



Dear colleagues,

On Wednesday the RBWH Foundation held their '40 Years Strong' launch event to celebrate the start of their 40th anniversary celebrations. The event was attended by Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, Paralympian and former RBWH patient Curtis McGrath and sporting and patient Ambassadors.

For those not able to make it to the launch, donuts were delivered to wards at the RBWH and STARS. The donut delivery is the very first of the '40 Moments of Joy' the Foundation will bring to staff and patients during 2025.

We look forward to celebrating this wonderful milestone with the Foundation throughout the year.



RBWH Foundation '40 Years Strong' launch.



RBWH Foundation Patient Ambassadors.



Donut delivery for STARS.

Staff fundraising efforts

Last year STARS staff participated in the RBWH Foundation Christmas Bake Off with all funds raised

going towards improving research and patient care initiatives at RBWH and STARS. Congratulations to RBWH Neonatal Research, STARS Level 7 and STARS Dietetics for collectively raising over \$2,500. What a wonderful outcome! Thank you to all the staff who baked items for the bake sale and for those who purchased a sweet treat on the day.

Change to hospital volunteers

The hospital volunteer program, previously coordinated by the RBWH Foundation, has now transitioned to the RBWH. The program will be managed directly within RBWH, facilitated by the new Patient Engagement Manager, Merel Verbeke. The new contact details are RBWH-Volunteers@health.qld.gov.au and DECT phone 364 78030.

For STARS, our patient reading trolley initiative, staffed by volunteers, will continue operating twice a week with the help of volunteers Annie and Ken.

Board meeting at STARS

Each month, the Metro North Board meets at a different hospital across the catchment, and on Tuesday STARS hosted the first meeting for the year. The Board visited the ophthalmology and gastroenterology services and heard about recent initiatives such as the new ophthalmology referral process and the culturally sensitive endoscopy day services.

In addition to the Board meeting, our Staff Council members were invited to have lunch with the Board. This provided the Board with a great opportunity to speak directly with the Staff Council about upcoming initiatives. Thank you to Leanne Hepnar, Allison Welch, Scottie Gillies, Dr Julia McLeod, Hayley Ford, Nathalie Baker and Ben Frost for taking the time to meet with our Board members.

Upcoming dates for Metro North Strategic Plan feedback

If you haven't already provided feedback on the [draft of the Metro North Strategic Plan](#) there are still several face-to-face sessions that you can attend at the RBWH Education Centre:

Friday 7 February

1.00pm – 2.00pm
RBWH Education Centre foyer

Wednesday 19 February

8.00am – 9.00am
RBWH Education Centre foyer

If you aren't able to attend in person you can share your feedback by completing the [short survey](#), which is open until the end of February.

Staff Forums and Brief the Boss

As we still have staff on leave during January, we are starting the first of our Staff Forums next month. The Staff Forums will be held via Teams every second and fourth Thursday in the month. Please note this year the Staff Forums will be held at a slightly earlier time from **10.30am-11.00am**.

Every two months, I will be holding a Brief the Boss session instead of the Staff Forum, to provide staff with the opportunity to meet with me and other members of the STARS Executive Team face-to-face.

Here are the dates for both until the end of April 2025.

All Staff Forums

13 February 10.30-11.00am

27 February 10.30-11.00am

27 March 10.30-11.00am

10 April 10.30-11.00am

24 April 10.30-11.00am

Brief the Boss

13 March 10.30-11.00am

Patient compliments

This week's patient compliment is a lovely reminder of how life-changing the surgical treatments performed at STARS are for our patients. A hip replacement, for example, not only provides relief from pain and increases mobility, but can have a huge impact on a person's quality of life, allowing them to make wonderful memories.

"An enormous (albeit) belated THANK YOU to the staff at STARS Hospital who gave me a new lease on life 2 years ago with my 2x hip replacements. You all enabled me to go to France for a month for my 60th birthday and walk and walk and climb stairs and wander along cobble stoned lanes - pain free! I couldn't have done it without my new hips!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

We also recently had a shout out from Christian Hull, a popular comedian and social media content creator, who posted about his colonoscopy experience at STARS. Christian shared his appreciation for our doctors and nurses and the amazing sandwiches he received after his procedure.

Kind regards

Dale Dally-Watkins