

Summary:

- Christmas activities at STARS
- Metro North COO Supplementary Business for Change
- Metro North Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Plan
- Nominate a patient for a Teddy Bear Hug
- STARS Patient Compassionate Care Fund
- Keeping healthcare safe this summer
- Patient compliment

Message feedback

Audience: All staff **Read time:** 5+ min **For:** Information

Dear Colleagues,

With Christmas only six weeks away, preparations are underway for our final celebration of the year. Please mark in your diaries Thursday 10 December as the date for our annual Christmas breakfast. It will take place at the usual time, 6.30am-8.30am to accommodate those staff coming off night shift and staff arriving for the day.

Thursday 10 December will also be the day we judge our Christmas Decorating Contest. I missed the judging last year as I was on leave, so I am looking forward to seeing all your amazing decorations this year. You can register for the contest here.

If you haven't yet finalised any leave plans over the Christmas/New Year break please talk to your line managers to discuss leave arrangements in your team.



Metro North COO Supplementary Business Case for Change

If you missed the vidcast on Tuesday 10 November about the Metro North COO Supplementary Business for Change it is now available on QHEPS. Acting Chief Operating Officer Alison Ewens and Chief People & Culture Officer Lorna Morton spoke about the Implementation Plan and the next

steps.

For more information on the COO Supplementary Business Case for Change, including the Implementation Plan, see the staff extranet page.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Plan 2026-2030

Last week we saw the launch of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Plan 2026-2030. The plan brings together our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce commitments into a single, coordinated roadmap for action. It is designed to address longstanding priorities and barriers while strengthening accountability across five key areas:

- Workforce growth and representation
- Culturally safe recruitment and onboarding
- Retention, wellbeing and cultural safety
- Capability, scope of practice and career progression
- Cultural capability, anti-racism and organisational accountability

The plan is an important part of the Metro North Health Equity Strategy 2025-2028.

I encourage everyone to review the plan and consider how it can be incorporated into workforce planning, recruitment practices, staff development and decision-making processes.

Nominate a patient for a Teddy Bear Hug

This Christmas, the RBWH Foundation are offering donors and the wider community the opportunity to give the gift of a teddy bear hug. These teddy bears will be given to patients spending the festive season at the Royal and STARS.

If you would like to nominate a patient to receive a teddy bear you can do so here.



STARS Patient Compassionate Care Fund

The RBWH Foundation are committed to supporting the compassionate care delivered by STARS through its Patient Compassionate Care Fund (PCCF). The Foundation provide up to $10,000 per financial year to fund urgent and time-sensitive requests to provide care, comfort and support.

Examples of where the fund has been used in the past include a cake to celebrate a milestone birthday or providing the newspaper to a long-stay patient who did not have family available.

If you think you have a patient that could benefit from the PCCF, you can find out more information here.

Keeping healthcare safe this summer

With warmer weather returning to South East Queensland, it's time to focus on preventing mould in our healthcare environments. Despite our best efforts, mould can develop during periods of hot and humid weather.

If you notice mould, immediately notify the affected area's manager and report it to Cushman and Wakefield on 1300 785 113.

Thank you for helping keep our hospital environment safe and healthy.



October Staff Shout Outs



Congratulations to the following staff who received a Staff Shout Out in the month of October: Ammie Janison, Amy McKee, Dane Schubach, Glenn McDonald, Hannah Olufson, Huyen Do, Jacob Reed, Jillian Daly, Pui Cheng Kwok and Suse Egan,

Staff Shout Out are a simple way to recognise an individual staff member or team who embodies the Metro North values of Respect. Teamwork, Compassion, Performance and Integrity.

You can nominate someone for a Staff Shout Out in November here.

Patient compliment

This week's patient compliment comes from one of our orthopaedic outpatients. It demonstrates the very real impact our work has on our patients daily lives, like being able to return to activities they enjoyed. Well done to Lynne.

"*I have had an amazing time with Lynne, she is amazing, informative and the best physio I have had. Today I jogged after a knee injury which I have not done in years. She has given me immense confidence, and I hope she is recognised for her amazing work and charisma. Thank you so much.*"

Finally, if you are attending the Metro North Staff Excellence Awards tonight, have a wonderful time and best of luck to our STARS' nominees. I believe STARS has the largest contingent of staff attending the event out of all the facilities/directorates, so I hope to see many of you there.

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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