

## BLMA Events

[brisanelma.org/events/upcoming](http://brisanelma.org/events/upcoming)

### BLMA DOCTORS EDUCATION EVENING DINNER

**Date:** Tuesday 29 August 2023

**Time:** 6.30pm for 7pm

**Venue:** Sofitel Brisbane Central  
249 Turbot Street,  
Brisbane

**Dress:** Smart Casual

**RSVP:** Monday 21 August 2023

[www.eventbrite.com.au/e/blma-member-educational-dinner-august-2023-tickets-644876913207](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/blma-member-educational-dinner-august-2023-tickets-644876913207)



*Proudly sponsored by Pfizer.*

The educational evening will include the following speakers:

#### 1. COVID Update

Dr Andrew Henderson,  
ID Physician, Greenslopes  
Hospital

#### 2. TBC

All BLMA Events are only open to doctors that are members or their invited doctor guests.

If you are not a member join [BLMA today](http://brisanelma.org).



## Message from the BLMA President

*Dr Hasthika Ellepola*

*MBBS MD FSLCOG FRANZCOG*

Welcome to this edition of *Synapse*. I am delighted to be working alongside the BLMA Management Committee. We are facilitating bimonthly educational evenings and this newsletter for doctors and are committed to providing learning and connection within the Brisbane Medical community.

At our BLMA Educational Evening in May we had Chief Medical Officer, Associate Professor Catherine McDougall and Dr Amelia Jardim join us as speakers. Dr Dilip Dhupelia also provided an update on the AMA Queensland Foundation and their upcoming initiatives. Thank you to Dr Jennifer Schafer who was the MC for the evening. We appreciate the support of our wonderful BLMA members, we had a fantastic evening that led to great networking opportunities. We heard about the CMO's vision for Queensland Health and the latest information in neurosurgery in pediatrics from Amelia Jardim over dinner at Victoria Park.

Our Doctors in Training events are becoming increasingly popular with our junior membership cohort. Our event in June focused on career guidance which included a financial presentation and 'how to interview' techniques in a competitive interview.

A huge congratulations to our BLMA Committee Members, Dr Jennifer Schafer and Dr Dilip Dhupelia who were both honoured at the AMA Queensland *Dinner for the Profession* at Customs House.

We are pleased to have our partners Mater and q4 Finance join BLMA and would like the opportunity to collaborate with other interested parties.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events in July and August. Please contact us if you would like to contribute to the Newsletter or learn more about how BLMA can work with you.

Finally, I would like to personally ask you to introduce a new member so the BLMA membership can continue to grow.



Many thanks to QML Pathology couriers for distributing our newsletter throughout Brisbane.



Visit our website  
[brisanelma.org](http://brisanelma.org)

Keep up to date with latest news and BLMA events at your fingertips!

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## CONTACTS

<b>President:</b>	Dr Hashtika Ellepola
<b>Vice President:</b>	Dr Gail Tsang
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dr Felicity Jensen
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dr Andrew Cronin
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Dr Dilip Dhupelia
<b>Website Editor and Media Secretary</b>	Dr James Collins
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Dr Janet Draper Dr Manoj Bhatt Dr Amelia Sah Dr Jennifer Schafer

For general enquiries and all editorial or advertising contributions and costs, please contact:

**Hayley Peña****Email:** [h.pena@amaq.com.au](mailto:h.pena@amaq.com.au)**Phone:** (07) 3872 2260**Fax:** (07) 3856 4727

The Brisbane Local Medical Association welcomes contributions from members, especially "**Letters to the Editor**".

**Please address all correspondence to:****Dr Dilip Dhupelia****Email:** [dhupelia@bigpond.com](mailto:dhupelia@bigpond.com)

## Issue 8 | 2023 Newsletter

**Content Deadline is****Monday 11 September 2023.**

- ▶ Would you like to comment or suggest articles to be published?
- ▶ What would you like to see in the newsletter?

Our circulation via email, online and by post, reaches medical practitioners all over Brisbane!

**Contact:** Dr Dilip Dhupelia**Email:** [dhupelia@bigpond.com](mailto:dhupelia@bigpond.com)

## Are You a Member?

If you are not a member, please complete the application available on our website:

**[brisbanelma.org](http://brisbanelma.org)**

**Enquiries:** Dr Dilip Dhupelia  
[dhupelia@bigpond.com](mailto:dhupelia@bigpond.com)

Are you listed on the Members Only Directory on our website? Are your details correct?

**Directory form is available on the website.****Password to the closed Members Only****Directory available by contacting Hayley****Peña, [h.pena@amaq.com.au](mailto:h.pena@amaq.com.au).**

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BLMA is proudly supported by our partners:



## Meet the BLMA Committee

### Committee Member – Dr Manoj Bhatt

Manoj is a Nuclear Medicine and PET physician working at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) and St Vincent's Northside.

He believes in 'Kaizen' which means 'continuous improvement'. He recently acquired Graduate of Australian Institute of Company directors (GAICD) and is currently pursuing MBA from QUT.

