

## Message from the Network Co-Chairs

Welcome to the next edition of the QTCN Newsletter, where we shine a spotlight on the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH). As outlined below, there has been an ongoing evolution in activities of the Trauma Service at SCUH across both the clinical and education spaces. The patient-centred focus and engagement of the service is clearly demonstrated by involvement with end to end care including post-discharge patient follow-up phone calls.

The statewide Referral Pathways Guideline for trauma was recently published following extensive clinician input, thank you to everyone who contributed to the document. We are hopeful the guideline will assist in streamlining referrals and transfers of trauma patients. Any feedback on how the guideline is functioning locally is very much appreciated, please email [QldTraumaNetwork@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QldTraumaNetwork@health.qld.gov.au).

In the education space, the 2023 Queensland Trauma Forum is shaping up as a terrific event. Cairns Hospital is hosting the Forum on 22 August with a range of expert speakers addressing the theme of traumatic brain injury. Registration for both in-person and online attendance is free of charge and we look forward to seeing you there or online. We hope you enjoy reading this next QTCN newsletter and if you have any trauma related initiatives to share, please reach out to the email above.

Dr Alistair Hamilton  
Co-Chair, QTCN

Professor Martin Wullschlegler  
Co-Chair, QTCN

## Network Updates

### Clinical guidelines

Following the release of the referral pathways guideline for major trauma, the QTCN has now commenced development of the next clinical guideline on splenic trauma. This guideline will feature a flowchart on splenic injury management, provide splenic function assessment guidance and contain the Spleen Australia medical recommendations for vaccination following splenectomy.

### Review of trauma activation criteria

The QTCN is collating all trauma activation criteria across the state, with the aim of increasing transparency of activation criteria and aligning with the most recent evidence-based practice.

### Trauma Forum 2023

The Queensland Trauma Forum this year is on 'traumatic brain injury' and will feature expert speakers from many specialties involved in trauma care from the prehospital setting, through acute, rehabilitation and into the community. The forum will be held in Cairns on 22 August 2023, with an online link available for virtual attendance. Registration is essential via this [link](#).

## Spotlight on...

### Sunshine Coast University Hospital Trauma Service

The Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) opened in 2017 and is the largest hospital within the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. SCUH is classified as a Regional Trauma Service, with complex trauma patients often transferred directly to the major trauma centres in Brisbane.

The Trauma Service at SCUH was formally established when SCUH opened and is a nursing-led consultative case management service. Dr Andrew Hobbins-King was appointed as part-time Director of the service in 2022, which includes nursing, data and administration staff along with a Trauma Fellow from the General Surgical Department. The Acute Surgical Unit (ASU) is the dedicated 24/7 trauma admitting service responsible for all emergency surgery and trauma, with no elective duties. In 2022, SCUH saw over 3000 trauma-related presentations and ranked as the 3rd busiest trauma centre in Queensland ([9th in Australia and New Zealand for 2020/2021 financial year](#)) with over 400 major trauma cases (ISS>12) being managed by the multi-disciplinary team of medical, nursing and allied health specialists.

Across the health service there has been some expansion in existing services (interventional radiology, vascular and plastics) with preparations being made for the establishment of future services (maxillofacial, cardiothoracics and neurosurgery). The trauma service has been working closely with the local health service planning unit to create a strategic plan to provide guidance toward becoming a major trauma centre. The [Master Clinical Services Plan 2022-2027](#) also outlines the development of a level two trauma service at SCUH as a key priority for the health service and local community.

The local trauma team has launched several educational initiatives, including ward outreach trauma training and local educational courses. A number of required procedures policies and procedures have been progressed, and the research strategy is being finalised. Trauma care is informed post discharge via a phone call follow up and the network of trauma survivors is growing. From an injury prevention perspective, the Preventing Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) program is delivered at SCUH, which continues to be huge success with close collaboration with the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance Service and organisations such as [the Balin Stewart Foundation](#).



*Dr Andrew Hobbins-King with the SCUH Trauma Team, Qld Ambulance Service and Queensland Police Service at a P.A.R.T.Y program delivery. (Photo courtesy of SCUH Trauma Service)*

## Trauma Survivors Day and Peer Support

Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) hosted the third annual Trauma Survivors Day on 17 May. More than 60 people attended to network and learn about the hospital's trauma service and its support mechanisms, as part of the Trauma Survivors Network (TSN). The special occasion is for trauma survivors, their friends, family, clinicians and caregivers to celebrate trauma survivors' achievements in recovery.

The TSN was established in America to assist survivors and their families connect with others and rebuild their lives. Matthew Scott, Nurse Navigator from GCUH has successfully set up the program locally, to assist trauma survivors beyond discharge.

In addition, GCUH has enlisted four previous trauma survivors that were cared for by the trauma service, as hospital volunteer peer-support workers. David Bell joins the team, bringing his lived experience to those that have suffered physical trauma, visiting current inpatients and allowing him to engage and understand, having been through the trauma journey. David co-hosts the international TSN virtual peer support program twice monthly.

For further information on the TSN, or the GCUH trauma peer support roles, please contact [Matthew.Scott@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Matthew.Scott@health.qld.gov.au).



