

MESSAGE FROM THE ED, STARS

Metro North Health

Dale Dally-Watkins



Dear colleagues,

Recognising International Women's Day this year was completely overshadowed by the arrival of Tropical Cyclone Alfred. This year's theme "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment", called for action that unlocks equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind. Central to this vision is empowering the next generation, particularly young women and adolescent girls—as catalysts for lasting change.

You can find out more about International Women's Day [here](#).

As part of our belated International Women's Day acknowledgment, the staff profile this week is Rehabilitation Engineer, Annie.

Staff profile – Annie Simpson

Annie Simpson joined the Rehabilitation Engineering Centre Team at STARS around a year ago and is also studying a Masters in Bioengineering. Annie's passion for maths and science at school led her to find her true calling in engineering.

"I knew I didn't want to sit in an office all day and I wanted to do something that involved working with people, so rehabilitation engineering is the perfect fit".

Despite the biases that still exist in the field, especially as a young woman in engineering, Annie is all about breaking barriers and inspiring the next generation.

"My advice to young women wanting to get into a career in engineering is, don't let the fear of being in a male-dominated field stop you. Find a supportive environment because things won't change until more women enter the field!"

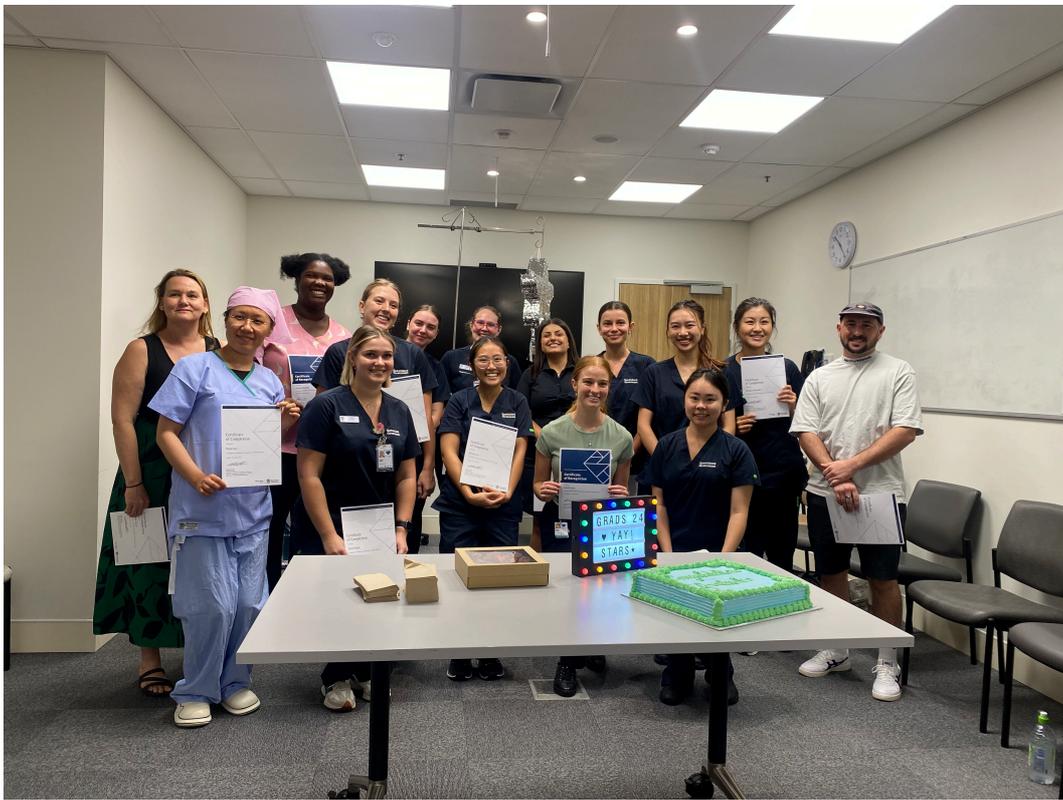
"I'm so lucky to have a wonderful mentor in Senior Engineer Dr Steph and a team that is balanced and gender wise".

