



April 2024

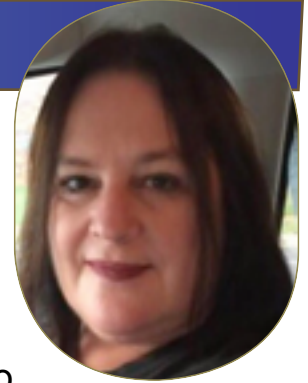
Newsletter



See Where We Work & Live P19.
Vietnam War 1962–75 | <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/resources/arthur-law-australian-army-partners-allies>

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/REDCLIFFEANDDISTRICTMEDICALASSOCIATION/](https://www.facebook.com/redcliffeanddistrictmedicalassociation/)

RDMA's President Report Dr Kimberley Bondeson



The Easter break is over, and we are heading into Winter. The Medical Republic has an article on its back page recently (17th April 2024) describing AI Microchips being implanted into pigs dura and having simple effects on motor control. From the twitching of a thumb, its obvious potential functions can be envisaged. We are definitely in a changing world, where the seemingly impossible is gaining traction.

We keep on seeing "Scope of Practice" in the medical news. Why is this so important? It comes down to the bottom line, I believe. If Allied Health providers, who I might add do an excellent job in their own field, start taking on an extended Scope of Practice, there are potentially multiple pitfalls, and duplication of services. An example of this would be a physiotherapist seeing a patient for a sore hip, and referring directly to an orthopaedic surgeon, bypassing the GP. It turns out that the patient has motor neuron disease, which is not something that is normally diagnosed by a physiotherapist.

Whilst the government appears to be trying to do away with the necessity of a General Practitioner. (personal opinion), General Practitioners as gatekeepers does have protective benefits for their patients and for the cost to the health care system. One of my patients had a painful shoulder following a fall. He went directly to an Urgent Care Clinic, where an x-ray was performed. He described

seeing a doctor at the clinic, and after the x-ray was referred back to his GP. The letter from the Nurse Practitioner he saw at the Urgent Care Clinic stated that there was no fracture in his shoulder, and he required a scan. He ended up with a rotator cuff tear, and was referred to an orthopaedic surgeon. So, an extra step was performed, which cost the government money. There is no doubt that the best outcomes come when healthcare teams, General Practitioners and Specialists all work together.

Payroll Tax is still very much on the agenda. However, it appears that the Federal Health and Aged Care Minister, Mark Butler has "added his voice to growing calls for state governments to reverse their payroll tax grabs, warning its implementation is at odds with recent health investments." (News GP, April 2024). He is of course talking about the recent increase in Medicare benefits for bulk billing.

Dinner for the Profession is coming up shortly, it should be a great evening and experience, and it is on Friday 24th May, 2024 at VOCO hotel, Brisbane.

**Free RDMA
 Membership For
 Doctors in Training**
**RDMA Meeting Dates
 Page 2.**



*The Redcliffe & District
 Local Medical Association
 sincerely thanks QML
 Pathology for the distribution
 of the monthly newsletter.*

RDMA 2024 MEETING DATES:

For all queries contact our Meeting Convener:
Phone: (07) 3049 4444

CPD Points Attendance Certificate Available

Venue: **The Komo, WaterView Room 1, 99 Marine Parade Redcliffe**

Time: **7.00 pm for 7.30 pm**

Next meeting date is

	Tuesday	February	27th
	Wednesday	March	27th
NEXT	Tuesday	April	30th
	Wednesday	May	29th
	Tuesday	June	25th
	Wednesday	July	31st
	Tuesday	August	20th
	Wednesday	September	25th
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING			
	Tuesday	October	29th
NETWORKING MEETING			
	Friday	November	29th TBC

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Advertising information listed in
the right column and on RDMA's
website

www.redcliffedoctorsmedicalassociation.org/

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Advertising & Contribution

Due by the 15th of each Month 2023

Email: RDMAnews@gmail.com

W: www.redcliffedoctorsmedicalassociation.org

Competitive Advertising Rates:

Full page A4: \$560.00

Half page A5: \$330.00

Qtr page A6: \$260.00

Business Card size (new): \$70.00

Advertorials: \$260.00

Inserts: \$260.00

The preferred A5 size is Landscape Format and A4 size is in Portrait Format.

Please note the following discounts:

- ▶ 10% discount for 3 or more placements
- ▶ 20% discount for 11 placements (1 year)
- ▶ Payments required within 10 working days or discounts will be removed unless a payment plan is outlined at the outset.

CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds subject to the Editor's discretion.

- ▶ No charge to current RDMA members.
- ▶ Non-members \$55.00

If you would like to advertise in the next month's newsletter please email RDMAnews@gmail.com in one of the preferred formats (either a pdf or jpeg). Advertisers' complimentary articles must be in the same size as adverts. Members Articles are limited to an A4 page in Word with approximately 800 words.

