

Danielle Cohen

From: news <news@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 17 March 2019 7:41 AM
To: news
Subject: Media report 170319

Hi all,

Below is a summary of today's media clips. The full report can be found here:

<http://report.mediaportal.com/384acb655fb2b9122cfed40b8a7b6971/MonitorReport-15170091-eb0e-4.pdf>

Summary:**State-wide:**

Sporting groups say Queensland kids can't run, jump, kick, throw or catch as well as children from previous generations because they are so inactive.

LNP promises to install a defibrillator in every Queensland school if elected in 2020.

Rise in assaults on Queensland Health staff.

Southeast Qld:

Part of a police officer's liver was removed at PAH and transplanted into his eight-year-old son, who suffered from a rare liver disease. (not in clips -

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/policeman-gives-part-of-his-own-liver-to-save-his-son/news-story/dfcc18c820780369c0af77c527e1a3d6>)

Central Qld:

NPAQ claims a mum was forced to deliver her own baby in a Queensland hospital bed because an overworked midwife was battling to care for 12 women in one shift.

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Danielle Cohen

From: Amy Hunter
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2019 3:51 PM
To: Steven Miles
Cc: Katharine Wright; Danielle Cohen
Subject: FW: from Jackie Deadline 4pm

Hi, Jackie Sinnerton has NPAQ saying they are understaffed at Gladstone. Apparently one midwife was by herself with 12 patients and a woman had to birth her baby by herself (this incident can not be substantiated by Qld Health or CQHHS)

Are you ok with the below response? The departments proposed response is in the email trail below.

Amy

Response from Steven Miles:

The Queensland government stepped in and invested an extra \$1.25 million to upgrade Gladstone Hospital's maternity unit, and hire more midwives, to make up for the services Gladstone Mater closed.

This is in addition to the record \$610 million investment in healthcare for Central Queenslanders in 2018-19.

The closure of Gladstone Mater Hospital's Maternity Services and their announcement this week of their intention to close completely, joins a trend of private health providers closing or reducing services, particularly in regional Queensland.

Last year, the Mater Hospital in Mackay announced the closure of their emergency after-hours service and last month Gympie Private Hospital closed its doors.

Unfortunately, private hospitals around the country are opting to do the same as we see a collapse in private insurance due to rising premiums and the failed policies of the Morrison government.

The fact is Gladstone is losing this hospital because of Scott Morrison's failed policies.

These closures not only reduce community choice, they increase demand on our public hospitals, including surgical procedures and maternity services, right across the state.

We're seeing an increase in Queenslanders who are shifting away from private health insurance and an exodus of Queenslanders from private hospitals.

This is because they can no longer afford private health insurance or there are too many policy exclusions.

Some people with insurance are even choosing to use the public system to avoid thousands of dollars in out of pocket costs from increased excesses and exclusions.

Queensland's public hospitals performed 5% more surgeries in 2017-18, than the previous financial year.

Over recent years, the annual increase in surgeries in public hospitals is more than three times the rate in the private sector.

This growth is only going to increase as more people opt for public health care over private.

The Federal Government needs to step up the regulation of private health insurance. It's entirely on the back of the Morrison government to ensure affordable private health insurance and access to private hospitals.

The commonwealth government should by the Mater Hospital, to try and undo some of the mess they've made.

ENDS

From: Damon Guppy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2019 3:40 PM
To: Katharine Wright [REDACTED]; Amy Hunter
[REDACTED] >
Cc: news <news@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: from Jackie Deadline 4pm

Hi Amy and Kat,

Below is what we're looking at providing Jackie. Without a date, which Jackie or the NPAQ cannot provide, we cannot check to see if the incident happened. It's highly unlikely though.

Can you let me know if there are any issues?

Cheers,
Damon

Please attribute the following to a Queensland Health spokesperson:

Since the closure of Gladstone Mater's maternity unit in October last year, Queensland Health has invested \$1.25 million in expanding Gladstone Hospital's maternity ward.