Manoj has completed CHIA (Certified Health Informatician Australia) and has worked in digital health space in Metro North.

He is a board member at QUT.

Manoj's professional training started in India which includes MBBS and MD (internal medicine). He worked in UK before coming to Australia.

He completed his Fellowship training in Brisbane and Melbourne in 2012. He provides locum services to regional centres like Rockhampton and Ballarat.

His mantra is, 'In a world where you can be anything, be kind'.



**Dr Manoj Bhatt**  
BLMA Committee Member

## REDCLIFFE LOCAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Redcliffe LMA produces a similar newsletter.  
For full details re advertising go to their website: [www.rdma.org.au](http://www.rdma.org.au)  
Email: [RDMAnews@gmail.com](mailto:RDMAnews@gmail.com)

### GP urgently required for long established practice at Kallangur.

Some after hours work but flexible with hours, days, options. Preferably need doctor interested in old fashioned birth to grave General Practice. Rural Doctors returning to city and looking for part time work would also be welcome.

Please contact [gedpw@ozemail.com.au](mailto:gedpw@ozemail.com.au)



L-R: Dr Rosie Geraghty, Patrick Saunders, Dr Maria Boulton, Dr Jen Schafer, Health Minister Shannon Fentiman, Dr Dilip Dhupelia, Dr George Lindley-Jones

## BLMA – Dinner for the Profession

Two members of the BLMA management committee were honoured at this year’s AMA Queensland *Dinner for the Profession* on 26 May.

Dr Jen Schafer was awarded the AMA Queensland Excellence in Health Care Medal for her work as a doctor, researcher, advocate and educator who continues to create positive change through her role as Medical Director for Doctors’ Health Queensland.

Also on the night, Dr Dilip Dhupelia was formally presented with his AMA Roll of Fellows certificate.

Dr Dhupelia was inducted into the Roll of Fellows in 2021 and would traditionally have been presented with his certificate at National Conference. Unfortunately, due to COVID, National Conference that year was a virtual event and no presentations were made.

He has been an AMA Queensland Councillor and Board Director, and was President from 2018 to 2020. He has been a member of Federal Council, of the AMA Council of General Practice and the Council of Rural Doctors, and is currently Chair of the AMA Queensland Foundation Board.





## State-of-the-art heart failure, breathlessness, and cardio-oncology services

Mater Private Hospital Brisbane has recently welcomed consultant cardiologist Dr Matthew Burrage to deliver new, dedicated patient services for heart failure, unexplained breathlessness, and cardio-oncology.

A member of the Queensland Cardiovascular Group ([qcg.com.au](http://qcg.com.au)), Dr Burrage has subspecialty training and expertise in heart failure and advanced cardiovascular imaging, including echocardiography, cardiac CT, and cardiac MRI. His clinical interests include the diagnosis and management of heart failure and pulmonary hypertension, the assessment of unexplained breathlessness, cardiomyopathies (including cardiac amyloidosis), and cardio-oncology (the management of cardiovascular disease in patients with cancer).

Mater Private Hospital Brisbane looks forward to partnering with Dr Burrage to deliver new state-of-the-art heart failure, unexplained breathlessness and cardio-oncology services to patients at South Brisbane.

Dr Burrage is now accepting referrals for:

- Heart Failure
- Breathlessness Evaluation
- Pulmonary Hypertension screening (with echocardiography or invasive right heart catheterisation)
- Cardio-Oncology



Please address new referrals to Dr Matthew Burrage via Queensland Cardiovascular Group at Mater Medical Centre:

**E** 07 3016 1111

**W** [qcg.com.au](http://qcg.com.au)



Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (MATSICHS) in Morayfield.



Dr Sarah McDonnell (right) and Registered Nurse Shea Inglis of Neighbourhood Medical, Bardon.

Monday 8 May 2023

## Women's health boosted with funding for two endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics

**phn**  
BRISBANE NORTH  
An Australian Government Initiative

### Women in Queensland have higher rate of endometriosis compared with national rate

Two GP clinics in the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region—including a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clinic—have been selected to deliver better services for women suffering from endometriosis and pelvic pain, promising better health outcomes.

Endometriosis is a painful, often debilitating and incurable inflammatory condition which affects one in nine (11 per cent) of Australian women up to the age of 45. Sufferers can experience a range of symptoms that impact their daily lives, including severe pelvic pain and struggling to fall pregnant.

Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (MATSICHS) in Morayfield and Slainte Medical Neighbourhood in Bardon have been selected as part of the 2022-23 Commonwealth budget commitment to provide

the establishment of targeted Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain GP Clinics in 20 existing primary care settings nationally.

Endometriosis can be difficult to diagnose and that delay between the onset of symptoms and diagnosis averages seven years. These GP clinics will provide more people with access to multi-disciplinary care with a focus on improving diagnostic delay and to promote early access to intervention, care and treatment.

Professor Gita Mishra is the director of Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health at University Queensland, which has been tracking the impact of endometriosis on women in Australia and found higher rates of endometriosis in women in Queensland.

