

Executive Director STARS

Dale Dally-Watkins



Summary:

- International Nurses Day
- Trivia competition
- April No Falls month
- Victoria Park - access and parking changes
- Staff flu vaccination campaign
- Student compliment

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read time: 4 min



For: Information

Dear Colleagues,

On Tuesday, 12 May, we celebrated International Nurses Day (IND) at STARS, on the birth date of Florence Nightingale. This year's theme 'Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives' reflects a commitment to nurses having the resources and working conditions they need to deliver exceptional care.

To recognise the important role that nurses play at our facility and in the health of our community, we held an IND celebration with local awards and a cake cutting. Thank you to everyone who nominated one of their colleagues.

Congratulations to the following staff who received awards.

STARS registered Nurse Leader of the Year

Winners

Ruth King and Bei (Izzy) Sun

Highly Commended

Gemma Newell



STARS Deadly Nurse of the Year

Winner

Gemma Morthen



STARS Assistant in Nursing/University Student in Nursing of the Year

Winner

Suse Egan

Highly Commended

Emma Henley and Tracey Ryan



STARS Enrolled Nurse/Enrolled Nurse Advanced Skills of the Year

Winner

Debbie Young

Highly Commended

Bryanna Nisbet



STARS Graduate of the Year (commenced employment 2025)

Winner

Jessica Penrose

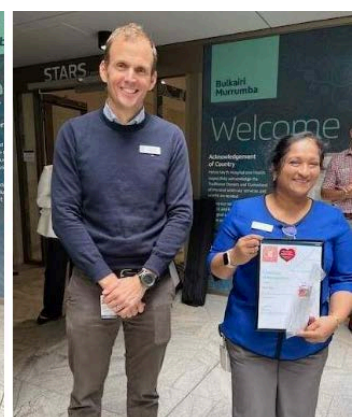
Professional Practice and Clinical Excellence Nurse of the Year

Highly Commended

Fiona Jamieson and Cecelia Boyd Orford
(left)

Winner

Rajni Nair (right)





Thank you to Cecelia Boyd Orford and Stephanie Andrews for all their work in organising the event and to QSuper (Australian Retirement Trust) for their sponsorship.

QSuper are also asking for nominations for their International Day of the Midwife/Nurses Day competition. Winners will receive a \$100 gift card or hamper and morning tea for their team. [You can enter here](#) (entries close 29 May).

Trivia competition

On Thursday, Ben Hackwood reprised his Quiz Master role for the International Nurses Day trivia competition. Questions tested knowledge of a range of subjects including pop culture, current affairs, nursing, and STARS trivia. This year five teams competed for the title, with 'The Quackers' (Cate, Calvin, Nathan, Alanna and Steph) taking out the win. The 'Superstars' nurse educator team came a close second and 'Insane in the Brain' from BIRU were third.

Thank you to everyone who played and to Ben for organising this fun event for staff to celebrate IND.



April No Falls wrap-up

April No Falls marked a successful month of focused activity aimed at raising awareness of falls. Throughout the month, the education team delivered a number of initiatives, including falls based simulations that provided staff with engaging, hands-on learning opportunities. A mini expo was also held, showcasing a range of initiatives, processes, and equipment used to prevent and manage falls across the service. A highlight of the expo was hearing from a consumer who shared their lived experience, reinforcing the real-world impact of falls and the importance of person-centred approaches to fall prevention and management.



Victoria Park - access and parking changes

From 1 June 2026, there will be a number of changes to Victoria Park due to site investigations and early works for the new Brisbane Stadium and National Aquatic Centre. These include:

- Herston side of Victoria Park will be fenced and closed to the public, including access from the Herston busway station.
- Gilchrist Avenue will be closed to public vehicles, including all parking.
- Minor relocation of Northern Brisbane Bikeway (shared pathway) to Gilchrist Avenue.
- Victoria Park Golf Complex and car park closed to the public.

Please be aware of these upcoming changes, particularly those impacting parking in the area.

If you would like more information, see the [recent Herston update email](#).

You can also sign up to receive updates from the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (GIICA) directly. Sign up [here](#).

Staff flu vaccination campaign

Today is the last day of our staff vaccination clinic at STARS. Thank you to everyone who rolled up their sleeves for their flu vaccination. We've provided over 1260 vaccinations for staff at STARS, Green Square and the Oral Health Centre.

If you can't make it to the clinic today, remember, all Queenslanders aged six months and older are eligible for a free flu vaccination. Check out your local pharmacy to get your free vaccination.

Student compliment

This week's compliment comes from one of our students who had lovely things to say about their placement at STARS.

"I am very grateful for the effort by you to help organise my placement with rehabilitation engineering and OT hands. I never felt lost or confused and I especially appreciated the time you took to show me around STARS (as it was my first time there).

I enjoyed my time with rehabilitation engineering. It was an eye-opening experience and really showed me the depth and care that goes into improving one's quality of life. I especially found the staff to be warm and accommodating and the best experiences came from getting to work on the allen keys or glue gun.

OT hands was also enjoyable - I found my supervisor to be friendly and accommodating. It was very informative to see the amount of time and recovery goes into recovery for patients after surgery.

Overall, I enjoyed both of my experiences and am grateful for the time. Please give my regards to all the STARS staff for helping make this happen".

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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