

Board Meeting Summary

Thursday, 5 February 2026

Queensland Children's Hospital

Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised this summary contains the name of a First Nations person who has passed away.

Dear colleagues and community members

The February Board meeting was chaired by Heather Watson and held at the Queensland Children's Hospital, with attendance from Board members, the Executive Leadership Team and guests from across CHQ. The meeting began with an Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and paid respects to Songwoman Aunty Maroochy Barambah, honouring her leadership and legacy. An Acknowledgement of Aunty Maroochy was read out by the Health Service Chief Executive (attached).

Key strategic and operational matters discussed during the Board meeting included:

- Reflections on the Board's strategic engagement throughout 2025 and planning for 2026, emphasising strengthened strategic rhythm, protected time for forward-looking discussions, and alignment with CHQ Strategic Plan pillars.
- The Board's continued support for the Queensland Children's Gender Service and noted the continued demand for services from across the State.
- Regular reports and updates from the Health Service Chief Executive and the Executive Leadership Team on finance, operations, clinical governance, corporate governance and strategic service priorities.

The Board and Executive Leadership Team participated in an externally facilitated workshop focused on ethical decision-making, cultural integrity and strengthening organisational judgement.

Engagement highlights included a presentation on Transfer of Care Summaries, showcasing multidisciplinary achievements in timeliness, quality and cultural improvement across clinical teams.

The Board and Executive Leadership Team will undertake a range of actions following the meeting to progress our commitment to safe, high quality and person-centred healthcare.

Thank you to the Board members, Executive Leadership Team, CHQ staff and guests for your contributions to the meeting. We remain committed to delivering safe, high-quality and person-centred care for children, young people and families across Queensland.

Heather Watson



This summary of Board discussion and decisions made does not form or represent any part of the minutes of the meeting.

Subject:

FW: In respect of the late Aunty Maroochy Barambah

Sent: Thursday, 5 February 2026 12:25 PM

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Message from the Board Chair, Chief Executive, and Acting Executive Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement



Thursday, 5 February 2026

Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that the following message contains the name of a First Nations person who has died.

Dear colleagues

We acknowledge with deep sadness the passing of Aunty Maroochy Barambah, a Turrbal Elder and Songwoman for her people.

Aunty Maroochy was an incredible leader who leaves behind a powerful legacy of strength, unwavering support, and tireless advocacy for Aboriginal rights and cultural recognition.

Her deep commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families was evident through the time she spent at Children's Health Queensland and the Queensland Children's Hospital, where she generously shared her wisdom, care, and cultural guidance.

Aunty Maroochy was cherished by all who were privileged to yarn with her, and her spirit, leadership, and voice will continue to guide and inspire generations to come.

Beyond her advocacy and leadership, Aunty Maroochy was a cultural custodian who carried and shared knowledge through song, story, and presence. She walked proudly in her identity

and encouraged others to do the same, always lifting up community and future generations.

Aunty Maroochy's legacy will live on through her family, her people, and the many lives she touched.

We honour her life, her leadership, and her enduring contribution to culture and community, and we extend our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones close to her.

Heather Watson

Board Chair

Frank Tracey

Chief Executive

Dennis Conlon

A/Executive Director, Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Engagement

Children's Health Queensland pays respect to the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we have the privilege to work on.
We acknowledge and pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging.

Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service

If you would like to provide feedback, please email

[CHQ Communications and Engagement](#)

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