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Lumus Imaging North Lakes has exciting news!

Our new Siemens MRI
will be operational
from the end of October.

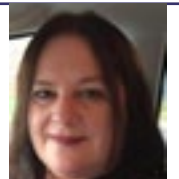
For Bookings
please call our lovely staff on
07 3142 1611
lumusimaging.com.au



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RDMA MEETING 27TH MARCH 2024

RDMA Meeting 27th March 2024

Introductions: Kimberley Bondeson RDMA President introduced Sponsor Arrotex Pharmaceuticals Representative Gidford Estores introduced the speaker:

Speaker Dr Andy Lee,

Topic Preventative Deaths - The role of the General Practitioner in Managing Allergy & Anaphylaxis.

Guest Speaker: Professor John Pearn

Topic Redcliffe foundation of Qld Medicine.

Clockwise: Photo 1 Dr Lee presentation

Photo 2 Dr Andy Lee, Arrotex representatives Adele Westbrook & Liz Betson.

Photo 3 Pravin Kasan & Gilford Estores Arrotex Representative.

Photo 4 John Pearn & Maxim Wilson

Photo 5 Rateesh Sukumaran & Primula Balakrishnan,

Photo 6 Maxim Wilson, Kimberley Bondeson, Vern Haezlewood, John Pearn.



Majellan Medical Centre



Become your own boss at Majellan, No weekend Roster, 2 Rooms available, Online bookings, Best Practice software. 2 Positions Available GP and Skin Specialist. New Patients Every day! Majellan Medical Centre Scarborough is looking for a fully qualified General practitioner to join our team of nine experienced doctors. (all Fellows of RACGP) We are a well-established clinic (over 25 years), accredited (AGPAL) privately billing and environmentally friendly practice with excellent modern facilities. Our Skin Cancer services are equipped with sequential digital photography (dermDoc scan, Molmax technology). We are equipped with a dedicated area for gynaecology. Travel Medicine, Vaccination including yellow fever and Aviation Medicine Clinic, operating microscope for ear toileting, modern audiometry and spirometry, 24 hours Blood pressure monitor with the support of two very qualified nurses. Isolation room for contagious patients, private car parking for all staff. electric car charging points. Children's Park and beach directly across from our Clinic. Special interest welcome, flexible hours and holidays. We encourage our contractors to set their own billing schedule and hours to suit lifestyle and family. We have a hard working, supportive team who will support you here at Majellan.

RDMA MEETING 30TH APRIL 2024



Monthly Meeting

Date	Tuesday 30th April 2024
Time	7pm for a 7:30pm start
Venue	Redcliffe Leagues Club Dolphin Room Cnr Klingner Rd and Ashmole Rd, Redcliffe QLD 4020
Cost	\$40 per person

Agenda	7:00pm	Arrival & Registration
	7:30pm	Be seated – Entrée served Welcome by Dr Kimberley Bondeson President RDMA Inc Sponsor: Redcliffe District Medical Association
	7:40pm	Speaker: Dr Wayne Herdy Topic: The Rise and Fall of OxyContin Main Meal served (during presentation)
	8:20pm	Q&A
	8:30pm	General Business - Dessert served. Tea & Coffee served.

RSVP **By Wednesday 24th April 2024**
RDMA@qml.com.au or 0466 480 315



How can we care for partners before, during and after traumatic pregnancy and birth experiences?

An invitation to make a difference with your lived experience

Fathers and partners are often forgotten when things don't go well in pregnancy and birth. They may not receive the information or support they need to recover from, and be there for their families after, a traumatic event. This can have a big impact on personal and family future wellbeing. We want to change that.

If you have a lived experience of partnering someone who has experienced a traumatic birth and/or pregnancy, we need you! We warmly invite you to consider participating in an innovative and much-needed research study. This study aims to develop consumer co-designed resources for healthcare providers to support partners who have experienced traumatic pregnancy and/or birth - noting that even 'normal' births may be experienced as difficult and traumatic for some.

We need people who know what this experience is like to help us co-design the right resources. This project involves face to face workshops in North Brisbane in April, May and June 2024. Consumers will be paid for their time. Please use the QR code or link below to find out more and register your interest.



or visit: <https://bit.ly/4a8Hmhr>



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VALD

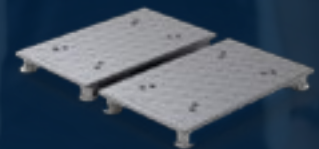
SPORTS & SPINAL AND VALD TECHNOLOGY

Sports & Spinal have partnered with **VALD Technology** to bring cutting edge technology that presents objective human measurement to patients in our Allied Health clinics.

By combining **precision sensors, intuitive data collection and actionable insights**, VALD's systems help practitioners to objectively view patient's progress, leading to more accurate, data informed treatment decisions.

