Health Networks across Australia to assist in the coordination of flu vaccinations in their region," Minister Colbeck said.

"This health emergency is unprecedented and as we edge closer to winter we want to make sure staff and residents have the protection of the flu vaccination."

**As most aged care staff are under 65 years of age and therefore ineligible for the Queensland Government's free flu vaccine, the PHN implemented new processes to ensure they could access vaccines through this initiative.**

## LATEST COVID-19 UPDATES ARE ONLINE

Brisbane North PHN continues to provide the latest COVID-19 information on our website.

This includes information for general practice; the latest on mask 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 [www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au](http://www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au) to keep up-to-date with the latest news.

The PHN is also sending regular COVID-19 email updates to general practice. If you are not receiving this email update, you can subscribe at [www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au/page/publications/subscribe](http://www.brisbanenorthphn.org.au/page/publications/subscribe).

**Additionally, visit the Department of Health website, the Queensland Health website or the World Health Organization website for further COVID-19 information and guidance.**

### ABOUT NETWORK LINK

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

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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Pictured left-right: Kenmore Clinics Clinical Manager Fiona Edgecombe, Kerrie Murray, June Beazley, Dr Ravi Gornall and Practice Principal Dr Nick Bourke.



Kenmore Clinics:  
8am to 5pm,  
Monday to Friday.  
No referral to the clinic is  
necessary but bookings  
are essential.

## Kenmore Clinics swings into action

Kenmore Clinics recently opened a dedicated respiratory testing clinic for people who have symptoms similar to COVID-19.

The free Federal Government-funded service is the sixth of its kind in the southeast with other respiratory clinics in the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region operating in Nundah Morayfield and Caboolture.

The nationwide respiratory clinics aim is to alleviate the burden of respiratory illness presenting to hospitals and general practices.

With four isolation rooms and the capacity to see up to 50 patients per day, the clinic came about with the commitment of management, doctors and staff at Kenmore Clinics.

In a matter of weeks, the team created the respiratory clinic by relocating an existing skin cancer clinic, laying new vinyl flooring, moving and storing furniture, training staff and setting up new appointment books, software and phone systems.

Clinical Manager, Fiona Edgecombe said that while the clinic was established they had their hands full.

“Not only were we dealing with setting up the respiratory clinic, we had all the normal GP conundrums to deal with, like the introduction of new telehealth item numbers and influenza vaccination clinics, which were in high demand this year,” she said.

“Thankfully our clients have been very patient, supportive and understanding during this trying period,” said Ms Edgecombe.

Initially, the Kenmore GP respiratory clinic was seeing about 20 patients each day, which has now grown to approximately 40 patients each day.

Ms Edgecombe says the separation of clinics helps to ensure patient safety.

“We can refer any of our patients who have respiratory symptoms to the respiratory clinic for assessment and treatment therefore ensuring our GP and skin cancer clinics are safe environments for people to visit.”

Following treatment, Kenmore Clinics sends a comprehensive summary to the treating GP, ensuring they are aware of treatment, testing and results.

Ms Edgecombe said the local community had been outstanding in their support of the clinic.

“We have been completely overwhelmed by people’s generosity. Many community groups and local businesses have given us handy items like handmade scrub caps and gowns or scrumptious home baked goodies. All these gifts certainly brighten up our day and reassure us that we are appreciated,” she said.

**The new Kenmore Clinics service is open from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. No referral to the clinic is necessary but bookings are essential. Contact the Respiratory Clinic on 07 3363 1699 or book an appointment online via [hotdoc.com.au](https://hotdoc.com.au) and search Kenmore Clinics.**





## GP Smart Referrals proving popular in Brisbane North

GP Smart Referrals, rolled out by Metro North Hospital and Health Service and Brisbane North PHN in April, is now live in 63 general practices across the region.

GP Smart Referrals is an electronic template that allows GPs to send referrals through to Metro North Specialist Outpatients. They enable faster, streamlined management of referrals and less double handling of referrals across our health service.

