

Executive Director STARS

Dale Dally-Watkins



Summary:

- Staff flu vaccination campaign
- Walk in Your Shoes
- New name for Safety and Quality Unit/Committee
- Proximity card renewals
- International Nurses Day and Administrative Professionals Day award nominations
- STARS in the socials
- ANZAC Day

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Dear Colleagues,

The staff flu vaccination campaign kicked off this week, with Metro North's Chief Executive Nick Steele, Chief Allied Health Practitioner Michele Stute, Acting Board Chair Dr Meg Cairns and myself all receiving our flu vaccination at STARS.

A big thanks to our Infection Management and Prevention Service for organising the staff flu vaccinations this year for STARS, Green Square and the Oral Health Centre.

I encourage team leaders to allocate time for their staff to receive flu vaccinations during our vaccination campaign - it is one of the simplest ways we can protect ourselves, our work colleagues and our families. Head down to our vaccination hub on Level 1, STARS for your vaccination, Chupa Chup and reward sticker.

If it is more convenient for you to receive your vaccination elsewhere, while taking family to have their vaccinations, for example, you can let us know that you have been vaccinated by filling out this [form](#).

If you would like more information on flu vaccination, head to the vaccination page on the [staff extranet](#) for a recording of yesterday's vidcast with Infection Disease Physician Dr Krispin Hajkowicz, Public Health Physician Yudish Soonarane and Infection Control CNC Janice Geary.



Search on Staff Extranet



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



Walk in Your Shoes

Earlier today, I attended another 'Walk in Your Shoes', this time with Kate Kempthorne, Nurse Manager Workforce and Innovation. The Walk in Your Shoes initiative provides an opportunity for me to visit your team, discuss the work you do and any particular challenges or opportunities.

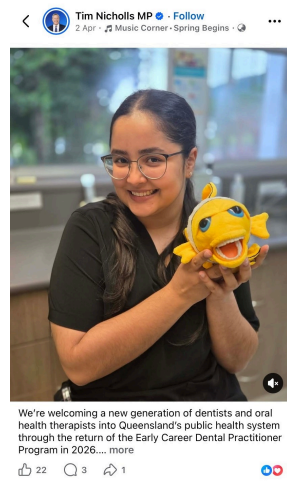
I spoke with Kate about providing additional opportunities for geriatric and rehabilitation nurses through the establishment of a Nurse Leadership Program which will involve training and mentorship. It is hoped the program will help in the recruitment and retention of nurses in the GARS space at STARS.

If you would like to nominate your team for 'Walk in Your Shoes' send an email to STARS_Executive@health.qld.gov.au with your name, details and a day/time that suits you for the visit.



Early Career Dental Practitioner Program (ECDPP)

The wonderful Early Career Dental Practitioner Program (ECDPP) received a shout out on Hon Tim Nicholls MP's Facebook page earlier in the month. This year, 26 newly-qualified clinicians from nine HHSs are participating in the graduate program which supports graduates entering the public healthcare system. The program features online mentoring sessions, small group discussions with peers and mentors, a case presentation, access to specialist lectures, and hands-on clinical placements at Metro North's Oral Health Centre.



New name for Safety and Quality Unit and Committee

The new STARS Clinical Governance Framework was launched after endorsement by the Senior Leadership Team. The development of this framework is a natural progression for STARS as we enter our sixth year, as increasing maturity is expected in the structures, processes and outcomes developed, implemented and evaluated to ensure safe, quality care.

To assist in embedding the clinical governance framework into STARS, the current Safety and Quality Unit will be renamed as the Clinical Governance Unit. The Clinical Governance Unit will continue to include;

- Publications and procedures
- Patient Experience and Consumer Engagement
- Infection Management and Prevention Service
- Safety and Quality Unit.

The current Safety and Quality Committee will also be renamed the Clinical Governance Committee in time for the May meeting.

Please take time to familiarise yourself with the new Clinical Governance Framework on the STARS [Safety and Quality QHEPS page](#).

Proximity access card renewals

As you would know the STARS building requires swipe card access to many areas and so it is very important that we ensure our proximity access cards are valid. Metro North policy requires the renewal of proximity access cards every two years.

An email notification is sent to line managers approximately four weeks prior to a card's expiry, along with the template for updates. It is important that all required fields on the form are completed and it is returned promptly. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours to process requests.

If forms not returned in a timely manner, there is a risk that access will expire limiting access to work areas. Access cards that haven't been used in 60 days are disabled automatically from inactivity. For further information on proximity card renewals contact stars-oss-forms@health.qld.gov.au.