"Using data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health, we found that 17 per cent

(or around one in six) women in Queensland have been diagnosed with endometriosis by the time they are in their mid-forties (aged 40-44), compared to 11 per cent with the rest of Australia," said Prof Mishra.

"Timely diagnosis is important, especially for women planning to start a family. About 40 per cent of women with endometriosis have infertility. In our study, women who weren't diagnosed until after their fertility treatment did more cycles, used more intra-uterine insemination (IUI) instead of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), and were less likely to conceive. Having a diagnosis levels the playing field because fertility treatment can be tailored, for example going straight to IVF."

Funding from Brisbane North PHN will be provided to each of the two clinics over four years commencing this year.

“These clinics are an opportunity for women to talk to health professionals about their concerns, especially as these conditions have been dismissed for so long,” said Prof Mishra.

The aim of the clinics is to improve access for patients to diagnostic, treatment and referral services for endometriosis and pelvic pain, build the primary care workforce to manage this chronic condition and provide improved access to new information and care pathways.

“The PHN is delighted two GP clinics in the region have been chosen to provide this much needed service to ensure women have better health services available close to home,” said Brisbane North PHN acting CEO

Paul Martin. “Endometriosis is an over-looked and poorly diagnosed condition. These clinics will support the diagnosis and care for women suffering this condition in our region.”

Funding was awarded with consideration of GP clinics being able to demonstrate existing expertise in women’s health, improving provision of diagnosis, treatment and management of endometriosis and pelvic pain, including capability of the healthcare team, a strong understanding of and links to their local community, and the ability to link to relevant primary and tertiary care services.

“The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health through its MATSICHS Morayfield clinic is delighted to be

partnering with Brisbane North PHN to further enhance our specialist women’s health services,” said Mr Wayne Ah Boo of the MATSICHS Morayfield clinic. “We look forward to the success of this pilot project and its potential to influence future services regionally as part of the SEQ First Nations Health Equity Strategy.”

“We are delighted to have the opportunity to provide better access to appropriate care for these common and undertreated conditions,” said Dr Sarah McDonnell of Neighbourhood Medical, Bardon. “I look forward to developing this service.”

The clinics will be opening in the coming months.

*Care finders launch*

# Brisbane South PHN introduces local care finders to assist vulnerable older people navigate aged care services



Are you caring for an older patient with intensive support needs who has little to no help from family or a dedicated carer?

Brisbane South PHN has commissioned local, in-person care finders to help vulnerable older people to access aged care services and other supports in the community.

## Who can use the care finder service?

Care finder services are available to older people who are eligible for aged care services and need

intensive support to access these and other local services. This may include people with difficulty understanding information and making decisions, limited family or social support, difficulty communicating, or reluctance to engage with aged care services or governments.

To receive care finder support, a person must:

- ▶ have no carer or support person who can help them, or
- ▶ not have a carer or support person they feel comfortable or trust to support them, and

- ▶ be eligible for government-funded aged care (use the Eligibility checker to learn more).

In addition, they should have one or more of these reasons for needing intensive support:

- ▶ have difficulty communicating because of language or literacy problems
- ▶ find it difficult to understand information and make decisions
- ▶ find it difficult to engage with aged care or government
- ▶ be in an unsafe situation if they are not able to receive services.

## What help can care finders provide?

Care finders can help vulnerable older people navigate the aged care system and find support services to improve their quality of life. They can help an eligible older person access aged care services for the first time and help with changing or finding new services and supports for that person.

Care finders can do this by:

- ▶ talking to My Aged Care on a person's behalf and arranging an assessment
- ▶ attending and providing support at the assessment
- ▶ finding and short-listing aged care providers in their area
- ▶ completing forms and understanding aged care service agreements
- ▶ checking in once services are up and running to make sure everything is okay
- ▶ assisting individuals to connect with support services in the community (e.g., Health, mental health, housing and homelessness, drug and alcohol services and community groups).

## How do I refer my patient to a care finder?

You can call any of the following organisations to help connect a patient to their local care finder in the Brisbane south region:

- ▶ Footprints Community
- ▶ MICAH
- ▶ ADA Australia
- ▶ Star Community Services
- ▶ Multicultural Australia
- ▶ Beucare
- ▶ SSI (formerly Access Community Services)
- ▶ Ozcare

When you call, you will need to answer some questions about why the person needs help from a care finder. The person must give consent

for you to provide this information, so it is best if they are with you when you call.

## How do people who are not eligible for care finder access support?

Most people who need aged care support should call My Aged Care on 1800 200 244 or visit [myagedcare.gov.au](http://myagedcare.gov.au) to discuss their needs and options.

If a person would like help to talk to My Aged Care, phone 1800 227 475 or visit My Aged Care website. Alternatively, they can make an appointment to speak to an aged care services officer at the Woodridge or South Brisbane Services Australia centre.

### Care Finder locations in the Brisbane south region





## Lumus Imaging | All radiology referrals accepted.

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- Seamless access to patient images and reports through our dependable technology partners Medical Objects and Zed Technologies.