General practices in the Brisbane North and Moreton Bay region that have compatible software can register to have GP Smart Referrals installed.

After registration, the software can be installed and activated remotely. Online training resources are available and on-site or remote training are also on offer.

GP Smart Referrals creates a streamlined referral process as it is integrated with a service directory, which allows you to view the closest facility that provides the service to your patient's address.

The software will auto-populate patient demographics and clinical record information, reducing time spent manually entering information.

Links with the statewide referral criteria allow essential referral information to be displayed, reducing the number of referrals sent back with requests for additional clinical information.

Documents or imaging, including pathology tests and imaging reports, can be attached to the referral, saving administration time with the elimination of faxing supporting documents or diagnostic testing.

Telegraph Road Medical Clinic went live with GP Smart Referrals in April, with Dr Stephen Gilliland recently giving some feedback on the referral system.

"It's excellent, very user-friendly and I like the speed of doing a referral.

"All the relevant information is correlated on referral, with no need to go hunting for info," said Dr Gilliland.

**Email [GPSR@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:GPSR@brisbanenorthphn.org.au) to register your practice or contact the PHN's Digital Health Support Officers: Julian Winkel on 0474 980 564 or Donna Hayward on 0402 159 794.**

## Now seeking new PHN board directors

Partners 4 Health Ltd, trading as Brisbane North PHN, is seeking experienced directors to fill one elected and two appointed non-executive director positions. Knowledge of the primary health care sector in Brisbane North and candidates of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent will be highly regarded.

Partners 4 Health Ltd (the Company) is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee with a membership base of organisations whose objects align to those of Partners 4 Health. The Company is primarily funded through the Australian Government Department of Health under the Primary Health Networks program.

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The Company is governed by a skills-based board of seven directors and is seeking expressions of interest for director positions in the lead up to the company's Annual General Meeting.

Email [cosec@brisbanenorthphn.org.au](mailto:cosec@brisbanenorthphn.org.au) for an information pack detailing documentation required for inclusion in your expression of interest. EOIs must be received by no later than 5pm (AEST) on Monday 22 June 2020.

# 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.

## PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT'S OUTBREAK PROJECT FOR AGED CARE

The Metro North Public Health Unit (MNPHU) recently commenced a project to assist residential aged care facilities (RACFs) within the Metro North Hospital and Health Service area to prevent and prepare for influenza and COVID-19 outbreaks.

**In particular, the project will work with RACFs to ensure essential components are included in their Influenza Outbreak Management Plans:**

- case definitions for influenza-like-illness and acute respiratory infections to recognise potential cases in staff and residents
- outbreak definitions to rapidly recognise a potential outbreak of influenza or COVID-19
- MNPHU will be notified within 24 hours of meeting an outbreak definition
- an outbreak management team will be convened by the RACF when an outbreak definition is met.

A quick reference guide for RACFs has been developed by MNPHU to assist early recognition of potential outbreaks of influenza and COVID-19 and is also available on their website.

**For further information, contact the Metro North Public Health Unit on 07 3624 1111 or visit <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/hospitals-services/public-health-unit>.**

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- providing **updated planning and preparedness** resources for RACFs
- running a **sentinel surveillance program** to increase the capability of participating RACFs in the early recognition, detection and notification of potential influenza-like-illness outbreaks
- assisting RACFs to review their **influenza outbreak management plans** to ensure processes are in place to respond rapidly and effectively to potential outbreaks
- providing onsite **public health management and planning advice**
- providing **staff education**
- collaborating with Brisbane North PHN and the Residential Aged Care District Assessment and Referral Service to ensure a **comprehensive approach to outbreak preparedness**.

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## Free resources from PracticeHub to keep your practice safe during COVID-19

To support the healthcare community, we have released a number of policies and procedures specifically covering COVID-19, to help you manage your practice, and support and safeguard your patients and staff.

