

Metro North Health

Message from the

Executive Director STARS

Dale Dally-Watkins



Summary:

- STARS 5th birthday celebrations
- Staff Shout Out
- Herston Staff Expo
- Patient compliment

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Dear Colleagues,

What a wonderful week we have had here at STARS! Ice-cream, trivia, pats with Guide Dogs, a consumer showcase, a BBQ, fancy dress and of course birthday cake! I hope most of you were able to participate in one of the activities held throughout our birthday celebration this week.

Opening Metro North's first digital hospital in the middle of a global pandemic was always going to be a challenge. From establishing a COVID-19 vaccination clinic to the commissioning of several additional wards years ahead of schedule, STARS has demonstrated amazing flexibility, resilience and a spirit of getting on with the job.

Five years on, and STARS impressive surgical, procedural and sub-acute inpatient throughput has improved access to care and reduced long waitlists. In addition, our specialist rehabilitation service is providing exceptional care to people on their journey to recovery.

I would like to extend a thankyou to all the staff at STARS that make it such a wonderful place to work. You can all feel very proud of what you've accomplished over the last five years, and I look forward to seeing what we achieve together in the future.

A big thank you to our wonderful Staff Council, particularly co-chairs Oliver Mason and Ben Frost and RBWH Staff Council A/Secretariat Jennifer Bradd for putting together the program of birthday celebrations for the week. Thanks also to Glenn McDonald and his team for setting up areas on the Terrace throughout the week and to everyone who volunteered at the staff BBQ on Thursday.



Ice-cream truck



Ambassador Guide Dog visit



Consumer Showcase



STARS 5th birthday official celebration



Staff BBQ



Fancy dress up day - including those who dressed as Superstar staff member Scotty.

Staff Shout Out

A Staff Shout Out goes to Dr Jane Hutchinson on being awarded the Professor GA (Don) Harrison Medal for outstanding performance in fellow exam for the College of Intensive Care (CICM) Australia and New Zealand.

The medal is awarded to the highest scoring candidate in the second part (final exam). Dr Hutchinson was previously a staff member at TPCH before joining us here at STARS.



RBWH Foundation grants open on 1 March

A reminder that the latest RBWH Foundation grant rounds open on 1 March for patient care initiatives or research projects.

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!

Join us at the 2026 Staff Expo!

Wednesday 11 March 11am-2pm

Thinking about salary sacrificing or updating your super details?
Now's the perfect time!

Come along to the Metro North Staff Expos and chat directly with our staff benefit providers — quick, easy, and all in one spot.

No registration needed; just drop in on the day.

Vendor information is available on [QHEPS](https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/metronorth/corporate-services/events/staff-expo)
(<https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/metronorth/corporate-services/events/staff-expo>)



**HERSTON
HEALTH CAMPUS**

WED 11 MARCH

11AM – 2PM
RBWH EDUCATION
CENTRE FOYER

**METRO NORTH 2026
STAFF EXPO**

Patient compliment

This fortnight's patient compliment highlights the wonderful culture we have here at STARS and how this culture really does have a positive impact on a patient's recovery.

I have never been in hospital (as a patient) before, and I am absolutely blown away by the culture between the team members, the cleanliness of facilities and the care provided. I've never seen an environment more conducive to healing. The surgical team were so personable and accommodating, then likewise on the ward. I feel very lucky and grateful to have had my procedure here and feel significantly more relaxed about the follow up surgery required. In particular, I have been reluctant to take pain medication, and I very much appreciated the care team taking the time and patience to explain clinical reasoning without judgement. I wish all hospitals were like this.

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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