Message from the Chief Executive


Well done to the team on Thursday Island for establishing the new locally controlled Tuberculosis (TB) Control Unit which started operations on 1 January 2016. Responsibility for the management of TB in the Torres and Cape HHS was transferred to the health service from the Cairns and Hinterland HHS.

The TB Control Unit, based at Thursday Island Hospital, is well-placed to take responsibility for the delivery of TB services on the ground. This gives Torres Strait and Cape York communities a greater sense of local control.

A building adjacent to the southern side of Thursday Island Hospital has been refurbished with a consultation room, waiting area, offices and staff facilities as the home of the new TB Control Unit.

Cairns will continue to provide tertiary hospital support for acutely ill TB patients from the Torres Strait and Cape York.

Jill

New Executive Director of Medical Services

Welcome to Dr Kate McConnon our newly appointed Executive Director of Medical Services, who commenced in January.

Dr McConnon’s background is in general practice prior to her working as Assistant Director of Human Resources, with her clinical role with Victoria Police. Kate later returned to public hospital management as Deputy Chief Medical Officer at Eastern Health and then as the Director of Medical Governance at Royal Melbourne Hospital. Dr McConnon holds a Masters Degree in Health Management and qualifications in aviation medicine and risk management. Her interests include health policy in integrated care, and she is currently studying the association between organisational culture and health outcomes, the subject of her PhD thesis.

Men’s and Women’s Health Teams promote STI testing

The Mens, Womens and Sexual Health teams (South) (pictured above) met in January and have developed a focused and coordinated response to increasing testing rates for sexually transmitted infections (STI) throughout the Southern Sector.

The teams will be working to support Primary Health Care Centres to increase STI screens for those aged between 15-40 years.

Team Coordinator, Jessie Chenery, said that testing is everyone’s responsibility. “We have an outbreak of syphilis across northern Australia which is affecting communities in our region,” she said.

Staff are here to support, educate, provide expert advice and to build the capacity within the Primary Health Care Centres to increase STI testing.
News from the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Board

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

Summary of Board Meeting

Induction and Strategic Plan Workshop
The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Board met in Cairns on Thursday 28 January. New Board member Kaz Price was inducted and has been appointed as a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and Safety and Quality Committee.
Topics discussed included:
• future use of the Weipa Old Hospital site
• provision of morgues on additional islands
• staff housing in the Torres Strait
• review of pharmacy services
• increase in own source revenue
• Northern Queensland Health Leadership Charter between TCHHS and NQ Primary Health Care Network

The Board and Executive Management Team met again on Friday 29 January to review the current Strategic Plan for the 2016/17 financial year, and to review accountability mechanisms for delivery, monitoring and reporting. A progress update on the service planning progress was provided to Board members.
The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday Island on 18 February 2016. The Board will take the opportunity to visit facilities on some of the islands and meet with members of the Torres Shire Council and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council about pertinent issues including morgues.

Working towards a Health Service Plan
A Health Service Plan for the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service is currently being developed under the leadership of the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Board. The Health Service Plan 2016–2026 (the Plan) will provide information on the health profile of the resident population, detailed analysis of service trends, and include strategies to address current and future challenges. The Plan will serve as a foundation planning document for the Board and Chief Executive Officer, and will be used to inform operational planning across the HHS.
All staff are invited to contribute to the development of the Plan by participating in staff working groups, staff surveys or by attending consultation sessions. Community members, community groups and other health service providers will also be invited to participate during the consultation phase of the planning. The plan is due to be completed in May 2016.
For further information or to provide your feedback:
• Email your questions or written submission to TCHHS-SPP@health.qld.gov.au

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

Please email any questions to TCHHS-Board-Chair@health.qld.gov.au
Medical imaging accreditation success

Above: Alfredo Hall (Radiographer/Sonographer) (left) and Joe Bon (Medical Imaging Master) presenting Kirsty McMurtrie with a thank you gift for her help in the medical imaging accreditation success.

Medical Imaging across the Torres and Cape HHS has been successfully accredited with the Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation Scheme (DIAS).

Congratulations to all four hospitals and Primary Health Care Centres at Lockhart River, Coen, Wujal Wujal, Aurukun, Pormpuraaw and Kowanyama. Saibai, Boigu and Hope Vale are expected to be accredited in the next six months.

The scheme requires medical imaging sites to maintain set standards regarding levels of care, documentation, incident reporting, referrer and patient satisfaction as well as maintaining the highest standards of clinical practice.

