



## Message from the BLMA President

*Dr Hasthika Ellepola*

Welcome to Issue 14 of SYNAPSE and the last for 2024.

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to Synapse in this past year. We have had an array of interesting and informative topics by the following authors and organisations who have kindly contributed:

- ▶ Dr Hashim (Hash) Abdeen, Consultant Rheumatologist
- ▶ A/Prof Vanessa Beasley, Team Head, Supportive Care in Cancer, QIMR Berghofer
- ▶ Brisbane North PHN
- ▶ Brisbane South PHN
- ▶ Ros Chillingworth, Orbit World Travel
- ▶ Dr James Collins, Brisbane North PHN
- ▶ Dr Emilia Dauway, AMA Queensland Vice President
- ▶ Dr Lea Freeman, President (2024), Vice President (2022-2024), Australasian Society of Breast Physicians
- ▶ A/Prof Michael Gabbett, Medel Genetics
- ▶ Dr Erica Gannon, Emergency Physician
- ▶ Dr Nisha Hagasia, Mater Gynaecological Oncologist
- ▶ Dr Joel Lewin, Hepatic, Pancreatic and Biliary Surgeon, Mater Townsville
- ▶ Dr James MacKean, Radiation Oncologist, GenesisCare
- ▶ Dr Ben Wakefield, FRANZCP FRACGP-RG FARGP MPH MBBS BSc/BEd
- ▶ Dr Mark Woodrow, General Manager, Medical Advisory Services, Avant

I would also like to extend my thanks and congratulations to our newsletter editor, Dr Dilip Dhupelia and co-editor, Dr Herjot Gill who source current and relevant articles for our membership. Dr Dhupelia and Dr Gill volunteer countless hours to bring Synapse to fruition each edition.

2025 will prove to be a busy year for the BLMA. It has been planned that we will have at least 6 high calibre educational dinner events plus 3 events designated for our Doctors in Training cohort. This will include several new Partners which I am hoping we will be able to announce soon. Our Annual General Meeting will commence our educational event calendar on 25 February 2025 to be followed by our first Doctor in Training event in mid-March 2025.

In 2025, some of the exciting education sessions will include a Medico-Legal Risk Management Symposium, a panel discussion on RSV infection update, and a session focused on improving interview preparation, with a particular emphasis on DiT membership.

With this expansion, we will be able to increase our membership, so feel free to encourage Doctors within your practices and Departments to sign up on our website. We especially would like to see more nonGP specialists and GP Registrars added to our membership as well, so that we represent and develop collegiality with a broad spectrum of Doctors on both sides of the river. Please also let any new Doctors who have commenced practice in the Brisbane area to join our group as membership is a good opportunity for them to meet other established Brisbane Doctors.

My message to our medical community:

“As we continue to navigate the challenges of modern healthcare, it is essential to recognize the importance of self-care for doctors in preventing burnout. As healthcare professionals, we are often so focused on the well-being of our patients that we neglect our own physical and mental health. However, without taking care of ourselves, we are at risk of becoming overwhelmed, exhausted, and disconnected from our work. Burnout not only affects our ability to provide the best care for our patients but also impacts our personal lives, relationships, and overall quality of life.

It is crucial that we prioritize self-care through regular breaks, exercise, maintaining a healthy work-life balance, and seeking support when needed. Mindfulness practices, such as meditation and reflection, can also help us manage stress and build resilience. As an organisation, we are committed to fostering an environment that encourages wellness, offers resources for mental health support, and promotes a culture where seeking help is seen as a strength, not a weakness.

As we move forward, let us remember that caring for ourselves is not just a personal responsibility, but a professional one. By taking proactive steps to protect our own well-being, we ensure that we are better equipped to care for our patients and sustain our careers in medicine for the long term. Together, we can build a healthier, more resilient medical community”

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our BLMA members and wish everyone a wonderful festive season.

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

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## Issue 15 | 2025 Newsletter

**Content Deadline:**  
**Monday 17 February 2025**

- ▶ 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:** info@brisbanelma.org



## Are You a Member?

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



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**Enquiries:** Dr Manoj Bhatt  
drmkbhatt@yahoo.co.uk

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

**Directory form is available on the website.**

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Synapse: Newsletter dates 2025

Newsletter Month	Content Due	Distribution
February	Monday 17 February	Late March
May	Monday 5 May	Late May
July	Friday 4 July	Late July
September	Monday 1 September	Late September
November	Monday 3 November	Late November



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# MONKEY POX

## Monkeypox Vaccine - Jynneos

**Originally published in Brisbane North PHN's GP Link newsletter with information provided by Metro North Public Health Unit**

JYNNEOS™ is a live, non-replicating (unable to reproduce in human cells) smallpox vaccine that is effective at preventing mpox. While not formally registered in Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has made JYNNEOS™ available via a special emergency pathway for prevention of mpox.

### Administering JYNNEOS™

When introduced in 2022, allocation of JYNNEOS™ to vaccine providers was tightly controlled. Now that stock is more widely available for eligible groups and the subcutaneous route of administration is preferred (rather than intradermal injection), there is no longer any specific certification to administer mpox vaccine.

