



### Summary:

- Celebrating NAIDOC Week at STARS
- Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2025-2028
- Metro North anti-racism campaign
- Staff Profile - Kobi Williams
- Compassionate Care Principle Three
- New staff member
- Upcoming Brisbane Open House
- Staff Shout Outs

Message feedback



**Audience: All staff**



**Read time: 7 min**



**For: Information**

Dear colleagues,

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of NAIDOC Week. The theme '*The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy*', celebrates the bright future ahead as young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders forge a vision for the future while remembering the legacy of their ancestor's achievements.

On Wednesday, STARS held a NAIDOC Week celebration which was attended by Board Chair Bernard Curran, Chief Operating Officer Stephen Eaton, Executive Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Sherry Holzapfel, invited guests and STARS staff and patients.

Aunty Maroochy Barambah performed the Welcome to Country and we were all entertained by performances from Jaran Dancers, including some wonderful audience participation by STARS staff.

Deputy Director Gastroenterology Enoka Gonsalkorala spoke about the establishment of the culturally sensitive endoscopy pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at STARS and the extra funding the initiative has received recently.

It was wonderful to see so many people coming together to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

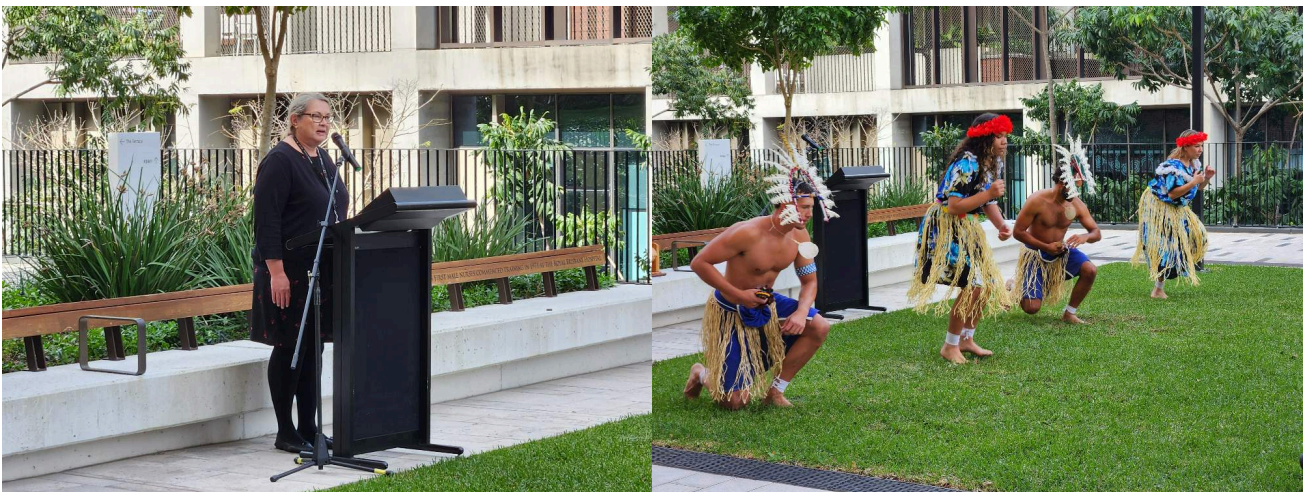
Thank you to Henry Nona and Lyn Bell for organising such a wonderful celebration and to



David Frame for assisting our patients onto the balconies and keeping them comfortable with blankets and a hot beverage.



*Aunty Maroochy Barambah performing the Welcome to Country and didgeridoo playing by one of the Jaran dance group members.*



*STARS Executive Dale Dally-Watkins and dance performance by the Jaran dancers.*





*Enoka Gonsalkorala and Executive Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Sherry Holzapfel and STARS Cultural Capability Officer Henry Nona.*

### Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2025-2028

The new [Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2025 – 2028](#), launched on 1 July, describes our commitment to drive health equity, eliminate institutional racism across Metro North Health and achieve life expectancy parity for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples by 2031.

Through the new strategy we are responsible for four key strategic priorities:

1. There is zero experience of racism within Metro North Health.
2. Creating safe hospital and healthcare services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
3. Develop and enhance culturally safe, co-designed innovative care models.
4. Sustain culturally safe, data driven equity.

We are all responsible, from each level and profession across STARS. I encourage each staff member to read through the new strategy and learn about our accountable key actions and priorities that will be driven across our directorate and health service.

### Stop Racism. It Starts with Me.

Metro North Health launched its new anti-racism campaign *Stop Racism. It Starts with Me* in the lead up to NAIDOC Week.

The campaign was co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, patients, and community members and focuses on what racism looks like, sounds like, and feels like.

The campaign is supported by a newly developed [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander anti-racism policy](#) and reporting mechanism for incidents of racism.

This is an important initiative to affect real change in our health system and I am calling on each and every one of you to get on board and put a stop to racism. A series of films, posters and educational resources have been created and can be accessed [here](#).



#### Staff Profile - Kobi Williams

This fortnight's staff profile is Assistant in Nursing (AIN) Kobi Williams. Kobi's profile was recently shared on Queensland Health's Facebook page, receiving an amazing 10,000 likes, more than 500 comments and 129 shares!

Kobi is a proud Goreng Goreng and Kullili man from Brisbane.

His health career journey started through the Deadly Start Traineeship, a program supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to gain qualifications in healthcare.

"I completed a 12-month traineeship on the orthopaedic ward at the RBWH and then secured a permanent part-time role in endoscopy at STARS."

