Message from the Chief Executive

Above: Beverley Hamerton, Chief Executive

The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service has embarked on a Master Planning exercise which will help us design services for our communities into the next 10 to 15 years.

I have a strong focus on providing quality health care closer to people’s homes. This involves simplifying our telehealth services, listening to the patient experience and planning our workforce, services and infrastructure to provide improved care in our communities.

Staff, members of the public, our stakeholders and other health providers are encouraged to provide feedback to us about their insights for health in our region via our email at TCHHS-Feedback@health.qld.gov.au. We also encourage interested parties to complete our Clinical Services Plan survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WHWVLRX

I’m pleased to see that construction has begun at the Kowanyama Primary Health Care Centre with $3.9 million in new staff accommodation with 12 additional accommodation units for local and visiting medical professionals. There will also be a common area for staff use and a walkway between the accommodation and the PHCC.

The $7.56 million redevelopment of the Aurukun PHCC is almost complete and includes:

- additional consultation rooms
- a new telehealth room and patient education rooms
- consultation space and associated office space for mental health staff
- improved office space
- improved security office and security systems
- a new ambulance bay
- improved lighting and pathways.

Our teams have been very busy finalising our financial year reporting.

I’m pleased to report that we have strong improvements in health care performance and quality over the past 12 months. We have worked with patients and our partners to maintain high levels of childhood immunisation, reduce elective surgery and specialist outpatient waits, increase telehealth use, increase nephrology outreach support, increase ambulatory mental health service contact and reduce potentially preventable hospitalisations.

Well done to all staff. The full annual report is expected to be released in the next 4-6 weeks.

Beverley Hamerton
News
Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Board

Above: Board morning tea with Cairns-based staff

Summary of June Board meeting and activities
The Board travelled to Cooktown on 21 June and visited Hope Vale where Board members met with the Mayor and staff at the Primary Health Care Centre. The Board held a community forum in Cooktown with key stakeholders and staff to discuss the Cooktown Master Plan. The Executive Director of Corporate Services along with the Director of Capital Works and Project Officers delivered a presentation to the community members on the potential Master Planning design.

The Finance and Performance Committee recommended the 2018/19 Budget to the Board for endorsement.

The Board discussed at length options to expand corporate office space in both Cooktown and Weipa, options are continuing to be investigated and this will be reported to the Board monthly.

A report on Time and Attendance status following the recent audit is being tabled each month to the Board for assurance.

Regular updates on the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the impact on the HHS are being provided to the Board with ongoing monitoring as the planning progresses.

A workshop was conducted with Board Members and the Executive Team to develop a governance structure over Major Projects that are underway within the HHS. This includes Capital Works and other Major Planning projects. A structure was agreed upon and the Office of the Chief Executive will be progressing this work.

Above: Board member Kaz Price (right) with Jomay Downes (left) and Sandy Quinn.

Above: Board member Fraser Nai with Sue Muirhead.

Above: Board member Brian Woods meeting staff.

Above: Board members and TCHHS executive staff in Cooktown.
Saibai new ambulance

Above: Our staff and patients have welcomed a new ambulance to Saibai Island which was delivered in June. This photo was taken after the blessing of the new ambulance.

Womens’ health champion

Above from left: Anne-Marie Scully (DON Kowanyama) with Kylie Slade (RFDS).

Kylie Slade, RFDS Chronic Disease Nurse, who works in our Kowanyama Clinic has been largely responsible for the very good cervical screening rates for eligible women in Kowanyama. Of the 349 eligible women (aged 25-74 years) in Kowanyama, 191 have had a cervical screening test (or Pap smear) in the past two years. The participation rate in Kowanyama is 54% and is largely due to the effort and enthusiasm that Kylie puts in to ensuring that eligible women are offered the screening test.

Kylie’s work colleagues wish to acknowledge her passion for the health of the people of Kowanyama. Thank you Kylie!

Board news (cont)

Summary of August Board meetings and activities

The Board met on 2 August (in place of a July Board meeting) and then again on 23 August. Both meetings were held in Cairns.

At the 2 August Board meeting the Board endorsed their support for the TCHHS Values Project which will enable staff to collectively develop a set of shared values that guide the behaviour and decision making in our workplace.

