Message from the Chief Executive

I had the pleasure of visiting Iama, Poruma and Warraber in the Central Cluster recently with Andy Marshall (Executive General Manager, North) and Greg Edwards (Board Member). It was very valuable to meet the staff and understand the challenges they face on a daily basis. The visit also allowed us to review each facility’s infrastructure needs first hand.

We had a very warm welcome on at all three facilities and thank you particularly to Phyllis Pearson on Warraber for organising some local crayfish for us.

I also travelled to Cooktown, Weipa and Thursday Island in the last few weeks to talk to staff about the Corporate Services Review. These meetings have been well attended and thanks to staff for their feedback.

Congratulations to our Continuous Quality Improvement team for their work in successfully piloting an e-health system at Joyce Palmer Health Service on Palm Island. A secure, shared electronic record is important for effective team communication about a patient’s ongoing treatment and care, wherever they might go. See the story about this pilot inside this edition.

Regards

Jill

Jill Newland
Health Service Chief Executive

Above: Dr Jill Newland, Health Service Chief Executive

Best Practice training was held in Bamaga recently. Story inside.

Above: Mary Lankester (left) and Libby Cristini attended the Corporate Services Review consultation in Weipa.

Above from left: Greg Edwards (Board Member), Helen Lawn (CNC), Miller Aki (Trainee Health Worker) and Andy Marshall (Executive General Manager, North) at Iama (Yam Island).

Above from left: Clara Tamu (Top Western Cluster Coordinator), Phyllis Pearson (Trainee Health Worker), Vivian Harinck (CNC) and Fred Tamu (Acting Senior Health Worker, soon to be Registered Nurse) at Warraber (Sue Island).

Above from left: Nellie Lowien (CNC), Jill Newland (Chief Executive), Norah Pearson (Health Worker), Andy Marshall (Executive General Manager, North), Nazareth Fauid (Health Worker) and Dalasa George (Administration Officer) at Poruma (Coconut Island).
Summary of Board Meeting

The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Board met on Thursday Island on Thursday 18 February. The visit to the north allowed Board members to meet some of the staff on Thursday Island and to tour the hospital.

The Board Chair along with the Chief Executive also took the opportunity to meet with members of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and the Torres Shire Council.

Final changes were made to the TCHHS Strategic Plan 2015-2019, and an evaluation was provided of recent Cost Centre Management Training and the actions which came out of that training.

The next Board meeting will be held in Cairns on 17 March 2016.

Please email any questions to TCHHS-Board-Chair@health.qld.gov.au

Working towards a Health Service Plan

Staff consultations for the development of the Torres and Cape HHS - Health Service Plan were held in the Northern Sector sites in February. Staff from Thursday Island, Mabuiag, Saibai, Bamaga PHHC, Bamaga Hospital and Horn Island met with Strategy, Planning and Performance team members Donna Richmond and Debra Smith, to discuss their own services and the opportunities to improve their services into the future.

Thank you to all staff who generously gave their time to contribute to the Service Plan during our visit.

The team will now head to Cooktown and Weipa in March to consult with staff members at their facilities. Consultation is available by videoconference to other sites where the team is not visiting.

Meetings with Community Advisory Groups and broad stakeholder consultation has commenced with other stakeholders, health partner groups and local government representatives.

The Service Plan will provide a review of the HHS’s current services against the expected level of future service demands associated with population and disease burden.

The Plan will help inform operational planning within the HHS to address future challenges.


To find out more information about the Health Service Plan including scheduled visits to service sites please contact the Strategy, Planning and Performance team on TCHHS-SPP@health.qld.gov.au

Nominate someone for their contribution to health care in our region.
Nominations close 26 March.
Training helps with Best Practice

Doune Heppner (Best Practice Support Team) recently travelled to Thursday Island, Bamaga and Horn Island to help staff with the Best Practice patient information system.

The face-to-face training was tailored specifically to staff needs and Doune was able to show staff step-by-step how to get the most from Best Practice.

Doune and Berice Murray are currently finalising 180 step-by-step Best Practice User Guides for staff.

Doune and Berice would like to thank all staff who participated in the Best Practice training. Berice Murray was unable to attend the workshop due to unexpected commitments but sends warm wishes to friends and family in the north.

If you would like help with Best Practice please contact Doune or Berice on 4226 3031 or email: TCHHS-Best-Practice-Support@health.qld.gov.au

Tips for speech development in the home

Torres Strait Island and NPA residents may hear new Senior Speech Pathologist, Lauren Reardon on radio 4Mw in the next few weeks.

Lauren is based on Thursday Island and is an advocate for teaching young children language skills early in the home using books, music, modelling and repetition. For more information contact Lauren on 4030 6188.

Coen staff celebrate milestones

It’s celebration time for the Coen Primary Health Care Centre Health Worker Team.

Dwayne Leonard Hardy Walker has completed his Certificate III (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker) and Senior Health Worker, Desmond P McIvor, has clocked up 20 years of service working for Queensland Health. So the people of Coen are in very good hands with these two! Coen are very proud of both these wonderful Health Workers.

Above: Lauren Reardon, Senior Speech Pathologist, TCHHS (right) and Dayle Bates, Speech Pathologist Education Queensland.

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Lauren is based on Thursday Island and is an advocate for teaching young children language skills early in the home using books, music, modelling and repetition. For more information contact Lauren on 4030 6188.