When Annie is not engineering solutions for the disabled, she likes perfecting her home chef skills or doing anything crafty. When she's not stuck at university on her days off, she also loves to explore Brisbane's best walks, cafés, and op shops!



2024 graduate celebration

Last month, our new graduates celebrated with a certificate presentation, cake cutting and some fun party games. It has been a privilege to have our graduates with us - we appreciate the energy, enthusiasm and commitment they have brought to the organisation. We thank them for their contributions to delivering excellence in patient care at STARS and we wish them all the success in their future career paths.



Have Your Say survey

The fourth bi-annual Metro North Have Your Say survey will open on 12 May this year. The survey provides an important opportunity for staff to give feedback on what's working and what we can do better as an employer. Our 2023 response rate at STARS was 68% and we would like to improve on this even further in this year's survey.

There is sometimes a perception that nothing happens after the survey, but I want to assure you that your feedback does lead to real change. Since the last survey in 2023, much work has been done at an organisation and local level to address your feedback.

We're committed to continuing this work, and your feedback in the 2025 Have Your Say survey will help shape the next phase of improvements.



Patient Safety Net

I am pleased to announce the new Patient Safety Net (PSN) program is launching in Metro North on 31 March 2025. This program provides an escalation process designed to strengthen the way we address patient safety concerns and empower all staff to raise their concerns.

PSN provides an easy, confidential way for staff to raise patient safety concerns that they feel have not been addressed through the standard reporting processes.



It is available to all staff at Metro North including contractors, agency staff, students and volunteers, and can be accessed via [phone, email, or online](#).

As part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our patients I encourage all staff to familiarise themselves with how Patient Safety Net works, how to raise a concern, and when to take action.

For more information about the program, visit [QHEPS](#) for full details.

Together, we can ensure a safer environment for our patients and continue to uphold the high standards of care we all strive to provide.

Medical Workforce Wellbeing Survey

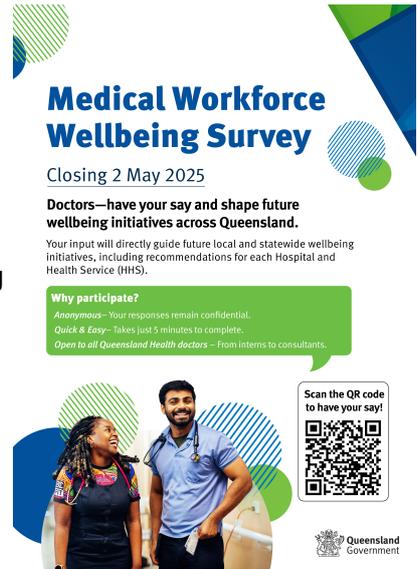
All Queensland Health doctors are invited to participate in a survey to help us understand the work-related issues impacting your wellbeing.

The anonymous survey will be sent via email and will be live from Monday 17 March to Friday 2 May 2025. It will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

Your feedback is crucial in shaping future local and state-wide wellbeing initiatives for our medical workforce.

We encourage all doctors—from interns to consultants—to share your honest feedback. Your input will have a direct impact on future support for our medical staff.

This survey is part of the Medical Workforce Wellbeing project, commissioned by the Chief Medical Officer. For more information, please contact CMO_Corro@health.qld.gov.au.



Medical Workforce Wellbeing Survey
Closing 2 May 2025

Doctors—have your say and shape future wellbeing initiatives across Queensland.

Your input will directly guide future local and statewide wellbeing initiatives, including recommendations for each Hospital and Health Service (HHS).

Why participate?
Anonymous—Your responses remain confidential.
Quick & Easy—Takes just 5 minutes to complete.
Open to all Queensland Health doctors—From interns to consultants.

Scan the QR code to have your say!