The monthly standing agenda items were tabled and noted including the:

- June Finance Report
- May Performance Report
- July Infrastructure Report
- July Capital Works Report

The Regional eHealth Project and the Transition to Community Control Reports were tabled.

The Board noted the request received from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Branch to complete the Implementation Guide for the Statement of Action towards Closing the Gap in health outcomes.

At the 23 August meeting the Board endorsed the 2017/18 Financial Statements along with the 2017/18 Annual Report. The Board congratulated the Chief Finance Officer and the Finance Team on their hard work to deliver the Statements within the timeline set by the Queensland Audit Office.

The Board noted the inaugural meeting of the TCHHS Investment Governance Committee that on 21 August. The draft terms of reference and reporting structure were provided to the Board. Monthly reports will be provided to the Board following the Investment Governance Committee meetings.

Cairns based staff had the opportunity to meet the Board members at a morning tea held at William McCormack Place in August. It was a great turn out and the Board thanks staff for taking the time to attend and looks forward to another meet and greet in Cairns in the new year.

The next Board meeting will be held in Cairns on 27 September 2018.

Above:

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Kylie’s work colleagues wish to acknowledge her passion for the health of the people of Kowanyama. Thank you Kylie!
Excellence award for transformational patient records project

Barbara Moffatt and Phillipa Sibley have won a TCHHS Continuous Quality Improvement Excellence Award for Improvement in Health Service Quality.

Barbara and Phillipa reviewed more than 30,000 individual records and captured unregistered patients identifying many of the patient mismatches between the information systems at 11 Primary Health Care Centres across Cape York and Northern Peninsula Area.

Barbara and Phillipa spend a lot of their time working away from home working in challenging conditions in back sheds and old morgues.

The team physically identify what medical records are located within the primary and secondary storage areas of Primary Health Care Centres across the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service.

All records are then left in an ordered organised manner for ongoing and future evaluation.

This high quality of work will contribute to improving patient safety and future retention/destruction purposes of our health records and preparing for the transition to RIVeR.

Thank you both for your fabulous team work and hard work and dedication.

Above: Barbara Moffatt and Phillipa Sibley.
Kowanyama and Dauan capital works news

Above: The Capital Works team met with Dauan Island staff and community in July to discuss progress towards a complete replacement of the Dauan Island Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC). The replacement will include a new accommodation facility above the clinic. Since discussions commenced, staff and the community have participated as much as possible to ensure the PHCC design is practical and local design cues such as colour, imagery and language are considered.

The program, which also includes Masig, Ugar, Poruma, and St Pauls PHCCs, will commence early 2019.

Paediatric physio

Above from left: Betty Mareko (TCHHS-North Physiotherapist), Chloe Taifalos (CBH Paediatric Physiotherapist), Antwan Anau, Margarita Nona-Tabua (Mum) and Jane Doepel (TCHHS-North Physiotherapist).

Whilst the paediatricians continued their regular visit to Thursday Island (TI) and outer islands in June, the children needing physiotherapy were also able to access a specialist paediatric physiotherapist on outreach from Cairns Hospital.

The rural generalist physiotherapists on TI had the opportunity to observe and upskill from the specialist physiotherapist as she conducted new diagnostic assessments.

Mapoon morning tea

Queensland Health staff met with Apunipima, My Pathways, Council, Rangers and local community members to welcome Tracy Sekac into her role as the DON Mapoon and Napranum with a morning tea.

The array of food and a ‘welcome pack’ from the staff made for a great morning to yarn and make for a great way forward working together.
Careers expo focuses on health

Staff from the Weipa Integrated Health Service and Napranum PHCC inspired local students to consider a career in health at the ‘Career and Business Expo’ in August.

The career expo is a major annual event for the community and provides an excellent opportunity to showcase our organisation. Several staff members participated at our stall including Clare Iwanko (Clinical Nurse Midwife), Alison Wolfe (School-Based CH Nurse), Jill Lawrence (Health Worker), Brooke Larfield (Dental Assistant), Colleen Neilson (Health Worker), Rhys Mitton (Dental Assistant), Lekisha Dick (Trainee Administration Officer) and Danielle Neilsen (HR).

The expo commenced in the afternoon and the students swarmed through the building. The students were very interested and intrigued by our displays and had many wild and whacky questions...which we attempted to answer!

The day was a success and we intend to build on our ideas and activities each year.

