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RACH Round-up

phn
BRISBANE NORTH
An Australian Government Initiative

Wednesday 6 May 2026

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Sector news

Australian Government details national plan for fuel in new advertising campaign

The Australian Government has launched the **Every Little Bit Helps** campaign to help inform Australians about its approach to securing fuel. The campaign provides details on the National Fuel Security Plan and includes tips for drivers to reduce fuel use through simple actions.

The plan is based on 4 levels: level 1 being the lowest and level 4 requiring the strongest action. Australia is currently at level 2.

We're helping share the message with our community that Every Little Bit Helps. Please share the [website](#) and tips throughout your networks.

National Palliative Care week

Conversations about palliative and end-of-life care are often avoided because they can feel confronting or 'too soon'. National Palliative Care Week (10-16 May 2026) opens conversations, raises awareness and advocates for better access to and acceptance of palliative and end-of-life care.



The 2026 campaign is **Getting to the heart of it: Big Questions. Real Answers.** and is expressed through three supporting themes:

- **Living well, your way:** focusing on comfort, quality of life and staying connected to what matters.
- **Conversation changes everything:** showing how starting the conversation can reduce uncertainty and support better planning and care.
- **The heart of care:** highlighting care that feels personal, safe and respectful for individuals and families.

For more information visit the Palliative Care Australia [website](#).

Free RSV vaccine for older Australians

The Australian Government is introducing free respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccinations for older Australians to ensure they are protected from the common and potentially deadly virus.

From 15 May 2026, Australians aged 75 and over and can receive free RSV vaccination. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are eligible from the age of 60.

RSV is a common respiratory virus that can lead to hospitalisation, intensive care and death. Aged care residents are particularly vulnerable due to shared living arrangements and frequent contact with staff and visitors.

The addition of the RSV vaccine on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for older adults complements the free NIP influenza and COVID-19 vaccine programs.

For more information about immunisation visit the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing [website](#).

RAC clinical pathways: supporting clinical decision-making

The Queensland Health suite of [residential aged care \(RAC\) clinical pathways](#) support registered nurses and GPs in managing acutely unwell residents and guiding referral to [Residential Aged Care District Assessment and Referral Service](#) in the Metro North Region.

These pathways provide structured, practical guidance across a wide range of presentations, from recognising the deteriorating resident and managing unstable vital signs, through to common conditions such as infections, falls, pain and confusion. They can support timely clinical

decision-making, improve consistency of care and strengthen communication with GPs and hospital services.

The pathways can also be used as an educational resource to build staff confidence and capability. They are designed to support, not replace, clinical judgement and should be used within scope of practice.

\$3 billion investment in aged care: what it means for RACHs

On Thursday 23 April 2026, Minister for Health and Ageing Mark Butler announced an additional investment of \$3 billion in the 2026 Budget to deliver improved care for older Australians.

Key measures will include funding to support the delivery of an additional 5,000 residential aged care beds per year, changes to accommodation supplements and new targeted capital subsidies to support providers building or upgrading facilities. The package also includes \$1 billion to make personal care services under Support at Home free, alongside clinical care.

For RACHs, these reforms aim to strengthen sector sustainability, improve access to care and support residents with higher needs, including an expansion of the Specialist Dementia Care Program.

Further details are available [online](#), with additional measures to be announced in the upcoming Budget.



Assisting visiting GPs to use incentive payments for multidisciplinary teamwork

The General Practice in Aged Care Incentive (GPACI) is a Medicare payment for GPs who visit RACH residents. It encourages more GPs to work in the sector and supports them to provide proactive, high-quality care.

The incentive works by remunerating quarterly services **AND** annual care planning services, allowing for pro-active multidisciplinary team (MDT) care. Key points:

- GPACI helps GPs visit the resident in-person a minimum of twice every quarter, with each included visit in a separate calendar month.
- The incentive also ensures two care planning services (comprehensive medical assessment, residential medication management review, a multidisciplinary case conference, or contribution to a review of a multidisciplinary care plan) are delivered by the GP annually, per resident.

You can support residents and assist your GPs by:

- checking residents have had two care planning services in the 2025–2026 financial year and if not, initiating an MDT case conference meeting and inviting the GP
- supporting all new and existing residents to sign up to MyMedicare to allow GPs to access these incentives that facilitate MDT working.

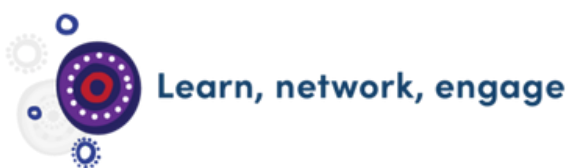
For further information about the GPACI, please contact us via agedcareprojects@brisbanenorthphn.org.au



Practice makes prepared: drills, debriefs and continuous improvement

Plans must be practised—tabletops, call trees, evacuation walk-throughs and documentation runs—then debriefed to capture lessons and support psychosocial recovery. The [Queensland Residential Aged Care - Planning Resource](#) includes recovery, psychosocial support and debriefing guidance with review checklists.

The [Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's guidance](#) emphasises testing and reviewing plans in partnership with residents, families, workers and response partners to reduce risk and improve outcomes.



