

# THE IMPACT OF GIVING

HOW PHILANTHROPY IS HELPING TO SOLVE  
THE BIG HEALTH CHALLENGES

2021/2022



TM  
The Royal  
**Children's**  
Hospital  
Foundation



The RCH Foundation acknowledges and recognises the Wurundjeri people as the Traditional Custodians of the land in which we are located. We respect all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and honour their cultural and spiritual relationships the land and water, and their rich contribution to society.

Please note the photos that appear in this document were captured over a period of years. All health and safety guidelines were followed in the production of this document.

Front cover: RCH patient Michael, story on page 21

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# The year in numbers

In the 2021/2022 financial year:

91,142

Emergency Department presentations



200+

projects supported

444,075

Ambulatory appointments



\$45.5

million raised

13,443

surgeries



44,959

inpatient admissions









*Sue Hunt and Peter Yates AM*



*Peter Yates AM, Sue Hunt, Mr Anthony Howard AM QC, Her Excellency the Hon Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, the Hon Steve Dimopoulos MP, Bernadette McDonald, the Hon Rob Knowles AO and John Cardona*



*The RCH featuring the mural Together created by Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara artist Elizabeth Close and Wurundjeri/Dja Dja Wurrung artist Samantha Roberts*



*Sue Hunt, Professor Sarath Ranganathan, Head of the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne, Bernadette McDonald and Professor Kathryn North, Director, MCRI.*



*Sue Hunt, Louise Gourlay AM and Dr Miriam Weisz OAM*

# Thank you



**Peter Yates AM**  
Chairman



**Sue Hunt**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Thank you for your incredible support of The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH). The hospital, and its campus partners the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and the University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics are truly advancing the future of paediatric excellence for Victorian children and beyond, and you play an essential role in making that possible.**

2021/2022 has been a year like no other, and we are truly grateful for your unwavering commitment to supporting sick children and their families. Through your generosity, you have helped raise \$45.5 million, enabling over 200 life-changing projects across the Melbourne Children's Campus.

Thanks to you, clinicians are able to access the latest in cutting edge technology, researchers are undertaking vital studies to advance outcomes for patients globally, the hospital is able to attract and develop the brightest clinical minds, and patients and their families are placed at the centre of care, ensuring the best possible long term outcomes.

With your support, the RCH Foundation was able to commit to over 200 essential projects, enabling great clinical care, research, leadership and technology. These projects have meant that the RCH was able to expand beyond the four walls of the hospital, reaching patients in centres across the state, and in their homes.

This year marked the end of our RCH150 celebrations with the RCH150 Anniversary Dinner. We've been astounded by everyone's phenomenal support of the hospital's 150th anniversary, including by raising

over \$5.7 million at the dinner which will help enable excellence for the next 150 years.

2022 also marks a significant milestone for our Auxiliary community, who celebrate 100 years of supporting the hospital, making them the longest philanthropic supporter of the RCH. Established in 1922 by Miss Mary Guthrie to fundraise for, and supply clothing, hospital garments and bed linen to the hospital, by the end of 1922, there were 10 Auxiliary groups dedicated to supporting the hospital. Now, 100 years later, there are 48 active Auxiliary groups and over 450 members. Together, they have raised over \$47 million and supported countless life changing projects at the RCH, and we're immensely grateful for the wonderful legacy they have created.

The future of paediatric healthcare looks bright. Since its founding in 1870, the RCH has built a reputation for the quality of care, clinical excellence, innovation and collaboration which has changed countless lives for children and young people across Victoria and the world. And the next chapter is just beginning. Thank you in advance for the role you will play in our future chapters, including helping to support the hospital's vision of creating a world where all kids thrive.

Thank you.

