



Summary:

- Awareness weeks
- Wally Lewis visit
- STARS Support Grants announced
- Staff Shout Out
- Christmas Decorating Contest

Message feedback

 **Audience:**
All staff

 **Read time:**
5 min



For: Information

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past few weeks there have been many awareness weeks and months including Infection Prevention and Control Week (19-25 October), Virtual Care Week (27-31 October), Occupational Therapy Week (27 October- 2 November) and Audiology Awareness Month, to name just a few.

Thank you to all the teams that have held stalls, education sessions or fun staff activities to raise awareness of a health issue or the profile of their health profession.

On Tuesday, I took part in the one-handed dressing competition, one of the activities organised as part of Occupational Therapy Week. Congratulations to Cody who took out the upper body dressing comp in 16 seconds and Jacob O who won the lower body dressing in 25 seconds (my score was 42 seconds). This year's theme 'Occupational Therapy in Action', highlights the creativity, problem-solving and compassion at the heart of OT practice.



Competitors in the one-handed
Week.

Our Infection Control team ran
Week. Congratulations to phys
infection knowledge.



se Occupational Therapy

on Prevention and Control
a movie voucher for her



Infection Prevention and Control week display.



Infection control guessing game winner An and Hand Hygiene award recipients for quarter three.

Wally Lewis visit

Last Monday, King Wally Lewis brought his love for the game of rugby league to patients and staff at the level 4 Ability Centre.

Wally spent time chatting with patients about their rehab and reminiscing about his rugby league career. It seems everyone has a Wally Lewis story, from memories of watching him play in the State of Origin, meeting him when they were a young child, to being inspired by his biography.

We thank Wally for giving his time so generously and for the RBWH Foundation for facilitating the visit.

You can [read more about Wally's visit here](#).



STARS Support Grants announced for 2025-26

The STARS Education and Research Alliance (SERA) is pleased to announce the recipients of the STARS Support Grants, thanks to UQ's Faculty of Health, Medicine and Behavioural Science and School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work.

Higher Degree by Research support grant provides STARS staff currently enrolled in an MPhil or PhD with off-line time or other identified resources to complete a component of their Higher Degree Research program. Congratulations to:

- Rajni Nair (nursing).
- Therese Elliott (speech pathology).

Internship (project) program provides research mentorship and knowledge development to support STARS clinicians to undertake defined activities within a research project or quality initiative with clear potential to progress to a research project. Congratulations to:

Yuk Sin (Jen) Chau (nursing)

Chelsea Lim (nursing)

Vanessa McKinnon (physiotherapy)

Raj Singh (physiotherapy)

Anna Hendy (pharmacy)

Hui-Shan (Stella) Lin (medical)

Rebecca Pickering (nursing)

Chloe Smith (speech pathology)

On Friday 17 October, SERA held the first cohort gathering for grant recipients, mentors, and members of the SERA team. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the launch of this exciting initiative and build momentum for collaborative research at STARS.



Metro North end of year celebration

The tickets for the Metro North Staff Excellence Awards are now on sale so you can start organising a table. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$800 for a table of 8 and include a four-hour food and drinks package, the award ceremony, a live band and a wonderful night to celebrate your colleagues. You can [purchase your tickets to the event here](#).



Walk in Your Shoes

On Tuesday, I attended my second 'Walk in Your Shoes', with Physiotherapy Director Haylee Kajewski. I visited the Level 4 and 5 Ability Centres where I met with patients and members of our physiotherapy team. It is always wonderful to see the work our staff are undertaking to assist patients and their families to prepare to resume life outside the hospital environment, however that may look. I also saw first-hand the determination of patients working towards their rehab goals.

If you would like to nominate your area for 'Walk in Your Shoes', email me on Stars_Execdir@health.qld.gov.au with your name, unit and a suitable day and time.



Re-engaging in Occupation (RIO) Handcrafted Market

If you are looking for early Christmas gifts, patients of the Persistent Pain Clinic are holding their annual Christmas markets at the RBWH Level 1 Atrium on the 10 & 12 November from 9am-2pm.



All the goods are handcrafted by patients with proceeds going to the artisans and 10% being donated to the RBWH Foundation.

Christmas Decorating Contest

I'm pleased to announce the annual Christmas Decorating Contest, where teams come together to decorate their areas for the enjoyment of patients, their families and fellow colleagues. We have two themes again this year - **Winter Wonderland**, as voted by last year's contest winner 5B and the STARS Staff Council's pick, **Green Christmas**.



Judging will take place on Tuesday 2 December and will be based on relevance to theme, creativity and overall appearance, with bonus points for the use of sustainable/recycled materials. [You can register your area here.](#)

Can I please ask that anyone decorating this year [read the guidelines](#) beforehand to ensure their decorations don't cause damage to the building and comply with all fire and safety requirements.

I look forward to seeing everyone's decorations!

Staff Shout Out

A big congratulations to SERA's Conjoint Senior Manager Susan Sullivan and STARS Staff Specialist Julia McLeod who have recently returned from the Hockey Australia Masters Championships in Hobart, where their QLD team won gold in their age division. They have also both been selected in the Australian Spirits team to compete at the World Cup in 2026! What a wonderful achievement.



Patient compliment

Lastly, I'd like to share a patient compliment from one of our rehabilitation patients. We often receive compliments for our amazing facilities and staff but this compliment draws attention to also being challenged during a rehab stay. Every day our staff help patients reach their rehabilitation goals with expertise, understanding and compassion. Thank you for everything you do.

"This facility is absolutely outstanding. The staff care genuinely about their patients, and the patient dignity is upheld at all times. I have felt supported, safe, but challenged in STARS, as I know Rehab is not meant to be easy. Thanks for pushing me.... Everyone at STARS are simply that...STARS!"

Kind Regards

Dale Dally-Watkins
Executive Director
STARS



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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