### Lumus Imaging GP Dinner Evening:

We invite you to an evening with the team behind one of Australia's leading radiology networks. Enjoy a three course meal while gaining CPD clinical education on MSK, Interventional Procedures and Breast Imaging led by our local Radiologists of Lumus Imaging Indooroopilly & Mount Ommaney.

### Friday 29 September 2023

5:30PM for a 6:00PM start - 9:00PM

Hunter & Scout

7/327 Honour Ave, Graceville, QLD, 4075



Dr Hien Lu  
Radiologist



Dr Kevin Leong  
Radiologist

To secure your spot, please RSVP  
via the QR code or link below.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2FW7T6Z>

If you have any questions, please  
contact our Medical Liaison Officer,  
Rachel Caughley.

rachel.caughley@lumusimaging.com.au  
0481 914 846

Belmont Private Hospital

# Older Persons Program

We are proud to be one of a few private services in Australia offering specialist treatment for our aging population. Our 47-bed older persons unit is purpose built to treat the mental health concerns of older patients and we are currently accepting inpatient and outpatient referrals.



### Inpatient Treatment

We have a number of credentialed Old Age Psychiatrists who specialise in older persons mental health, and to support the physical care requirements of these patients, our hospital has two Physicians and two General Practitioners with visiting rights to the hospital.

Our assessment includes cognitive and functional assessments to provide our patients with the best programs to meet their needs.

Our inpatient programs focus on educational, therapeutic and diversional activities. Therapeutic interventions are provided on the basis of individual need and evidence-based guidelines depending on the needs of each patient.

### Day Programs

Our day programs allow older persons to creatively express themselves and connect with others.

### Healthy Minds

This program is for people aged 55 and over who are experiencing adjustment difficulties, depression, anxiety or early signs of memory loss and/or cognitive changes.

### Young @ Heart

Run by a multidisciplinary treatment team, this program aims to help older adults who want to stay mentally and physically healthy, and improve their quality of life while engaging with groups and services in the community.

### Creative Therapy for Older Adults

This program is for older adults who are interested in creative processes, techniques and creative expression.

### Referrals

To attend these groups you must be a patient of a credentialed psychiatrist. Referrals can be submitted via our online GP/ specialist admission referral form. Fax: 07 3398 0277.

### Old Age Psychiatrists



#### Dr Kimberly Hicks

BAS, MBBS, FRANZCP

Dr Hicks is a Psychiatrist and Psychogeriatrician with special interests in mood and cognitive disorders.



#### Dr Nadia Friend

BEng (Biomed)(Hons), BA, MBBS, FRANZCP, Adv. Cert. POA

Dr Friend is a consultant psychiatrist with a special interest in older persons mental health, mood disorders and cognitive disorders.

MC776 BEL OP A4 Flyer



Scan QR code for further information about our Older Persons Mental Health Services.  
 Email [belmont.admissions@aurorahealth.com.au](mailto:belmont.admissions@aurorahealth.com.au) for referrals or visit [belmontprivate.com.au](http://belmontprivate.com.au)

**Aurora**  
**Belmont**  
 Private Hospital



**Dr Matthew Burrage**  
Consultant Cardiologist,  
Mater Medical Centre

### Cardiology Update

## Heart Failure

*Dr Matthew Burrage,  
Consultant Cardiologist,  
Mater Medical Centre*

Heart failure (HF) is increasingly common and is a major cause of morbidity and mortality with prognosis similar to that of many cancers. Patients with established heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) have substantial risk for disease progression, hospitalisation, and mortality, yet are often misperceived as having chronic stable disease and are misclassified as “low risk”. This results in treatment inertia and contributes to patients’ not receiving life-prolonging therapies in an optimal time frame. More nuanced risk stratification, prognostication, and specialist management under the care of a Heart Failure cardiologist can lead to significantly improved outcomes compared to non-HF specialists .

### Unexplained Breathlessness

Although exertional breathlessness and exercise intolerance are extremely common symptoms, diagnosis and evaluation can be challenging. An integrated cardiorespiratory approach is key to providing patients with a definitive diagnosis and treatment plan in a timely fashion. One of the major causes of exertional breathlessness and exercise intolerance is heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF). There is a growing incidence and prevalence of HFpEF due to the aging population and increasing frequency of risk factors such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and chronic kidney disease. Early diagnosis and treatment are important before adverse sequelae such as atrial enlargement (leading to difficult to control atrial arrhythmias and mitral regurgitation) and adverse pulmonary vascular remodelling (leading to pulmonary hypertension and risk of right heart dysfunction) develop, which are all associated with worsening symptoms and clinical outcomes for patients.

### Cardio-Oncology

While the development of novel cancer treatments has resulted in improved survival rates for patients with cancer, the rate of cardiovascular complications and cardiotoxicity from these treatments has also increased. We are increasingly realising that there are a huge number of drugs from multiple classes that can affect the heart in different ways and via different mechanisms. As a consequence, cardiovascular disease has now taken over as the leading cause of mortality amongst cancer survivors. There is a clear and growing need for dedicated cardio-oncology services to evaluate and treat patients with heart disease, or those who are at risk of developing heart disease, before, during, and after cancer treatment.





