



Dear colleagues,

Welcome back to everyone. I do hope you all found time over the Christmas and New Year break for some rest and relaxation. I spent the break enjoying time with family and friends over Christmas and then had some forced relaxation over New Year when I was unfortunately contending with COVID. It's great to be back though ready to work together and deliver services to our community in 2025.

Thank you to Daniel Francis for acting in the ED role while I was on leave. To everyone who worked over the break, thank you for your commitment to the care of our patients.

This year will be an exciting one for STARS as we realign our rehabilitation services to their original strategic intent and welcome the State-wide Virtual Emergency Care Services under the STARS' governance.

Minister visit

Last Tuesday, we had the pleasure of hosting the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Hon Timothy Nicholls. The Minister toured Level 2 Procedures, Level 4 Ability Centre and the Rehabilitation Engineering Centre.

He spent his time engaging with front-line staff and was interested in finding out more about the patient flow at STARS.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to speak with the Minister and showcase the wonderful work we do here at STARS. Thanks also to Oliver Mason for co-hosting the visit as the Staff Council Co-Chair.



Image credit: <https://www.facebook.com/TimNichollsMPQId>

EOI for Metro North Shadow Leadership Team

You may have seen in the Chief Executive message last week that Metro North is forming a shadow leadership team of our next generation of leaders. Expressions of Interest for the Metro North Shadow Leadership Team (MNSLT) are now open with members to work with the Metro North Senior Executive Team on strategic initiatives, including Optimal Care Pathways over the next 12 months.

This is a wonderful opportunity for staff in the early stages of their career to gain leadership experience along with development and mentorship from members of the Senior Executive Team.

You can find more about the [EOI here](#).

Metro North Draft Strategic Plan

A [draft of the Metro North Strategic Plan](#) is now available for feedback. The strategic plan is the overarching guiding document for our decision making. Now is your opportunity to provide your views on the document and how you think we can make Metro North a great place to work. I encourage everyone to take the time to read the draft Strategic Plan and to share your feedback by completing the [short](#)

[survey](#). The survey is open until the end of February.

There will also be opportunities to provide face-to-face feedback next month. More information on exact dates and times will be provided in the near future.

Yarning Circle

On Thursday we held a Yarning Circle at STARS. The Yarning Circle is one way that STARS is working towards developing stronger connections with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Gastroenterologist Enoka talked about preventive bowel screening (the poo test) for those aged 45 and over and how important this screening is for early identification. Enoka talked through how if a positive screen was recorded the next steps would be having an endoscopic procedure and the steps involved in this. Elders were able to give our staff some ideas on how we too can promote this important screening and procedure across our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

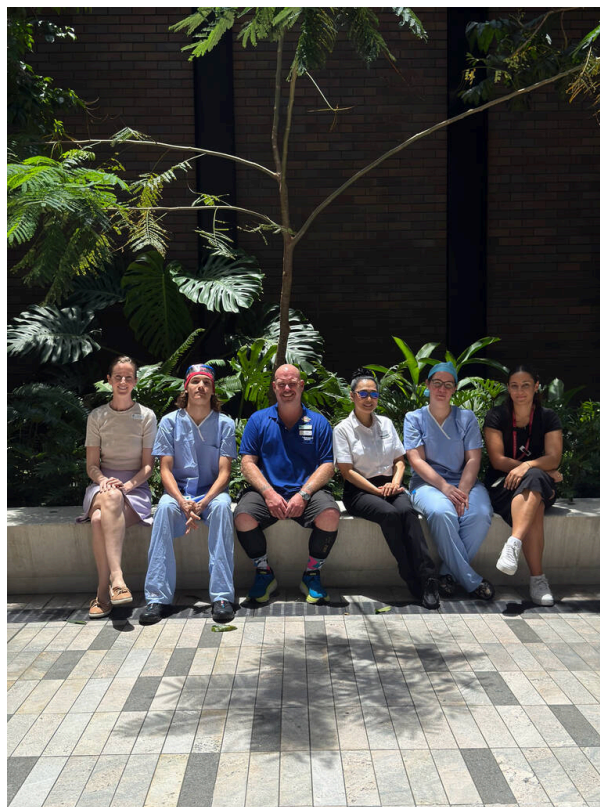
Upcoming dates

This year I will continue with the fortnightly Staff Forums via Teams as well as Brief the Boss sessions. Please look out for the calendar invites and email alerts.

At the end of this month, STARS will also host the Metro North Board and on the 15 April, 9.30am-10.30am, we will have our first Listening Post with the Metro North Chief Executive for 2025.

Queensland Health socials content

This week several of our staff were involved in content development for Queensland Health's social media channels. Queensland Health's Facebook and Instagram accounts have 947K and 152K followers respectively so it will be great to see STARS' staff and the amazing work they do being promoted right across the state. Thanks to everyone for their involvement.



(L-R) Ashleigh, Kobi, Scotty, Connie, Jessica and Jayde.

Feature on former patient

For those staff who were involved in the care of patient Josie Dooley last year, Channel 7 Cricket recently broadcasted a feature on Josie and her recovery, including footage of her rehabilitation at STARS.

I wanted to share it with you as it is a wonderful reminder of how the work we do here at STARS has such a tremendous impact on getting people's lives back on track. We wish Josie all the best in her recovery journey.



You can view the Channel Seven story [here](#).

Staff Shout Outs

A slightly reduced number of Staff Shout Outs for the month of December due to the holiday season. A big congratulations to the following staff: Larissa Millard, Amy Naumann, Kate Glastonbury, Sophie Wade, Bei Sun (Issy), Michael de Stradis, Qiaoling Meng, Sarah Kneen, Nicole Phillips, Levi Stringer, Dean Cartwright and STARS Equipment and Clinical Consumables Team.

STARS have one of the highest percentages of Staff Shout Outs across Metro North and it would be great if we continue this throughout 2025.

Staff Shout Outs provide an opportunity to acknowledge and thank a colleague or team who embody our Organisational Values – those colleagues who are a positive influence, who collaborate in new and unique ways, or who go above and beyond expectations.

You can submit a Staff Shout Out for January [here](#).

Lunar New Year

For those who celebrate Lunar New Year, Happy New Year for 29 January. The Lunar New Year is the most important holiday in China and Chinese communities and also marks the start of the Year of the Snake. Interestingly, the Snake symbolises wisdom, transformation and offers opportunities for growth and change – which all sounds very appropriate for our year ahead here at STARS.

Patient compliment

Lastly, a very touching compliment from a family member of a patient who was at STARS late last year. This compliment acknowledges all the work that our multidisciplinary teams put in, particularly in the lead up to Christmas to get patients home for this special time with their families.

“Heartfelt thankyou to the dear nurses, doctors, wards people, food services, physios, speech therapist, social workers, and everybody on Ward 4B who looked after our dad during the worst time of his life. The care and rehabilitation he’s received has been phenomenal.

As Dad embarks on life at home adjusting to the absence of Mum, words cannot describe how grateful we are on how well you have prepared him. Also, a huge thank you for doing all you could to get Dad home just in time for Christmas. This means so much to us. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas.”

Kind regards

Dale Dally-Watkins.