The content covers:

- ALL our infection prevention and control policies, including COVID-19 policies relating to disease surveillance, hand hygiene and personal protective equipment
- COVID-19 policies for appointment management and triage, telehealth consultations, personal protective equipment and disaster recovery planning
- a range of human resource management policies including working away from the practice and social distancing.

**Receive three months' free access to the PracticeHub platform with a range of templates, including COVID-19 policies and procedures.\***

### Free access to the PracticeHub platform

To access the COVID-19 resources call **1300 968 636**, email **info@practicehub.com.au** or visit **practicehub.com.au**

Terms and conditions: The three month free access is available to practices that do not currently hold a PracticeHub subscription. The free access period will commence from the date the PracticeHub site is set up. This offer is available until 30 June 2020. We will provide access to the PracticeHub platform, including COVID-19 specific policies and procedures. By participating in the free access period you agree to our terms of trade. At the end of the free access period, you will no longer have access to content provided unless you upgrade to a full PracticeHub subscription. PracticeHub reserves the right to change or terminate the free access at any time by giving you written notice. MJN260 05/20 (1164-2)



## New specialist dementia care program unit for Brisbane North

St Martins Residential Aged Care home at Taigum is the site of Brisbane North's first Specialist Dementia Care Program (SDCP) unit.

It is one of three locations in Queensland successful in the Commonwealth Government's first round of funding for the new program, along with Brisbane South and Mackay.

The program aims to:

- provide care for people exhibiting severe symptoms of dementia who are unable to be effectively cared for by mainstream aged care services
- enable residential aged care providers to deliver care in a dedicated dementia friendly environment
- provide intensive, specialised residential care with a focus on stabilising and reducing the person's symptoms over time with the aim of enabling transition to a less intensive care setting.

Kate Hawkins, Specialist Dementia Care Program Manager at Anglicare Southern Queensland, said the new unit would open in July 2020.

"This is an exciting opportunity for St Martins to be among the first aged care homes in Australia to establish this

specialist capability in dementia care, with our residents and wider community set to benefit from the advanced skills and knowledge of the staff in the unit," Ms Hawkins said.

"The objective is that residents would only reside in the unit for short period of time until the specialist support and care they receive will enable them to transition into a general aged care setting after that period, whether that be at St Martin's or another nearby home.

"We know there is a growing need for specialist dementia care in Australia and that units like these will be important assets in our local community."

Ms Hawkins said the unit would incorporate eight beds, plus an additional 'bounce back' bed, to accommodate people who may need to be readmitted if their transition out is not successful.

Residents are admitted to the unit via a specialised referral pathway through Dementia Support Australia.

**For more information please contact Kate Hawkins at [khawkins@anglicaresq.org.au](mailto:khawkins@anglicaresq.org.au).**



