

MESSAGE FROM THE ED, STARS

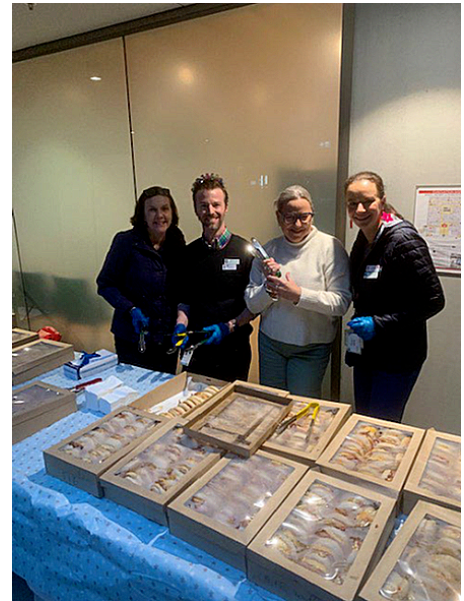
Metro North Health

Dale Dally-Watkins



Dear staff,

Last Wednesday we held a staff breakfast as a thank you to everyone for their hard work over the last few months. Staff were treated to breakfast muffins and croissants, including gluten free and vegan options. It was a very chilly morning so thank you to everyone who braved the cold and a special thank you to the Staff Council for serving the food and to our generous sponsor QSuper for making the event possible.



Olympic /Paralympic spirit at STARS

To celebrate the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics, the STARS Allied Health Team organised a range of fun events for patients to get into the Olympic spirit. There was a torch relay, opening ceremony, as well as timed sit-to-stands, walking slalom races, a basketball shoot-out, bean bag shot put and box and block test times.

Staff at STARS also participated in Olympic-themed activities and a special mention must go to those who competed in the hobby horse dressage which was very entertaining.

Thank you to the Allied Health team for organising these activities and for everyone who participated or facilitated participation for their patients.



Sporting efforts

We are a talented bunch here at STARS, with two of our staff recently competing at the Hockey Australia Women's Masters tournament in Sydney. STARS Research Education and Research Alliance Manager Susan Sullivan (*right*) and Staff Specialist Julia McLeod (*left*) won an amazing bronze medal, in a very tight competition with only a single goal between most teams. This was the first time Susan and Julia represented Queensland. Congratulations to them both.



Metro North Spinal Injury Services Project update

A number of staff have been asking about where the business case is up to for the 20 SCI rehabilitation beds at STARS. At this stage the business case is continuing to go through the review processes within Metro North, before being progressed to the Department of Health. You can read more about the business case in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#), including the ongoing planning that is continuing in the background. I'll continue to provide updates about the progress in my ED message.

Ward 6C

We are in the early stages of transitioning 6C into a dedicated clinical ward for surgical patients. Currently used for clinical teams, ambulatory care services and care coordination, half of 6C will soon be reconfigured to accommodate inpatient beds, marking a significant enhancement in our service capabilities. Planning and preparations are underway to transition to a fully functional clinical ward and regular correspondence will be circulated to keep everyone informed on the progress.

Your cooperation and flexibility during this transition are greatly appreciated. We believe this development will greatly benefit our patients and enhance our overall service delivery.

Tier 2 Acute Respiratory Response plan

With Ekka starting on the weekend, I would like to remind everyone to look after themselves at this time of year. As predicted there have been increases of acute respiratory illness in the community, particularly influenza and COVID-19. Metro North are currently on Tier 2 in our Acute Respiratory Illness Response Plan so this means virtual meetings and training, whenever feasible (essential face-to-face training sessions such as OVP, BLS, and ALS can proceed).

All staff are strongly encouraged to continue wearing masks in clinical areas (following [PPE guidelines](#)), ensure their flu and COVID vaccinations and fit testing are up to date, stay home if feeling unwell and inform line managers of any sick leave via the Smart Leave form on MyHR.



National Stroke Week 5-11 August 2024

This week we recognised National Stroke Week, something that is very relevant to a lot of the rehabilitation work we do here at STARS. An information booth was set up on the ground floor which provided information on stroke as well as details about our updated Stroke Education program, which is delivered to stroke survivors and their families/carers.

RBWH Foundation survey

Our charity partner, RBWH Foundation, would love your thoughts on how they can best support STARS staff. If you have a spare 3 minutes please fill out the survey asking about what activities you would like to see at the hospital. A free coffee voucher is on offer to everyone who participates by the end of August.

[Click here to have your say.](#)

Brief the Boss

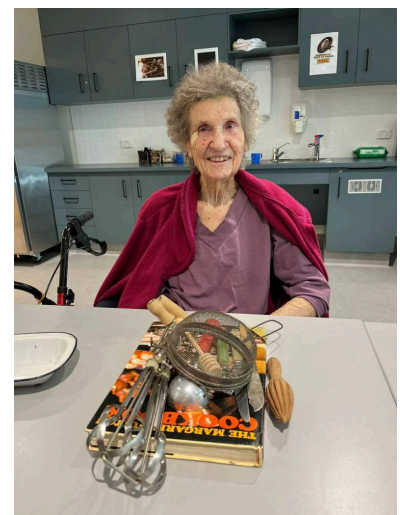
This month I held Brief the Boss on Level 3 Food Court and was joined by Director of Finance Linton Curley. Thank you to staff who came by to say hello. It is a great opportunity for a more informal chat and hopefully the new location will make it more accessible and visible to staff. The next Brief the Boss will be held on 5 September 2024, 11.00-11.45am.



Food reminiscing activity

Some of our 5B patients recently participated in a reminiscing activity with vintage kitchen utensils, facilitated by Recreation Officer David Frame. David regularly holds reminiscing sessions, with the sessions having a positive impact on patients' moods and wellbeing and fostering connections between patients.

You can read more about the reminiscing sessions [here](#).



(Right) Patient Maureen pictured with the vintage kitchen utensils at the reminiscing session.

July Staff Shout Outs

STARS had quite a few Staff Shout Outs for the month of July. Thank you for continuing to take the time to nominate individuals and teams for a Staff Shout Out - it really is a great Metro North initiative. Each recipient receives a congratulatory email and certificate acknowledging their achievement.

Congratulations to the following staff: Adrienne Makutu, David Frame, Allie Clarke, Sarah Kneen, Cate Lessmann, Olivia Leigh, Kayla Clements, Sunil Nair, Teesha Arora, Emma Taylor, Tenielle Kowitz, Kiran Paul, Jessica Hickey, William Slape, Fiona Jamieson, Patient Support Services Team and the Security Team.

I will go through the July Staff Shout Outs in more detail in the next Staff Forum but many of the nominations recognise the compassion and care shown to patients, flexibility and general positive and proactive attitudes. I know that there are many other staff that also practice these values every day so thank you also.

If you would like to give a Shout Out to a staff member or a team in August you can do so [here](#).



Patient compliment

Lastly, I'd like to share a compliment we received from a STARS day procedure patient.

"From the moment I walked in the door, every person I dealt with was fantastic. From the staff member who checked me in, to the nurse who admitted me, to all of the nurses, doctors and anaesthetists who cared for me before, during and after surgery - all were exceptional.

I have never attended a Queensland Health facility where every interaction was respectful. This is the only occasion where I felt that I was treated with respect by everyone, and that my needs, care and welfare were a priority".

Kind regards

Dale Dally-Watkins