All registered vaccine service providers (VSPs) are able to order, receive and offer JYNNEOS™ vaccine, and administer under the prescription of a medical or nurse practitioner.

Two doses of JYNNEOS™ given at least 28 days apart are needed for optimum protection. No booster is recommended currently.

Vaccinations should be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) in order to ensure completeness of vaccination records, although some vaccine

recipients may choose not to have their JYNNEOS™ vaccine recorded for privacy reasons. This is acceptable for mpox vaccines specifically.

### Eligibility

JYNNEOS™ is fully funded for eligible groups, including Medicare-ineligible people. The vaccine is recommended for:

- ▶ sexually active gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men (GBMSM)
- ▶ sex workers, particularly those whose clients are at risk of mpox exposure

- ▶ people living with HIV, if at risk of mpox exposure
- ▶ laboratory personnel working with orthopoxviruses.

Mxpx vaccination may also be considered for:

- ▶ healthcare workers at risk of exposure to patients with mpox
- ▶ sexual partners of GBMSM, sex workers and people living with HIV.

### Ordering vaccine

Orders for mpox vaccine from the Queensland Immunisation Program (QIP) can be placed via email to [QHIP-ADMIN@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QHIP-ADMIN@health.qld.gov.au).

Following communication with QIP, vaccines can be ordered as part of routine process using the Immunisation Program Vaccine Order Form.

VSPs will also be added to the online Queensland Health mpox vaccine clinic finder.



Australian Government  
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## Services and Health Programs for Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) patients

DVA offers services and programs to assist veterans return home after a hospital stay. These are entry-level services for lower care needs and are only available to eligible veterans and war widowed partners.

The following contact numbers and webpages may assist you when planning the discharge and transfer of care of a DVA patient.

<b>DVA General Enquiries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• phone 1800 555 254</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.dva.gov.au">www.dva.gov.au</a></li> </ul>
<b>Provider Enquiries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• phone 1800 550 547</li> </ul>
<b>DVA Transport Assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• phone 1800 550 445 for Booked Car with Driver information</li> <li>• phone 1800 555 254 for travel claim reimbursement information</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/TFT">www.dva.gov.au/TFT</a></li> </ul>
<b>Health Approvals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• phone 1800 550 457, Press 3 for approvals and enquires</li> <li>• e-mail <a href="mailto:Health.Approval@dva.gov.au">Health.Approval@dva.gov.au</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/providers/approvals-providers">https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/providers/approvals-providers</a></li> </ul>
<b>Veterans' Home Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• phone 1300 550 450 for VHC Assessment Agencies</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/VHC">www.dva.gov.au/VHC</a></li> </ul>
<b>Community Nursing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• phone 1800 550 457, Press 2 for enquires and approvals</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/CN">www.dva.gov.au/CN</a></li> </ul>
<b>Rehabilitation Appliance Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• phone 1800 550 457, Press 1 for enquires and approvals</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/RAPProviders">www.dva.gov.au/RAPProviders</a></li> </ul>
<b>Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Approvals Centre (VAPAC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• phone 1800 552 580, 24 hours</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/providers/gps-other-primary-care-providers/medicines/pharmacy-information-providers">https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/providers/gps-other-primary-care-providers/medicines/pharmacy-information-providers</a></li> </ul>
<b>Aged care support and services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.dva.gov.au/ac">www.dva.gov.au/ac</a></li> </ul>
<b>Open Arms Veterans and Families Counselling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• phone 1800 011 046, Counselling service 24 hour Veterans Line</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.openarms.gov.au/">https://www.openarms.gov.au/</a></li> </ul>



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## Clomid (clomiphene) use for men

Article originally published by [healthymale.org](https://healthymale.org)

Clomiphene citrate (Clomid) is a medication approved to treat infertility in women by encouraging ovulation. It's also long been used to increase men's testosterone levels and treat male infertility, gynecomastia and hypogonadism, but there's still no clear evidence for its effectiveness. Due to the limited data, clomiphene hasn't been approved by regulatory bodies for use in men, but you still might have heard about blokes using it. Here's what you need to know about Clomid and male infertility.

### What is male infertility?

"Male infertility is common, affecting 1 in 20 Australian men and explains up to 50% of cases of couple infertility," says endocrinologist, andrologist and Healthy Male expert advisor, Dr Sarah Catford. Male infertility is usually caused by problems with sperm production, which can be related to hormonal problems, issues with testicular function or blockages in men's reproductive systems. The way male infertility is treated depends on its cause. "Unfortunately, in about half of cases, we don't find a cause and therefore can't offer a specific treatment," Dr Catford says.

### What is Clomid?

Clomiphene is a selective estrogen receptor modulator (SERM) taken as an oral tablet. In men, it affects the system your body uses to control testosterone production, which is called the hypothalamic-pituitary-testicular axis. Clomiphene increases production of gonadotropin hormone-releasing hormone (GnRH) by the hypothalamus, which triggers the pituitary gland to release luteinising hormone (LH) and follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH). In men, LH stimulates Leydig cells in the testes to increase testosterone production, while FSH acts in Sertoli cells in the testes to stimulate sperm production.