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presents

# Fantastic Painful **MUSCULOSKELETAL** beasts AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

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## SAVE THE DATE

*RACGP CPD Activities, 10 Educational Hours + 2 Reviewing Performance Hours event*

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**WHEN:** Saturday 19th August 2023, 8.30am - 3.30pm

**WHERE:** Pier 33, Mooloolaba

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MC Dr Rob Park | Pain Specialist, Dr Ingrid Hutton | Rheumatologist,  
 Dr Stephen Byrne | Neurosurgeon, Dr James Tunggal | Orthopaedic Surgeon,  
 Travis Schultz | Lawyer, Dr Paul Frank | Pain Physician, Dr Peter Georgius | Pain Physician,  
 Dr Daevyd Rodda | Orthopaedic Surgeon, Dr Tim Butson | Rehab Physician  
 + Psychologist, Neurologist, Sports Doctor, Musculoskeletal GP & more!

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**RSVP:** [conference@sportsandspinalphysio.com.au](mailto:conference@sportsandspinalphysio.com.au)

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# Solo Travellers

By Orbit World Travel



Ros Chillingworth  
Orbit World Travel

As we emerge from our Covid Cocoon and back to what we are seeing as the “new normal” of travel we are seeing many growing trends. Travelling has traditionally been a time to spend away with family and friends, however more and more people are opting for solo travel. That could be for any number of reasons:

- ▶ Travelling for work and adding on some leisure travel before or after
- ▶ Different schedules to your family
- ▶ Special interest tourism, e.g. fitness, diving etc.
- ▶ Sadly, divorced or widowed
- ▶ Prefer your own space, and meeting new people.

I have several couples that choose to travel independently as they have completely different interests to their partners. Regardless of the reasons, when it comes to organising your travel itinerary, there are plenty of options.

Traditionally, one of the annoyances for many solo travellers has been that the single traveller has fairly much had to pay the same price as two people! This has never felt fair for many. While yes, they have the same room on the cruise ship but they are not eating twice the food or taking two lots of shore excursions! Doesn't seem fair does it!

Here is the good news. Many operators are now offering lower or no single supplements for solo travellers. Some operators actually dedicate whole tour departures to single travellers so that you can be with like- minded travellers.

## A few ideas for Solo Travellers

- ▶ European River Cruises
- ▶ Cruise the Norwegian coastline
- ▶ National Parks tour in the USA
- ▶ Mekong River Cruise
- ▶ Health Retreats
- ▶ Join a conference group
- ▶ Many many more

There is more aspects to consider when planning solo travel other than just the cost.

One issue is safety considerations. By way of example, countries like Singapore, Japan and Denmark are well known for safety. You can easily navigate around without the same fears that you may have in many countries that may seem more popular.

The pace of the city is another consideration. New York is one of my favourite places to travel, in particular on my own. I can move at my own pace through the museums, pick the shows I want to see, sit for as long as I like in Central Park watching the world go by, and shop as long as I like

at Woodbury Commons outlet stores without feeling hurried. The city has so many restaurants and all full of people sitting on their own having a meal or a wine.

Paris has a similar feel for me, where people watching is an art form and the opportunities to spend time taking in the cultural buffet is limitless.

Solo travel also gives one the time for reflection. In our busy lives, we often have very little time to ourselves. No time for reflection or getting out of our rut. For some this might mean a dedicated week at a Health Retreat where you can cleanse and participate in Yoga and meditation. For others who feel more active and energetic and love the outdoors, that might mean hiking the Routeburn Track in New Zealand or the Camino in Spain.

Travelling is food for the soul.

Ros and Karen at Orbit World Travel have plenty of experience and are full of interesting ideas, taking in all the above personal considerations, if planning a trip on your own.



**Contract Ros at Orbit World Travel  
on 1300 262 885 or email  
ros.chillingworth@orbitworldtravel.com.au**

# BLMA Doctors in Training Evening

*By Amelia Sah, PHO Logan Hospital, DiT Representative on BLMA Management Committee*



**Amelia Sah**  
PHO Logan Hospital, DiT Representative on BLMA Management Committee

On Thursday 22 June BLMA held an education evening especially for doctors in training at Jumbo Thai Restaurant in Brisbane. The meeting was very kindly sponsored by Ipsen and our partner q4 Finance.

Davina, from Ipsen, and Vice President of BLMA, Dr Gail Tsang, provided us with key updates on what's new in prostate cancer therapy.

Kelly Hill from q4 discussed the key concepts that Junior Doctors need to consider at this stage of their careers to enable financial wellbeing. She shared experiences and feedback from her largely medical clientele which sparked a great discussion on current financial strategies that one can put into place.

