



You-Me-Health

Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service Newsletter - November 2016

Bamaga PHCC staff with Michel Lok, Chief Executive, on his visit to the NPA and Thursday Island recently.

Message from the Chief Executive



Above: Michel Lok, Health Service Chief Executive

Thank you to staff at the Northern Peninsula Area and Thursday Island for hosting my visit to facilities last week.

I met with a number of staff and was grateful to be able to discuss their concerns and issues first hand. In Bamaga I spoke with staff about the potential to provide aged care services in the Northern Peninsula Area by implementing a multipurpose health service model at Bamaga Hospital. This would involve converting six beds at Bamaga Hospital to aged care and other living spaces services as

designated within the national aged care standards. It is early days yet but this is certainly something we want to pursue.

Lyn Wardlaw, Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery invited me to Thursday Island to meet with Outer Island Remote Area Nurses. I spoke with RANs from around the northern sector about how we can better support them in their challenges of providing high quality care at the island facilities. As a result of the visit I have a better understanding of the Torres Strait model of care and the practical implications of delivering services under this model.

As always I was struck by the beauty of the region and the friendliness of the staff. I look forward to meeting with many more staff in the coming months.

Regards

Michel

Michel Lok
Health Service Chief Executive

HIV+ speaker visits Coen



Above: Michele Delaforce

Coen Primary Health Care Centre staff welcomed HIV positive speaker, Michele Delaforce, to the community recently to talk with health staff and the community about living with HIV.

Michele spoke to community members in groups about her personal HIV diagnosis and her journey with HIV. Michele was an engaging speaker who gained the confidence of community and was also able to answer questions from community members. Michele also spoke to health and police staff at a breakfast meeting. The feedback was positive and Michele was asked lots of questions.

Michele was then invited back to Coen by RFDS staff, for Melbourne Cup Day, to assist with the 'look good, feel good day' which was a huge success. Michele helped women with their make-up and hair and chatted about sexual health with them while she worked.

Safe food tips



Hot weather and upset tummies don't have to go together if we follow a few simple food safety tips this festive season.

"During the festive period the weather is hot, the fridge is overloaded and we're usually cooking for large groups of people," Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service Weipa Dietitian Lisa Jolliffe said.

Looking to brush up on your raw and risk food knowledge? Take the Raw and Risky Food Safety Quiz at: www.foodsafety.asn.au



News

from the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Board



Seated from left: Ms Tracey Jia, Dr Ruth Stewart, Mr Bob McCarthy (Chair) and Cr Kaz Price. Standing from left: Cr Fraser (Ted) Nai, Dr Scott Davis, Mr Horace Baira, Mr Greg Edwards and Mr Brian Woods.

Summary of Board Meetings October

Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service (TCHHS) Board members met in Cairns on 27 October 2016 and the following matters were among those discussed:

- The Board Chair has been corresponding with the Minister regarding the ongoing costs of premium labour for TCHHS. The Department's

Healthcare Purchasing and System Performance Division will lead a review with the findings to be discussed at the next DoH TCHHS Performance Review meeting on 25 November 2016.

- The Board acknowledged the professionalism and responsiveness of staff from across the HSS and from our partner agencies in response to the Kowanyama mass casualty event.
- A consultant has been engaged to develop an Action Plan for transition of Indigenous Primary Health Services to Community Control for a number of Cape York communities. Regular updates will be provided to the Board.
- There are plans to expand the Thursday Island renal unit services from six haemodialysis machines to nine haemodialysis machines with a potential for further expansion in the future.

The next Board meeting will be held on 1 December 2016.

Farewell Naomi

Farewell and best wishes to Naomi Gallagher, Director of Nursing and Midwifery at Bamaga Hospital who retired in October.

Naomi has been in the role since November 2014. All the staff from Bamaga Hospital, Bamaga Primary Health Care Centre (PHC), New Mapoon PHC, Umagico PHC and Seisia PHC would like to thank Naomi for her two year contribution to the NPA community and wish her all the best in her retirement.



Above: Naomi Gallagher, former Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Bamaga

Alcohol campaign

What's your relationship with alcohol? is a whole-of-government alcohol harm reduction campaign aiming to encourage Queenslanders to stop and consider their drinking behaviours.