Most of this funding has been used to recruit maternity staff, including three more midwives and a Deputy Director of Nursing and Midwifery to ensure the upgraded unit continued operating safely and smoothly.

Gladstone Hospital now has 35 midwives (28.7 full-time equivalent) working in the maternity unit. On top of this, 4.4 full-time equivalent neonatal nursery nurses are being recruited to support the unit.

In ensuring high-quality birthing services in Gladstone continued, we listened to concerns raised by the Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union, which is the state's peak professional and industrial organisation for nurses and midwives.

These extra staffing numbers have easily met the slight increase in demand since the closure of the Mater birthing service. Between July 2018 and February 2019, there were 389 births at the hospital, compared with 387 between July 2017 and February 2018.

There are at least three midwives on-duty each shift – morning, evening and night – in Gladstone Hospital's maternity unit and additional staff are called in if there is a spike in activity.

Queensland has no legislated midwifery ratio; instead, we adopt the Business Planning Framework (BPF), which is the mandated tool that assists in determining appropriate nursing and midwifery staff and skill mix levels to meet service requirements.

A midwife-to-patient ratio model is not used to staff our maternity units; instead, many of our hospitals use the Midwifery Group Practice continuity of care model, which ensures women are supported by the same midwives before, during and after the birth of their child.

We have not been informed of this alleged incident.

From: Sinnerton, Jackie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2019 10:24 AM
To: Amy Hunter [REDACTED] >; news <news@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: from Jackie Deadline 4pm

Hi there I was hoping to get some comment on the following thanks.

The Nurses Professional Association of Queensland has reported to us that within the last few weeks a midwife at Gladstone Hospital had to look after 12 women in one shift, which resulted in one patient birthing her baby alone in a ward. The midwife managed to run in just in time to catch the baby with her bare hands, the association says.

Is there a mandatory patient to midwife ratio in maternity? What is a safe ratio?

Does Q Health accept that looking after 12 mothers and babies is impossible, especially when babies need four hourly obs and is possibly unsafe?

The NPAQ says that the staffing at Gladstone has not increased since the closure of the private Gladstone Mater at the end of last year and this has added to the overload of patients. They also say that as country women living near closed down maternity units are being directed to Gladstone to birth and all of this is adding to unworkable understaffing. Can we get a comment on this?

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JACKIE SINNERTON
Journalist



Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006
4001

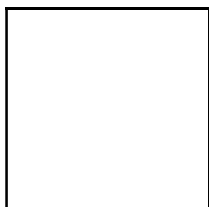
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QH RTI
DISCLOSURE LOG

QH RTI
DISCLOSURE LOG

Danielle Cohen

From: Amy Hunter
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 3:54 PM
To: Damon Guppy; Katharine Wright; Robert Hoge
Cc: Danielle Cohen; news
Subject: RE: Courier Mail - QH Memorandum

Hey I have lines on this from IR minister.
 Can someone give me a call?

Amy

From: Damon Guppy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 1:23 PM
To: Katharine Wright [REDACTED]; Robert Hoge [REDACTED]
Cc: Amy Hunter [REDACTED]; Danielle Cohen [REDACTED];
 news <news@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Courier Mail - QH Memorandum

Hey Kat. There is such a memo. I'll dig it up and get some lines through.

From: Katharine Wright [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 1:19 PM
To: Robert Hoge [REDACTED]; news <news@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Amy Hunter [REDACTED]; danielle.cohen [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Courier Mail - QH Memorandum

Acting chief resources officer Silven Simmons.
 The file reference number on the memo is "C-ECTF-19/1234" if that helps.

From: Katharine Wright
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 1:18 PM
To: Robert Hoge [REDACTED]; 'news' <news@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Amy Hunter [REDACTED]; Danielle Cohen [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Courier Mail - QH Memorandum

Hello, incoming. I've asked Dom who the memo is from because that's not clear. Is it dept?