VALD Provides a highly engaging experience for patients within their own assessments, being able to view in real time biofeedback and easy to understand results. Our Sports & Spinal clinics are integrating VALD technology through ForceDecks and DynaMo Plus.

- **ForceDecks** automatically detects and assesses over 20 different movements, from squats to jumps and from isometric strength to functional tests such as sit-to-stand and balance assessments. There's a test for almost any patient or musculoskeletal pathology. Helps to detect left to right differences as well as centre of mass during balance.
- **DynaMo** allows you to assess your patients' strength and range of motion (ROM) in hundreds of tests across every major joint in the body. Combining tension and compression force measurement, dedicated grip measurement and inertial measurement into one system, DynaMo is capable of performing almost any test imaginable.



All Sports & Spinal Physiotherapists and Exercise Physiologists are trained to use this technology and interpret the results.

Scan the QR code for more information.



AMA QUEENSLAND UPDATE APRIL 2024

The first quarter of 2024 has ended with wins for AMA Queensland advocacy. Between the announcement of an independent review of sexual assault policies and procedures at public hospitals and the free rollout of Meningococcal B and influenza vaccines, we're pleased to see success on behalf of doctors and the community.



Dr Maria Boulton and Dr Brett Dale

We enter the second quarter with confidence and a heavy focus on patient care and inequities in our health care system. Specifically, we are continuing to advocate for First Nations and women's health and workforce pressures as anticompetitive pharmacy ownership laws and expensive pharmacy prescribing pilots continue to pose a risk to patient safety and push prices up.

Public health and harm minimisation also remain at the forefront as pill testing is introduced to Queensland and vaping regulations escalate. Among these priorities, supporting our colleagues in rural and regional areas remains a central focus.

SURGICAL WAIT LIST ROUNDTABLE

In response to growing elective wait lists in regional and rural areas, AMA Queensland is convening a new Roundtable to examine the issue and identify practical, affordable actions the Government can take to address inequities in access.

The Surgical Wait List Roundtable follows the success of the AMA Queensland Ramping Roundtable in 2021, which made sensible, achievable recommendations on how to address ambulance ramping and emergency department overcrowding issues.

The State Government implemented 90 per cent of the recommendations including 2,500 additional hospital beds, extended opening hours for transit lounges, and new Patient Care Facilitators in general practices to help patients stay out of hospital.

Despite the name, elective surgery is not optional. The longer a patient must wait for elective surgery, the more likely their condition will deteriorate their health and cause delays in recovery time or further health issues.

Not only is the wait time having a detrimental impact on patients, but the regional workforce is being affected too.

Put simply, doctors are justifiably worried that regional Queenslanders are missing out on necessary and important surgeries, leading to delayed diagnoses and more complicated and lengthy care.

If patients are not having these surgeries within the clinical recommended time, they are highly likely to end up in emergency departments, increasing the pressure on our public health system.



This is having a flow-on effect on our regional health workforce. Our members tell us that the strenuous working conditions may lead to clinical errors, with doctors now basically always on-call and performing a disproportionate amount of emergency work compared to their metropolitan colleagues.

The lack of services and workforce in regional and rural areas are the main priority for the Roundtable, as is supporting those already working in those regions. We look forward to working with clinicians from a wide range of specialty areas with expertise in surgical services and regional and remote practice to determine the best recommendations to improve access to elective surgery.

Read more



GP TRAINEE SUPPORT

AMA Queensland has released its Budget Submission with urgent calls to the State Government to follow the lead of Tasmania and Victoria and offer better funding for GPs to reincentivise the workforce.



General practice is a wonderful career and one that is essential to our health system.

Despite the growing demand for GPs, the number of medical school graduates choosing general practice as their speciality has decreased from about 50 per cent to less than 15 per cent over the past 40 years.

This trajectory is largely due to the lack of compensation and the increased competition from other states and territories making it financially challenging for so many medical students to become GPs in Queensland.

GPs are the highest trained general medical practitioners, but currently, those who choose general practice face a substantial pay cut in their training years compared to their colleagues, and lose access to leave entitlements that hospital doctors get.

The Victorian Government has offered \$40,000 grants to trainee doctors who enrol in a general practice training course, and the Tasmanian Government has promised to pick up HECS/HELP debt of up to \$100,000 to attract 40 new GPs to work in rural and regional areas.

Read more



To head off the looming workforce crisis we need the Queensland Government to do the same and compensate junior doctors who make huge financial sacrifice to train as GPs.

COUNCIL UPDATE

The AMA Queensland Council met on 29 February 2024 to discuss priorities for the year. Specifically, the lack of a Queensland disaster management plan, inequity for access to telehealth for Voluntary Assisted Dying, sustainability initiatives, and health equity for fathers.

