

Metro North Health

Message from the

# Acting Executive Director, STARS

Geoff Grima



## Summary:

- Severe weather
- Christmas activities
- Disability Action Week
- Medical awareness mini expo
- Honorary Fellowship for Peter Slattery
- Patient compliment

Message feedback

**Audience: Staff**

**Read time: 5 min**

**For: Information**

Dear colleagues,

Firstly, thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome as Acting Executive Director. It is wonderful to be back at STARS and I look forward to working with staff over the coming weeks. I will be in the role until Sunday 11 January next year, when Dale returns from annual leave.

We have certainly been experiencing early summer weather this week with heatwave conditions and severe storms.

In line with our disaster arrangements, STARS has recently updated our [Heatwave Checklist](#) and [Severe Weather Matrix](#).

If you have been impacted by storm damage, power outages or school/childcare closures, speak to your line manager in relation to support you may require. You may be eligible for Special Leave – you can find out more [here](#).

The forecast for summer is above average for both daytime and overnight temperatures and the likelihood of more storms.

Metro North Health has created an extranet site to keep staff across our [emergency and disaster response activities](#).

If you haven't already, check out the Queensland Government's [Get Ready website](#) where you can find out more about your local risk of extreme weather, make an emergency plan,

and get a checklist of what to pack in an emergency kit. There are also links to other useful resources.

## Twenty-seven days to Christmas

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas at STARS, with the arrival of the wonderfully decorated tree in the foyer, thanks to the RBWH Foundation. A few areas on Level 7 have also started decorating, including the Finance team and the Executive Team.



If you want to get on board with the Christmas decorating there is only one week left to [register](#). This year's main prize is an amazing gourmet food hamper from Mumbleberry, kindly donated by the RBWH Foundation.

It is always lovely to see all the beautiful, creative and sustainable entries. They really do bring a bit of Christmas joy to patients and their families. I am looking forward to judging all the entries on Tuesday 9 December.

## Disability Action Week

This week is Disability Action Week with the theme for 2025, *Communicate. Connect. Create.* This year's theme aims to demonstrate accessible communication in action in our communities and the simple changes we can make to improve access for all. You can find more on the [Queensland Health Disability Action Week website](#), including information on accessible communication.

As part of Metro North Health's commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and equitable workplace the organisation has established the Metro North ENABLE Working Group. The ENABLE acronym — *Employees Navigating Access, Barriers, Leadership, and Equity* — has been adopted to elevate the voices, experiences, and leadership of staff with disability and their supporters across Metro North Health services. Metro North ENABLE are now seeking

[Expressions of Interest](#) to join from staff with a disability, staff who are carers of a person with a disability or allies.

### Staff Council beats the heat

On Thursday, the STARS Staff Council helped beat the heat by giving out free Zooper Doopers. to staff on Level 3. They were very much appreciated on such a hot day. Do remember during this hot weather to:

- [Keep cool and stay hydrated](#) by drinking 2-3L of water a day
- Stay out of the sun and in the shade
- [Slip, slop, slap, seek and slide](#) when outside, such as walking to and from your vehicle.
- Watch out for early signs of [heat related illness](#).

### Medical emergency awareness mini expo

Last Wednesday, the STARS Education team put on a Medical Emergency Awareness Mini Expo. This education session provided staff with an interactive learning experience across several critical care stations. The expo featured demonstrations and hands-on practice of scribing, essential medication delivery, and adjunct airway insertions. Staff had the opportunity to use hands on skills to understand intubation, become familiar with operating the AIRVO 2 device and complete Visually Enhanced Mental Simulation (VEMS). This education pieced presented as a great opportunity for staff to enhance confidence and preparedness for real-life emergency situations.



### Honorary Fellowship for Peter Slattery

Director of Rehabilitation Engineering Centre (REC), Oliver Mason passed on the good news that former REC Director, Peter Slattery was recently awarded an Honorary Fellowship by Engineers Australia at a ceremony in Sydney. An Honorary Fellowship is the highest membership grade and is conferred to a distinguished person in recognition of outstanding achievement. Peter was recognised for his dedication to human-centred design and disability inclusion.

## Staff Excellence Awards

I would like to wish all our finalists good luck for tonight's Staff Excellence Awards. We have quite a few staff attending so I hope everyone has a great night and I look forward to seeing you there. Photos from the night will be posted on the Metro North Health Staff Community Facebook page. You can [join the page here](#), just answer the questions so the Communications Team can verify that you are a Metro North staff member.

## Patient compliment

Finally, a compliment from a patient of the Rehabilitation Engineering Centre. It highlights the importance of not only making patients feel at ease when visiting our service but involving them and their families in the decision making.

*The whole team strived to achieve the best outcome for my condition. They included me in all decisions, as well as making me feel welcome and comfortable.*

Kind Regards

**Geoff Grima**

Acting 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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