Queensland Government

The poster features a blue and green color scheme with abstract geometric shapes. It includes a photograph of two healthcare professionals, a woman and a man, standing together. A QR code is prominently displayed for easy access to the survey.

Yarning Circle

On Thursday, National Close the Gap Day, we held our third Yarning Circle at STARS. Thank you to Queensland Virtual Emergency Care Service (VECS) Nursing Director Lisa Harvey and Clinical Director Kim Hansen for providing an overview of VECS.

Currently, VECS is seeing approximately double the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients compared to Metro North emergency departments. Kim and Lisa were keen to hear how they can get word out about VECS to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and what else can be done to make the service more accessible.

The Elders spoke about their experiences with the health system, sharing how lengthy wait times and difficulties navigating the health system were impacting their health. The monthly Yarning Circle provides our staff with an important opportunity to engage with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community about how we can deliver healthcare in a culturally appropriate way.

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

This week marked Neurodiversity Celebration Week, a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. STARS recognised the week on Tuesday with a cake cutting, attended by STARS staff and partners from Queensland Police Service, Carers Qld and Access All.



Metro North are currently running workshops on neurodiversity in the workplace for managers and educators. The aim of the workshops is to create a more neuroinclusive, dynamic and strength-focused workplace, to optimise productivity and leverage the full potential of the workforce. The next training dates are:

- Thursday 3 July, 12:30pm - 3:30pm, Classroom 1A/ 1B - Level 8, Block 7 RBWH
- Monday 3 November, 12:30pm - 3:30pm, Classroom 1A/ 1B - Level 8, Block 7 RBWH

[Register via TMS](#)

Hospitality Workers in Healthcare Day

Last week, we celebrated Hospitality Workers in Healthcare Day on the Level 5 balcony. The day was a great occasion for staff to come together, to celebrate their collective efforts and recognise the important work they do each day in support of our patients.



STARS on social media

STARS staff have recently been featured on Qld Health’s Instagram account. Last month, registered nurse Kaylee, was the focus of a typical workday as an endoscopy nurse. You can view the [video here](#).

STARS staff Scotty, Jayde, Kobi, Ashleigh, Jessica and Connie also appeared in a [‘Friends’ style video](#) which has proven very popular. It’s great to see our staff being promoted in this way.

Thanks to our staff for making themselves available for this collaboration with Qld Health.



Staff Shout Outs

Congratulations to those individual staff and teams who received a Staff Shout Out in February: Haylee Kajewski, Tony Micklewright, Fiona Jamieson, Yang Gan, Yuk Sin Chau (Jen), Zirafeta Balic, Hayden Layton-De Silva, Michelle McGrath, Jeanette Cyster, Lynette Bell, Cecelia Boyd Orford, Amy Le, Chris Clay, Vanessa McKinnon, Taryn Paranihi, Bibin Kurian, Glenn McDonald and the PSS team, STARS PSS night shift team.

Thank you for continuing to nominate your colleagues for the monthly Staff Shout Outs. If you would like to nominate individual or a team for the March Staff Outs, [you can do so here](#). It would be wonderful, for example, if those who went above and beyond during the recent cyclone event were recognised in next months Shout Outs.

Patient compliment

This week's compliment comes from one of our recent surgical patients. If anyone has ever experienced a back issue you will know how debilitating they can be, and how having the issue addressed can improve one's quality of life.

"I had a back procedure performed for my chronic back problems. Two days later I am much improved, and I look forward to more improvement. The whole experience was very professional, yet the crew made you feel like you were part of a family. Well done people and a very big thank you, my quality of life has much improved."

Leave arrangements

Finally, I will be taking leave next week, returning on Monday 31 March 2025. During this time, relevant professional leads will be the point of escalation. Please continue to send any communications to STARS-ExecDir@health.qld.gov.au and requests will be sent to appropriate officers for actioning or will be identified for response on my return.

Kind regards

Dale Dally-Watkins.