

# STARS STAFF COUNCIL

## Metro North Health

December 2024

Hello STARS!

We have a number of new STARS Staff Council Members, including: Hayley Ford, Ivan Toloza, Julia McLeod, Leanne Hepnar, Lisa Ferguson, Nathan Costin and Henry Nona. You can read more about our new members and why they joined the Staff Council [here](#).

We would like to give a big thank you to some of our outgoing members for their contributions: Jane Holt, Kylie Schoeffler, Kiran Paul, Julie Robbins, Emilia Reece, Anna Hallett, Nat Barratt and Georgia Coburn.

The Staff Council have been very busy since our last update. In August, the Staff Council held a planning meeting with Gillian Nasato, in order to develop an Action Plan for 24/25. The Action Plan helped establish strong guidance and direction which assisted us to set out our KPIs for the next 2 years.

The Staff Council have been involved in an advocacy role for a number of Metro North wide projects including the Metro North Strategic Plan and the Metro North Employee Engagement Strategy as well as taking the lead on achieving Action item 3.1.2 in the [Metro North Disability Services Action Plan](#). We are also advocating at a facility level around issues such as the air conditioning on level 7, car parking exit issues, wayfinding review, Ambassador program support and the spinal business case for change.



*August Staff Council planning meeting*

### **Winter warmer**

In August, the Staff Council supplied hot chocolate sachets to all the staff rooms as a sweet treat for winter. The sachets were a real hit, disappearing very quickly. If you missed out, we are hoping to repeat the initiative next year.

### **Level 2 staff room television**

After receiving feedback about a faulty television in the staff room on Level 2, we escalated the issue and are pleased to say it is now working again for staff's enjoyment.

### **Massage chairs for staff**

The Staff Council recently introduced a massage chair for the benefit of staff in Ward 4B. The chair is a wonderful resource for staff, providing a much-needed opportunity for relaxation. A special thank you to the Rehab Engineering team for their dedicated efforts in retrofitting the chair to comply with our infection control department's policies.

Before Christmas, the Staff Council will be rolling out five massage chairs for staff tea rooms throughout the hospital. We see this as a great way to express our gratitude to all staff members for their hard work and dedication.

### **Reading trolley**

Patients at STARS are now able to enjoy a good book or magazine, courtesy of a new reading trolley pilot. The reading trolley service is an initiative of the STARS Staff Council and supported by volunteers, Annie and Ken from the RBWH Foundation. The trolley has been nicknamed 'Bluey' and will bring the joy of reading right to our patients' rooms, offering free books and magazines to brighten their days. You can read more about the service [here](#).

If you have new or near-new books, magazines, puzzle books or adult colouring books you can donate them to the STARS trolley service by leaving them at STARS ground floor reception.



### **Length of service ceremony**

Following feedback to the Staff Council around staff recognition and in particular Length of Service awards for STARS, the first Length of Service ceremony was held last Wednesday for those with 30 years and more of service. Staff with other LOS awards will have their milestones recognised in their local teams. The LOS awards will now become a regular event on the STARS calendar.

### **Staff breakfast**

Last Wednesday STARS held their annual Christmas breakfast, serving English muffins and croissants, including vegetarian and gluten free options.

While staff were waiting in the queue, we asked them to fill out our Staff Council feedback form. The Staff Council welcome the feedback we receive via our feedback form, with the suggestions received referred on to the Executive Team. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the form.

Thank you also to the Staff Council members for helping serve the food on the day.



### **Patient and staff advocacy**

We want to hear about all the little things that could be done to improve the experience of patients and staff. Equally, if you have any concerns that you feel aren't being addressed appropriately we want to hear about them. Please get in touch via our email address ([STARS\\_SC@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:STARS_SC@health.qld.gov.au)), reach out to your [local staff council member](#), or complete our feedback form - [find it here](#).

Kind regards,

Oliver Mason and Benjamin Frost

Staff Council Co-Chairs.