

# Executive Director STARS

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## Summary:

- Neurodiversity Week
- Student supervision training
- STARS representatives on diversity committees
- Award nominations open for Nursing and Midwifery and MN Research Excellence Awards
- Accolades for PODSS
- National Doctors Day, next Monday

[Message feedback](#)



**Audience:** All staff



**Read time:** 4 min



**For:** Information

Dear Colleagues,

As we near the end of the first quarter of 2026, I'd like to share with you a few remarkable statistics since July last year. These figures really reflect the amazing work that is being done here at STARS, the Oral Health Centre and VECS.

- 2,969 additional patients have been able to access an emergency doctor.
- Nearly 40,000 patients have been able to access dental care through the Oral Health Centre.
- 6,383 additional patients have had their outpatient appointment.
- 77 additional patients have had their GIE procedure.
- 1,067 additional patients have had their life changing surgeries.

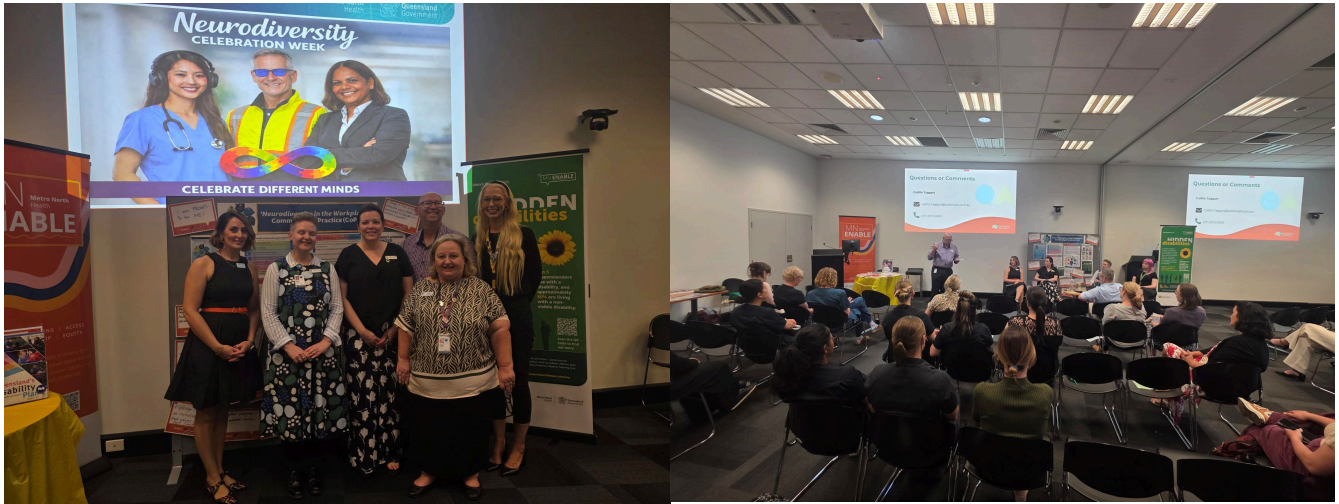
Whilst there hasn't been as many patients move through the GARS inpatient space as last year, that is because we have seen a 26% increase in brain injury and spinal patients.

While the numbers are impressive, it is worthwhile reflecting on what they mean for our patients. For those having surgeries, GIE procedures or attending outpatient appointments, it is a further step in their diagnosis and/or treatment. For those having their teeth fixed it means less discomfort and a new smile. For our geriatric, general rehabilitation, acquired brain injury and spinal patients, it is starting their rehabilitation journey at a world-class, specialist facility. For those needing emergency care it is being able to receive it from the comfort of their own homes.

Thank you for all the work you do in improving the lives of those in our community.

Last week we recognised Neurodiversity Week which celebrates the unique perspectives, talents and strengths that neurodivergent people possess that benefit our patients, colleagues and communities. The week included a guest speaker and panel discussion at the launch event, an awareness café at the RBWH atrium, an online presentation on inclusive employment practices and a session on fostering a neuroinclusive workforce.

If you are a manager and would like to understand more about neurodiversity you can enrol in [TMS training](#), Neurodiversity in the Workplace. The training aims to develop the knowledge, skills and strategies to create more neuroinclusive, dynamic and strength-focused workplace.



