



Dear staff

Metro North is still seeing high demands for our services due to respiratory illnesses. Just a reminder to take care of yourself over the winter. We are currently on Tier 1 of the Acute Respiratory Illness Plan. All staff are encouraged to:

- wear masks in line with the PPE guidelines ([click here for more information](#))
- ensure flu and COVID vaccinations and annual fit testing are up to date
- stay home if you're unwell, let your line manager know and submit your leave form as soon as possible via the Smart Leave form on MyHR
- check in with your line manager for any other requirements in your local workplace under your directorate Acute Respiratory Illness Response Subplan.

For more information, please access the Metro North [Acute Respiratory Illness Response Plan Tier 1](#).

### Healthy Equity showcase

On Thursday I had the pleasure of attending the biannual Health Equity Showcase held at Eaton's Hill. The showcase provided important updates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, community members and key stakeholders involved in the health equity journey. There were a variety of speakers, panels and presentations as well as traditional dancing from the Wagga Torres Strait Islander Dance Company and the Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dance Company. It was wonderful to see so many in attendance to hear about the progress made and to reflect on what still needs to be achieved.



*Metro North executive, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team and Elders and community members attended the Health Equity Showcase.*

## Safeguarding our workplaces

There have recently been concerns raised in relation to “ghosting” whereby someone tailgates staff into a restricted area. This poses a significant risk to the safety of our facilities and patients. If all staff could take the following action:

- Undertake the Privacy Training Module on TMS
- Make yourself aware of your responsibilities
- Have your ID on and show this to someone if they ask for identification
- Don't let people “ghost” into a room/area behind you – wait until the door is closed before walking away.
- If you don't know who someone is in a restricted area, then politely ask to see some identification.
- Remember safety and security is everybody's job.

## Staff changes

Henry Nona has recently joined STARS as our Cultural Capability Officer. For those of you who joined us for our Reconciliation Week event, you may remember that Henry spoke about the importance of the week and the journey towards reconciliation. Henry was previously the Cultural Capability Officer at The Prince Charles Hospital where he was involved in the establishment of the Healing Garden and the Reconciliation Action Plan.



Henry identifies as both an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian. To read more about Henry and his plans for STARS in his role as the Cultural Capability Officer, see the full [staff profile here](#).

## Coming of the Light celebrations

On Monday, Torres Strait Islanders celebrate the Coming of the Light. This festival commemorates the adoption of Christianity through the Torres Strait Islander communities during the late nineteenth century. Torres Strait Islanders living on the islands or on the mainland come together to honour this anniversary every year. I wish them well for their upcoming celebrations.

## Happy Wellbeing Week 24-30 June 2024

This week is Wellbeing Week and it is a great opportunity to connect with your team, colleagues and the wider Metro North Health community by trying the [60 seconds farewell](#). Metro North has a wealth of [wellbeing resources](#) that staff can access, as well as the [Peer Responder Program](#) and [Staff Psychology Service](#).



## Research Excellence Awards - nominations extended

If you haven't yet submitted your nomination for the Research Excellence Awards, nominations have now been extended until 5pm Monday 1 July. The awards provide an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our research community. You can nominate [here](#).



## Staff Forum and Brief the Boss

Unfortunately, the Staff Forum originally scheduled for Thursday this week had to be cancelled due to staff attending the Health Equity Showcase and emergent leave. The next Staff Forum will be held on **Thursday 11 July at 11.00am**. If anyone would like to present at the next Staff Forum or has a topic they would like information on, please let me know.

The next Brief the Boss session will be held on Thursday 4 July at 11.00am. We have decided to change the location this time to **Level 3 Food Court**. Hopefully this location will be more visible and accessible for staff.

Kind regards

Dale Dally-Watkins