*Third annual trauma survivors day at GCUH. (Photo courtesy of GCUH Trauma Service)*

## Education

Recently the Queensland Trauma Education (QTE) team took the [QTE Course \(QTEC\)](#) to Redcliffe Skills Development Centre for the Emergency Department. With significant demand for courses, the team is expanding QTEC through licensing sites across the state. This is an important step towards establishing QTEC as a leading interdisciplinary trauma training course in Queensland.

Nurse Educator Laura Owens and Dr Fran Williamson met with a large team from Redcliffe Emergency Department (six senior medical officers and ten senior nurses) to discuss trauma care. Although not a major trauma centre, Redcliffe has seen a rise in patients self-presenting with significant injuries, and as a result are actively working on improving processes around managing trauma presentations.

QTEC is customised for each site, as a *'one-size-fits-all approach'* does little to effectively address the needs of both staff and patients. Using immersive scenarios as a training model enhances trauma skills and knowledge, improves coordination and cultural aspects of the trauma network. Redcliffe's training day simulations covered multiple injuries and presentations including traumatic brain injury, intra-abdominal haemorrhage and orthopaedic injuries. In addition to simulations, different communication tools to assist with structuring and handing over information were compared and discussed.

A big win for the QTEC team was that the ATMIST communication tool (as pictured) was immediately adopted by staff. The training day received positive and constructive feedback and in future QTEC will be licensed and run at Redcliffe as part of the wider rollout. Thank you to Dr Michelle Dodds and team at Redcliffe for organising the course and to Nurse Educator Kelly Sawina from the Redcliffe Skills Development Centre for coordinating simulation and equipment. To find out more about the course, visit the [QTE Course \(QTEC\) website](#). If you have feedback or questions, email the team at [CSDS-Trauma-Education@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:CSDS-Trauma-Education@health.qld.gov.au).



ATMIST Handover		Queensland Trauma Education
<b>A</b>	AGE, SEX, NAME, D.O.B.	
<b>T</b>	TIME OF INCIDENT AND ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL	
<b>M</b>	MECHANISM OF INJURY	
<b>I</b>	INJURIES	
<b>S</b>	SIGNS	
<b>T</b>	TREATMENT GIVEN	

Download and print more at [csds.cts.edu.au/collocat/mis](http://csds.cts.edu.au/collocat/mis)

## Education

The Sunshine Coast University Hospital Trauma Service recently collaborated with the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Neurosurgical Department to host a seminar to explore the critical decision making in neurotrauma in the unique setting on the Sunshine Coast. The panel of presenters include a local TBI survivor, [Senior Constable Mark Barclay](#), who shared his remarkable journey from serious accident in Tasmania, retrieval to Brisbane and recovery with our amazing Rehabilitation Service. The Seminar was followed by a bespoke craniectomy skills workshop for our surgeons, anaesthetic and theatre staff using 3D printed skulls manufactured by the Herston Bio Fabrication Institute and equipment supplied by Medtronic. This event highlighted the collaborative nature of trauma care and aligned perfectly with our motto 'collaboration in trauma care, from resuscitation to rehabilitation.'



*Participants at the recent craniotomy skills workshop hosted at SCUH. (Photo courtesy of SCUH Trauma Service)*

## New initiatives

The Paediatric Trauma Service at the Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) has been involved in the co-design and implementation pilot of an electronic psychosocial screen for carers of children and young people admitted to hospital with traumatic injury for  $\geq 24$  hours. This initiative has been supported by a mental health grant with the Jamieson Trauma Institute and Griffith University. The key objectives of the project are to:

1. Co-design an automated electronic screen incorporating validated tools that can identify the psychosocial needs of children and young people post discharge.
2. Determine the needs and preference of carers and clinicians.
3. Consider the content and timing of the tool to be acceptable to carers and clinicians.
4. Provide greater transparency of the psychosocial needs of children and young people following injury.
5. Offer additional direction toward supportive resources.

Co-design has included consultation with consumers, Paediatric Trauma Service team members, the data innovation team, and global child trauma specialists. The finalised *wellness screen* has been built in REDCap and incorporates validated screens for post-traumatic stress disorder and health related quality of life for two age groups: under 6 years and over 6 years. Future evaluation of the pilot aims to measure the acceptability, fidelity, feasibility and sustainability of the screen. The research team can provide a further update of the evaluation in early 2024.

For further information on this initiative, please contact [Kate Trenoweth](#) (Trauma Nurse Navigator), [Bronwyn Griffin](#) (Associate Professor, Principal Investigator) or [Tanisha Dimanopoulos](#) (Research Assistant).

## Upcoming Events

- 18-21 July 2023: ACEM Winter Symposium, Newcastle ([link](#))
- 9-12 August 2023: World Trauma Congress, Tokyo ([link](#))
- 22 August 2023: Statewide Trauma Forum - Traumatic Brain Injury, Cairns and online ([link](#))
- 12-15 October 2023: ANZTS Conference, Melbourne ([link](#))
- 22-24 November 2023: ANZSCoS Conference, Adelaide ([link](#))

**Please ensure you have subscribed to the QTCN communications to receive all updates and links to online events. Any content, feedback or suggestions can be emailed to: [QldTraumaNetwork@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QldTraumaNetwork@health.qld.gov.au).**