Above: Morva Wong (left) and Doune Heppner at Bamaga Primary Health Care Centre.
Healthy weight week

Weipa has been given some free advice on healthy eating as part of a national campaign. The community services team from Weipa Hospital shared healthy nutrition messages for Australia’s Health Weight Week at the Weipa shopping centre on 15-21 February. The theme this year was ‘healthy home cooking’ and the team encouraged the community to share their meal ideas to help inspire others. More than 50 adults and 30 children visited the health promotion stall on Thursday after school and Saturday morning.

Aleisha Chanas and Tegan Fahey (Griffith University Nutrition and Dietetic students) handed out yoghurt and fruit as a healthy snack option for shoppers.

“The health promotion stall was a huge success,” said Lisa Joliffe, TCHHS dietitian. “It was a great opportunity to be able to encourage the community to prepare a healthy home cooked meal.”

Social Emotional Wellbeing Team’s CIMHA training

Thursday Island Social and Emotional Wellbeing Team staff enjoyed a three-day training course in CIMHA (Consumer Integrated Mental Health Application) recently.

The application is used to assist and support the management of appropriate and timely health care to consumers.

Kodee said that the team learned about searches, editing, adding consumers, referrals, reporting, electronic clinical notes and the electronic diary. “We had lots of fun during the interactive sessions and used scenarios to help with the training,” Kodee said.

“The team’s improved ability to use CIMHA will support and benefit the community and people of the Torres Strait,” said Kodee.

“Using CIMHA will also provide evidence to showcase the great work already being done by staff on the ground and help identify the potential need for more staff in the future for this team.”

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Thursday Island Hospital’s renal dialysis unit celebrated its first anniversary in February and is already planning for the future.

The new dialysis unit welcomed its first patients on 2 March last year.

Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Board Chair Bob McCarthy said the health service currently was preparing a business plan for further expansion.

“Nearly 400 Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area residents are currently estimated to have some form of chronic kidney disease and many of these eventually will require dialysis, so it’s important that we have additional capacity to deliver this vital service here in the Torres Strait region,” said Mr McCarthy.

The unit currently has six clients. The patients on Thursday Island previously had relocated to Cairns for dialysis but have been able to move back to be closer to friends and relatives.

The Cooktown nurse-assisted renal dialysis unit, which opened in October 2009, has eight chairs and currently dialyses 12 patients.

A web-based electronic health record system has been introduced at the Joyce Palmer Health Service on Palm Island to give clinicians immediate access to patient information at the click of a button.

The Continuous Quality Improvement team at our Rural and Remote Clinical Support Unit sponsored the e-Health pilot on Palm Island as part of a broader program to evaluate the use of e-health technology in remote locations.

The e-health system, known as MMEx, provides an online database that details patients’ whole health record, including care plans, medications and communications.

This patient information can then be shared securely between a range of health professionals and service providers, including visiting specialists and allied health clinicians.

Torres and Cape HHS Chief Executive Dr Jill Newland said the evaluation program involved a consortium comprising the Torres and Cape, Cairns and Hinterland and Townsville health services with Palm Island, off Townsville, selected as the initial pilot site.

“A secure electronic record ensures that all clinical information and history about a patient is available to any health professional, anywhere, who is making treatment or care decisions for that patient,” said Dr Newland.

“This means not just hospital records, but areas like immunisation status and the management of chronic conditions such as rheumatic heart disease, are electronically documented, along with care plans, to create a more complete clinical picture of the patient.”
Locals star in tuberculosis DVD

Jeffrey’s Journey with Tuberculosis

The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service respectfully acknowledges the Traditional and Historical Owners, past and present, within the lands in which we work.

Health staff in the Torres Strait will use an innovative animated educational video to help raise awareness about tuberculosis (TB).

Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service Chief Executive Dr Jill Newland said the video – Jeffrey’s Journey with Tuberculosis – would be a significant educational resource for island communities.

The animated video is a six-minute story about a boy who has been diagnosed with TB and his journey through treatment.

As the story progresses, it delivers clear and simple information about TB prevention, transmission and control in a culturally appropriate manner.

It also dispels a lot of the misinformation about TB. “The majority of people exposed to tuberculosis do not develop the disease,” said Dr Newland.

“As also, TB is spread through air droplets when coughing which are then inhaled by other persons – not by direct skin to skin contact with a person or by contact with surfaces that have been touched by an infected person.”

The video was made in conjunction and consultation with the Saibai Island community and developed as part of the Federal Government-funded Saibai Island Health Protection Strategy.

The voices behind the animated characters are all Torres Strait residents:

- Jeffrey – is Murphy Tabuai from Saibai Island
- Laurence (the father) – is Gregory Waigana from Saibai Island
- Rachelle (the mother) – is Norah Mosby, who is descended from Saibai Island
- Dr Frank – is Phil Enosa from Saibai Island
- Aunty Rhonda (the Health Worker) – is Cecileah Warusam from Saibai Island
- Story narrator – is Eddie Baudau from Saibai Island

Mau Power from Thursday Island-based One Blood Hidden Image Entertainment Group recorded the voices for the video.

Check out the video on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jcEA76f-bY

Submissions

Please email submissions to: TCHHS-COMMS-MEDIA@health.qld.gov.au

Photos of people need to be accompanied by a signed photo consent form.

Phone: Heather Robertson: 4226 5689