## Facilitating access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

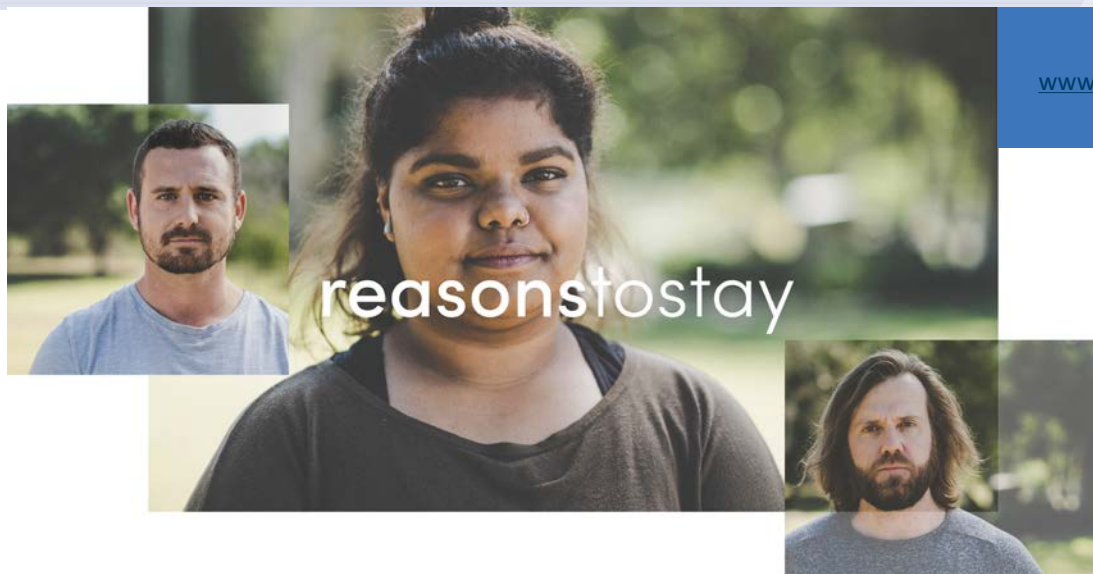
The Improving Indigenous Access to Mainstream Primary Care (IIAMPC) team, under the Integrated Team Care (ITC) program, work with general practices and healthcare providers to facilitate access to appropriate healthcare services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.

This program includes training for providers such as *'Turning Good Intentions into Culturally Safe Practice'*, as well as assistance with resource development, tools, and templates to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients to access services.

The program also provides outreach support for your Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, including transport to and from appointments, cultural support, and health literacy education. Outreach workers can support general practices by engaging in community health promotion programs.

To be eligible for this program, patients must have a current 715 health assessment and complete the ITC patient registration form.

**For further information please call 1800 254 354 to speak with an ITC/IIAMPC team member.**



VISIT

[www.reasonstostay.com.au](http://www.reasonstostay.com.au)  
to find out more.

## Support in the face of expected increase in suicide rates

New modelling released by the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre has shown that Australia's suicide rate could increase by up to 50 per cent as the mental health impacts of the economic fallout from COVID-19 are felt across the country.

The website [reasonstostay.com.au](http://reasonstostay.com.au) can assist people who are at risk of a suicidal crisis and those bereaved by suicide, along with family and friends who care for them.

The website provides information and links to suicide prevention and support services in the region. Visitors to the website can also access telephone crisis information lines and links to reputable websites for further reading and support.

# Connecting people at risk with an eFriend

**eFriend** is a virtual platform where your patients who are experiencing loneliness, isolation, distress or anxiety can connect with a trained peer support worker over video or voice chat at no cost.

An eFriend peer support worker has either a personal lived experience of mental illness, suicidality or recovery, or an experience of supporting a family member or friend with mental illness.

eFriend peers understand what it's like to go through difficult situations such as loneliness, isolation or mental health issues. Their role is to listen and provide your patient an extra person they can reach out to for connection, hope and empathy. eFriend peers may be particularly helpful for people who are completely isolated from friends, family and work colleagues during COVID-19.

Those registered for eFriend Virtual Peer Support are eligible to receive up to six calls of 40 minutes duration with their peer support worker.

eFriend Peer Support Workers are not therapists, rather the focus is on connecting, building relationships, listening, empathising and working closely with them to ensure they feel cared about.

In addition to their lived experience, the eFriend peer support worker undertakes a range of training opportunities including Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, Peer CARE Companions Training with Roses in the Ocean, training in trauma informed care and safe storytelling amongst other requirements.

**For more information visit [www.efriend.org.au](http://www.efriend.org.au).**

*This initiative has been developed by Independent Community Living Association in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia.*

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To book appointments: (07) 3177 2000 | [paedsinapod.com.au](http://paedsinapod.com.au)

## Holistic management of paediatric patients in the one location

### Specialist care for infants & teens

Paediatric gastroenterology focuses on the health of the digestive system, also known as the gastrointestinal tract. It is concerned with how the body digests and moves food, absorbs nutrients and removes waste. Gastroenterology also has a focus on the liver.



