

Metro North Health

Message from the

Acting Executive Director, STARS

Geoff Grima



Summary:

- STARS Christmas decorating contest winners
- Staff breakfast
- Have Your Say action update
- SERA student showcase
- Patient Christmas activities

[Message feedback](#)



Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

On Tuesday, I was excited to be one of the judges of this year's Christmas decorating contest at STARS. The themes for 2025 were 'Winter Wonderland' and 'Green Christmas' and there were some great interpretations of these across the facility.

I would like to thank everyone who entered this year's contest - the time and effort that has gone into the displays is remarkable. As we all know, being in hospital around Christmas time is not ideal so anything we can do to bring a little of cheer is very much appreciated by patients and their families.

I am delighted to announce that this year's winner is Outpatients. Their entry had a strong sustainability element and included recycled fabric decorations from 'blueys', a gingerbread house made entirely from eye drop packaging and a paper mache slit lamp that resembled gingerbread.



Ward 5B and HIMS were highly commended for their winter wonderland displays.

Thank you to the RBWH Foundation for donating the competition prizes from Mumbleberry.

You can find more photos of the STARS Christmas decorating contest entries [here](#).



*The teams being awards their certificates and prizes.
Left to right: Outpatients, Ward 5B and HIMS.*

Christmas Staff breakfast

On Wednesday morning, we held our annual Christmas Staff Breakfast for STARS and the Oral Health Centre. The breakfast was a thank you to staff for all your hard work throughout 2025. If you were working on the day, I hope you had the chance to grab a breakfast muffin or croissant and have a chat with colleagues.

A big thank you to QSuper, a part of Australian Retirement Trust, for their support of the breakfast event.



Have Your Say action update

You may have seen the [Metro North Have Your Say Response Plan](#) was communicated recently in the CE Message. At a directorate level, the leadership team and I have been discussing the results and where we need to focus our action on based on what you told us.

We are finalising the STARS Have Your Say Response Plan and will share this with you in the near future. I have also committed to three leadership goals based on the Have Your Say feedback, which are:

1. Communications are clear and decisions are transparent.
2. Ensure that staff performance is recognised
3. STARS has a strong purpose and direction.

All local teams should have shared their Have Your Say results with staff and be discussing what two goals can help you, as a team, improve your culture and the way you work. If you haven't seen your local results yet, please reach out to your line manager or contact [People and Culture Programs](#). You can find more information about the Have Your Say survey and the goal setting process on [QHEPS](#).

Clinician Research Fellowships 2026

A reminder that applications for five part-time 2026 Metro North Research Fellowships are now open. Each fellowship will provide three years of support by backfilling clinician duties. Applications close on 23 February 2026. You can read the applications guidelines and [apply here](#).



SERA student showcase

On Thursday, I attended the SERA student showcase event, which celebrated the incredible contributions of our student workforce and the dedicated educators who have supported them throughout the year.

In 2025, STARS welcomed its largest student cohort yet with more than 250 students from 12 disciplines, including new placements in optometry. With 90 per cent of students praising our positive culture, this success reflects the dedication of our educators and clinicians.

Through our continued collaboration with The University of Queensland, we're shaping a future-ready healthcare workforce where students are valued team members and often choose STARS for the start of their careers.



Patient Christmas activities

Our occupational therapists have been incorporating Christmas themed activities into patient's therapy. The Life Skills Group recently worked on decorating a gingerbread house and icing biscuits. Meal preparation and baking is a great therapy tool to progress a variety of rehabilitation goals. It is particularly meaningful at Christmas when patients can help create food to share with family and friends at a time when they feel the weight of hospitalisation and absence from home.

The group really enjoyed the activity, and I think you will agree the results are impressive.

You can also see a video on the gingerbread activity on [Metro North Facebook page](#).



Kind Regards,

Geoff Grima
Acting Executive Director

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
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