Message from the A/Chief Executive

I am extremely pleased to confirm that our Health Service has maintained its accreditation status against the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards, National Standards for Mental Health Services (NSHMS) and Quality Improvement Council (QIC) Health and Community Services Standards (6th ed).

Not only have we maintained accreditation status, but we achieved ‘met with merit’ for three individual criterion - one within Standard 1 (Governance for Safety & Quality in Health Service Organisations) and two within Standard 7 (Blood and Blood Products). There were no unmet or partially met Standards. This is an outstanding achievement. I congratulate all staff involved in this success.

On another note congratulations to our nurse educators (pictured above) who recently won a national Excellence in Education Award with CRANAplus.

This is a fantastic recognition of the many passionate and proactive staff and teams that we have in the Torres and Cape HHS.

We have more than 300 nurses and midwives working across our four hospitals and 31 primary health care centres. The nurse educator team has been recognised for the outstanding work they do in helping our nurses and midwives maintain their training and clinical education standards.

Also congratulations to the Men’s, Women’s and Sexual Health program (South) (see story right) who were finalists in the Queensland Health Excellence Awards in the Promoting Wellbeing category.

The team has worked behind the scenes to improve STI and BBV screening and management, reporting, staff orientation, pathology processes, education and professional support. Well done to the team.

I was also proud to see the collaborative efforts of staff at the Bamaga Hospital Open Day recently. Whilst in the NPA I was able to meet with some of our key partners and stakeholders.

As the year draws to a close I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the many staff members who will be working over the holiday and festive season. Thank you for your dedication to our communities.

Regards

Terry

Aurukun team checks 195

Above: Teamwork at the Aurukun Young Person Check.

The Family Health Team has completed another successful Young Person’s Screen.

A community screening event was held in Aurukun in October. The screening event is the fourth community-wide screen hosted by the TCHHS (South) Men’s Women’s and Sexual Health Program in 2017.

Young people between the ages of 15-39 years were invited to attend the offsite remote clinic at the Cape York Employment Training Centre. Participants consented to a urine and blood test to check for Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Blood Borne Viruses.

It was a huge effort from all involved and resulted in 195 people being screened which was 65% of the age group in the community.

A massive thanks to Cape York Employment, Tropical Public Health Unit, Apunipima, and an enormous thank you to the peer recruiters who worked tirelessly to encourage the young people of Aurukun to participate in the event!
Summary of November Board meeting and activities

The Board met in Cairns on 23 November 2017 and the following matters were among those tabled:

• The Board discussed the staff survey results and acknowledged the comments and trends reported. The Chief Executive explained the process underway to convene working groups to build on the positive and improve on the negative issues raised in the survey.

• The Board are pleased to hear of staff training that is scheduled for 2018 including cost centre manager training and training that is being facilitated through the Clinical Excellence Division.

• The HSCE updated the Board on the development of a Performance and Accountability Framework. The Framework will include governance principals as documented in the current Governance Framework as this will be devolved into one document.

• The Board endorsed the Regional eHealth Project (ReHP) from Stage 3 – Implementation Planning Study and Business Case into Stage 4 – Detailed Design and Configuration.

• Discussion occurred in relation to Data Quality Processes in the HHS.

• The Board expressed their support in the development of a Project Management Office as this will improve project management governance, standardise templates and tools, and assist in reporting up to the EMT and Board.

Regular reports were noted:

• Finance Report (Oct 2017)
• Performance Report (Sept 2017)
• Infrastructure Report (Nov 2017)

The Board also met with new Auditor-General, Brendan Worrall, and Assistance Auditor-General, Poopalasingam Brahman.

The next Board Meeting will be held in Cairns on 30 January 2018.
Above from left: Tara Noonan, Jessica Stecko and Yvonne Mandie at the health check.

Weipa young person checks done

Health screening at the Western Cape College (Weipa campus) is complete for 2017.

The Family Health Unit based in Weipa completed Young Person’s Health Checks at the Western Cape College for grades 10, 11 and 12 this year. Consent forms were obtained from each student’s parent or guardian and a total of 131 health screens were completed on the school campus using a travelling clinic approach.

Follow up from multi-disciplinary teams has provided on a return visit to the school to ensure the best outcomes for the young adults.

Special thanks go out to the Community Services Team and the Western Cape College for their involvement. A job well done and we look forward to future events in 2018.

Above: Dental van at Bamaga Junior Campus.

NPA leading dental research

Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) school children have been involved in a major research project that could have lasting impacts on their oral health.

The research led by Griffith University investigates the cost-effectiveness and cost-benefits of a single annual professional intervention for the prevention of childhood dental caries.

Funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC) the team worked with the Torres and Cape HHS Dental Clinic, our Well Children’s Health Check Team (led by Karyn Sam) and the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) Regional Council to visit students over three years at Bamaga Junior and Senior Campuses and Injinoo Primary School. Over 210 students were examined in the October visit this year.

The intervention involved swabbing the teeth with povidone iodine, applying fluoride varnish, and placing sealants where indicated. The team believes the findings will have applications to remote communities worldwide.