#### Dr Christopher Burgess

specialises in the diagnosis and effective management of all types of gut problems in infants, children and adolescents for Paeds in a Pod.

**Paeds in a Pod is a group of over 30 specialist paediatricians and Allied Health professionals attached to Greenslopes Private Hospital. We provide expert diagnosis, treatment and paediatric care under a unified multidisciplinary team.**

- Neonatologist
- Paediatricians
- Paediatric Endocrinologists
- Paediatric Gastroenterologist
- Paediatric Allergist & Immunologist
- Paediatric Dietitian & Nutritionists
- Paediatric Physiotherapist
- Paediatric Occupational Therapist
- Paediatric Speech Pathologists
- Paediatric Psychologist



# News in brief

## ▶ A call to arms to immunise kids

The childhood immunisation-influenza campaign is a 'Call to Arms' for parents to immunise their children aged six months to under five years against this year's flu.

The campaign first ran in 2019 with positive results and will run again in 2020 from May to August. The campaign focuses on the flu being dangerous and the leading cause of hospitalisation for children under five years of age and asks parents to protect their children by booking an appointment with their GP for a free flu vaccine. The campaign also aims to increase awareness that the flu vaccine is safe and is required every year.

This mass media campaign will be seen across multiple channels including digital, social media, out-of-home shopping centre panels, as well as, GP waiting rooms and medical centres across Queensland. For more information visit [vaccinate.initiatives.qld.gov.au](http://vaccinate.initiatives.qld.gov.au).

## ▶ RACGP launches campaign to stop people neglecting their health

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has launched a campaign to stop people from neglecting their health concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The campaign, Expert Advice Matters, will run for 30 days with advertisements on TV and social media, showing people why now, more than ever, they need to take care of their health and see their GP for any health issues.

A website has also been set up with straightforward, practical advice for patients on how they can get a consultation with their GP on the telephone or online using videoconferencing platforms, as well as face-to-face.

The RACGP's campaign also includes resources and advice for GPs to help practices make the transition to telephone and online consultations in a way that works for them and their patients. For more information visit [www.expertadvicematters.com.au](http://www.expertadvicematters.com.au).

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## How we are supporting you, while you are supporting the community

We have introduced a range of support measures to help existing and new members:

- Passing on premium rate reductions of 15% for hospital cover and 30% for extras to all members, for the insurance period covering May and June 2020
- Deferring our annual premium increase from 1 April 2020 to 1 October 2020
- Ensuring all members with a hospital policy will be fully covered if admitted to hospital as a private patient due to COVID-19
- Providing financial relief options for members facing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19
- Extending our Extras benefits to cover allied health consultations provided by phone or video

Join by 30 June 2020 on any Hospital & Extras policy and receive an eGift Card up to \$500 depending on the level of cover you choose\*.

\*For full terms & conditions visit [www.doctorshealthfund.com.au/flexi-offer-EOFY20](http://www.doctorshealthfund.com.au/flexi-offer-EOFY20)  
Private health insurance products are issued by The Doctors' Health Fund Pty Limited, ABN 68 001 417 527 (Doctors' Health Fund), a member of the Avant Mutual Group. Cover is subject to the terms and conditions (including waiting periods, limitations and exclusions) of the individual policy.

It takes just 5 minutes to join  
**1800 226 126**  
[doctorshealthfund.com.au](http://doctorshealthfund.com.au)

# Noticeboard

Please contact the relevant organisation for more information about the items below.

## Help for children with gut problems

Gut problems can be physically debilitating and stressful for children and can have a direct impact on a child's behaviour, mood and feelings, as well as their happiness.

When a child's normally predictable eating patterns become unpredictable, or they consistently experience digestive distress, including vomiting, diarrhea, pain or discomfort it's important to seek diagnosis and treatment from a paediatric gastroenterologist to determine the cause and begin a suitable management program. Dr Christopher Burgess, from Paeds in a Pod, is a paediatric gastroenterologist supporting children of all ages through the diagnosis and effective management of all types of gut problems, with a special interest in inflammatory disorders of the gut.