Council members also reviewed the AMA Queensland Scorecard from the fourth quarter of 2023. The results showed a strong end to the year with increases across the board. Notably, we produced 12 policy submissions, assisted 45 new employment contracts and received 449 mentions in the media.

Read more



MENINGOCOCCAL B

The rollout of the free Meningococcal B vaccine to children under two years and older teenagers began on 1 March, with GPs administering the vast majority of the 32,420 doses given in the first 40 days.

We commend the Queensland Government for heeding our advice and making the Men B strain vaccine available free.

While the Meningococcal A, C, W and Y strain vaccines are free for older teenagers and infants under the National Immunisation Program (NIP), the B strain – the most prevalent strain in Queensland - is not included in the NIP.



Read more



AMA Queensland has been calling for the Men B vaccine to be added to the NIP since 2017. While the Federal Government has not yet made the change, the Queensland Government has acted.

We are pleased to see a large uptick in vaccination rates, particularly through general practice.

RSV ANTIBODY PROGRAM

The Queensland Government has followed our recommendation and has joined Western Australia in announcing a free RSV antibody program for infants under the age of eight months and under 19 months for children with a serious risk factor for the virus.

With 3,500 people hospitalised in Queensland last year, and half of them under the age of five, the program makes sense to keep children well and out of hospital. Last year saw 30,000 RSV cases and about a third of these were in children under two.



We always welcome any vaccine being made more accessible, particularly at the moment where we know that people are having to decide between buying a medication or buying food.

The vaccine has been shown to reduce the risk of severe disease by 83 per cent and reduce the risk of hospitalisation by 94 per cent.

Read more



VAPING LAWS

The Federal Government has announced further legislation to outlaw the manufacture, advertising, supply, and commercial possession of nicotine vapes, including limits on flavours, packaging and nicotine content in response to underwhelming results from their original importation ban announced in late 2023.

The Australian Border Force has seized large imports of disposable nicotine vapes since the ban was introduced on 1 January 2024, but now over three months later, retailers are still retaining stock.



The Government's approach is necessary to prevent children from accessing vapes, becoming addicted to nicotine and developing long term health issues that could have been prevented.

AMA Queensland has repeatedly expressed concerns regarding the ill health effects of these products and their bright packaging and flavours that very clearly and intentionally target children, and fully support this regulation.

We hope to see positive impacts from the Federal Government's crackdown on community health, but for now, we remain vigilant of the new products likely to enter the market and continue to push for better access to primary care and education about the harm of these products.

Read more



PILL TESTING

The Queensland Government announced its commitment to reducing the risks of harms associated with illicit drug use by rolling out a free, voluntary, and confidential pill testing service.



Harm minimisation is a priority for AMA Queensland, and we fully support pill testing as an opportunity for people to understand the potential dangers of drugs and minimise harm through education and resources.

The testing service began at the Rabbits Eats Lettuce festival over the 2024 Easter long weekend. From the 210 substances checked at the event, 14 samples were discarded into the amnesty bin.

Queensland is now the second Australian jurisdiction to offer pill testing and will set up its first fixed-site clinic in Bowen Hills this April with a second site location to be confirmed.

Read more

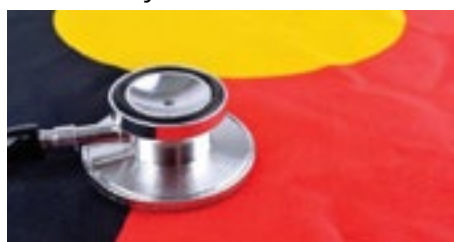


We are pleased to see the Government recognise the significance of harm minimisation and look forward to seeing positive behavioural change as a result of the pill testing and resource service.

PHARMACY OWNERSHIP LAWS

The Queensland Government is pushing ahead with anti-competitive ownership laws for pharmacy businesses that will make it harder for new owners to enter the market and lock Aboriginal health services out of owning and running community-controlled pharmacies.

The Queensland Parliament has passed the Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill, ignoring the concerns of AMA Queensland, the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC), the federal Productivity Commission and the RACGP about the impact on consumers of even less competition in the sector.



This bill maintains the ban on anyone other than a pharmacist or close relative of a pharmacist from owning a pharmacy. Pharmacy is the only healthcare sector with such restrictions, and we are dismayed the Queensland Parliament has passed these unnecessary, anti-competitive laws.

We remain particularly concerned about the potential impact on access to culturally safe pharmacy services in First Nations communities.

The Health Minister announced she will consult further with QAIHC and the Commonwealth Government, and we look forward to seeing the outcome of this consultation.

[Read more](#)



FLU VACCINATION

Following AMA Queensland advocacy, Queensland Health announced the flu vaccine would be made available for free from the beginning of the flu season, and informed General Practitioners in advance as they were preparing to order their stock of flu vaccines. This rollout has now commenced, and the vaccine is currently available to all Queenslanders over the age of six months.