STARS

International Nurses Day 2026

Celebrations

Tuesday 12th May, 10am, Level 3

Awards presentation and cake



International Nurses Day 2026 award nominations

This year, we will once again be holding our International Nurses Day awards. These awards recognise the substantial influence made by nurses to the provision of safe, quality care for patients within the STARS Directorate.

The award categories are :

- STARS Registered Nurse Leader of the Year
- STARS Graduate of the Year (commenced employment in 2025)
- STARS Enrolled Nurse/Enrolled Nurse Advanced Skills of the Year
- STARS Assistant in Nursing/USIN of the Year
- STARS Deadly Nurse of the Year
- Professional Practice and Clinical Excellence Award

To nominate a nurse you believe has demonstrated commitment to their profession and exemplifies the Metro North and STARS values click [here](#). **Nominations close on 6 May 2025.**

Awards will be presented at our 2026 STARS International Nurses Day event on Tuesday 12 May 10am, level 3.

Administrative Professional Day nominations

We are also recognising excellence and achievements in our administrative staff. Our admin professionals are the backbone of STARS and ensure the efficient performance of all our departments.

The nomination categories are:

- Teamwork - Recognises someone who strengthens the team environment and supports collective success
- High Performance - Recognises someone who consistently delivers exceptional results and drives efficiency
- Compassion - Recognises someone who consistently demonstrates empathy, kindness, and patient-centred care

To nominate, email your details, the admin staff member you are nominating and the nomination category along with a short example (2-3 sentences) of why they should be nominated to STARS-CorporateServices@health.qld.gov.au. Nominations close on 29 April, with winners announced on Administrative Professionals Day, Friday 1 May at 9.30am, Level 3.

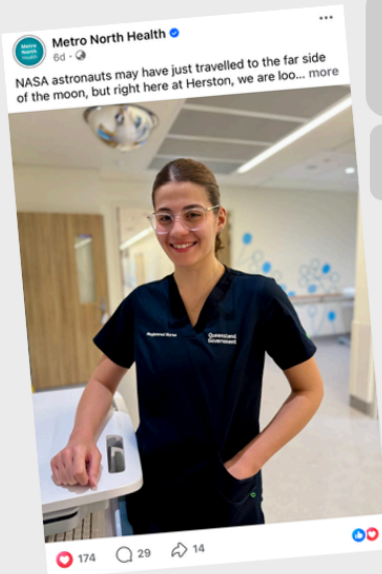
STARS in the socials

Metro North's social media recently featured STARS patients and staff. One of our lovely [rehab patients Pasquale](#) and his wife Jiben were pictured wearing their matching outfits. The post

featuring Pasquale and Jiben has had over 1,000 likes and over 170 comments, particularly from the Sudanese community.

Last week's 'Work for us Wednesday' post profiled [Registered Nurse Yasmine](#).

It is lovely to see so many of Yasmine's colleagues contributing to the positive comments.



Yaz! One of the kindest, most gentle bedside manners of any nurse I know. Incredibly compassionate and intelligent. An asset to any ward/hospital she works/will work at. 🥰🥰

Great work Jasmine. Was wonderful working with you.

One of the best nurses in the world. 💖

Yay Yassie!! Truly one of the most hardworking and inspiring nurses I know. It is a blessing to be working with her.

Well done Yas one of the best nurses I get the pleasure of working with. ❤️

Yay Yassie. You truly are one of the most inspiring nurses I know. 💖💖💖

Nothing but perfection from Yasmine ... all class and always happy. The way she treats her patients and staff members is amazing.

So proud of you Yasmine! You're an amazing nurse.

So grateful I work with one of the beautiful hearts at STARS Yazzi ❤️

Oh Yazi! You are a super star indeed. ⭐

Patient compliment

This fortnight's compliment is for Medical Imaging. It demonstrates how much small considerations, such as playing someone's preferred music, can improve a patient's experience. Well done Ben and the Medical Imaging team.

I waited for 45 minutes before I was admitted to the MRI room. Ben's customer service was so superb that it was worth the wait. He even played my favourite music during my MRI session to ensure the experience was as pleasant as possible. STARS service, in this instance, was even superior to the private sector.

Anzac Day commemorations

Tomorrow is of course Anzac Day, a time when we remember those who have served our country whether in wars, conflicts, peacekeeping or other operations.

Whether you are attending one of the many Anzac services, baking Anzac biscuits or taking a moment of quiet reflection, it is important to honour those who served our country to ensure the Anzac spirit continues.



On the Herston Campus, the RBWH will be hosting an Anzac Day service from 8am in the level 1

Atrium. Here at STARS the Last Post will be played over the PA system at 9am.

Lest we forget.

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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