From a health perspective, lifetime drinking can contribute to liver cirrhosis, cancer, cardiovascular disease, foetal alcohol syndrome and mental disorders. Check out the resources at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/news-alerts/campaigns/alcohol/default.asp>



Bamaga Hospital Olympics

Northern Peninsula Area staff got into the Olympic spirit in August with their own competitive activities.

Events included rowing and cycling (on the physio room machines), 'guess the volume of fluid in the bag', 'how many cotton balls in the jar' and time trials for putting on Personal Protective Equipment.



From top left clockwise: Medal winners included Cindy Ransfield, Dr Neville Geary, Mary-Ann Sebasio, Emma Pawsey-Webb (with Terry Mehan), and double medallist Les Unwin.



Happy retirement Dulcie



Above: Dulcie Agie, Registered Nurse, Bamaga Hospital.

Staff farewellled Bamaga enrolled nurse Dulcie Agie, who retired last month after being employed with Queensland Health for 34 years.

Dulcie began her career in nursing at Waiben Hospital, which was later amalgamated into Thursday Island Hospital.

Dulcie has seen the health service go through many changes over the decades and she has cared for generations of families in the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA).

Torres and Cape HHS Chief Executive Michel Lok said Dulcie's commitment and hard work with the residents of the NPA community was highly regarded and she would be a great loss to the health service.

Colleagues of Dulcie say that she has always been a happy, hardworking, and respectful worker who also has excellent clinical skills.

"Dulcie is an inspiration and role model, particularly to local residents who are thinking of pursuing a career in health and furthering their clinical skills," Mr Lok said.

"Her local knowledge of language and culture has helped staff to understand and practice with cultural sensitivity and respect.

"Dulcie has been committed to NPA communities and we wish her all the very best in her retirement."

Staff celebrated Dulcie's contribution to Bamaga Hospital and the NPA community with a morning tea.

Nursing scholarship refreshes skills



Above: Shirley-Ann Rowley (left) with her clinical buddy Keris Reis (right), a Badu woman who is now mentoring other nurses in ED.

Torres and Cape HHS Acting Nursing Director, Shirley-Ann Rowley, recently completed a scholarship placement at Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH) and is encouraging other nurses to look out for similar professional development opportunities.

It had been 22 years since Shirley-Ann had a clinical shift but in a six-week placement to help refresh her clinical skills, Shirley-Ann gained new nursing experience in emergency clinics at RBWH. As part her ‘Performance and Development’ (PAD) planm Shirley-Ann completed all the relevant mandatory training CRANA courses then applied for a scholarship for an Emergency Department placement through the Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Support Scheme (NAHSSS).

“I was accepted for a placement at RBWH. I worked with Nurse Educators to develop my Learning Development Plan and learning goals,” said Shirley-Ann.

Over six weeks, Shirley-Ann worked in Resuscitation, Trauma, Triage and Acute.

“I joined Professor Daryl Wall’s Trauma Service for a day. The professor told me that the most important focus for the service was to build ‘collaborative partnerships’ across all specialty areas to ensure the very best outcomes for patients,” said Shirley-Ann.

Shirley-Ann said the experience reminded her how much she loved nursing and how great it is to be part of a dynamic team that cares for people.

“I’m so grateful to the staff who supported and mentored me at RBWH, to NAHSSS for the scholarship, and for the support of my line manager, Lyn Wardlaw, who enabled this journey,” said Shirley-Ann.

New social worker Cooktown region



Above: Gemma Kay, Social Worker

Gemma Kay is the new senior social worker for Cooktown, Laura, Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal.

Gemma has previously worked in Townsville Hospital, Mt Isa Hospital and Cairns Hospital. She also has experience in aged care and as a nursing assistant.

“I’m here to help clients with issues in their everyday life, whether they be relationships, personal problems or family issues,” said Gemma.

Social workers assist people by helping them cope with issues in their everyday lives, deal with their relationships, and personal and family problems.

Social workers also provide specific practical support to patients and their families.

Anyone can ask to speak to a social worker themselves, or ask an allied health team member (health worker, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, dietician), or one of the medical team (doctors/nurses) for a referral.