Last chance to register: RACH Clinical Masterclasses

With winter approaching, now is the time to strengthen your team's confidence in managing respiratory and gastroenteritis outbreaks and navigating after hours support. Limited places remain for the upcoming **RACH Clinical Masterclass in Kallangur**.

This practical session will provide real-world guidance staff can apply immediately. Hear directly from the Metro North Public Health Unit on outbreak preparedness for winter 2026, followed by presentations from key after hours services including [Residential Aged Care District Assessment and Referral Service](#), Queensland Ambulance Service, [Hello Home Doctor and Dementia Support Australia](#). Each will outline when and how to engage their service, with an interactive panel discussion to answer your questions and clarify local pathways.

Date: Wednesday 20 May 2026

Time: 8.30 am–12.30 pm (morning tea provided)

Venue: Kallangur Norths Leagues & Services Club, 1347 Anzac Ave, Kallangur

[Register online.](#)

Multidisciplinary team workshop: secure your team's spot

Brisbane North PHN is proud to present an evening on multidisciplinary team (MDT) care to explore ways to improve MDT working in the RACH context.

The evening will begin with a presentation over dinner by Sandstone Healthcare Group, followed by an interactive scoping and planning session where participants who work together will have the opportunity to apply learnings to their own contexts.

To get the most out of this event, we **strongly recommend** coordinating with members of your MDT to attend as a group—for example, a RACH nurse or clinical care manager, a visiting GP, and an aged care on site pharmacist or allied health clinician—to allow for genuine planning and consultation during the workshop and practical outcomes.

These workshops are free, with a two-course dinner included.

Register for one of the events below (note, this is the same event held in two locations):

Date: Tuesday 2 June 2026

Time: 6.00 pm–8.00 pm (doors open at 5.30 for registration/networking)

Venue: Bribie Island Room, North Lakes Hotel, 22 Lakefield Drive, North Lakes QLD 4509

[Register online](#) (registrations close 25 May 2026).

Date: Tuesday 9 June 2026

Time: 6.00 pm–8.00 pm (doors open at 5.30 for registration/networking)

Venue: Captains room, The Pavilions at Allan Border Field, 1 Greg Chappell St, Albion QLD 4010

[Register online](#) (registrations close 1 June 2026).

This is a unique opportunity to come together and explore ways to improve MDT working in your facility. Assemble your team and register today.

Aged Care Forum virtual offering

Join us for a special virtual Brisbane North Aged Care Forum on Wednesday 17 June 2026. The forum will explore innovation in best practice, technology, palliative care and nutrition within the aged care sector.

The forum runs from 12.30 pm–2.00 pm and is free to attend.

[Register online.](#)

Rethinking dementia and end-of-life care

As part of National Palliative Care Week 2026, Palliative Care Australia will be holding a special guest lecture, **Rethinking Dementia and End-of-Life Care**, on Thursday 14 May 2026 at 12.30 pm.

The livestream event will be delivered at Parliament House by national leader in palliative care, Dr Michael Chapman, Director of Palliative Care at Canberra Hospital and Lead of the Palliative Care Research Unit at Clare Holland House.

In line with this year's theme, Getting to the heart of it: Big Questions. Real Answers, Michael will discuss what dementia means for our communities and how that influences the impact dementia has on us all. He will also discuss new ways to rethink dementia, which have implications for palliative care support for people with the condition. The lecture will further consider how better conversations, practical support and person-centred care can improve quality of life, dignity and connection.

Learn more and [register online](#).

Webinar: everyday precautions and respect for residents with BBVs

As people live longer with blood-borne viruses (BBVs) such as HIV and hepatitis B, more residents in aged care will have a BBV as part of their health history.

Presented by Sonia Gunkel, registered nurse and CEO of Omemma Health, this session will bring you up to date on transmission, treatment and what BBVs mean in everyday care settings. You'll learn how to apply standard precautions for blood and body fluids, respond to needlestick injuries or exposure incidents and use practical communication approaches that protect privacy and support person-centred care.

The webinar also features lived experience perspectives from people living with HIV and hepatitis B, offering valuable insight into what respectful, high-quality care looks and feels like in

aged care environments.

Date: 25 May 2026

Time: 2.00 pm–3.15 pm

Delivery: Online via Zoom

[Register online.](#)

Suicide prevention for seniors online training

Would you know what to do if an older person you support was having thoughts of suicide?

If you would like to learn how to support someone experiencing thoughts of suicide, this program can provide the skills you need. Run by Anglicare and funded by the Australian Government, the Suicide Prevention for Seniors Program is for anyone who works with or supports older people.

The free online training is delivered via Zoom, with a duration of three hours. You can opt to join a public group or request a closed group for your team.

For more information visit the Anglicare [website](#).

[Visit our events calendar](#)

[Visit the Residential Aged Care webpage](#)

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians within our region: the Jagera, Turrbal, Gubbi-Gubbi, Waka Waka and Ningy Ningy peoples of where we meet, work and learn. Brisbane North PHN is committed to reconciliation. Our vision for reconciliation is where the stories of our First Nations' people are heard and shared, and networks are formed.