Most drugs used to increase testosterone usually suppress male fertility, but clomiphene does not.

### **Can Clomid help improve male infertility?**

Short answer, possibly.

“We know that clomiphene has been used for decades to treat male infertility with the aim of improving sperm quantity and quality and we know that it is well tolerated,” Dr Catford says, “What we don’t know is whether clomiphene is actually effective at improving semen parameters and pregnancy rates.”

A 2023 systematic review and meta-analysis found that clomiphene citrate increases sperm concentration and motility, without serious side effects. However, the individual studies in the meta-analysis varied in quality,

with the weak studies showing an effect of Clomid and the strong studies showing no effect. A 2021 systematic review, which looked just at studies that reported negative effects of Clomid, shows that there are men who experience a negative effect on semen quality when taking Clomid. “Data regarding the effect of clomiphene on semen parameters and pregnancy rates are mixed and mostly of poor quality,” says Dr Catford.

In Australia, clomiphene is not recommended as standard treatment for male infertility. It may help some men, but we cannot predict who will be helped and who will not. Dr Catford is currently studying whether clomiphene improves sperm quantity and quality in men with unexplained low sperm count and normal levels of GnRH. “I chose to study clomiphene as

it’s cheap, easy to administer, has a good safety profile and has been used off-label for decades in the management of male infertility,” Dr Catford says.

### **How long does it take for Clomid to work?**

It can take a few months to see the effects of clomiphene in men, but results vary between individuals.

### **Clomid in Australia**

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has not approved Clomid for use in men in Australia, but it has been used “off-label”. Using Clomid needs to be carefully considered and closely monitored by a healthcare practitioner with expertise in treating male infertility.



# Thank You!

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## What is GivingTuesday?

GivingTuesday Australia is a campaign which celebrates and enhances generosity in our communities. Every year, not-for-profits give time and energy to people, animals, and the environment, taking care of their health and well-being. Individuals generously give their time, money, goods and voices to ensure not-for-profits can continue their important work. Businesses give their expertise and resources to help support the communities they work in.

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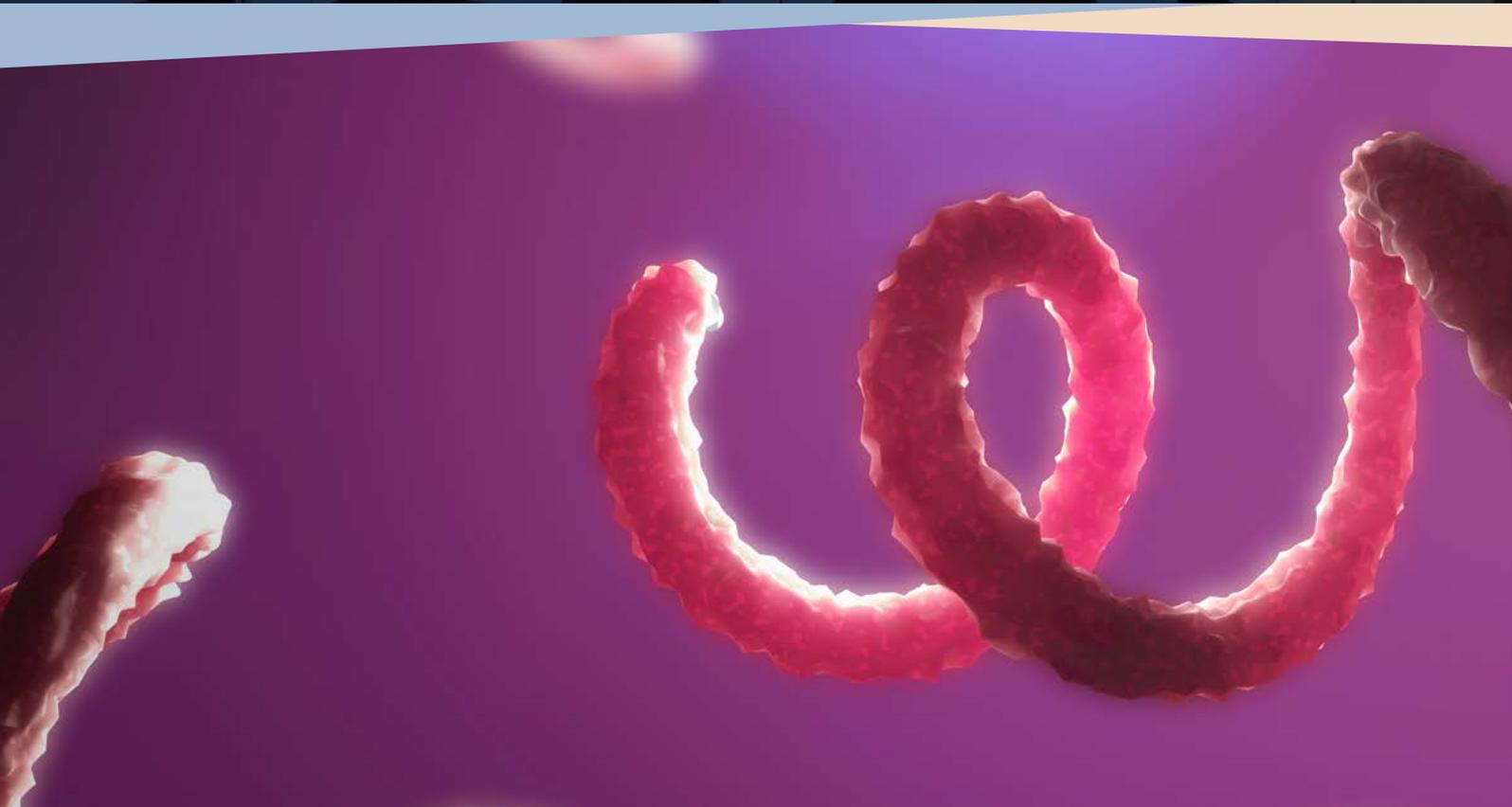