Gemma’s schedule

Cooktown	Monday, Thursday, Friday
Wujal Wujal	Wednesday
Hope Vale	Tuesdays
Laura	As needed - once a month

To contact Gemma, email Gemma.Kay@health.qld.gov.au or ring 0400 319 868

Regional e-Health Project making gains



Above: Vikki Tierney (centre) with Guy Trezise, Clinical Lead (left), and Andrew Berry, Technical Delivery Manager for the

Torres and Cape HHS staff are helping evaluate tenders for an e-Health solution for primary health care facilities in our region as part of the Regional eHealth Project (ReHP).

Torres and Cape HHS staff supporting the selection process include Vikki Tierney, Manager for Primary Health Care Information Systems and Support; Anna Cleary, Health Worker at Wujal Wujal; Natasha Coventry, Medical Superintendent at Cooktown; Josh Stafford, Director of Nursing (Southern PHCCs); Dr Andrew Scott, Senior Medical Officer, Thursday Island; and Dr Anthony Brown, Director of Medical Services for Thursday Island.

The Regional eHealth Project (ReHP) is a joint initiative between Cairns and Hinterland HHS and Torres and Cape HHS using \$34.95 million in federal funding. The ReHP will develop an innovative and practical eHealth solution to better share patient information and support services provided by Queensland Health staff in regional and remote primary, community and hospital-based care settings across our region.

The 'Request for Solution' is a tender process used to select a system supplier who can work closely with the project team, and our staff, to tailor a system that will meet local needs.

Twenty-one applications have been received from organisations wishing to work with us to effectively develop an eHealth solution. Over the coming weeks the evaluation teams will be carefully assessing these applications to decide which ones will move into the next stage.

"We are delighted with the response from the market so far," said Guy Trezise, Clinical Lead for the project.

Periop Nurses Week

Thursday Island staff celebrated Perioperative Nurses Week by acknowledging the dedicated theatre staff with a cake and an "open morning" in the operating theatre. They had a mock caesarean section set up in the operating theatre and employees were able to look and touch the set ups; don gloves and gowns; and see the anaesthetic equipment.



Profile of Nursing Workforce



Above from left: Clara Billing, Shirley-Ann Rowley, Debi Dean, Keiva Heemi, Fauziah Mosby, Annelise Thompson and Carlie Reeves (not pictured - Rohan Harbert, James Shattock, Jane Davies, Lyn Wardlaw, Sara Worth, Jack Potter, Angela Anderson, Rebecca Kerridge and Sam Schefe).

This month we are profiling the Nursing Workforce team which supports all the nurses in the Torres and Cape HHS.

Nursing workforce provides high level operational support to senior nurse managers. The overarching strategy is to recruit and retain a responsive, high quality nursing workforce. This is underpinned by the strategic vision for nursing services led by the Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery Lyn Wardlaw.

Portfolios for Nursing Workforce includes: Nurse Education, Nurse Navigators, Telehealth, Mental Health and ATODS and Recruitment.

The team is supported by a skilled administration team which provides daily secretariat, communication and general duties to enable timely responsiveness in daily business.

The legal instrument that calculates the number of the nurses required to maintain health services across the TCHHS is the Business Planning Framework. A Statewide steering committee and consultative forum is in place to ensure compliance with and development of resources that accurately reflect the health needs of communities so they are adequately met by an

appropriately trained nursing workforce.

One of the challenges for the team is to maintain robust relationships with all nursing staff across the broad service areas. “It takes a lot of communication, follow-up and rapport to get the administration work turned around,” said Shirley-Ann Rowley, Acting Nursing Director, “particularly when you know that staff are working long hours clinically as well.”

“There is a national nursing workforce shortage at the moment so we work really hard to attract nurses to our health service but once they are here, we do need to retain their commitment to rural and remote nursing,” said Shirley-Ann.

Movember pics

Movember fundraisers from around the HHS are invited to send in their photos and sponsorship pages to TCHHS-comms-media@health.qld.gov.au



to help publicise men’s health issues. Pictured is Ash Turner, Project Manager, Regional Health Partners. Sponsor Ash at <http://mobro.co/lilbromo>

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 5974

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.