Welcome new graduate nurses

A second group of new nurse graduates started work with us in July with a third group due to start in September.

Polly Stewart and Tiffany Callanan’s graduate program was made possible with funding provided by the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer of Queensland.

As part of this program, in addition to rotating through the main hospitals at Cooktown and Weipa during their first 12 months, Polly and Tiffany will also do placements at Lockhart River and Pormpuraaw. Welcome!
Telehealth champion

Horn Island CNC, Cathy Parker, is a shining example of how to manage telehealth so it runs smoothly for clinicians and patients.

“Cathy is always up to date with upcoming appointments” said Fauziah Mosby, Telehealth Coordinator for the North.

“Cathy makes sure patients are made aware of their appointments well in advance, organises the relevant pathology and cancels with us prior to the appointment if the patient is unable to attend.”

“I'd like to acknowledge Cathy and all the other clinicians that make telehealth work for their communities,” said Fauziah.

“Telehealth allows you to receive the same quality of care closer to home, reduces time away from home and makes it easier for family or friends to attend appointments with you,” Fauziah said.

In the past year, 1457 telehealth consultations were held across the HHS. Telehealth services are available at every health facility in the Torres and Cape.

Above: Cathy Parker, CNC, Horn Island is one of the many TCHHS clinicians who help their patients to get the benefits of telehealth.

16 patients’ vital ear surgery

The day surgery procedures took place in Weipa and the patients are expected to experience almost immediate improvement with their hearing, speaking and learning.

The 16 patients were referred for surgery out of a cohort of 90 patients who underwent audiology assessments at specialist outpatient clinics in Cooktown, Weipa and Lockhart River in May and early June.

Torres and Cape HHS Senior Health Promotion Officer Ear (South) Denise Newman said the ENT surgery initiative was a significant collaboration benefiting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disproportionately affected by hearing issues and that prevention and treatment really has the power to change lives,” she said.

“We are very proud to be involved in the coordination of this program to help address the hearing health of these patients,” said Denise.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children experience some of the highest levels of ear disease and hearing loss in the world, with rates up to 10 times more than those for non-Indigenous Australians.
Midwifery group practice turns one

The Thursday Island Midwifery Group Practice turned one in June.
The service is a all risk continuity of care model covering 14 islands plus the NPA communities. Due to the service, every woman accessing maternity care in the NPA and Torres Strait has a ‘named’ midwife. On average this is 300 women per year. “Women no longer have care from multiple midwives who are strangers to them,” said Gemma Macmillan, Clinical Midwife Consultant.
The model facilitates the development of supportive, respectful and culturally sensitive relationships between women and their midwives,” Antenatal care is provided close to home by the same midwives who will support the women in labour. We also provide postnatal visiting and follow up until the baby is six weeks old.
There are six permanent midwives in the midwifery group practice. Three work in the NPA region and three cover the Islands.
The Midwifery Group Practice works collaboratively with doctors, core midwives, an educator, allied health teams, health workers and Assistants in Maternity, pathology and ultrasound.
“Many people deserve a big thank you for their support this past year as our model came to fruition,” said Gemma.

HIV workshops

Eighteen health workers, nurses and medical staff attended each workshop in order to understand the current issues around HIV, update their knowledge and increase their confidence in prevention, testing and management of HIV. Topics covered were new developments in testing, treatment and prevention; stigma and discrimination; contact tracing and experiences of living with HIV from the perspective of an HIV positive person.
Presenters were from Cairns Sexual Health, Queensland Positive People, ASHM and the Men’s, Women’s and Sexual Health Program. The workshops were held in response to concerns about increases in people being diagnosed with HIV (in particular Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people) in our region.

Two HIV Workshops were held in Weipa and Cooktown in June, funded by TCHHS, organised by the Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) and supported by the Men’s, Women’s and Sexual Health Program.
FSR Financial Systems Renewal Program

Free FSR Online Courses

What courses are available?
- Introduction to FSR
- Change Management Fundamentals
- Finance Fundamentals
- Financial Processes
- Asset Management Fundamentals
- Management Accounting
- With more to come

What if FSR is absolutely not relevant to me?
Many of the courses are designed to be useful no matter where you work in Queensland Health if you ever have to undertake a financial, procurement or asset process.

How long does it take?
Typically, the courses are broken into modules which will take between 7-15 minutes each (so a full course might take between one and three hours).