### Fundamentals of student supervision training

Last week, new clinical educators and clinical training facilitators came together to learn some fundamentals of student supervision. Representatives from nursing, dietetics, rehab engineering and occupational therapy joined to hear more about facilitating student engagement, how students learn, facilitating interprofessional learning and other topics. The session included representatives from UQ's School of Rehabilitation Science who co-facilitated some activities and outlined the supports the university can offer.



The next training will be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April from 1-3pm, in L5 RM 326. All clinical educators / clinical training facilitators are welcome, especially those who are new to supervising at STARS.

### World Engineering Day quiz winner

To celebrate World Engineering Day, the Rehabilitation Engineering Centre ran a quiz competition. Occupational therapist Eunice Boamah was declared the winner after her name was drawn out from the five staff who correctly answered all questions. Eunice's prize was a chess-sized 3D-print of her head (see photo below). Thank you to everyone who participated in the competition



## STARS representation on diversity committees

STARS is committed to a diverse workforce including LGBTQI+, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and multicultural staff and those with a disability. An important strategy is to have STARS representation on key diversity committees. There are a number of committees currently seeking EOI from interested staff. For more information see:

- Pride in MN: [Expression of Interest \(EOI\) to join Pride in MN - Fill in form](#)
- MN ENABLE (Employees Navigating Access Barriers Leadership Equity): [Expression of Interest \(EOI\) to join MN ENABLE - Fill in form](#)
- Multicultural Employee Reference Group (not the final name): [Expression of Interest \(EOI\) to join the Metro North Multicultural Employee Working Group - Fill in form](#)

## Metro North Midwifery & Nursing Awards and Research Excellence Award nominations now open

Several award nominations have recently opened including, the Metro North Midwifery & Nursing Awards. If you know a nurse who champions and significantly contributes to the nursing profession you can nominate them [here](#). Nominations close on Sunday 17 April 2026.

Nominations for the annual Metro North Research Excellence Awards have also opened. The awards recognise and reward outstanding achievement in research across all clinical specialties, professions, and services in Metro North Health. To nominate, [click here](#). Nominations close 5pm Monday 27 April 2026.

It would be wonderful to see STARS staff and projects represented at these awards so get your nominations in.

## More accolades for the Post-Operative Discharge Support Service (PODSS)

As you may have read in [last Friday's CE message](#), Qld Health's PODSS service was the winner in the Delivering world-class health care category as well as the overall winner at the recent Premier's Delivery for Queensland Awards. PODSS started as a pilot at STARS and has been rolled out to other hospital and health services across the state, with interstate and international sites also interested in the program. I'd like to share what the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Tim Nicholls had to say about the PODSS service at the Awards: *"The success of PODSS is a powerful reminder that some of the most meaningful improvements in healthcare come from teams that see an opportunity to do things better for patients and work collaboratively to make it happen"*. Congratulations to everyone involved.

A blue banner for National Doctors Day. On the left is the logo for 'DOCTORS HEALTH in QUEENSLAND' featuring a purple fruit. Below the logo is an illustration of three healthcare professionals (two women and one man) in white coats, with medical supplies like a stethoscope, a first aid kit, and pills. In the center, the text reads 'NATIONAL DOCTORS DAY Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March' in white, followed by 'A day to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions of doctors to patients and communities.' in orange. On the right, there is a QR code with an arrow pointing to it and the text 'Nominate a Dr of the Year'. Below the QR code is a stylized illustration of a stethoscope and a heart.

### National Doctors Day

This coming Monday, 30 March is National Doctors Day where we honour the dedication, compassion, and invaluable contributions of our medical professionals who work tirelessly to provide exceptional care to our patients. Join in the celebrations from 12.00-2.00pm at room 476. There's still time to [get your nominations in](#) for Doctor of the Year for Geriatrics and Rehabilitation Services, Procedural Services and Virtual Emergency Care Services. Nominations close 5pm today. The Doctors of the Year will be announced between 12.30-1.00pm.

### Easter break

This will be my last ED message before the Easter break. Whether you are participating in religious celebrations, enjoying the time with loved ones or travelling, I hope you have a wonderful break. For those who are working over the break, thank you for your dedication to our patients and I hope you receive an extra chocolate treat!



on Level 7 for their Easter decorati



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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