Call 07 3177 2000 or visit [paedsinapod.com.au](http://paedsinapod.com.au) for more information or to make a referral.

## Consider referring to a mental health social worker

Accredited Mental Health Social Workers (AMHSWs) are registered Medicare providers that can work with you to improve patient outcomes. AMHSWs specialise in mental health and work with people across the lifespan, providing a unique contribution to the mental health space in their comprehensive approach to working with a person.

The advanced education and training that is expected of an AMHSW prepares and provides them with the skills for working with people with very complex presentations and comorbidities, including how COVID-19 may be impacting existing conditions. AMHSWs can assist GPs in treating a patient's underlying mental health and social issues. Resources for GPs considering referring to an AMHSW are available at <http://bnphn.org/AASW-GPinfo>.

## PalAssist

PalAssist is a palliative care information and advice service, funded by Queensland Health, delivered by Cancer Council Queensland.

A team of experienced nursing, and allied health professionals, provide online and telephone support from 7am to 7pm, seven days a week.

Support is available to answer questions around what palliative care is, how to navigate the health care system, adjustment to new diagnosis, end of life planning and transition to hospital or residential aged care.

Visit the newly launched PalAssist website—containing resources for health professionals—at [www.palassist.org.au](http://www.palassist.org.au) or call 1800 772 273.

## Expressions of interest for QAMH board

Queensland Alliance for Mental Health (QAMH), the peak body for community mental health organisations in Queensland, is seeking expressions of interest for a skills-based director who embodies the strong values of QAMH to join its board of directors.

The successful candidate will have current or recent experience with organisations in rural and remote Queensland; be willing to actively contribute to Board discussions with tolerance, honesty and sensitivity and have a sound understanding of the mental health sector in Queensland.

For more information visit [www.qamh.org.au](http://www.qamh.org.au). Applications close at 5.00pm on Friday 12 June.

## Obesity survey to help shape new clinical pathway

The University of Queensland, in collaboration with Children's Health Queensland, has developed a digital tool to predict childhood obesity, called i-PATHWAY. Clinicians can use i-PATHWAY with infants to accurately predict risk of future childhood obesity.

We are looking for clinicians (who currently see infants aged 0–2 years) to complete a short survey, which looks at what the enablers and what barriers are for using i-PATHWAY in practice?

To take part in the survey visit [survey.app.uq.edu.au/iPATHWAY1.survey](http://survey.app.uq.edu.au/iPATHWAY1.survey) or contact Oliver Canfell via [o.canfell@uq.edu.au](mailto:o.canfell@uq.edu.au) or 0434 911 538.

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### True pivots to continue clinical education during pandemic

Reproductive and sexual health needs are likely to be impacted by COVID-19 including STI checks, cervical screening, unplanned pregnancy and long acting reversible contraception needs.

True Relationships and Reproductive Health's clinical education unit continues to deliver medical education and clinical training courses for doctors and nurses—although now online, with several self-paced courses for health professionals being offered at a discount to assist with upskilling in the areas of sexual and reproductive health.

For more information or to register for a course visit [www.true.org.au](http://www.true.org.au).

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### Lives Lived Well offering telehealth consultations

Highly experienced GPs, psychiatrists and psychologists at the Lives Lived Well Specialist Centre are now accessible to support anyone across the state as they temporarily shift to telehealth consultations due to COVID-19.

Taking the centre online, means clinicians and patients can stay safe through distancing, with the added benefit that more people in any location can now access specialist practitioners at a time when need is growing.

The virtual team can assist people with a range of health concerns, from illness and medical complaints and referrals, to addressing mental health issues related to family conflict, relationships, self-esteem, anxiety, depression, addiction, abuse and trauma – all without leaving home.