Dental complications are the most common causes for emergency MediVac in remote Australia and it is hoped this project will contribute not only to the promotion of oral health within the community but also reduce the costs involved with managing preventable dental emergencies.

The team donated dental equipment to the Torres and Cape HHS at the conclusion of the research.

More line manager training recruits

Staff upgraded their line management, recruitment and selection skills at one of our popular line manager training sessions in Cairns in November. From left Graeme Port, Dave O’Laughlin, Jenna Millward, Avalon Roberts, Adrian Spencer, Jill Lawrence and Gloria Wallis.
Bamaga Hospital Open Day

The Bamaga Hospital open day was a great opportunity for the community to come and see the services at the hospital and how the hospital works collaboratively with the primary health centres.

“Without the help of so many hands both in the lead up to and on the day of the event, the day would not have been a success,” said Lucy Pullen, Director of Nursing, Facility Manager at Bamaga Hospital. “It was great to see staff from the NPA and Thursday Island working collaboratively, from TCHHS and NPA Regional Council as well as Queensland Police Service and Queensland Ambulance Service.”

Above: Margaret Whitehead (Diabetes Educator), Dr Peter Christensen and Andrea Mann (Acting Director of Nursing and Midwifery North) enjoying the Bamaga Hospital open day today.

Above: NPARC Mayor Edward Newman, Morva Wong and Tomasina Ahwang.

Above: Some of the team and supporters.

Above: Sawadu Dai and young Denise at the Bamaga Open Day.

Above: Adam Marston (QAS OIC) demonstrating CPR techniques with Gayle Kiesling, Ethlias Jawai, with Lucy Pullen (Director of Nursing, Facility Manager) looking on.

Above: Some of the team and supporters at the end of the day.
Senior health worker workshop

Senior health workers from across the north met in Thursday Island in November for a planning and training workshop.

Above: Aggie Hankin (Central Cluster Coordinator), Louise Ghee (Top Western Cluster Coordinator), George Morseau (Western Cluster Coordinator), Sainty Kaigey (Eastern Cluster Coordinator).

Above: Gina Joe (Maternal & Child Health Thursday Island) Debra Nona (Child & Maternal Health – Thursday Island), Charlotte Tamwoy (Director of Primary Health Care – North).

Above: Marsat Ketchell (Program Manager – Social Emotional Well-Being), Kutchie Nona (Health Centre Manager - Horn Island), Sainty Kaigey (Eastern Cluster Coordinator), George Morseau (Western Cluster Coordinator).

Weipa evacuation drill - 9 minutes

Every Torres and Cape HHS facility was asked to conduct a complete evacuation drill in preparedness for the coming wet season. The scenario was a suspicious parcel located at the main entrance to the facility.

Weipa facility conducted a full evacuation including aged care. Weipa commenced their evacuation at 7.15am with all persons out by 7.24am.

These drills are an annual event as a part of our emergency preparations week and monitored through our Emergency Planning Committee. In preparation for the wet season, 104 staff from across the HHS attended video conference sessions during the Emergency Preparation Week, in October.

Let’s hope the training isn’t required this wet season!
Cairns fire: this is not a drill

Above: Fire wardens David Woodman (PHCISS) and Tae Jostsons (Regional eHealth Project) successfully evacuated a building following a real fire in the Cairns building.

Staff at our Regional eHealth Project (ReHP) and PHCISS* office at Bunda Street in Cairns were put to the test in November with a real fire.

The fire occurred on level 1 of the building and it was quickly realised that this was not a drill! Emergency responses were put into action: meetings were halted and staff filtered out from offices and cubicles following the evacuation route, down the stairwell to the designated safe area.

Credit must be given to the two fire wardens who oversaw the transition of staff to safety: Tae Jostsons (Regional eHealth Project) and David Woodman (PHCISS), identifiable by their red helmets and calming directives, ensured everyone was safe and at the assembly point, ready for employee roll check.

David said it was a successful evacuation as staff were fast to respond and followed fire drill protocols. “Staff responded well given many lost access to laptops and personal items for an extended period of time. The change from the alert tone to the evacuation tone happened very quickly and many staff evacuated directly from meeting rooms, limiting their opportunity to prepare for evacuation during the alert phase,” said David.

Tae said that pre-planning and staff awareness is crucial to ensuring a smooth evacuation. “It is important that new staff members complete the mandatory online fire and evacuation training and are shown the evacuation meeting point within their first week. Knowledge of staff whereabouts and keeping an updated staff list situated with the Fire Warden helmet, ready to go in case of an emergency.”

*Primary Health Care Information System and Support.

Project to support PHCCs

Above: The team at Yam Island PHCC - Aggie Hankin, Acting Cluster Coordinator Central, Paula Marshall, CNC Coordinator, Michael Baragud, Operational Services Officer, Millar Aki, Generalist Health Worker, Salome David, Advanced Health Worker, Tracey Cuthbertson, Project Manager, Sandra Higgs, Relieving Clinical Nurse Consultant.