The Queensland Government has provided free flu vaccines in previous years, typically announcing the program mid-flu season.

After a significant flu season in 2023, it is important everyone, particularly those who are pregnant, have a

[Read more](#)



chronic illness, are over the age of 65, or under five, accesses the free vaccine and we're pleased to see the Government take a proactive approach to ensure the health of Queenslanders.

We are seeing stock of flu vaccines arrive at all GP clinics now.



HOSPITAL SEXUAL ASSAULT REVIEW

Following advocacy work from AMA Queensland and our Committee of Doctors in Training (CDT), the Queensland Government announced an independent review into sexual assault policies and procedures at Queensland hospitals.

Results from every AMA Queensland and ASMOFQ Resident Hospital Health Check (RHHC) carried out over the past eight years have identified a concerning large proportion of junior doctors experienced unsafe behaviours in the workplace.

We have since been meeting with Queensland Health and individual Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) to call for action on sexual assaults and harassment in

[Read more](#)



hospitals and have continued to carry out the RHHC every year.

We are incredibly pleased to see the results of our advocacy efforts and will continue to carry out the RHHC to guide our recommendations to the Government. We will also continue meeting with the HHSs, Queensland Health and the Health Minister to ensure the needs of our members are heard, acted on and met.



GPTQ TRAINING AND RESEARCH BURSARIES

Queensland GP Fellows and Registrars are invited to apply for \$20,000 training and research bursaries honouring the legacy of General Practice Training Queensland (GPTQ).



2024 GPTQ Bursary winners
Drs Sarah Andela and
Kellie West

For 20 years, GPTQ delivered the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program, supporting Queensland doctors to achieve recognition as GPs.

After the transition to college-led GP training in 2023, GPTQ ceased operating and AMA Queensland Foundation was selected to establish a dedicated bursary in GPTQ's honour.

The Foundation provides scholarships for medical students who are undergoing hardship, and in 2024, four GP registrars were awarded bursaries to support their research and training endeavours.

Applications close 5pm AEST Monday 29 April.

Apply now



CDT CHAIR UPDATE

AMA Queensland's Committee of Doctors in Training (CDT) recently met for this term's inaugural meeting where Dr Elise Witter was announced to serve another year as Chair, welcoming Deputy Co-Chairs Drs Ekta Paw and Mikaela Seymour.

The CDT compiled a series of priority areas for the year which include better support for onboarding and orientation of IMGs, combatting bullying and harassment, ensuring adequate education and support around the implementation of the National Prevocational Framework, and responding to concerns around regional and rural workforce issues.

The committee is keen to respond to concerns from doctors in training about safety at work and will continue to work in this space.

Read more



AGM AND DINNER FOR THE PROFESSION

AMA Queensland invites friends, colleagues, and professionals to the biggest black-tie gala for doctors this year – our *AGM and Dinner for the Profession*.

Join us to recognise our members' achievements, celebrate 130 years of medical advocacy and inaugurate our new AMA Queensland President over drinks, a delicious three course meal and a string quartet.

Register now



Registrations are now open, and we look forward to seeing you donning your red carpet attire for the dinners Cannes Film Festival theme.

The event will be held at Voco Hotel Brisbane on 24 May 2024.



Brisbane North GP Liaison Update

The Brisbane North General Practice Liaison Team continue to work hard to improve patient care in all hospitals in the Metro North Health region. Here is a selection of key updates they would like to share with our local GPs. More updates can be read if you subscribe to our Weekly local "GP Link" e-newsletter <https://brisbanenorthphn.org.au/news-events/newsletters/gp-link>.

We provide many links which can be clicked on the [online PDF RDMA newsletter](#).

- Metro North Health GP Information Hub https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/specialist_service/refer-your-patient
- Health Pathways <https://brisbanenorth.communityhealthpathways.org>
- Local GP education <https://brisbanenorthphn.org.au/events>
- [Email - Brisbane North GPLO Program](#)

Redcliffe Hospital Expansion Project - Parking Changes The \$1.148 billion Redcliffe Hospital Expansion Project is underway. To prepare the hospital campus for construction activities, several at-grade car parks across the hospital campus have now permanently closed.

- The multi-storey car park (P0), Sheehan St car park (P5) and MBICC car park (P6) remain open and available for patient and visitor use. Vehicle entry to the multi-storey car park (P0) is now via Recreation Street only. Patients are encouraged to allow enough time to park their car before their appointment.
- The Emergency drop-off zone, Main Hospital patient drop off/pick up zones and Transit Lounge can still be accessed via Anzac Avenue.
- Redcliffe Hospital now also provides a free shuttle service for patients and visitors. The eight-seater shuttle operates on a loop from 7:30am to 4pm each weekday (excluding public holidays).

