



Dear staff,

I hope many of you enjoyed the public holiday last week and perhaps visited the Ekka on the day or on the weekend. For those who worked the public holiday, thank you for your dedication of care for our patients. Metro North continues to experience a high demand for services, particularly due to acute respiratory illness, with the peak expected in the next few weeks.

A friendly reminder that if you are sick, please stay home, inform your line manager and request sick leave via the Smart Leave form on MyHR. We will continue to hold meetings virtually, whenever feasible, unless there is a clinical requirement for face-to-face meetings, such as clinical training etc.

IV fluid shortage

There is currently a widespread shortage of intravenous fluid products, with supplies affected until the end of 2024. The situation is being actively managed by multiple stakeholders across Queensland Health and the Directors of Pharmacy across Metro North Health. Clinicians are being encouraged to conserve IV fluid products, where possible. Please refer to the [Patient Safety Alert 14/2024: Supply disruption affecting intravenous fluid products \(health.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/patient-safety/alerts/2024/08/14/patient-safety-alert-14-2024-supply-disruption-affecting-intravenous-fluid-products).

Ekka inspired menu for patients

Last week the STARS Dietetics and Food Services devised a menu of EKKA inspired food for patients for the Ekka public holiday. The menu included an option of a dagwood dog chef special, served with the obligatory tomato sauce and a strawberry sundae for dessert. As you know, for many people a trip to the EKKA is a yearly excursion so it is a wonderful gesture to bring a little taste of the Ekka to our patients on 'People's Day'. Thanks to the Dietetics and Food Services team for coordinating these special menus for our patients.



Brain Injury Awareness Week 19-25 August

Our Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit held a variety of activities this week for Brain Injury Awareness Week including daily trivia competitions and escape room activities. The cake decorating competition entries were amazing with the winning entry from Suzy Kydd (*pictured left*). Thank you to the staff of our Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit for raising awareness of this important week and for all staff in supporting the activities.



RIO handmade market

This week the Tess Cramond Pain and Research Centre held its latest Re-engagement in Occupation (RIO) handcrafted market stall at the RBWH atrium. The markets are a way to re-engage patients with chronic and persistent pain in daily and meaningful activities through creating, marketing and selling handmade goods in a supportive environment. The market had crafts from 19 patients including cards, jewellery, candles and knitted / sewn items, just to name a few.



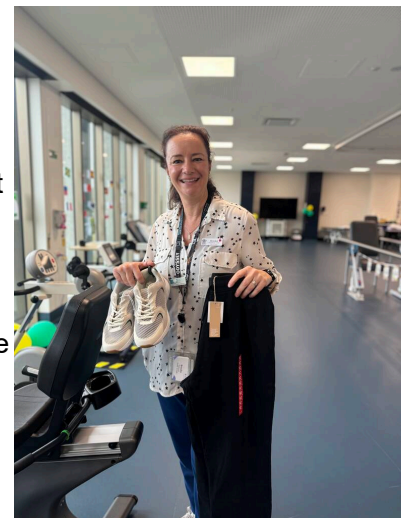
'Dignity at Stars' patient clothing initiative

STARS have recently launched a dedicated patient clothing program, 'Dignity at STARS' after receiving funding for the initiative from the RBWH Foundation in July.

Patients admitted to hospital don't always have the chance to plan on what to bring with them and may not have family and/or friends who can access their personal items. This program allows patients to ditch the surgical gowns in favour of clothing that is fit for the purpose of rehabilitation.

To access the clothing program, please reach out to the Patient Experience Team, STARS front reception desk or Brooke Wadsworth in Physio. Clothing will be stored on Ward 4A and swipe access is via Rehab wards NUMs, Allied Health, our PSO team or the above contacts.

Please complete the form which is located in the clothing room so we can track stock, capture demand and meet everyone's needs. Let's support compassionate and dignified care for all.



RBWH Foundation Grant Round 3

Do you have a research project or patient care initiative that needs funding? The RBWH Foundation Grant Round 3 is opening on 1 September 2024. Every Department is eligible, so if you have ever thought about extending your patient care or research efforts, this is the opportunity to secure up to \$50,000.

If you would like more information on the grants including example application forms, scoring criteria, and FAQs, [click here](#). The Foundation are also holding information sessions on 27 August 10am and 4 September 10am. You can register for the sessions [here](#).

Wear It Purple Day

Next Friday 30 August, Pride in Metro North are holding a Wear It Purple Day to foster supportive, safe,



empowering and inclusive environments for young people who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community. By wearing purple on this day, it shows LGBTQIA+ people that they are celebrated and have the right to be proud of who they are. We celebrate the accomplishments of LGBTQIA+ people who can be role models for the future generations, and we can dream of brighter and more inclusive futures.

For more information, please see <https://www.wearitpurple.org/>

If you wish to join Pride in Metro North (Working Group), please email PrideInMetroNorth@health.qld.gov.au.

Patient compliment

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

"My mother was very impressed with the care and professionalism of the doctor and the medical team. The doctors put in an excellent effort towards my mother's rehabilitation and also kept me updated as her sole family carer. They were competent and professional, had a caring and respectful bedside manner and surely set an amazing example to junior doctors. The admin officer in reception is also tremendously efficient and obliging. She obviously cares about the quality of her work and patient satisfaction.

There was also a person from the STARS Patient Experience team who intervened in a matter shortly after I called her late one afternoon. Her intervention saved my mother from discomfort. This officer clearly takes her role seriously, has empathy and amazing communication skills. The rehabilitation ward is also a clean and beautifully maintained facility. We commend all your staff members on their remarkable professionalism".

Kind regards

Dale Dally-Watkins