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# What health professionals need to know about Australia's syphilis outbreak

Article originally published by [healthymale.org](https://healthymale.org)

The number of infectious syphilis cases in Australia has been rising since 2011. Until recently, this was due primarily to an outbreak in communities in rural and remote Australia, which disproportionately impacted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. However, the epidemiology of syphilis in Australia has evolved with a shift to include people living in major cities.

The most recent national syphilis surveillance report in 2022 shows the greatest proportion of syphilis cases occurred in non-Indigenous men, with the majority living in cities.

It is critical for health professionals, particularly those in urban areas, to be aware of developments during the ongoing outbreak and to be alert for potential cases of infectious syphilis.

## What is syphilis?

Syphilis is caused by the *Treponema pallidum* bacterium. It is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that can result in serious complications if it is not treated.

Untreated syphilis progresses through primary, secondary, latent and tertiary stages over years or decades.

In the long term, untreated syphilis can cause brain infections, dementia, lung and heart failure, blindness and death.

## Syphilis and Pregnancy

In pregnant people, untreated or inadequately treated syphilis can be passed from parent to fetus, resulting in congenital syphilis, which may cause:

- ▶ Miscarriage
- ▶ Stillbirth
- ▶ Prematurity
- ▶ Low birth weight
- ▶ Death shortly after birth
- ▶ Serious health issues for the baby such as organ, brain or nerve damage.

Testing for syphilis and other STIs should be part of pre-conception health care for men.

## Syphilis and male fertility

Syphilis complications, such as epididymitis, may also have adverse impacts on male fertility because of associated scarring and obstructions.



### **What are the symptoms of syphilis?**

It is important to remember that:

People with latent syphilis are asymptomatic

Untreated syphilis is infectious for up to two years, even if patients don't show any visible symptoms.

During the primary stage of syphilis, a chancre develops at the site of bacterial entry; usually around the genitals, anus or mouth, three to 12 weeks after infection.

During this stage, the sore (or sores) can be:

- ▶ Any shape or size
- ▶ Painful or painless
- ▶ Like hard buttons on the skin.

The secondary stage of syphilis can start two to six months after infection and includes the following symptoms:

- ▶ Rashes on the face, palms or soles of the feet
- ▶ Swollen glands
- ▶ Lumps around the moist areas of the body
- ▶ Hair loss.

Some people may also experience:

- ▶ Headaches
- ▶ Muscle aches
- ▶ Bone and joint pain.

During the latent phase of syphilis, symptoms are absent but sexual transmission is possible for two years after infection, and congenital infection of the fetus is possible at any stage.

Neurological, cardiovascular and skin complications characterise tertiary syphilis, which can occur from months to years after infection.

### **Prevention measures**

Health professionals can help prevent the spread of syphilis by:

- ▶ Screening sexually active patients regularly for syphilis
- ▶ Educating people about safe sex practices, such as the use of condoms. However, condoms are only effective for preventing syphilis transmission if they completely cover the lesion caused by the infection.

### **When to test for syphilis**

Refer to the Australian STI Management Guidelines for Use in Primary Care for the most up-to-date list of clinical indicators for testing.

### **What to do if you suspect a potential case of syphilis**

Confirmed and probable syphilis cases should be notified to your state or territory's public health unit.



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### Avive Clinic Brisbane

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#### Contact Catherine Fitzsimmons

M 0400 293 005 E [catherinefitzsimmons@avivehealth.com.au](mailto:catherinefitzsimmons@avivehealth.com.au)

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## Belmont private hospital and patients support families in crisis during Perinatal mental health week

Belmont Private Hospital, one of Queensland's leading providers of private mental health care, is raising awareness for mental health of parents and families during pregnancy and the first year of parenthood. With the help of patients and staff, the hospital is donating essential items to Baby Give Back, an organisation dedicated to helping families in need. This initiative not only raises awareness but also provides mothers in need across Brisbane and the Gold Coast with critical resources during early parenthood. The drive coincides with Belmont Private's recent \$70 million expansion to enhance dedicated women's, perinatal, and young adult mental health units, addressing the growing community demand for specialised mental health care.