For more information about parking and transport options visit

www.Metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/Redcliffe

Caboolture Electronic Emergency Department discharge summaries now available The Brisbane North GPLO team have been working hard with the Caboolture Hospital Team to establish electronic discharge letters distribution to their GPs from Caboolture Emergency Department (ED) for patients seen in ED.

- Most practices should already receive inpatient discharge summaries electronically. If so your practice will be able to receive electronic ED discharge letters.
- You should notice ED discharge letters will start to come through from mid April 2024.
- If you are receiving hospital communication by post or fax, it will mean you are unable to receive these electronic discharge letters. Practice Managers can set up electronic delivery by "[Update GP Practice Details](#)" at Queensland Health.
- GP practices can contact the practicesupport@brisbanenorthphn.org.au or Metro North GPLO team at mngplo@health.qld.gov.au for more assistance.
- **Note ED clinical notes from all departments can also be found in the [Queensland Health Health Provider Portal / The Viewer](#) for those Queensland GPs registered for this.**

It is also important that your patients clearly identify their GP when they attend ED, outpatients etc as many patients can be unsure of their GP's name or say they have no GP, making it difficult to be able to send information to the correct practice. You can encourage this by providing a business card or asking your patient to put your GP name & practice details in the patient's phone.

Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines in 2024 (published March 2024)

ATAGI has released a statement on the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations in 2024. <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-statement-on-the-administration-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-2024>

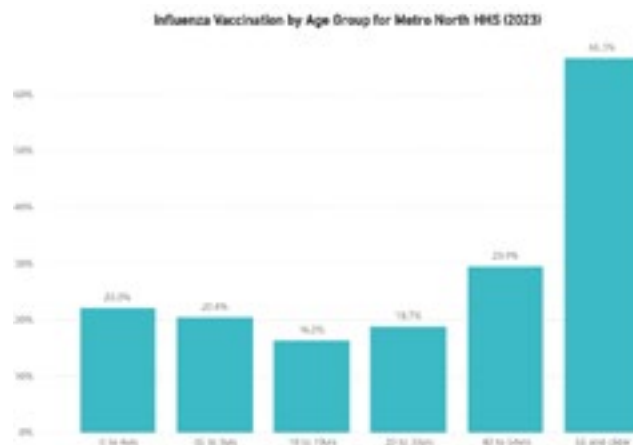
Further information about the timing of further COVID-19 vaccine doses and available vaccines can be found in the statement and in the COVID-19 chapter of the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).

Free Flu Vaccination for Queenslanders over 6 months of age – Resources to support GPs

All Queenslanders aged 6 months and over (including those without a Medicare card) are eligible for funded influenza vaccination either via National Immunisation Program or the [Queensland Free Flu Vaccination Program](#)

Last year's Brisbane North region influenza vaccination rates were less than 30% in all age groups apart from the 65+ yrs age group (based on Australian Immunisation Register data below.)

Vaccination each year is the most important way to prevent influenza and its complications for the individual, and high annual influenza vaccination rates across the population are very important for limiting the spread of the disease and reducing the impact of the 'season'.



Metro North Public Health Unit recommends discussing flu vaccination for each patient aged 6 months and over.

Queensland Health 2024 Influenza vaccination advice has more information about this year's influenza information. <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/immunisation/service-providers/influenza>
[Local Brisbane North ata on Flu, RSV & COVID reported case and hospitalised patients](#)

Some useful resources to support you include:

- [National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance \(NCIRS\) website](#) includes:
- [NCIRS influenza specific immunisation resources for Patients & Health Professionals](#)
- [Influenza vaccine safety data from AusVaxSafety](#) including in pregnancy, children etc
- [Vaccinations during pregnancy & Why does my child need a flu shot?](#)
- Federal Dept of Health [Influenza fact sheets](#) and [posters](#) for patients - [Pregnancy influenza vaccine brochures](#)

Queensland Paediatric RSV Prevention Program

Free RSV immunisation to eligible infants and young children

- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is the most common cause of hospitalisation in infants and young children, with almost all children experiencing at least one RSV infection within the first two years of life.
- Commencing 1 May 2024, the Queensland Paediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prevention (QPRSVP) Program will provide free RSV immunisation to eligible Queensland infants and young children.
- For all newborn infants, Nirsevimab (brand name Beyfortus®) will be offered as a dose at time of birth or prior to discharge at all public and private Queensland birthing hospitals.
- ATAGI has provided [clinical advice](#) on the use of Nirsevimab.
- The program will ensure infants and young children at highest risk of severe disease from RSV are protected at the right time, and so other eligible cohorts include:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants up to less than 8 months age
 - infants with certain complex medical conditions (to be advised) up to less than 8 months age
 - young children with certain complex medical conditions (to be advised) from 8 to 19 months age (inclusive), until 31 October 2024.

