

# Executive Director STARS

Dale Dally-Watkins



## Summary:

- National Doctors Day award recipients
- Staff flu vaccination campaign
- REC host Toowoomba Grammar students
- Future Metro North
- Visit by Josie Dooley
- March Staff Shout Outs

Message feedback



**Audience:** All staff



**Read time:** 4 min



**For:** Information

Dear Colleagues,

On 30 March we celebrated National Doctors Day with a morning tea for all our wonderful doctors. We announced three inaugural awards to recognise the outstanding contributions of our doctors to making this world a better and healthier place. Thanks to everyone who submitted a nomination. Congratulations to:

Dr Isuri Kiriella - Geriatrics and Rehabilitation Services Doctor of the Year. Dr Kiriella exemplifies the very best of our values and sets a benchmark for compassionate, collaborative and high performing healthcare. Her dedication, expertise, and humanity enrich our workplace and profoundly impact the patients we serve.

Dr Harriet Wood - Procedural Services Doctor of the Year. Dr Wood is a tireless campaigner for patient safety and consistently high performance. She leads theatre teams effortlessly on a daily basis and is always happy to be involved in the governance of health care.

Dr Branco Wu - Virtual Emergency Care Services Doctor of the Year. Dr Wu always has time for patients and their relatives, is a great communicator and has a good sense of humour. He has made significant contributions to the future development and progress of the service and its technology.



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# JOIN THE METRO NORTH STAFF FLU FIGHTERS

## STAFF INFLUENZA VACCINATION CLINIC ACROSS METRO NORTH APRIL-JUNE 2026



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW CLINIC  
TIMES, DATES AND LOCATIONS  
NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

Metro North  
Health



### Staff flu vaccination campaign

It is that time of year again where staff roll up their sleeves for flu vaccinations. Getting an annual flu vaccination is a simple way to protect yourself and people around you at work, at home and in the community. The flu can have a significant impact even on healthy people. Getting vaccinated reduces your risk of getting sick, needing time off work and experiencing more serious complications.

All of us can also slow the spread of flu by following some healthy habits, such as regularly washing our hands and cleaning surfaces, always covering your cough and staying home when you're unwell.

More details are available on [the staff extranet](#).

### REC host Toowoomba Grammar students

Last Tuesday, the Rehabilitation Engineering Centre (REC) hosted a group of senior students from Toowoomba Grammar as part of a broader Herston Health Campus visit. There were a few budding doctors and engineers in the group so the tour of the Rehabilitation Engineering Centre and the work they do was well received. Annie provided lots of relatable examples of the work REC do for the group such as customised nerf gun holders and Xbox controllers. Thanks to the REC for hosting the students.

### Future Metro North

Thank you to everyone who has already provided their feedback and input on the Future Metro North – Reimagining Healthcare 2026–2041 roadmap.

Future Metro North is our future-focused strategy, laying out the plan for our 15-year transformation and guiding how Metro North delivers care through to 2041.



Your participation and support are vital as we work together to shape our future as one Metro North. If you haven't had a chance to share your feedback and input you can do so by visiting the [Future Metro North extranet page](#). It would be really beneficial if the unique perspectives of STARS staff were captured in the feedback.

### AI app QChat now available for STARS staff

STARS staff now have access to the Queensland Government secure AI app, QChat.

QChat can help us to work smarter and more efficiently. In particular, to make routine and repetitive tasks faster, allowing more time to focus on higher-value work.

However, QChat is not a clinical tool. It must not be used for clinical decisions, medical advice, diagnosing patients or patient specific matters. Personal or identifiable patient information must not be uploaded to QChat.

To learn more about what QChat can offer and request access, visit the [QChat QHEPS page](#).

### Visit from Josie Dooley

Former STARS patient Josie Dooley visited STARS recently while filming a Channel 10 news story about her recovery and Paralympian dreams. Josie and her mum caught up with Raj, Bette-Anne and Haylee, with Raj taking Josie through some of her rehab exercises. It was a lovely moment for everyone to reflect on the amazing progress Josie has made since her time at STARS.



You can watch more about Josie and her journey with the Queensland Academy of Sport's Paraspports Unit [here](#).

### Anzac Day commemorations

For those who would like to honour those men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice, the RBWH will again be hosting an Anzac Day service on Saturday 25 April from 8am in the Level 1 Atrium. Look out for further details in an upcoming Metro North bulletin. STARS will also be playing the Last Post on the day at 9am.



If staff would like to purchase a poppy or make a donation they can do so at the RSL ANZAC appeal stall, RBWH atrium, Tuesday 23 - Friday 24 April. All proceeds will support veterans in need.

### Staff Shout Outs

Congratulations to all the staff and teams who received a Staff Shout Out for March: STARS Patient Support afternoon staff (Blair, Clinton, Elke, Rebecca, Tom, Liam, Callum and Cam), Caitlin Fraser, Daniel Innes, Ellysiah Smith, Helen Coates, Jessica Penrose, Jorja Potts, Kye Gregory, Molly Vari, Nick Saunders, Tyson Cigobia and the Speech Pathology team.

If you would like to nominate a staff member or team for a Staff Shout Out in April, you can do so [here](#).

## Patient compliment

This fortnight's patient compliment is from one of our surgical patients. It is always lovely to hear the wonderful feedback from our patients who are getting their lives back on track following their surgery. Once again, the amazing environment of STARS was highlighted - both the physical surrounds and our amazing staff.

*"I wanted to express my sincere thanks for the wonderful care I received during my stay last week for my gallbladder removal. From start to finish, every member of the team made me feel comfortable and well looked after. The surgeon was excellent, the anaesthetic team were thorough and reassuring, and the nursing staff were so kind and attentive. The hospital itself was lovely and made my recovery experience much easier.*

*I'm very grateful for the professionalism and compassion shown throughout my stay and I'm pleased to say I'm well on the mend.*

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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