Our guest speaker for the night was Anita Fletcher, a highly experienced Medical Career Coach and founder of an advice-based specialist consulting practice - Standout Medical Careers. Anita's passions include coaching people to understand and convey their value so that they can realise their potential, as well as writing, public speaking

and working with others to develop career-enhancing programs. We were incredibly privileged to hear from Anita and the key points to consider when applying for positions including college training. She led an engaging discussion on curveball interview questions, how to demonstrate your value, and how to be best prepared.

Many doctors in training from the night reported back that the discussion was both informative and thought provoking. Anita has extensive experience in engaging with doctors across Australia and internationally to help them achieve their goals, and we hope to welcome her back to the BLMA in future. She can be found at [standoutmedicalcareers.com.au](http://standoutmedicalcareers.com.au) for anyone interested in her career advice and mentoring services.

This was the second in a series of functions that the BLMA has held especially for Doctors in Training. It was wonderful to welcome so many new members who joined BLMA. Stay tuned for further activities via our website at [brisbanelma.org](http://brisbanelma.org).





Dr Maria Boulton  
AMA Queensland President



Dr Brett Dale  
AMA Queensland CEO



AMA Queensland  
update [ama.com.au/qld](http://ama.com.au/qld)



**Not a member?**  
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## President and CEO report

The state budget has been handed down, with a record health spend that is above the inflation rate and the implementation of more of our Ramping Roundtable recommendations. However, we are yet to see the Workforce Plan to find the thousands of new staff needed to meet increasing demand across the state. We have seen the reopening of the Gladstone Hospital maternity unit after almost a year on bypass, but other units remain closed around the state.

## State budget

The Queensland budget finally recognised it's not good enough to just keep level with inflation, delivering a 9.6 per cent increase in overall healthcare spending.

Our health investments must keep up with our rapidly growing population and increasing costs of delivering high-quality healthcare.

We were pleased to see our Ramping Roundtable recommendation to extend hospital transit and discharge lounge opening hours taken up. Allowing patients to be discharged after hours and on weekends will free up beds for patients waiting in emergency departments.

We welcome the detail around the financial incentives to attract interstate and international doctors and healthcare workers to rural and remote Queensland. We would like to see this scheme expanded to include GPs and other private specialists, not just Queensland Health employees.

However, this budget missed the opportunity to outline the strategy needed to find the workforce for our healthcare system. Queensland Health is finalising a Workforce Plan. This must look at the entire workforce – GPs, aged care staff, disability workers, private hospitals – as well as Queensland Health employees to identify current and future shortfalls and gaps.

We look forward to seeing more detail in coming weeks and working with the Minister on implementing these budget measures.

Read more at [ama.com.au/qld/news/Budget-good-for-health](http://ama.com.au/qld/news/Budget-good-for-health)



Dr Maria Boulton addressing media at state parliament

## Payroll tax

Treasurer Cameron Dick has made it clear the payroll tax amnesty for general practices will not be extended beyond June 2025.

While we thank Queensland for being the only state or territory to offer an amnesty on the application of this new interpretation of tax laws, we will continue to advocate for an exemption for GPs.

We will make this an election issue next year as GPs will not be able to absorb the added tax and will have to pass it on to patients.

We hope that once again Queensland leads the way and recognises how important it is not to make access to GPs more expensive for patients, particularly in rural and remote areas.

We encourage all practices to seek legal and accounting advice about registering for the amnesty. Practices must complete an expression of interest form by 29 September 2023 to be eligible.

Read more at [ama.com.au/qld/news/Transcript-ABC-Brisbane-State-Budget](https://ama.com.au/qld/news/Transcript-ABC-Brisbane-State-Budget) and [gro.qld.gov.au/payroll-tax/liability/contractor-payments/amnesty/](https://gro.qld.gov.au/payroll-tax/liability/contractor-payments/amnesty/).



## Maternity services

It is a great relief that maternity services have been restored at Gladstone Hospital after almost a year on bypass.

We look forward to seeing more details of how the \$42 million allocated in the state budget for maternity services will be used to fill workforce shortages that have led to many rural units closing or being put on indefinite bypass.

Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has made it clear in media interviews that she is working with AMA Queensland on solutions to

the obstetrician shortage in regional Queensland and that the first new staff recruited from interstate and overseas under the financial incentives offer will start work from 1 July.

We will continue to advocate for more obstetricians, anaesthetists and paediatricians to be recruited and retained in regional Queensland so other maternity units like Biloela and Cooktown can reopen.



## Bulk billing incentive resources

We have developed a suite of resources to inform patients about changes to the bulk billing incentive and why it will not impact their Medicare rebates. They're designed for practices to print in-house as wall posters and patient fact sheets. Download them from [ama.com.au/qld/campaigns/bulk-billing-incentive-facts](https://ama.com.au/qld/campaigns/bulk-billing-incentive-facts)



## General practice

AMA Queensland is continuing to advocate for Queensland to follow Victoria's lead and offer financial incentives to medical graduates to pursue general practice as their specialty.

Victoria's GP training program was oversubscribed this year following the introduction of the incentives, while there are still places available in Queensland.