What if I’m already an expert in this space?
If you are perhaps in a leadership role, why not think of members in your team who might like to build skills and let them know that this free, Queensland Health relevant information that is available to them.

The FSR team - contact us

Above: FSR trainers Sandy Quinn and Jomay Downes (left) and FSR transitional lead Wayne Plummer.

Your Torres and Cape HHS FSR Qualified Trainers Sandy Quinn and Jomay Downes with Transition Lead Wayne Plummer can help with training, process improvements, data management and integration.

As the program progresses we can visit your ward, office, workstation or facility. If you have a question or concern, please ask us!
Contact us: Email: TCHHS-FSR@health.qld.gov.au or phone: 42265904 (Sandy) 42265910 (Jomay) or Wayne 0437125414 or drop in if you are in Cairns or Cooktown.

Above: Leanne Ferguson, Financial Accountant, TCHHS.

The TCHHS FSR program team recently had a chat with Leanne in the finance team at about FSR.

What courses did you recently complete?
The FSR online courses for Introduction to FSR, Finance Fundamentals, Financial Processes, Change Management Fundamentals and Asset Management Fundamentals.

What did you like most about them?
I found the content relevant, engaging and easily understood. It gives you an idea of the big picture and how each task or role fits into the overall workflow within each HHS.

Would you recommend these courses to your colleagues? Why?
The courses are very valuable for all employees throughout Queensland Health.
For those with non-financial roles, it teaches the basics and provides further education in a way that is easy to understand and relate back to your role.
For those working in financial roles, like myself, it further developed my knowledge in areas such as change management and assets. We also provide guidance to other employees regarding financial transactions and I found the content great to be able to refer to for basic financial concepts.
Completing these courses will help prepare us all for the transition to FSR and enable us to make the most of the new system.

A note about data

When transitioning to any new system, one of the most important things to get right is the transfer of data from one system to the other. The FSR Program data team have been reviewing data right across the various areas in FAMMIS to assist each HHS in terms of its overall data quality. New data dashboards have been provided to the Transition Lead and Data Stewards to pinpoint areas of opportunity.
Work experience and trainee news
Cooktown and Weipa

Above: Lucky and Joanne at Cooktown Community Health with mum Tegwyn and baby Nash, for a child health check.

Cooktown MPHS and Weipa Health Service hosted seven Year 10 work experience students collectively from the local schools in June. The students were interested in sampling health jobs to help with career decisions and with Year 11 subject selection.

Corporate Services Officer (HR) Danielle Nielsen worked with the staff and the schools to ensure the policy and procedures are followed for the work experience placements. Danielle and the line managers did a timetable for the week, to ensure the students were given exposure to a variety of interesting experiences.

What the students said:
“Where else would I want to be? I can look at what it is like to be a physio and not have to leave town to do it” Emily.
“I want to get experience in health across the different areas” Mia
“I want to become a nurse in the future so I wanted to come and see how everything works” Tarzha.

Above: Emily, Tarzah and Mia at Cooktown Hospital.

Above: Danielle Nielsen, Frances Wymarra and trainee Lekisha Dick.

Danielle thanked staff for supporting the student’s placements. “Thank you to all our amazing staff on the ground, who continually support and assist the work experience students each year,” said Danielle. “Please don’t underestimate the impact you may have on someone’s life!”

Traineeship in Weipa
Lekisha Dick commenced a school-based traineeship (in administration) at the Weipa Hospital in May. Lekisha is in Year 11 and attends work for one day per week and has about one and half years to complete her school-based traineeship.
Lekisha is working towards Certificate III in Business Administration and she will be supported by Frances Wymarra and Danielle Nielsen.

Above: Lizzie and Katrina, working with the Aged Care residents
'Queensland Health’ wins TI Touch Footy

Congratulations to the ‘Queensland Health’ team that won the Thursday Island annual Social Mix Touch Football on Thursday Island in June. The teams played eight teams over three months from March to June. Go team!

Napranum - Young persons check

The Family Health Unit Men’s Women’s and Sexual Health Program (MWSH) in collaboration with Napranum stakeholders hosted a Mini Community Health Screen at many venues in Napranum over four days.

Like all activities preparation for these events are very detailed and included consultation and collaboration with Napranum Mayor, Council, My Pathways, PCYC and Napranum Primary Health Clinic.