A Commonwealth and State partnership initiative commenced in the Torres Strait region in October and has a focus on addressing blood borne viruses (BBV) such as hepatitis B and C, HIV and surveillances on sexually transmitted diseases (STI) and chronic diseases.

This initiative will be measuring the risks and prevalence of communicable and chronic diseases throughout the Torres Strait region and is an expansion from the successful Saibai Island project.

The BBV, STI and Chronic Disease team will be undertaking continuous quality improvement programs at all the Torres Strait outer island primary health centres over the next six months. During October, Yam Island Primary Health Care Centre was visited and provided great support to the visiting team towards improved health service delivery.

In November, the BBV, STI and Chronic Disease Project Manager, Tracey Cuthbertson and Clinical Nurse Consultant Coordinator, Paula Marshall travelled to Canberra for the Australasian Sexual Health Conference to make new connections and sourced innovative ideas of improving sexual health and wellbeing in our Torres Strait community.

Left: Tracey Cuthbertson and Clinical Nurse Consultant Coordinator, Paula Marshall at the Australasian Sexual Health Conference.
Recently in Weipa, Family Health Unit hosted a PEDS (Parents Evaluation of Development Status) and ASQ3 (Ages & Stages Questionnaire) Training Workshop.

Both the PEDS and ASQ3 tools have been endorsed and recognised statewide.

While not diagnostic they recognise when children and families need support and acknowledge referral pathways in their development.

Participants evaluated the two day training session as above average and are looking forward to using the tools in their every day service delivery.

The training was facilitated by Jenny Morton, Nurse Educator from the Cunningham Centre, and Jenny Aspinall, Family Health CNC.

More training will be offered in 2018. Contact Jenny Aspinall for details on 4082 3612.

The Family Health Unit (South) recently spent time in Cairns planning with team members from across the Cape in preparation for 2018.

The team then attended a two day ‘Talking about HIV in Far North Queensland’ conference presented by ASHM (Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis & Sexual Health Medicine).

Members of the Men’s, Women’s and Sexual Health program within the team were recognised for their work in reducing sexually transmitted infections in Cape York as finalists in the Queensland Health Excellence Awards. The team has collaborated and worked steadily to increase screening rates in Cape York using innovation and persistence.

The Family Health Unit does great work including Young Person’s Health checks, Community Screening and School Immunisation Programs.
BeHere4Qld photos

Torres and Cape HHS was well represented in the #BeHere4Qld Instagram campaign. Here are some of the entries from some of our staff. The campaign celebrates the diversity of Queensland Public Sector employees, work and workplaces. Staff are encouraged to send photos to TCHHS-Comms-Media@health.qld.gov.au so we can publish them in You-Me-Health.

Claypans between Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw (Bernadette Cantrall).

Nurse navigation takes the Torres and Cape Nurse navigators to the tip of the State. Here is Jessie Chenery on the road between Weipa and Mapoon.

It’s Floral Friday here in Bamaga, an initiative to brighten the office after a big week (Angus Stead).

Capturing everyday business at Thursday Island Hospital (Helen Reed).

Just another day in the office for speech pathologist Bernadette Cantrall who enjoys her lunch break on the beach in Mapoon.

Aurukun to Weipa after a paediatric multidisciplinary clinic (Bernadette Cantrall).
Big savings on waste

Above from left: Michelle Gow, Gabi Wall and Kirby Dowling.

Torres and Cape HHS clinical and operational services staff have reduced their clinical waste by 25% creating huge savings to the health service and the environment.

Lyndall Finn (CNC Infection Prevention and Control) said that the huge reduction has been a team effort and involves procurement staff, educators, operational services staff and all clinical staff.

“The impact on the environment is significant. Clinical waste is transported from remote areas to Townsville to be sterilised and buried. With 25% less waste that’s less fuel, less transport and less processing.”

“We’ve done education, audits, fed back to staff and removed bins that shouldn’t be there. All the work combined has resulted in this fantastic reduction.

“It has been a process of working with staff to help them understand about putting the right waste in the right bins.

“I want to congratulate staff for their efforts in reducing clinical waste,” said Lyndall.

Antimicrobial workshop

Above from left: Lee Broad, Kirsty Bradley, Jo-anne Campbell, Kathryn Daveson, Lyndall Finn, Joe Rosta, Cathleen Lockwood, Aimee Samanes, Yvonne Mangan and Emily Waddell.

The Statewide Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) team from Brisbane held a quality workshop with members from the TCHHS AMS committee and members of the Quality and Safety team in Cairns during Antibiotic Awareness week.

Antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) is a systematic approach to improving antimicrobial use, with a view to improving clinical outcomes and minimising adverse events relating to their use, including the development of antimicrobial resistance.

The workshop was the first of a two part workshop with the aim of reviewing the current AMS program within the TCHHS, highlighting areas for attention and then developing plans for implementation.

The day was a huge success thanks to the involvement of the statewide AMS team and the team will meet again in February 2018 to develop the AMS program over the next few years.

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.
Phome: Heather Robertson: 4226 5974