From: Cameron, Domanii [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 1:14 PM
To: Katharine Wright [REDACTED]
Cc: Amy Hunter [REDACTED]
Subject: Courier Mail - QH Memorandum

Hi ladies,

The Nurses' Professional Association of Queensland has shown me a memorandum that was distributed to Hospital and Health Service Chief Executives on March 13. The memorandum stipulates that the NPAQ is not allowed to represent or advocate on behalf of an employee in relation to an employment matter. They're angry about it and say it's stripping nurses of their rights to choose who they wish to represent them. According to the memo, NPAQ is not an employee organisation registered under the Industrial Relations Act 2016 however the union has told me they don't need to be to represent workers.

Here are some questions;

1. Why was the memorandum issued?
2. Why can't NPAQ represent their members with regards to workplace issues in Queensland Health facilities?
3. The NPAQ believes the memorandum implies that nurses, whether members of the NPAQ or not, can't choose who they want to represent them. What are the Minister's comments around this?
4. Any further comments you wish to add.

I'm writing a story for tomorrow's paper so if you could please send through a response by 5.30pm that would be great.

Thank you,
Dom

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DOMANII CAMERON

Journalist



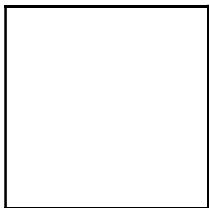
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Danielle Cohen

From: Amy Hunter
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 4:10 PM
To: Steven Miles
Cc: Danielle Cohen; Katharine Wright
Subject: FW: Courier Mail - QH Memorandum

Thoughts on this as response?

Response from Minister for Health and Ambulance Service Steven Miles:

The Palaszczuk Government has a long-standing commitment of dealing with registered organisations who have the right to represent the industrial interests of their members under the Industrial Relations Act 2016.

Nurses' Professional Association Queensland Incorporated (NPAQ) is an unregistered organisation.

Unregistered organisations have none of the reporting and accountability requirements that registered organisations are subject to.

This means NPAQ is not able to formally represent or advocate on behalf of a Queensland Health employee in relation to an employment matter, award or certified agreement.

They're also not permitted to display any material in workplaces that may imply that are entitled to represent the industrial interests of employees.

Staff are still able to join the organisation if they wish, I'm advised the purpose of the memo was to make sure staff were informed of their entitlements for industrial representation.

ENDS**Background:**

Queensland Health recently released a Memorandum to all Executive Directors of Workforce in relation to NPAQ.

The Memorandum details that:

- NPAQ is not an employee organisation registered under the IR Act, and as such is not:
 - Entitled to be a party to an award or certified agreement
 - Is not able to represent the industrial interests of QHealth employees
 - Does not have standing to be a union party in any workplace disputes under agreements or awards
 - Is not permitted to display any material in workplaces that may imply that are entitled to represent the industrial interests of employees
- The *Queensland Government Commitment to Union Encourage Policy* does not apply to NPAQ.
- NPAQ cannot represent or advocate on behalf of an employee in relation to an employment matter.
- In the event NPAQ commences action in the QIRC or another tribunal in relation to QHealth, Employment Relations are to be notified

From: Cameron, Domanii [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 1:18 PM
To: Katharine Wright [REDACTED]
Cc: Amy Hunter [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Courier Mail - QH Memorandum

Acting chief resources officer Silven Simmons.
The file reference number on the memo is "C-ECTF-19/1234" if that helps.

On Tue, 26 Mar 2019 at 1:16 pm, Katharine Wright [REDACTED] wrote:

Who's the memo from?

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Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 1:14 PM
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Cc: Amy Hunter [REDACTED]
Subject: Courier Mail - QH Memorandum

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4. Any further comments you wish to add.

I'm writing a story for tomorrow's paper so if you could please send through a response by 5.30pm that would be great.

Thank you,

Dom

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DOMANII CAMERON

Journalist



Cnr Mayne Road & [Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006](#)

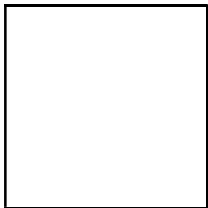


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DOMANII CAMERON

Journalist



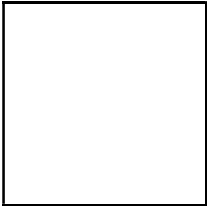
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