The equipment was packed and unpacked with ease and well-practiced efficiency by the team. Incentives of football singlets, hats and bags topped off the event. Several community members participated in the activity and attributed to its success!

A huge thank you to all the teams who participated.
Farewell Lew Beck

Farewell to Lew Beck who has retired after 14 years with Engineering and Maintenance Services in the southern sector.

Lew began at the old Weipa Hospital in 2004 and moved to Lockhart River in 2016 and continued managing the department from there.

Under Lew’s leadership, Cape York HHS (and later Torres and Cape HHS) were the first rural and remote service in Queensland to:

• Install purpose built generators that powered the PHCCs and on-site accommodation at all our locations in the south.
• Install reserve water tanks and pressure systems at all the PHCCs and accommodation.
• Install substantial solar power arrays at all the PHCCs and at the Cooktown Hospital.
• Research, develop and install a building management system across the Cape that allows us to remotely monitor and control generators, fridges and other equipment and receive alarms when these machines begin to operate outside the design parameters. This has greatly reduced the need for BEMS to travel to the communities.
• Install high powered UV lighting to our air handlers at Cooktown and Weipa, Bacti-gas infusion to the handlers at Weipa and the UV to most split AC systems in the PHCCs to control mould growth and reduce maintenance costs.

Farewell Lew and thank you for all your innovative solutions!

Hope Vale Council awards staff for NAIDOC

Above: Gina O’Brien, Hilary (Billie) Barret and Julie Ross. (Not pictured: Kay Gibson, Clinical Nurse)

Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council awarded four of our wonderful nurses at Hope Vale Primary Health Care Centre with a NAIDOC ‘Because of her we can’ Award in July. Congratulations to Gina O’Brien, Billie Barret, Julie Ross and Kay Gibson.

Farewell Lisa

Above: Jenny Aspinall, Tracy Sekac, Lisa Jollife and Mary Hindmarsh

Dietician Lisa McGuire (nee Jolliffe) was farewelled by staff in Weipa with a beautiful gift from Aurukun Art Centre.

Lisa has been with Torres and Cape HHS for four and a half years and has impressed everyone with her dedication and passion for the job. We wish her well in her new role in Brisbane.
Nurse Navigators support 1100 patients

The Nurse Navigator team has looked after more than 1000 clients across the region since they were established in March 2017.

Nurse Navigators facilitate the health care journey for complex patients to improve their health outcomes in both the short and long-term.

Nurse Navigators have had a significant impact in improving attendance and access for women from five of our most poorly serviced Cape York communities to BreastScreen services. This year 78 women were supported to attend Breast Screening in Cairns from Pormpuraaw, Aurukun, Lockhart River, Kowanyama and Bamaga. Most of these women would probably not have been able to attend for their breast screens without Nurse Navigation assistance. Appropriate follow up and individualised, supported medical review where needed, is also now being implemented by the Nurse Navigator team.

The Torres and Cape HHS Nurse Navigators played a central support and coordination role for the 21 Pormpuraaw and Kowanyama high risk community members who had to be evacuated before Cyclone Nora hit the Cape.

Nurse Navigators were able to ensure a named, local and known contact person for all of these vulnerable individuals, whilst they were away from their communities. They were also able to liaise with Cape York PHCC staff to coordinate ongoing, specific health care requirements, equipment and medicines, as well as arrange specialist medical reviews in Cairns where needed, whilst engaging appropriate local stakeholders at Cairns Hospital, Anglicare, Red Cross, Apunipima and Mookai Rosie to ensure maximum and continuous care and health service access for this group of people.

The team then ensured appropriate and seamless discharge back to community, once the emergency had passed.

Torres and Cape HHS now has 10 nurse navigators, two Indigenous support officers and a project officer across the region. All are kept extremely busy helping patients to navigate the health system in their communities, in Cairns and further afield.

For more information visit the webpage at TCHHS-nurse-navigator-service@health.qld.gov.au

Maternal and child health check Tagai

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program based on Thursday Island conducted Child Health Checks at Tagai State College, Thursday Island Primary Campus during in June. The MCH program were supported by the Medical and Admin Staff, Quality Lifestyle Program, Oral Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing programs.