Currently only 15 per cent of medical students want to train as GPs, pointing to a looming shortfall over the next decade as GPs retire.



The state government says GPs are a federal issue but we believe all levels of government have a role to play. If you're a patient trying to make an after-hours appointment with your GP, you don't care where the funding comes from.

Read more at [ama.com.au/qld/news/Transcript-Today-GP-Shortages](https://ama.com.au/qld/news/Transcript-Today-GP-Shortages)



## Rural health

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has announced a new trial to bring allied health practitioners to five remote and rural Queensland communities, following similar projects in New South Wales and Western Australia.

Under the scheme, allied health practitioners including psychologists, occupational therapists and social workers will travel to Blackall-Tambo, Barcaldine, Longreach, Winton and Cloncurry for regular in-person clinics, followed up by telehealth appointments.

AMA Queensland has long advocated for innovative projects to support healthcare practitioners to work in rural and remote communities as part of GP-led multidisciplinary teams. We look forward to seeing the results of this \$1.5 million trial. Read more at [ama.com.au/qld/news/Transcript-Sky-Regional-allied-health](https://ama.com.au/qld/news/Transcript-Sky-Regional-allied-health)



**Not a member?**

Join AMA Queensland:  
[ama.com.au/qld/join](https://ama.com.au/qld/join)





Julie George and Ryan Luck

### Medical student scholarships

Three James Cook University medical students are receiving financial help from the AMA Queensland Foundation to assist in continuing their medical studies.

Ryan Luck, 21 and Julie George, 22, have been awarded AMA Queensland

Foundation Medical Student Scholarships of \$10,000. The third recipient has requested privacy.

All three are outstanding students who have overcome personal hurdles to continue the challenging but rewarding path of medicine.

We encourage all colleagues to donate to the Foundation so it can continue its good work.

Read more at [ama.com.au/qld/news/three-JCU-medical-students-win-scholarships](https://ama.com.au/qld/news/three-JCU-medical-students-win-scholarships)



### AMA Queensland Foundation EOFY tax appeal

The AMA Queensland Foundation has launched its end of financial year tax appeal to bring healthcare to Queenslanders experiencing homelessness with charity partner Beddown.

Funds raised will help Beddown open new accommodating venues across the state and connect guests with vital outreach medical, healthcare and hygiene services.

Read more at [ama.com.au/qld/news/tax-time-perfect-time-to-tackle-homelessness](https://ama.com.au/qld/news/tax-time-perfect-time-to-tackle-homelessness).



AMA QUEENSLAND

# WOMEN IN MEDICINE

BRISBANE *Breakfast*

REGISTER  
NOW

Join us for an uplifting morning of support, education and networking. This event is one of the most highly anticipated events of the year as it is an opportunity to celebrate the incredible work of our female doctors and the amazing impact they make in the health care sector.

Grab your colleagues and catch up with friends as you learn the fundamentals of mentoring while enjoying a wonderful breakfast.

**DATE**  
Thursday 19 October

**VENUE**  
Waters Edge, Hamilton

**TIME**  
6.30am – 10am

**TOPIC**  
Mentoring

**COST**  
Student/DIT: **\$77**  
Member: **\$82.50**  
Non-member: **\$93.50**  
Student/DIT – table of 10: **\$717**  
Member – table of 10: **\$770**  
Non-Member – table of 10: **\$880**  
VIP breakfast table sponsor – table of 10: **\$2,500**  
[ama.com.au/qld/events/WIMBNE2023](https://ama.com.au/qld/events/WIMBNE2023)





## Emergency department presentations

Queensland has seen a surge in children presenting to emergency departments as the winter flu and RSV season kicks in.

Our hospitals are overstretched and relying on the dedication and altruism of doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers to keep the system operating. We are urging all Queenslanders to get their influenza vaccinations and COVID boosters, to practise good hand hygiene, and to stay home if they are sick.

We have had more than 27,000 confirmed flu cases and almost 15,000 RSV cases in Queensland this year. While COVID cases are dropping, we are still seeing more than 500 new cases reported every day. All Queenslanders need to be vigilant about their own health and the health of others to avoid our hospitals becoming swamped with respiratory cases.

Read more at [ama.com.au/qld/news/Transcript-Today-Extra-ED](https://ama.com.au/qld/news/Transcript-Today-Extra-ED)



## Tobacco laws

New tobacco laws passed state parliament last month following strong AMA Queensland advocacy. The *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Act* introduces a licensing regime for nicotine products, including vapes and e-cigarettes, with new offences and penalties, and stronger enforcement.

We have been calling for this action for years. Last year, Queensland received the Dirty Ashtray Award for the government's failure to enforce regulations around the sale of vapes. Hopefully this will ensure we do not receive this award again.

We are seeing welcome moves at both the state and federal levels to crack down on non-prescription nicotine products to protect young people from nicotine addiction and lung damage.