Further information about program commencement and eligible groups is [available via Queensland Health](#).

We expect more detailed program information to be available soon to be provided in our [GP Link](#)



CardiGras Charity Golf Day

Help us support our community's healthcare needs by participating in our CardiGras Charity Golf Day. Every swing counts towards funding vital medical equipment for Redcliffe Hospital.

Register now and make a difference!

**17th May 2024,
12pm Shotgun**

\$350 per team of 4
Includes 18 holes of golf
& cart hire.

Book your tickets now

[https://events.humanitix.com/
cardigrascharitygolfday](https://events.humanitix.com/cardigrascharitygolfday)

More information

rohan@cardigras.com.au

Proud supporter of

Raise it for 
Redcliffe Hospital

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Redcliffe Golf Club
Handsworth Street
Clontarf Qld 4019

Financial Year End 2024 – Tax Planning to Minimise Your Tax

As we approach the end of the 2024 financial year, now is the perfect time to consider strategies to minimise your tax before 30 June. These are just a few strategies that can be used for planning your end-of-financial year.

Superannuation Contributions

The tax-deductible superannuation contribution (or concessional contribution) cap is \$27,500 for all individuals under the age of 75. Individuals over the age of 67 need to pass a work test. The advantage of making tax-deductible superannuation contributions is that they are taxed between 15% and 30%, compared to the individual income tax rates of between 30% and 47%.

Carry-Forward Superannuation Contributions

If your total superannuation balance on 30th June 2023 was less than \$500,000, the carry-forward superannuation contribution provisions allow you to use any of your unused concessional contributions cap on a rolling basis over the preceding five years. This is particularly useful if you have experienced an increase in income this financial year (for example, from capital gains incurred due to the sale of a CGT investment or receipt of a one-off bonus or other such income). These carry-forward amounts are calculated on a rolling basis of five years; any amount unused after five years will expire.

Spouse Superannuation Contribution Tax Offset

If your spouse's income is \$37,000 or less, and you make a superannuation contribution of up to \$3,000 on their behalf, you may be eligible for a tax offset of up to \$540. The offset reduces for income above \$37,000 and completely phases out at \$40,000 or above.

Salary Sacrifice to Superannuation

If your taxable income is \$45,000 or more, salary sacrificing your superannuation is a means to reducing the amount of tax paid on your income, where the pre-tax salary is paid into superannuation. The tax savings are the difference between the usual amount of tax paid on your income and the 15% tax paid on superannuation contributions. This can be beneficial when an employee is nearing their retirement age as these funds can be accessed sooner.

Rental Property Depreciation and Capital Works

A rental property depreciation report prepared by a quantity surveyor will enable you to claim depreciation and capital works deductions on capital items. The cost of preparing the report is also tax deductible.

Prepaid Interest and Expenses on Investments

Expenses paid on investments can be prepaid before 30 June 2024. Up to 12 months of interest on an investment loan (for a rental property or share investments) can be prepaid, and a tax deduction can be claimed this financial year. Other expenses directly related to your investments can also be prepaid before 30 June, including rental property repairs and maintenance.

Defer Investment Income and Capital Gains

Arrange for the receipt of investment income, such as interest on term deposits and contract date for the sale of a capital gains asset to occur after 30 June 2024 if practical. The tax on the investment income and capital gains will be payable in the subsequent financial year.

Realise Capital Losses

It may be beneficial to consider selling any underperforming investments prior to 30 June to crystallise a capital loss. The capital loss may reduce or eliminate a current-year capital gains tax liability. Unused capital losses can be carried forward and used to offset future capital gains.

Motor Vehicle Expenses

To make a claim for motor vehicle expenses, an accurate and complete motor vehicle logbook must be kept for at least a 12-week period and must broadly be a representation of your travel. All invoices and receipts for your motor vehicle expenditure must be kept. Once a logbook is prepared it can generally be used for a period of five years. Another method is to claim up to 5,000 business kilometres based on a reasonable estimate, using the cents per kilometre method, which is \$0.85 per kilometre for the 2023/24 financial year.

If you require accounting, wealth and advisory assistance, please contact our experienced accountants at Poole Group on 07 5437 9900 or poole@poolegroup.com.au

Planned Surgery Wait Times Longest On Record: AMA Report

Planned surgery wait times in Australia's public hospitals are now the longest on record, and emergency departments remain strangled by access block.

The Australian Medical Association today released its annual Public Hospital Report Card and has written to health ministers ahead of their meeting today, saying the findings highlight the need for governments to take further action to address the issues impacting hospitals.

AMA President Professor Steve Robson said the annual report card, first published in 2007, clearly demonstrated the need for urgent action on top of existing planned reform to the National Hospital Funding Agreement (NHRA).