“In November 2015 we undertook the final and most comprehensive stage of DIAS accreditation. A huge effort was put in by the medical imaging clinicians to ensure that Torres and Cape HHS achieved accreditation,” explained Radiographer, Steve Wallin.

Kirsty McMurtrie from Radiology Support in Brisbane supported staff by spending hours ensuring all DIAS standards were documented and administered.

“Thanks to her fantastic efforts, and the efforts of the X-ray Operators, Radiographers and Sonographers across the TCHHS, all imaging sites have fulfilled and submitted the requirements for the DIAS Audit,” said Steve.

In gratitude, the staff of Thursday Island, Weipa and Cooktown imaging departments were delighted to present a fantastic piece of Torres Strait art (by local artist Laurie Nona of Badu Island) to Kirsty for all her hard work.

The Department of Health and Ageing administers DIAS accreditation.

Coen welcomes first student nurses

Above: Student Nurses Elsie Kay and Imogen Dixon.

Coen Primary Health Care Centre has welcomed two student nurses who have started a Professional Experience Placement.

Elsie Kay and Imogen Dixon are enrolled in a Bachelor of Nursing degree and travelled all the way from the University of Tasmania in Hobart for their two week placement.

“This is the first time that a nursing placement has been held at our small, remote, two nurse clinic and we are very excited about it,” said Cathie McNamara, Clinical Nurse Consultant, at Coen. “We wish the nurses well and hope that their placement is exciting and full of learning!”

Tracey graduates with Masters

Above: Tracey Sekac

Congratulations to Tracey Sekac, Community Services at Weipa Integrated Health Service. Tracey recently received her Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner). “After two years of very hard work, I am very relieved to have it finished,” said Tracey. “I hope to become registered as a Nurse Practitioner in the coming months and work in the area of Diabetes and Chronic Disease.” Well done Tracey!
Richard gains Cert IV

**ABOVE: Richard Mola, Mens Health Worker, Thursday Island.**

**Congratulations to Richard Mola who recently received his Certificate IV Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice).**

Richard is based at the Thursday Island Primary Health Care Centre and has worked in the Men’s and Women’s Health Program on Thursday Island for 13 years as the Men’s Health Worker.

Richard said the Certificate IV training was very useful. “It provides the essential skills, knowledge and abilities to fulfil the health worker role and responsibilities,” Richard said. “The course also helps health workers to develop their knowledge in regards to the health worker scope of practice.”

Richard recommended the Certificate IV saying that it helps health workers to identify their own strengths in order to plan their journeys in the future.

“This course introduces health workers to the key elements of primary health care and how to build and develop their capacity in delivering clinical primary health care services to our Indigenous communities, such as how to:

- assess a client’s physical wellbeing
- plan, implement and monitor health care in a primary health context
- deliver primary health care programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- administer medications
- support the safe use of medications.”

On successful completion of the Cert IV (Practice) you can apply to AHPRA to be a registered Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner.

Christmas on Thursday Island

**Thursday Island staff celebrated Christmas in style in December with a dress-up and decoration competition, and BBQ. Prizes were donated by staff.**

**ABOVE: The Maternity team won the award for Best Decorated Department.**

**ABOVE: The Medical Records Group were runners up for Best Decorated Department. Paul McGuire (centre) won Best Dressed Male.**

**ABOVE: Gwen Ketchell took out the Best Dressed Female Award.**
7 Habits training
95% satisfaction rate

Staff who attended the 7 Habits training session in Cairns in January reported a 95% level of satisfaction and stated that the session was well facilitated, fantastic and a highly beneficial program with high quality resources.

The 7 Habits training sessions are based on the content from The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, authored by Stephen Covey, which is considered one of the most impactful books ever written on personal effectiveness, leadership development and change.

The program aims to develop leadership effectiveness in TCHHS, increase team engagement, improve communication skills, strengthen relationships and create a framework for creating a highly effective culture. This will work in conjunction with the new Line Manager Program being developed.

Further sessions will be conducted in Cairns and Thursday Island in February and March 2016. For further information about the program, contact Melissa Dalzell, Learning and Development Coordinator on 4226 5673 or on email at TCHHS-Learning@health.qld.gov.au

Above from left: 7 Habits Facilitator Melissa Dalzell, with Gordon Mayne, Michelle Guilliatt (behind) and Deb Jolley.

New Line Manager Training Program

A new Line Manager Training Program and Tool Kit is currently being developed for TCHHS Line Managers for 2016. The program is currently in the analysis stage and will be implemented later in the year.

