

Metro North Health

Message from the

Executive Director STARS

Dale Dally-Watkins



Summary:

- Metro North Diversity, Health Equity and Inclusion Plan
- RBWH Grant round information
- Media training essentials
- 5th birthday celebrations
- Staff Shouts Outs

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Dear Colleagues,

Today on National Apology Day, we commemorate the anniversary of the formal apology by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly the Stolen Generations. The apology acknowledged the intergenerational trauma caused by the forced child removal policies and renewed commitments to reconciliation and healing.

You can read more about the importance of this day in this morning's [message](#) from Metro North's Chief Executive Nick Steele and Executive Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Sherry Holzapfel.

Metro North Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan

To provide the best care to our patients, we need to ensure our workforce represents the community we care for. Following two Equity and Diversity Audits at Metro North and in collaboration with our diversity groups, consumers and the Department, the first [Metro North Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan](#) has been published. The plan commits to addressing diversity inequity and supporting and valuing our colleagues of all identities, genders, abilities and cultures.

It is all our responsibility to embed the principles of this plan into our day-to-day work practice, so please familiarise yourself with the new plan.

RBWH Foundation grant information now live

RBWH Foundation grants are designed to fund research projects or patient care initiatives that improve the health and wellbeing of patients throughout the Herston Health Precinct.

If you have a patient care initiative or research idea, information for the next grant round is now live, including details of a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research grant category. Grant applications will open on 1 March and close on 2 April.

STARS have had a number of research and patient care projects funded by past RBWH Foundation grant rounds, so this is a great opportunity to advance a project.

[Click here](#) to learn how you can apply to access funding that will help you make a real impact!

Media training essentials

Healthcare-related stories are never far away from the news headlines.

To help learn more about our responsibilities in relation to media and social media, the Metro North Communications Team has developed training modules that are now available in TMS.

Course 1 - Understanding Media is suitable for all staff and helps explain the interactions between Metro North Health and the media.

Course 2 – Media Foundations: Practical Skills is recommended for specialists who may be called on to participate in media events as part of their work.

Click [here](#) to learn more or log in to TMS to get started.



STARS Staff Council

STARS 5th
Birthday celebration

Friday 27 Feb

Fancy dress day

Come dressed as a **SUPERSTAR**

PRIZE FOR THE BEST DRESSED TEAM.

5th birthday celebrations

STARS 5th birthday celebrations are taking shape with an exciting program of activities. Kicking off the week will be a quiz/treasure hunt with a mix of quiz questions, photo clues and interactive elements. Teams will have two days to complete the quiz, providing a chance for more staff to be involved across different shifts. Look out for further details coming soon.

We will also have our Consumer Showcase on Wednesday 25 February and dress-up day on the Friday 27 with Superstar as the theme. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone's costumes.

Walk in Your Shoes



I am continuing my 'Walk in your Shoes' initiative throughout 2026. Individuals or teams can nominate for me to experience what you do during your shift. It provides an opportunity to share your day-to-day experiences and challenges on a day and time that is convenient to you. Please email your nominations to STARS_ExecDir@health.qld.gov.au with your name, unit and preferred day and time.

Great effort by the Admin Team

I'd like to give a shout out to the admin leadership and team for all their hard work capturing orphaned encounters and fixing data inconsistencies. As of Monday, there were only 19 outstanding data errors in the July-December 2025 period, down from 189 the previous week. What a great effort.

January Staff Shout Outs

As expected, a smaller number of Staff Shout Outs for the month of January. Congratulations to: Hing Lok Tsang 'Henry', Michelle Alladin, Scott Gillies and Shellie Battaglone. If you are new to Metro North, Staff Shouts are a way to acknowledge and thank a colleague or team who embody our organisational values – those colleagues who are a positive influence, who collaborate in new and unique ways, or who go above and beyond expectations. Recipients receive a certificate and Shout Outs are shared with the facility Executive Director, the Facility Business Partner and our Chief Executive.

You can submit your February Staff Shout Out [here](#).

Lunar New Year

Finally, for those staff who celebrate Lunar New Year, best wishes for this coming Tuesday. 2026 is the Year of the Horse in the Chinese Zodiac, symbolising rapid change, independence and high energy. I wish you and your family health, happiness and prosperity in the year ahead.



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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