Belmont Private is home to the Brisbane Centre for Postnatal Disorders (BCPND), which has been supporting mothers and families for over 50 years. The hospital has a newly expanded unit that provides a safe and nurturing environment where mothers and fathers can access specialised mental health support tailored to their needs, while remaining connected to their babies and each other. Fathers are involved in this program too, as well as same-sex couples.

Over the years, the unit has seen a significant increase in admissions, reflecting the growing need for such specialised services and a dedicated unit. The unit is designed to address the distinct needs of both parents, providing comprehensive mental health support that enables them

to build resilience and confidence. Therapies such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT) are offered, creating a strong foundation for both themselves and their families that they can use once they are home. Following discharge, patients are entered into a weekly group program.

Belmont Private Hospital's partnership with Baby Give Back during PANDA Week reflects its dedication to supporting families throughout Queensland and beyond.

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



### About Aurora Healthcare

Aurora Healthcare is Australia's largest private hospital specialty group dedicated to focused care in mental health and rehabilitation. Operating a network of 16 private hospitals across major cities and key regional areas, Aurora provides over 1,000 mental health beds and 500 rehabilitation and medical beds, along with an extensive range of day therapy programs. With more than 300 credentialed psychiatrists, Aurora delivers seamless access to tailored mental health and rehabilitation services for a diverse range of population groups, including adolescents, older persons, women, new parents, defence and emergency service personnel, and veterans. Aurora's comprehensive care spans a wide range of mental health needs, including trauma, addictions, substance abuse, pregnancy-related mental health, perimenopause,

PTSD, eating disorders, ADHD, OCD, psychological injury (including work-related), and other mood, anxiety, and depression disorders, providing specialised support for individuals at every stage of life.

[aurorahealth.com.au](http://aurorahealth.com.au)

### About Belmont Private Hospital (by Aurora Healthcare)

Belmont Private Hospital is a 185-bed facility and Queensland's leading provider of acute private mental health services, offering specialised mental health care for over 50 years. Since opening in 1973, the hospital has continually evolved to meet the growing needs of its community, recently investing \$70 million in an expansion that has enhanced its dedicated units for women's, perinatal, and young adult mental health.

[belmontprivate.com.au](http://belmontprivate.com.au)

### About the Brisbane Centre for Postnatal Disorders (BCPND) at Belmont Private Hospital

Situated in a tranquil location just 20 minutes from Brisbane's CBD, Belmont Private Hospital is home to the Brisbane Centre for Postnatal Disorders (BCPND), Queensland's only private inpatient perinatal mental health unit. With a compassionate multidisciplinary team, state-of-the-art facilities, and a commitment to patient-centred care, Belmont Private is devoted to supporting individuals and families through personalised, evidence-based treatments that promote positive and lasting outcomes.

[belmontprivate.com.au/facilities/bcpnd/](http://belmontprivate.com.au/facilities/bcpnd/)



Dr Nick Yim  
AMA Queensland President



Dr Brett Dale  
AMA Queensland CEO



[ama.com.au/qld](https://ama.com.au/qld)

## AMA Queensland

# President and CEO update

November 2024

As the year draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the many achievements AMA Queensland has won for our state's patients and medical profession. As the only organisation representing all specialties across all career stages, from student to senior active doctor, AMA Queensland covers the gamut of public health issues and concerns for the profession. You can find a snapshot of our achievements here [2024 Achievements | Australian Medical Association](#).

It has been a special privilege to represent Queensland doctors in our 130th year of operation.

## State Election

This has been a very big year, culminating in the change of government in the October state election, a change in Queensland Health leadership and the resignation of the Chief Health Officer. Health was a major focus during the campaign, and we rated both major parties' promises against our Election Priorities. The parties were neck and neck with only a couple of minor areas of difference.

You can read the Scorecard here:

[https://www.ama.com.au/qld/campaigns/AMA\\_Queensland\\_Election\\_Commitments\\_Scorecard](https://www.ama.com.au/qld/campaigns/AMA_Queensland_Election_Commitments_Scorecard)

Perhaps our biggest win has been the confirmation from the new state government that general practice will be exempt from the new interpretation of tax law that followed a tribunal ruling in New South Wales in 2021.

Queensland has led the nation and we hope this will be the trigger for change for the other states as part of tax harmonisation.

We have already met with Treasurer David Janetzki and Queensland Revenue Office Commissioner Simon McKee and advocated for the exemption to extend to all medical practices. We have also made it clear the exemption will only succeed if it is not tied to bulk billing.