The Learning and Development team have recruited a Learning and Development Project Coordinator, Denise Mansfield, for six months especially to develop and implement this project. Denise has been conducting meetings with many Line Managers across TCHHS and has also sent out a survey direct to line managers to gain additional information to help develop the program.

A Line Manager Training Program Reference group is due to commence meeting shortly and will ensure that the training program is relevant and applicable to TCHHS Line Managers.

Denise says, “The positive response to this project has been amazing, all the line managers I have spoken to see a definite need for this type of training program and have provided me with valuable information and some excellent ideas too.”

The Line Manager Training Program is part of a raft of initiatives to support TCHHS staff and Line Managers. It will interlink with the new 7 Habits training sessions (see article on this page).

If you would like to provide your contribution to the Line Manager Training program then please contact Denise Mansfield on 42263030 or email Denise.Mansfield@health.qld.gov.au

Above: 7 Habits facilitator Melissa Dalzell, with Gordon Mayne, Michelle Guilliatt (behind) and Deb Jolley.

Above: The Learning and Development Team - Denise Mansfield, Ann Thompson, Melissa Dalzell and Danni Brown.

Above: 7 Habits participants Yvonne Mangan, Allyson Cousens & Julie Smith

Above: The Learning and Development Team - Denise Mansfield, Ann Thompson, Melissa Dalzell and Danni Brown.
Telehealth expands and trials iPads

Aurukun and Badu Island Primary Health Care Centres are currently trialling Telehealth technology using iPads.

“The iPads use a Skype-like Queensland Health application to connect clinician and patient for a consultation or patient review,” said Torres and Cape HHS Chief Executive Dr Jill Newland.

“The beauty of the iPad is it allows telehealth technology to be taken to the patient or client, wherever they are in the health facility, rather than the patient or client having to go to where the video-conferencing equipment is being held,” Dr Newland said.

“As access to telecommunications network services improve in rural and remote areas, our staff members eventually will be able to take the iPad to a patient or client's home and hold the review or consultation there.

“The potential uses of the technology are truly exciting.”

Patient-dedicated telehealth services in the area are now available at every health facility in the region.

“This means all our patients and clients have access to routine consultations and follow-up reviews with specialists and other clinicians without having to travel outside their community, and makes it easier for family or friends to attend appointments.”

Telehealth uses high definition cameras to link medical specialists and other clinicians with patients in real time appointments through video-conferencing.

“Telehealth is really opening up a whole new world for health care in regional and remote areas like ours by providing specialist care without the need for travel.”

Dr Newland said the use of telehealth in the Torres Strait, Cape York and Northern Peninsula Area regions had nearly doubled in recent years.

“We recorded a total of 407 non-admitted (outpatient) telehealth services in both 2013 and 2014,” she said.

“But in just the first nine months of 2015, up to 30 September, we had already recorded 708 non-admitted telehealth services.

“The increase in the use of telehealth obviously reflects the greater availability of appropriate patient-dedicated video-conferencing equipment at all our health facilities,” she said.

Saibai kids make ‘Portion Plates’

Every child at Tagai College Saibai Island is the proud owner of a ‘Portion Plate’ thanks to a Healthy Eating Initiative created by our resident Senior Nutritionist Natalie Orero.

Through the Saibai Island Project, and with the support of the Quality Lifestyle Team and Ghislaine Wharton (Eye Nurse), each child on Saibai Island participated in several Healthy Eating Workshops. Alice Pearson (Renal Health Worker) and Edna Sambo (Manager of the Health Program), taught the students about what kinds of foods were best to keep their bodies healthy and strong, and just how much food is the right amount. Each child designed and coloured a Portion ‘Picture’ Plate that was then manufactured into their very own portion plate. There would be very few homes on Saibai Island without a hand-crafted portion plate on the dinner table and an enthusiastic junior advocate for healthy eating.

Great job Team! A big win for Healthy Lifestyle.
Making Tracks in Cultural Capability

Thursday Island staff joined in the week-long promotion of ‘Making Tracks towards closing the gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders’ in late January. Maria Tapim (Program Coordinator, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Program) sent out fact sheets to all staff regarding Making Tracks policy, guidelines and also information on the artwork of the Making Tracks design.

“We also flew the making tracks flag and showed cultural capability videos,” said Maria.

Maria also facilitated the first Cultural Practice Orientation for 2016 with 20 participants. The Making Tracks week ended with a healthy afternoon tea and a photo shoot with the staff wearing Making Tracks shirts and Kombat Chronic Disease (KCD) and Indigenous Identification shirts.

Maria said that more shirts have been ordered and another event will be planned.


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