

## MESSAGE FROM THE ED, STARS

Metro North Health

Dale Dally-Watkins



Dear colleagues,

Today we launched our staff flu vaccination program at the Oral Health Centre, with A/Clinical Director Dr Aman Sharma receiving his vaccination.

Staff flu vaccinations will begin at STARS next week.

Metro North's target this year is 85 per cent of staff having a flu vaccination.

Please remember the best way you can protect yourself, your loved ones and our patients from the flu is to have your vaccination.

No bookings are required, you just need to show your Medicare Card or Individual Health Identifier (IHI). All staff, including our partners UQ, CSIRO, Cushman and Wakefield and Pathology Queensland are eligible for the flu vaccination.



If you would like any further information about the staff flu vaccination you can visit the [extranet page](#).

The dates for free staff flu vaccinations at STARS and the Oral Health Centre are as follows:

### Oral Health Centre

Thursday 17 April **and** Tuesday 22 April

### STARS

Wednesday 23 April to Friday 16 May.

If you receive your 2025 influenza vaccination privately (e.g. GP clinic or community pharmacy), please let us know for planning purposes, [On line Poll | INFLUENZA VACCINATION](#).

All of us can also slow the spread of flu by following some healthy habits, such as regularly washing our hands and cleaning surfaces, always covering coughs and staying home when unwell.



### Health Equity Community Consultation

Last Thursday, I attended the first 2025 session of the Metro North Health Equity Community Consultation, focused on the redevelopment of our Health Equity Strategy 2025-2028.

A key priority to achieving health equity is ensuring the continued commitment and dedication to co-design with our Elders, community and key stakeholders.

The day provided a great opportunity to meet with representatives from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from right across the Metro North catchment area. We discussed areas where we

are making progress toward achieving health equity and also listened to the community about their thoughts on which areas could see improvements.

We will review key priorities currently in progress from our 2022 – 2025 strategy and focus on how we can continue to deliver and improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

### Have Your Say survey

It's less than four weeks until the 2025 Have Your Say staff survey kicks off on 12 May, so it's important all leaders are thinking about how they can encourage and enable their teams to complete the survey and learn about all the support available to managers during May and once the results are released.

If you're a people leader and you missed the Have Your Say vidcast on Tuesday, hosted by Metro North Clinical Council Chair, Dr Alan Yan and General Manager People and Culture Programs, Hannah Reed, please watch the recording. The short 30-minute vidcast covered why it's worth it for staff to complete the survey, what is done with the results and the role people leaders play in driving action.



All Have Your Say vidcasts taking place in the lead up to the survey will be published on [QHEPS](#).

### The Virtual Emergency Care Service (VECS)

On behalf of everyone at STARS I would like to wish all of VECs staff a very warm welcome. The integration of VECS within STARS strengthens the hospital's leadership in innovative and equitable healthcare delivery. This alignment enhances STARS' capacity to provide highly networked, cutting-edge care across Queensland while supporting its focus on research, innovation, and system-wide acute care management. By leveraging VECS's expertise in virtual emergency care, STARS is further positioned as a hub of excellence for accessible, sustainable, and patient-centred care across the state.

In this week's message we profile Director of Operations, Virtual Healthcare Services, Matt Langley.

### Staff Profile - Matt Langley

In his role as Director Operations Virtual Healthcare Services, Matt has the privilege of working alongside a diverse and talented team to drive the expansion and future growth of services like VECS and the Virtual Ward. Matt's role focuses on ensuring that our virtual models run smoothly, grow sustainably, and most importantly, deliver high-quality care to patients across Metro North and Queensland in the right place, at the right time.

Matt's background is in nursing, clinical redesign, and leadership.

"I'm passionate about leveraging innovation and people's skill sets to improve patient outcomes and streamline healthcare delivery".

"I thrive on problem-solving, collaboration, and a cup of strong coffee when navigating the ever-evolving world of virtual health".



"As we continue to expand and evolve in this space, I'm excited about the opportunity to collaborate with the team at STARS and work together to advance and transform virtual healthcare at Metro North and across our great state."

When not immersed in virtual healthcare, you'll find Matt coaching his son's cricket teams or at the track watching his horses race!

### ANZAC Day





# ANZAC DAY

Friday, 25 April 2025.

Next Friday we will be commemorating ANZAC Day. For those who are working, the Last Post will be played over the hospital PA system at 9am followed by one minute silence and the Reveille. There will also be a Herston ANZAC Day service, held at the RBWH Level 1 Atrium at 8.00am.

If you would like to buy a poppy or make a donation, visit the RSL ANZAC appeal stall at the RBWH Atrium from Tuesday 22 April to Thursday 24 April. All proceeds from the stall support veterans in need.

## April No Falls mini expo

Last Monday, the April No Falls mini expo promoted the great interprofessional education that happens at STARS. In collaboration with the Falls Working Group and the STARS education team, the mini expo featured several informative stations for all staff at STARS. Building on insights from last year's learning needs analysis, the stations shared falls data from Safety and Quality, comprehensive falls assessment plans, and falls minimisation strategies such as appropriate footwear, equipment use, and managing behaviours of concern that increase falls risk. Highlights included insights from the Ward 4B Falls MDT huddle, an innovative approach being trialed at STARS. Additionally, the event showcased investigating falls evidence through collaboration with SERA, making it a comprehensive and engaging experience for everyone involved.





## Easter break

Today we had a visit from the RBWH Foundation Easter bunnies who gave out Easter eggs to staff as part of their '40 Moments of Joy'. Thank you for bringing a touch of sweetness to staff's day.

Some of the patients on Ward 4B have been busy making handmade Easter baskets for all the patients on the ward. Thanks to David Frame for coordinating this Easter activity.

A shout out also to the Finance team and Desilee from the Scanning Unit for their lovely Easter decorations on Level 7.



Whether Easter is a time of religious celebration for you, or a break from work or school, it is an occasion for rest, reflection and to gather with family and friends. If you're getting away over Easter have a wonderful break and travel safely. For those of you working during this time, thank you for continuing to care for our patients.

## Patient compliment

*"I recently had a procedure for the removal of a wisdom tooth and molar. The treatment that I received*

*was exemplary from all concerned. When my operation was delayed, the Team Leader went well out of her way on numerous occasions to make sure I was comfortable and lacked for nothing. Her personality and care were very obvious. My anaesthetist calmed a very nervous patient with no after affects. Lastly, my thanks to my surgeon - he discussed the operation with me and produced a brilliant result. I have suffered no discomfort of any sorts to date".*

Kind regards

Dale Dally-Watkins.