You can follow the history of our payroll tax advocacy here:

<https://www.ama.com.au/qld/campaigns/payroll-tax-campaign>

We have also had a meeting with new Health Minister Tim Nicholls and the new Director-General of Queensland Health, Dr David Rosengren. Minister Nicholls stressed that his sole focus is on delivering the LNP's election commitments, including increasing the health workforce by 34,200 staff by 2032, stopping the growth in elective surgery wait lists within the next 12 months, and a 30 per cent drop in ambulance ramping by 2028.

We will continue to advocate for reforms and initiatives that will improve ramping, elective surgery access and staffing – the things our members tell us they want. This will necessitate making Queensland the most attractive destination for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals from around Australia and the world.

## Pill testing and drug law reform

We secured a change of heart from the new government on cancelling the pill testing service at Schoolies this year. Pill testing is not just about checking what is in the substances, it is about education and early intervention for people who are already contemplating taking an illicit substance.

While the government has announced it will not continue this program beyond this year, we will continue to advocate for its retention, and the retention of drug diversion and alcohol treatment reforms.

## Resident Hospital Health Check

Our *Resident Hospital Health Check* of more than 800 junior doctors at hospitals across the state has again found that about one-third of junior doctors report feeling unsafe at work, and about one-half are worried that they are so fatigued from long hours that they will make a clinical mistake. We will keep working with Queensland Health and the government to fix these issues.

The *Resident Hospital Health Check 2024* is available here:

<https://www.ama.com.au/qld/campaigns/resident-hospital-health-check>

## Satellite Hospitals

The new government has also pledged to rename the existing satellite hospitals to avoid confusing patients about the services available. We have been calling for a public education campaign about where to seek treatment – when to see your GP, when to attend an

urgent care clinic, satellite hospital or nurse-led walk-in clinic, and when to present to the emergency department.

Queensland Health has launched a short survey gauging opinions about what the facilities should be called.

You can take the survey here:

<https://www.ama.com.au/qld/news/Have-your-say-on-a-new-name-for-satellite-hospitals>

## Medicinal Cannabis

AMA Queensland, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP, Queensland Branch) and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland, have jointly written to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) with our concerns about the rapid increase in medicinal cannabis use across our state.

A 2023 RANZCP report has shown Queensland's rate of prescribing of medicinal cannabis products is higher than that of all other jurisdictions combined, with 167,000 scripts issued since licensing began in 2016 compared with 156,000 combined across Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia over the same period.

Patients, particularly those with psychotic illnesses, are suffering significant adverse health outcomes from inappropriate prescribing and use of products with highly potent concentrations of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Even patients without previous histories of mental illness are presenting to our emergency departments with psychosis after using these substances. It is our view that current controls are

inadequate, including the TGA's standards for regulating medicinal cannabis products and their THC concentrations.

We have asked the TGA to remove medicinal cannabis from the Special Access Scheme (SAS) and to take action to improve its regulation, particularly the concentrations of THC allowable under relevant legislation.

You can read the letter here:

<https://www.ama.com.au/qld/news/Concerns-about-medicinal-cannabis>

## Caboolture Hospital

AMA Queensland met with Metro North executive team members and doctors at Caboolture Hospital on 14 October to discuss ongoing clinician concerns about patient and staff safety in the emergency department.

All parties agreed during the meeting it is imperative the matters are resolved collaboratively, effectively and promptly to ensure patient and staff safety.

Metro North has written to us acknowledging the staffing shortfalls and confirming that effective triage remains the responsibility of the clinical team.

You can read the correspondence in full here:

<https://www.ama.com.au/qld/correspondence/CabooltureHospital>



# Washington Destination Guide

*By Orbit World Travel*

## HISTORY & POLITICS

### Arlington National Cemetery

America's largest national burial ground which was built during the Civil War. Among the thousands of white headstones are the graves of President John F Kennedy and the Tomb of the Unknowns. The site still averages 5,000 funerals a year and attracts four million visitors.

### Ford's Theatre Museum

The Ford's Theatre is where President Lincoln was shot whilst watching the comedy 'Our American Cousin'. The theatre is decorated in the style of that day and the museum's permanent exhibit highlights Lincoln's role in preserving America's pioneering effort in self-government.

Exhibits include a 5-minute film, letters from the period, and artefact's which trace his path to presidential election.

### Monticello (Jefferson's House)

This domed hilltop mansion was the home of the third president Thomas Jefferson. Monticello is the autobiographical masterpiece of Thomas Jefferson, designed and redesigned and built and rebuilt for more than forty years. Jefferson, who died 50 years to the day after his Declaration of Independence was adopted, is buried in the nearby family cemetery.

### Mount Vernon (George Washington's Home)

Mount Vernon was the beloved home of George and Martha Washington from the time of their marriage in 1759 until General Washington's death in 1799. Stretching over 500 open acres overlooking the Potomac River, just 16 miles from Washington D.C the mansion houses the tomb of George Washington, two museums, a gift shop & gardens.

### Gettysburg National Military Park

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought between the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. President Lincoln used the dedication ceremony for the Gettysburg National Cemetery to honour the fallen Union soldiers and redefine the purpose of the war in his historic Gettysburg Address.