Concessions card holders, children under 16 years of age, and patients who are more vulnerable to COVID-19 can be bulk-billed.

For more information visit [www.llwspecialistcentre.org.au](http://www.llwspecialistcentre.org.au) or call 07 5508 0950 to book a virtual consultation.

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### Mates4Mates offers support

Mates4Mates provides psychological, physical and social support to veterans and currently serving ADF members with service-related physical or mental health issues, and their families.

Mates4Mates psychologists and exercise physiologists have undergone specific training in military culture, trauma and the issues surrounding transition from a military to civilian way of life. Veterans and their families also have access to a range of wellness, social and physical activities to complement their treatment.

Psychology and exercise physiology services are available via telehealth or face-to-face with DVA or Medicare referral required. For more information visit [mates4mates.org](http://mates4mates.org).

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### End of life decision making

When a person is near the end of life, they sometimes lose their ability to make decisions about health care. When this happens, those decisions will need to be made by a substitute decision-maker. ELDAC explores substitute decision-making with case studies, myth-busters and a factsheet which outlines considerations such as who will be the substitute decision-maker and what decisions they can make when someone can no longer speak for themselves.

For more information visit [www.eldac.com.au](http://www.eldac.com.au) and access the toolkit section.



# GP bulletin – June 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:

- COVID-19 End-of-Life Care
- COVID-19 Mental Health
- COVID-19 in Residential Aged Care Facilities
- End of Life Care Overview
- Skin Cancer

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

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

## COVID-19 Health Pathways

Find useful local information on testing criteria, FAQs on COVID-19, how to preserve PPE, current services available and more, updated daily by our clinical editor.

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

**Username:** Brisbane  
**Password:** North  
(case sensitive)

To receive our regular COVID-19 email updates, subscribe to 'the Bulletin' at <http://bnphn.org/BNPHN-subscribe> and share this link with colleagues who may not be subscribed.

## Useful COVID-19 resources

Brisbane North PHN COVID-19 page <http://bnphn.org/covid-19> contains details of mask availability, a list of PPE suppliers, video conference software for GP practices and financial support measures for general practice.

## Informing patients about COVIDSafe

Almost 6 million people in Australia have downloaded the COVIDSafe app and GPs are in a great position to inform their patients about it. Visit [www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app](http://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app) for more information.

## Virtual ED specialist advice line now available to Brisbane North GPs

The Virtual ED service has been developed by Metro North HHS to support GPs with access to emergency medicine specialist advice over the phone and to advise on alternatives to ED. For more information visit <http://bnphn.org/virtual-ED> or call 1300 847 833 (available Monday to Friday, 8.00 am – 5.30 pm).

## Request a HHS 'Specialities' contact directory

The GP Liaison Team have developed an easy-to-use one page phone directory for Metro North HHS speciality services. Specialities include paediatrics, cardiac, respiratory services and more, and lists emails and phone numbers for hospitals across the region.

To request this document email [mngplo@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:mngplo@health.qld.gov.au) and providing your name, AHPRA registration number and practice name.

## Mental health support for GPs

A range of mental health supports for GPs are available to provide help during this period of increased stress.

The **RACGP GP Support Program** is a free and confidential psychological support service available to all members: **1300 361 008**.

**Queensland Doctors Health Advisory Service** is an independent, confidential, colleague-to-colleague support service to assist doctors and medical students: **07 3833 4352**.

**AMA Anonymous Peer Support Line** (also available to non-members): **1300 853 338**.

**DRS4DRS** is an independent program providing confidential support across Australia to doctors, by doctors: **07 3833 4352**.

## Changes to legislation for digital prescriptions

Queensland has made changes to regulations to allow PBS medicines to be dispensed with a digital script, as well as paper. Doctors can send a script directly to a pharmacy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the special arrangement, a temporary exemption has been made allowing digital images of prescriptions to be sent and dispensed.

For more information visit <http://bnphn.org/QH-imagebasedprescriptions>.