The team screened 250 plus children from Year 1 to Year 6 which was well supported by the school as they provided two classrooms to conduct the health checks. We also had the opportunity to participate in the school parade, parent interviews, Under 8’s Day and sports day promoting the health checks and providing feedback to families on their child’s results.

The children went through different stations where they had various health checks such as height, weight, BMI, HB, BP, general appearance, healthy kai kai, social and emotional, oral health, vision, hearing and urine test. Health education was provided at each station.

Under 8’s Day on Thursday Island

Chris Paea (podiatrist) and Fiona Crouch (social worker) represented the TCHHS Northern Allied Health team at the recent Under 8’s day on Thursday Island.

The theme was celebrating language and culture which we did through an ‘Amazing Race’ obstacle course. The children climbed the Pyramids of Giza, Great Wall of China and Uluru with an animal theme in each picture and tackling the bag the Tongan and New Zealand way. The lovely paintings were completed by a Sue Bowler (maternal and child health).

We had at least 100 children (it seemed like way more as they keep coming through several times) complete the obstacle course during the two hours of operation. It was good to see families supporting their children through the obstacle course which created the opportunity to yarn with families about the overall Allied Health service provision in the Torres.

Each activity integrated knowledge or a skill which is required for kids to grow into happy and healthy adults - from gross and fine motor, language comprehension and disability awareness. This was an opportunity to showcase the skills and the promotion of Allied Health to community and parents.
Thongs donated to Cape York

“Often, when patients or clients from remote communities turn up at the local airport to board a flight to Cairns to access medical services, they may not have appropriate footwear,” she said.

“Without footwear, they cannot board their flights – as there is a legal requirement for footwear.

“If we cannot source some form of footwear from somewhere for them quickly, they might miss their flight and have to be rescheduled.

“But thanks to this generous donation from the Caboolture and Kilcoy hospitals, we will be able to keep supplies of footwear on hand at local community airports or the local primary health care centre and have them ready to distribute if someone turns up for a flight without footwear.”

Caboolture Hospital Nurse Navigator Nikia Goldsmith said the thong donation initiative had been supported broadly by staff at both hospitals, as well as by business organisations.

“We did the thong drive as part of our annual ‘Kindness in July’ initiative,” she said.

Ms Goldsmith said she and other Nurse Navigators had become aware of the footwear issue in remote communities at a state-wide Nurse Navigator induction held in Brisbane earlier in the year by the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer.

The thongs will be delivered to Torres and Cape nurse navigators in the next few weeks and they will distributed to our communities.
Our Consumer Advisory Committee has grown from four members when first established in September last year to seven.

The expansion of the committee from four to seven members also has allowed the group to elect a formal chair. New Torres and Cape HHS Consumer Advisory Committee Chair Robert Tamwoy is a resident of Umagico in the Northern Peninsula Area, while Deputy Chair Wally Shibasaki is from Thursday Island.

The committee meets quarterly in different parts of the region and has provided some excellent feedback to the Torres and Cape HHS since it was established.

Pictured is the group at its most recent meeting in Weipa in late June (from left) Wendy Phineasa (Bamaga), Will Luthi (Cooktown), Robert Tamwoy (Umagico – Chair), Wally Shibasaki (Thursday Island – Deputy Chair), Lenore Casey (Hope Vale) and Lou Norgard (Cooktown). Inset: Alo Tapim (Mer Island).

A total of 128 students plus 206 community members underwent young person’s health checks at the Thursday Island Tagai State College and across the Northern Peninsula Area in July.

Senior Public Health Officer Mario Assan said extensive stakeholder and community engagement was run prior to the health check program and this proved the key to gaining strong support and ensuring a high participation rate.

Mr Assan said the health checks included screening for sexually transmissible infections (STIs).

“In the Northern Peninsula Area, we enlisted community peer recruiters to encourage other young people to participate in the program.

“The peer recruiters promoted the health checks program, engaged with their peers and recruited young people to undertake the tests.”

Incentives of vouchers, T-shirts, NRL jerseys and store vouchers were available for participants in the NPA.

Register now for the Mount Franklin Cardiac Challenge. This iconic fundraising ride from Cairns to Cooktown raises funds for cardiac services in Far North Queensland. Since its inception, more than $2 million has been raised, making an incredible difference to cardiac services provided. Each year up to 350 riders and their support crew raise up to $350,000. Visit www.fnqhf.org.au/events

Consumers committee expands

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