

Metro North Health

Message from the

Executive Director STARS

Dale Dally-Watkins



Summary:

- Staff Excellence Awards
- Herston Health Precinct Symposium Award winners
- Health Equity showcase film
- Staff changes/retirement news
- STEptember and Bridge to Brisbane updates
- Staff Shout Out

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 5 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

Thank you to those who attended the A/CE Staff Forum last Friday. It provided staff with a great opportunity to hear about the updated Metro North Strategic Plan and included viewing of a short [video](#) about the five pillars of the plan.

Dr Liz Rushbrook also spoke about how Metro North Health is continuing discussions with the Department of Health regarding the spinal business case.

Staff Excellence Awards for STARS, Oral Health and VECS

Nominations are closing soon for our inaugural STARS Staff Excellence Awards and we would love to have more of our wonderful STARS, Oral Health Centre and Virtual Emergency Care (VECS) staff recognised. In most cases you can have your nomination carried through to the broader Metro North Staff Excellence Awards. This means you will only have to fill out a nomination once and it will increase our nominations in the Metro North Staff Excellence Awards.



To give everyone extra time to get their nominations in we are extending the closing date for nominations until **Monday 5pm 15 September 2025**.

The STARS, Oral Health Centre and VECS Staff Excellence Awards event will be held on Thursday 14 October at 8.45-10.00am at the Oral Health Centre Auditorium.

Herston Health Precinct Symposium Award winners

This week our researchers were successful across a number of award categories at the Herston Health Precinct Symposium, including:

- Dr Natasha Roberts and team - Best Translational Research into Practice
- Dr Emmah Doig and team - Consumer Partnership Research Award
- Dr Clare Burns and team (including members of the STARS Speech team) - Best Poster Research Award.

Congratulations to all the teams for their awards.



Health Equity showcase film

Metro North Health has launched the [Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2025-2028](#), marking the next chapter in our health equity journey. Watch the launch [here](#).

Achieving health equity is a shared responsibility and it requires the dedication of every member of staff here at STARS. I am committed to continuing this important work, walking alongside our community to ensure our services genuinely reflect their needs, priorities and voices.

Compassionate Care Principle Seven: True and Adequate Informed Consent

This fortnight we look at the final of Metro North's Compassionate Care Principles, Principle Seven: True and Adequate Informed Consent.

Ensuring informed consent is properly obtained is a legal, ethical and professional requirement and supports person-centred care. True and adequate informed consent is achieved through a process of communication, discussion, and shared decision making.

For more information on Metro North's Compassionate Care Principles, click [here](#).

Staff changes

On Thursday we thanked Dr Mark Appleyard who recently stepped down from his role as Clinical Director of Gastroenterology at STARS. Mark has been an integral part of the STARS team since its inception, significantly shaping the culture and direction of gastroenterology services at STARS. I'm pleased to say that Mark will continue his clinical work with us as a staff specialist, providing procedural sessions. Enoka Gonsalkorala will move into the Clinical Director of Gastroenterology role.



We are also farewelling Acting Manager of Administration Services Tanya Green who is leaving STARS to prioritise her family commitments. I thank Tanya for her leadership, dedication, and significant contributions to the Administration Services team. Hayden Layton DeSilva will be acting as the Manager of Administration Services while the permanent recruitment process is undertaken.

Susie Eaves retires

I would like to wish Susie Eaves, Senior Dental Assistant, good luck and best wishes in her retirement. Susie worked in the Oral Health Centre (OHC) since it opened and prior to this in Brisbane Dental Hospital in Turbot Street. She was an instrumental part of the OHC team and her knowledge, skills, kindness, generosity and support to staff and UQ dental students was exemplary.

Photo right - Susie (third from the left) with her OHC colleagues.



STEPtember update

Our STEPtember campaign is off to a great start with 33 teams from across the facility competing to be the team with the most steps. At last count the top three teams were Stepping with Braditude, One Step Ahead and Trailblazing STARS.

The tip for the week is to try and incorporate more incidental activity into your day. Taking the stairs instead of the lift, parking further away from your destination or getting off the bus or train a stop earlier, all helps to accrue small amounts of exercise throughout the day.

Bridge to Brisbane registrations closing soon

If you would like to join the STARS Bridge to Brisbane team, Starstruck Steppers, registrations are closing soon. This year's Bridge to Brisbane is scheduled for Sunday 14 October and all funds raised by the team will go to support the RBWH Foundation. You can [sign up here](#), choosing the 'Join a Team' option and search for Starstruck Steppers to sign up. For more information contact Raj Singh on raj.singh@health.qld.gov.au.



Staff Shout Out

I love hearing about the activities that our staff excel at outside of work. Last Sunday, STARS clinical nurse Michelle Adamson and STARS Alliance conjoint research fellow in Occupational Therapy, Emmah Doig performed as soloists and members of the Ignite Choir's 20th Anniversary Concert at Brisbane City Hall. Congratulations to Michelle and Emma. We do certainly have a musical bunch here at STARS.



Patient compliment

This fortnight's compliment is from a recent patient treated at STARS and reflects the wonderful level of care provided in our public hospital.

"I received treatment at STARS in August and I would like to compliment the wonderful staff. I was in contact with so many different staff members and all were very proficient, polite and could not have been more caring. They are all a credit to our public health system".

Finally, to all our dads in STARS, can I wish you all a wonderful Father's Day on Sunday. I hope you all get spoilt and have an opportunity to spend time with family.

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**

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