### Woodrow Wilson House

Washington DC's only presidential museum. The former home of President Woodrow Wilson and Edith Wilson following their White House years features original furnishings, presidential memorabilia and changing special exhibits.

### The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

This sombre and moving museum tells the story of the Holocaust through artefacts, films, photos and oral histories. There is also a Hall of Remembrance, Wall of Remembrance and special exhibits.

### **National Archives Experience**

A vast collection of America's important documents, maps, photos, recordings, films and objects. Famous items include the gun that shot JFK, the Watergate Tapes and the Declaration of Independence.

### **Supreme Court**

The home of the ultimate judicial and constitutional authority where the nine court justices hear around 100 of the 7,000 cases submitted to the court each year. When the court is in session from October to April, visitors can see cases being argued on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am– 3pm. Students can either listen to the whole argument or can go to one of the three-minute slots, which gives a quick glimpse of the court in action.

### **The Pentagon**

The headquarters to the Department of Defence, the Pentagon is virtually a city in itself. Approximately 23,000 employees, both military and civilian, contribute to the planning and execution of the defence of the USA.

### **US Capitol**

The United States Capitol house is the meeting chambers of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Since 1793, it has been built, burnt, rebuilt, extended and restored. Today, it stands as a monument not only to its builders but also to the American people and their government.

### **White House Visitor Centre**

Foreign nationals can visit the White House. Schools must apply via the embassy. The White House visitor centre contains photos, costumes and artefacts which depict the history of the presidential residence.

### **National Museum of African American History & Culture**

The museum aims to place themes of American history within the context of the African American experience, exploring the richness and diversity of the culture and how it has shaped the nation. Collections will cover the Revolutionary era to the present with a focus on the history of the Civil Rights Movement.

### **FDR Memorial**

A 7.5-acre site near the Jefferson Memorial, this memorial depicts the 12 pivotal years of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidency through a series of four outdoor gallery rooms. The rooms feature ten bronze sculptures depicting President Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt and events from the Great Depression and World War II.

### **Lincoln Memorial**

The Lincoln Memorial was built to honour the 16th President of the United States. In front is the Reflecting Pool which is part of the iconic image of Washington and was the site of Martin Luther King's speech 'I Had a Dream' which was attended by 250,000 people.

### **Martin Luther King Memorial**

Located on one of the most prestigious sites remaining on the National Mall, the memorial to Dr Martin Luther King is the first major memorial to be dedicated to an African-American, and to a person whom was not a president. The memorial conveys three themes that were central throughout Dr King's life – democracy, justice, and hope. The centrepiece is a 10-metre statue of Dr King, gazing into the horizon.

### **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a national memorial in Washington, D.C. It honours U.S. service members of the U.S. armed forces who fought in the Vietnam War, service members who died in service in Vietnam/South East Asia, and those service members who were missing in action during the War.

### **Korean War Veterans Memorial**

Built by the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory at a cost of 18 million dollars, this site features a sculptured column of 6 metre-high soldiers arrayed for combat with the American flag as their symbolic objective. A 50-metre mural wall inscribed with the words "Freedom is Not Free".

### **US Marine Corps Memorial**

The memorial is dedicated to all personnel of the United States Marine Corps who have died in the defence of the United States since 1775.

## **ART & DESIGN**

### **National Gallery of Art**

The National Gallery of Art is a world-class art museum that displays one of the largest collections of masterpieces in the world including paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, sculpture, and decorative arts from the 13th century to the present.

### **National Portrait Gallery**

The National Portrait Gallery tells the stories of America through the individuals who established American culture. Through the visual arts, performing arts, and new media, the Portrait Gallery portrays poets and presidents, visionaries and villains, actors and activists.

The museum’s collection of nearly 20,000 works ranges from paintings and sculpture to photographs and drawings

**Smithsonian American Art Museum**

The Smithsonian American Art Museum is the home of the largest collection of American art in the world including more than 41,000 artworks, spanning more than three centuries.

**Phillips Collection**

America’s first museum of modern art was opened as a gallery in the 1920s. It features Renoir’s ‘Luncheon of the Boating Party’ which is the keystone of the works here but also exhibited are works by Cezanne, Braque, Monet, Matisse, O’Keeffe and Picasso.

**Freer Gallery of Art**

An outstanding collection of Asian art, plus works by 19th and 20th century American artists. The opulent Peacock Room is the only surviving example of American expatriate James McNeill Whistler’s interior design.

**REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**Sightseeing Tour of Washington**

A sightseeing tour of Washington will offer your students the opportunity to see the city’s main attractions. A professional, experienced, guide will give an insight into the history and culture of the city and will be able to answer any questions students may have.

**Smithsonian**

The Smithsonian Institute was established in 1846 and is a group of museums and research centres. It includes the Air and Space Museum, Freer Gallery of Art, American History Museum and the American Art Museum.

**National Air & Space Museum**

The world’s most visited museum houses the Wright Brother’s 1903 Flyer, Lindbergh’s Spirit of St Louis, Apollo 11 lunar command module and an incredible collection of aviation and space technology treasures. You can even buy freeze-dried space food in the gift shop.