Since starting his role, Kobi has enjoyed experiencing different areas of the hospital and working alongside a supportive team.

"All the staff were really welcoming, and even though I'm younger, I can still chat with my co-workers about things outside of work. It's a great environment."

"I love that I have my own role and responsibilities now—after being a trainee for so long, it feels great to contribute as part of the team."

#### New staff member

This week Dr Michael McAuliffe commenced as the Staff Specialist Orthopaedics to STARS.

I know you will all extend a warm welcome to Michael during his first few weeks at STARS.





## Compassionate Care Principle Three

Principle Three of the Metro North Compassionate Care Principles is: Timely communication and reporting.

If a patient falls, notification to next of kin and documentation in clinical record is to occur as per the Metro North Health Preventing Falls and Harm from Falls Policy (005785).

In the event of a **fall, with harm, staff** will:

- Attend to the patient and,
- Alert medical staff and,
- Notify the patient's Next of Kin/Substitute decision-maker(s) that the patient has experienced a fall, within **one (1) hour of the fall occurring** and document this in the medical record.
- Report incident in RiskMan, by the end of the shift.
- Document the occurrence, assessment, interventions, and outcome in the medical record within **thirty (30) minutes** of the fall occurring and commence a post fall pathway.
- Re-assess the falls risk; plan and implement prevention strategies in consultation with the patient, the patients next of kin and/or substitute decision-maker(s) and document these in the patient's medical record.

For more information you can see the [Metro North Compassionate Care Principles](#).

## Committee surveys and participation rates

All STARS committees undergo an annual evaluation with all committee members emailed a link to an anonymous survey. These annual committee evaluations are essential to demonstrating assurance that we have good governance over safety, quality, risk and operational matters within STARS. The evaluation also provides committee members with a good mechanism to provide feedback on the role and function of their committee and offer suggestions for improvement.

If you are a member of a committee and receive a link to an annual evaluation survey, I strongly encourage you to complete it (takes less than 5 minutes) so that we can obtain robust feedback.

## STARS Education and Research Alliance (SERA) grants

Applications are now open for two SERA grants - STARS Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Grant Program and STARS Internship Program. To apply:

- STARS Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Grant Program
  - [Guidelines and Application Form](#)
- STARS Internship

- [Program Overview and Application Form](#) and [Project Options](#) (clinicians are also welcome to propose their own topic/idea).

Email a completed application form plus two-page CV to [STARS\\_EducationandResearch@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:STARS_EducationandResearch@health.qld.gov.au) by 5pm Sunday 27 July.

Email [susan.sullivan@uq.edu.au](mailto:susan.sullivan@uq.edu.au) if you have any questions.

### Recent success

Congratulations to the following staff for being awarded one of two Queensland Health 2025 Multicultural Health Research Grants from the Office of Research and Innovation for their proposal, *"Beyond Words: Silent Films for supporting multicultural consent and decision making in medical settings"*.

**Dr Lisa Anemaat, Prof David Copland, Prof Pip Logan, Ms Tamara Robson (Rockhampton Hospital), Ms Diana Padilla (Metro North Multicultural Health), Dr Clare Burns (RBWH), Dr Emmah Doig, Dr Natasha Roberts, Dr Kimberley Baxter, Mr Ben Ballard, A/Prof Gail Robinson, Ms Tamsin Mohoney, Dr Pamela D'Netto and Ms Karina O'Leary.**

The grants are for impactful research proposals that have real potential to lead to better health outcomes for multicultural Queenslanders.

### STARS staff in photos

STARS staff were recently asked to be part of filming and photography for Queensland Government promotional materials, including the Budget documents. Thank you to David Marr and Justine Wells for being so accommodating and to those staff who participated in the photo shoot.





## Brisbane Open House

Next Saturday 19 July, as part of Brisbane Open House, there is the opportunity to tour the lovely historic buildings on the level above STARS, as well as the Museum of Nursing History (Building 19 RBWH). There will be guided tours of the Lady Lamington Buildings every half hour (10.00am - 3.00pm) and self-guided tours of the Edith Cavell Building and the Museum. For more information click [here](#).



## Staff Shout Outs

Congratulations to the following staff and teams who received Staff Shout Outs for the month of June: Adam Kent, Amanda Nikolic, Melanie Ferguson, Gemma Newell, Terri McGrath, Ke-Sandra Layton-DeSilva, Norfarehah 'Nor' Khairilnuar, Humera Rahim, Joshua Wheatley, Gabrielle Scott, Samoanagalo Iosefa, Joseph Bernado, Vikki Goldup, Andrew Jesberg, Jorja Potts, Raj Singh, Joss McCarthy, Tanya Green, STARS Patient Support Officers, and Admin team for their work assisting with the gastroendoscopy conversion and GE retrospective work.

Just a reminder that you can give a Staff Shout Out for any one of our five organisational values: compassion, teamwork, integrity, respect and high performance. If you would like to nominate someone you can do so [here](#).

Kind Regards

**Dale Dally-Watkins**

Executive Director  
STARS

**Metro North Health**



We uphold our commitment to health equity through our Values in Action  
Respect | Integrity | Compassion | High Performance | Teamwork



Metro North Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land upon which we live, work and walk, and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

### **Metro North Health's vision**

Creating healthier futures together—where innovation and research meets compassionate care and community voices shape our services.



**Queensland  
Government**

If you have received this email and do not work for Metro North please follow this link to be removed from the mailing list.

[Email us](#)