Read more at [ama.com.au/qld/news/New-tobacco-laws](https://ama.com.au/qld/news/New-tobacco-laws)



## Dinner for the Profession

More than 180 people crowded into Customs House for our annual black tie Dinner for the Profession, which followed the AMA Queensland AGM on Friday 26 May.

Several awards were presented, including AMA Queensland's highest honour, the Gold Medal, which was conferred posthumously on Dr Kate Sinclair. Her son, Dr George Lindley-Jones, accepted the award on her family's behalf.

Dr Jennifer Schafer was awarded the Excellence in Health Care Medal, Dr Rosemary Geraghty was named the Rural Health Medallist and accountant Patrick Staunton was made a Distinguished Support Member for his long service as chair of the AMA Queensland Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC).

Past President and AMA Queensland Foundation Board chairman Dr Dilip Dhupelia was presented with his AMA Roll of Fellows certificate, after the original presentation was delayed by the pandemic.

Read more at [ama.com.au/qld/news/DFP-Awards](https://ama.com.au/qld/news/DFP-Awards) and see the photos on our Facebook page.



Dr Maria Boulton, Health Minister Shannon Fentiman, AMA Queensland Vice President Dr Nick Yim and AMA Queensland CEO Dr Brett Dale

## Junior Doctor Conference and Women In Medicine Breakfast

In May we travelled to Townsville for a number of events, including the sold-out Women in Medicine Breakfast and the Junior Doctor Conference (JDC).

There was significant media interest in JDC as it showcased North Queensland to medical students and junior doctors considering a career in regional Queensland.

Read more at [ama.com.au/qld/news/Transcript-ABC-Junior-Doctor-Conference-Townsville](https://ama.com.au/qld/news/Transcript-ABC-Junior-Doctor-Conference-Townsville) and see the photos on our Facebook page.



## Senior Doctors Conference

We are pleased to be partnering with the Australian Senior Active Doctors Association (ASADA), led by AMA Queensland Board member Dr Geoff Hawson, to host the second Senior Doctors Conference at Waters Edge Brisbane in August. Early-bird ticket prices end on 9 July.

Save Saturday 19 August and register at [ama.com.au/qld/events/SeniorDoctorsConference](https://ama.com.au/qld/events/SeniorDoctorsConference) to secure your early-bird pricing.



Last year's conference saw almost 100 senior active and retired doctors travel nationally for the conference. This year's program will cover topics such as: healthy ageing; encore careers; and senior doctors and the health system.



## AMA Queensland Senior Doctors Conference

Saturday 19 August 2023 | Waters Edge, Brisbane



AMA Queensland will host the *Senior Doctors Conference* at Waters Edge in August. Situated on the top level of Portside Wharf in Hamilton, overlooking Brisbane River, Waters Edge is the most spectacular new waterfront conference venue in Brisbane. The one-day conference will be followed by a networking function on the balcony with drinks and canapés.

Last year saw almost 100 senior active and retired doctors travel nationally for the first ever *Senior Doctors Conference*. This year's conference will cover topics such as healthy ageing, encore careers, and senior doctors and the health system.

The program is currently being created by AMA Queensland, the Australian Senior Active Doctors Association (ASADA) and members of the conference planning committee.

[ama.com.au/qld/events/SeniorDoctorsConference](http://ama.com.au/qld/events/SeniorDoctorsConference)

- DATE** Saturday 19 August
- VENUE** Waters Edge Brisbane  
Level 2/39 Hercules St, Hamilton
- TIME** 9am – 6.30pm
- COST**
- AMA Queensland or ASADA member **\$330**
- Early bird rate (before 9 July) **\$220**
- Non-member **\$660**
- Early bird rate (before 9 July) **\$330**



**REGISTER NOW**



## AMA QUEENSLAND FOUNDATION CHARITY GALA

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2023

Queenslanders experiencing long-term homelessness can expect to live 47 years. In 2023 we're partnering with Beddown to tackle the health impacts of homelessness.

Our charity gala not only celebrates the collective impact of our donors, it will raise vital funds to help open six accommodation venues across Queensland and connect guests with healthcare services. Join us for a night of delicious food, inspiring stories, a silent auction, music, raffle and more.

[ama.com.au/qld/events/2023-foundation-charity-gala](http://ama.com.au/qld/events/2023-foundation-charity-gala)

- DATE** Saturday 18 November
- TIME** 6.30pm to 10.30pm
- VENUE** Customs House,  
399 Queen Street, Brisbane
- THEME** Black Tie with a touch of green
- COST**
- Single ticket: **\$220**
- Table of 10: **\$2,000**
- VIP Gala dinner table sponsor – table of 10: **\$2,500**

**REGISTER NOW**



# Event Wrap Up

11 May 2023

Thank you to our sponsor Mater Health, q4 Financial and Oriprio for making this event possible and the very informative enjoyable presentations from our guest speakers Assistant Professor Catherine McDougall Chief Medical Officer, Queensland Health. Who spoke about her "Visions and Goals for QLD Health". and Dr Amelia Jardim – Specialist Neurosurgeon who gave a very informative talk about "What is new in Neurosurgery".