**Bureau of Engraving and Printing**

As the U.S. Government’s security printer, the BEP is responsible for the design, engraving and printing of all U.S. paper currency. A world leader in printing technology, the Bureau also produces postage stamps, White House invitations, Treasury obligations and other U.S. securities. During a tour of the BEP, students will see millions of dollars being printed.

**Newseum**

The Newseum is a six-level, high-tech and interactive museum tracing the history of news reporting from the 16th century to the present day. It houses 15 theatres, 14 major galleries, two state-of-the-art broadcast studios and a 4-D time-travel experience. The exhibition galleries explore news history, electronic news, photojournalism, world news and how the media have covered major historical events.

**Madame Tussauds Washington D.C**

Madame Tussauds opened its doors in October 2007 hosting many exciting new experiences. The fully interactive attraction features exhibits such as ‘Behind the scenes’, where visitors can learn about the trade secrets used to create the wax figures. It pays homage to some of the most influential political figures in U.S. history from Presidents and First Ladies to activists and assassins.

**Union Station Historic Tour**

One of Washington’s busiest and best-known places is visited by 40 million people each year. Tours can be customised to cover the great history of the building, it’s architecture and how it has been restored to preserve it as a national treasure.

*For more information on your next (or first) trip to Washington, contact an Orbit World Travel Advisor.*



**Ros Chillingworth**  
Orbit World Travel

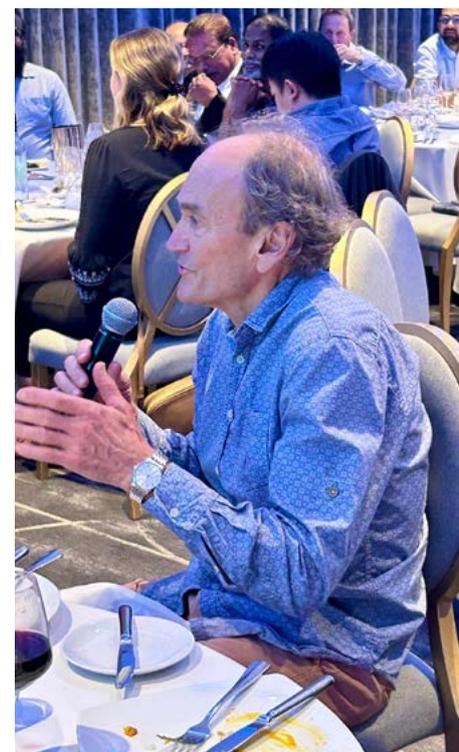




## 2024 BLMA Event Wrap up!

2024 has been our most successful year yet with all events having registrations reach capacity before the RSVP date! Our Management Committee are proud to be able to co-ordinate such in demand events for our members.

Of course, our events could not be possible without our Partners and sponsors:



Here are some of our favourite photos from our 2024 events!

# Advertising Kit 2025

The Brisbane Local Medical Association’s Newsletter Synapse is a bi-monthly publication.

## DISTRIBUTION

- ▶ Circulated to specialists, GPs, Private and Public Hospitals, allied health workers, practice managers, retired doctors, Public or Private Sector Doctor, Doctors in Training and GP Registrars throughout the Greater Brisbane Region.
- ▶ All newsletters are uploaded to the BLMA website which attracts strong traffic – brisbanelma.org

## NEWSLETTER

- ▶ Electronic and printed copies are distributed.
- ▶ Each edition is between 20 and 28 pages.
- ▶ All content is to be approved by the editor.
- ▶ Advertising guidelines apply.
- ▶ Please see Newsletter for frequency for content due deadlines and distribution dates.

If you are interested in advertising in SYNAPSE please contact:

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## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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## NEWSLETTER FREQUENCY 2025

Month	Content Due	Distribution
February	Monday 17 February	Late March
May	Monday 5 May	Late May
July	Friday 4 July	Late July
September	Monday 1 September	Late September
November	Monday 3 November	Late November

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### Advertorials

- \$475 or 3 ads for \$1200
- Please note the following discounts:*
- ▶ 10% discount for 3 or more placements.
- ▶ 20% discount for 6 placements (1 year).

## CLASSIFIEDS

All classifieds are subject to the Editor’s discretion.

- ▶ No charge to current BLMA members.
- ▶ Non-members: \$100.
- ▶ Word count no more than 120 words.

## ARTWORK SPECIFICATIONS

- ▶ All artwork must be supplied as a CMYK high-res/print ready PDF.
- ▶ All artwork is to exclude bleed, crop marks, registration bars, spot or PMS colours and registration colours.
- ▶ All fonts must be embedded in the PDF or converted to outlines.
- ▶ No type should be smaller than 6 points.
- ▶ If specifications are not met artwork needs to be resubmitted by the due date.

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- ▶ Copy to be supplied in a Word Doc.
- ▶ Image should be high-res and the file size should be at least 1MB.