"Last year we welcomed the federal government's announcement of a significant public funding boost to the hospital funding agreement and the decision to replace the 6.5 per cent funding growth cap with a more generous approach," Professor Robson said.

"This announcement followed tireless AMA advocacy for funding reform. But the new agreement will still need more investment and agreement by all health Ministers.

"It also doesn't come into effect until 2025. Urgent action is needed now.

"Australians are now waiting almost twice as long on average for planned surgery than they were 20 years ago, which is unacceptable."

The report also found the national proportion of individuals receiving category two planned surgeries on time has again fallen to the lowest point on record. Category two surgeries include heart valve replacements, congenital cardiac defects, curettage nerve

decompression and surgery of fractures that won't heal on time.

"These surgeries are essential and urgent — they are not elective or cosmetic and every day of waiting can bring serious pain and increased risks to patients," Professor Robson said

In a letter to all health ministers sent with the report card, Professor Robson has urged ministers to agree to a \$4.12 billion plan to address the planned surgery backlog, split between the commonwealth and the states and territories. The plan would be time limited to ease the immediate backlog while a new NHRA is negotiated.

The report card also found that our emergency departments remain strangled by access block, with the national average of ED patients being seen on time at the lowest level in the past 10 years across all categories except resuscitation.

The proportion of people in all triage categories who completed their emergency presentation in four hours or less was at just 56 per cent, representing a fall of five per cent since last year. This is the lowest number since 2011 and a fall of 14 per cent since pre-pandemic levels

19 April 2024

- Read the Public Hospital Report Card
- Read the AMA's public hospital federal budget submission

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Where We Work and Live

Vietnam War 1962–75 | <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/resources/arthur-law-australian-army-partners-allies>

Robert Hall (Australian Army), Operation Wandering Souls

Bob Hall commanded a platoon during the Vietnam War. It was a heavy responsibility. After a long army career, he entered academic life and discovered through his research a way to give something back to the people of Vietnam. Bob Hall served in Vietnam as a platoon commander. It left an indelible impression on him. "I often say to people that I had more responsibility as an infantry platoon commander in my early twenties than I've ever had since. It's unlike anything else I've ever done in my life."

After serving in the army for 26 years, Bob entered academic life and concentrated on the mass of data the war had produced. "As a war, as a campaign for the Australian Army, I think it's really fascinating, because it's got many more nuances and swirling politics and economics and social developments are all there in the campaign, much more so I think than say the First World War or the Second World War."

The archives that Bob and his colleagues investigated yielded surprising results. "We were in a position where we had this mass of combat data. Around about five thousand combat incidents. Each one had the date, time, the location recorded, we had the number of enemy casualties that we'd inflicted including the number of enemy killed. Most of those killed were buried at the scene of the combat incident; that was part of the Australian Task Force policy."

The Vietnamese had recently assisted Australia to locate their MIAs and that provoked an idea in Bob and his team. "I was impressed by the Vietnamese assistance to Operation Aussies Home. They had helped identify our six missing in action, where they had three hundred thousand. That sort of stuck in my mind, that we needed to do something to say that, you know, 'We can reciprocate this.' In Vietnamese culture, there is a very, very strong desire to perform certain rituals at the burial site of kin. Because if those rituals aren't performed then the soul is deemed to be wandering forever in a kind of never world. And so, many Vietnamese, particularly of the



Robert Hall (Australian Army), Operation Wandering Souls

Vietnam War era are very anxious to find their kin and resolve that for their deceased kin, before they themselves die." They called the Project Operation Wandering Souls.

They used the data to help Vietnamese families find their loved one's last resting place. They also returned personal items. "We were on national TV in Vietnam and we had a major presentation of all of these documents that we took back to a general in the Vietnam Peoples' Army, so it was quite spectacular; we had to give speeches and so on. It was interesting to see the kind of emotional trajectory of these things, because when we went into these halls to hand over these documents, there was some kind of trepidation; people would be looking at one another and not knowing what was going on.

Then the formal proceedings would start and tension would rise to a point where we started to return the documents. And at that point there was often wailing and tears, and an embracing of us and the person we were returning the documents to. After that, there was a wave of joy, and happiness you know, and that's when we went out and had beers and a lovely Vietnamese meal. So it was a really terrific experience and I'm really pleased to have done it."

Stories continued next month

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The Redcliffe and District Medical Association Inc. have had another successful year of interesting and educative meetings on a wide variety of medical topics. Show your support for your Local Medical Association to continue the only local convocation for general practitioners and specialists to socialise and to discuss local and national medico-political issues.

This membership subscription entitles you to ten (10) dinner meetings, a monthly magazine (11), an informal end of the year **Networking Meeting** to reconnect with colleagues. Suggestions on topics and/ or speakers are most welcome. **Doctors in Training** are invited to join at **no cost**. Please complete the annual memberships subscription below and enjoy the benefits your membership brings you and your colleagues.

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