



### Supporting staff after incidents

In response to feedback in the Have Your Say survey, at the staff occupational violence forum last year, and after some critical incidents taking place across Metro North services, Metro North have developed a [Post Critical Incident Staff Support Guideline](#).

The guideline provides a framework to ensure a consistent approach is taken to staff support across Metro North, minimising the harm from exposure to significant events such as serious workplace accidents, a tragic or grief-inducing incident, or occupational violence.

[Watch this video](#) for more information on the guide or visit the [QHEPS page](#)

### Qld Health smoking ban

On Wednesday we had an incident where a Metro North staff member activated a fire alarm due to vaping in a level 3 toilet. Please be reminded that laws in Queensland ban smoking at public hospitals and health facilities or within 5 metres beyond their boundaries, including the toilets. This ban includes tobacco products, herbal cigarettes, e-cigarettes and personal vaping products (vapes).



### Metro North Spinal Injury Services Project update

I've had a few queries around where the project is up to. Following extensive consultation with stakeholders, a draft business case was developed and provided to the Metro North Executive. The business case will be submitted to the System Planning Branch in due course. I thank everyone for their interest in the project and will let you know when there are any further developments. Metro North representatives continue to participate in the Statewide SCI service planning being led out of the System Planning Branch.

### Metro North Research Swift Grants

I was very pleased to see several STARS researchers having success in the recently announced Metro North Research Swift Grants. The Swift Grants Program creates opportunities to generate new knowledge through research and supports early phase, rapidly deployed, innovative research projects.

Congratulations to the following research teams:

- Prevalence of peripheral vestibular dysfunction and associations with activity limitations and recovery in adults with moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injury (TBI)  
**Chief Investigator A: Mrs Dharsha Petrie, Physiotherapist, STARS**
- Co-Design of a Presurgical Intervention for Men Treated with Prostate Cancer (The CODE Study)  
**Chief Investigator A: Ms Jessica Bolte, Registered Nurse, STARS**  
**Chief Investigator B: Dr Natasha Roberts, Specialist Nurse, STARS**
- Enhancing Shoulder Arthroplasty Outcomes through ERAS: A Mixed Methods Research Project  
**Chief Investigator A: Dr Yvana Toh, Principal House Officer, Surgery, STARS**

### Winners in the Queensland Health Awards for Excellence

On Wednesday night I attended the Queensland Health Awards for Excellence event at Brisbane City Hall. Metro North were well represented across all categories. I am very pleased to announce that the Comprehensive, High-dose Aphasia Treatment (CHAT) was announced as a winner in the Embracing Research and Innovation category.

Additionally, the Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute won the Transforming Health category for Intra-Operative Radiation Therapy (IORT), which takes place at STARS, and our team were involved in the winning and highly commended entries for the Advancing Sustainability category.

Congratulations also to the Dietitian First Gastroenterology Clinic (DFGC) who were a finalist in the Digitising healthcare category.

### Research Excellence Awards

A reminder that the Research Excellence Awards nominations are currently open, **closing on Wednesday 26 June 2024 at 5pm**. Nominations are open to all researchers of all stages including early career, well-established, and anywhere in between. I would love to see the amazing research of our STARS team well represented at the Awards, so I encourage you to nominate.

You can [nominate here](#).

### Staffing changes

A big congratulations to Oliver Mason who was recently appointed as Director Rehabilitation Engineering, after Acting in the role following Peter Slattery's retirement. Oli's appointment is very well deserved, and the Rehabilitation Engineering Centre is in great hands.



### Staff Council workshop

This week STARS Staff Council held a planning workshop, facilitated by Gillian Nasato. Gil was instrumental in establishing the RBWH Staff Council and her insight into the role of a Staff Council and what makes a successful Staff Council was invaluable. Workshop participants went away with some clear intentions and actions for the future which will strengthen the strategic direction of the STARS Staff Council.



### 100,000 steps success

The 10,000 steps challenge was a huge success with Qld Health collectively doing 2.6 billion steps – which is the equivalent of 58 times around Australia. A big shout out to all our STARS teams who participated, including our 6A team who achieved an outstanding 4th place out of 67 teams in the Metro North with an impressive 12,307,110 steps! This remarkable achievement is a testament to your dedication, enthusiasm, and collective effort in the challenge.

### Media coverage

There have been several good news stories involving STARS in the lead up to the RBWH's Giving Day. Channel Seven recently featured researcher, Michelle McGrath and the QMAC Gait Analysis Lab, located at STARS, and patient Stuart Chalmer. You can view the full [clip here](#).

The Rehabilitation Engineering Centre was featured in a story about patient Juliette who is reliant on a tube-feeding for nutrition after suffering a twisted bowel. Juliette has taken up long distance running, and engineer Mick designed and purpose-built a running vest prototype for her so she can carry her feeding tube on her run. You can view the full media clip [here](#) and read Metro North's [Facebook post here](#).

Juliette's comment on the Facebook post is a wonderful tribute to RBWH and STARS staff and reflects how the care we provide really does change lives:

*"RBWH saved my life, and STARS are helping me live it to the fullest!"*

*"Words can't properly express how grateful I am for Mick and Will and Metro North Health. I can't wait to get out there and cross that finish line as a tribute to all those who have been with me every step of the*

way."

Well done to Mick and the Rehabilitation Engineering Centre team.

### May Staff Shout Outs

Congratulations to all our wonderful staff who received a Staff Shout Out in May:

Glenn McDonald, Lizzie Slatter, Natalie Camilleri, Chris Clay, Maria Gaudry, Lucy-Jayne Brown, Aklima Alam, Bei Sun, Dr David (Gordon) Brown, Leneshia Duncan, Bonnie Heseltine, Sunil Nair, Jack McFarlane, William Albertson and Elizabeth O'Neill.



If you would like to nominate a colleague or team for the June Staff Shout Outs you can [do so here](#).

### Patient compliment

Lastly, some wonderful feedback from a day surgery/procedural patient who also utilised the PODSS service.

*"Thank you to all the staff at all levels in STARS. The service at all levels was fantastic and I was made to feel very comfortable. Everyone and everything was professional."*

Kind regards

Dale Dally-Watkins