**Sue Hunt**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Peter Yates AM**  
Chairman

## Farewell Peter

**"After 21 years of remarkable service, including 10 as Chairman, Peter Yates is retiring this year. During this time, the RCH Foundation has achieved great things as a philanthropic body, including significantly expanding the impact of community generosity in advancing health outcomes for children globally. Peter led the establishment of granting and investment frameworks, and the funding of innovative and ground-breaking research, enhanced clinical care, academic chairs and centres of excellence, creating a lasting legacy for years to come.**

**"Our trusted and passionate Deputy Chair, Richard Leder OAM, has been appointed as our new Chairman. A senior lawyer specialising in commercial litigation and media law, Richard has been on the RCH Foundation Board for over 20 years and has played an influential role. We're thrilled to have Richard lead us into the future to help shape advancements and world leading outcomes for child and adolescent health.**

**"On behalf of everyone at the RCH Foundation, I want to thank Peter for his visionary leadership as Chairman. I'm immensely grateful for his invaluable support, and am grateful that he will continue to be a member of the RCH Foundation community," said Sue Hunt, Chief Executive Officer.**





*The RCH featuring the Together mural*



*Sue Hunt and Bernadette McDonald*



*Malu and his brother, story on page 35*



*Michael who's story features on page 21*



*A clinician undertaking a telehealth appointment*



# A message from the RCH



**Bernadette McDonald**  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Royal Children's Hospital

**On behalf of all our patients, families and staff at the RCH, I would like to thank you for another tremendous year of support. There is not a day that passes where I am not humbled by the incredible amount of goodwill our health service receives from the community. This goodwill is not taken for granted, and drives us to go above and beyond to support the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families who entrust us with their care.**

Your continued support of the RCH Foundation means, alongside our campus partners, we can continue to deliver excellence in care, education and research for children and young people both here and overseas. Some of the ways we're making this excellent care happen is through the Centre for Health Analytics, which now has a visible presence on campus. The Centre for Health Analytics brings medicine, information technology and science together to improve care and is supported by the RCH Foundation through your generous giving.

Thanks to you, the RCH Foundation is also able to fund the Melbourne Children's Trial Centre, which is Australia's only dedicated clinical trials space for children funded by philanthropy. Being able to facilitate high quality clinical trials, right here on our Melbourne Children's Campus means children and young people in our care are the first to benefit from innovative new research. Through philanthropy, we can ensure our patients have access to state of the art equipment, life changing therapies and cutting edge technology they may not have access to anywhere else in Australia - and for this we are forever grateful.

Through your support, our incredible Wadja Aboriginal Family Place can continue being a safe and welcoming place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families to relax away from the busy hospital environment. Alongside providing emotional, social and cultural support, the Wadja team make sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have equitable access to health care services by advocating and liaising on behalf of families in our care.

Your support helps make our hospital a culturally safe place that delivers culturally responsive care to everyone.

It would be remiss of me not to mention this year's Good Friday Appeal, which despite being held at an undeniably challenging time for everyone, was our most successful yet. I would also like to acknowledge the RCH Auxiliaries in their centenary year. Despite every challenge of the past 100 years, they have continued to rally around the hospital and it would not be such a special place without their presence.

Thank you once again for supporting everything we do here at the RCH, and for helping us continue to be among the best children's hospitals in the world. It is a privilege to witness all the incredible and life-changing things that you help make possible.

**Bernadette McDonald**  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Royal Children's Hospital

# A message from the Good Friday Appeal

**This year, it was incredible to see the community come together to raise an extraordinary and record breaking \$22,328,154 for the Good Friday Appeal. The Appeal relies on the help and generosity of great organisations, community groups and people who believe that our children deserve the best possible care. Their support reminds us what the RCH means to us all.**

## The strength of the community

In what has been another challenging year, we would like to acknowledge and thank the entire community for their incredible support. This year, we saw many creative and innovative fundraisers held by community groups, businesses, schools and individuals including sheep drives, lemonade stands, and even Matty's Extreme Ride to Nanna's, which raised over \$10,000!

Thank you to all our Area Managers in regional towns who each year harness the goodwill of their local communities, raising a staggering \$3.4 million. We are grateful to the CFA brigades who raised an incredible \$1.44 million and to Uncle Bobs Club in their 80th year, Pied Pipers and the many other groups who rattled tins at intersections and door knocked across the state.

The RCH Auxiliaries celebrated their 100th year, highlighting a long, rich and generous history of support. Over the years, the Auxiliaries have innovated, adapted and provided outstanding support through multiple generations of families. This year the Auxiliaries raised an incredible \$1,052,225 million and since presenting their first cheque to the Appeal in 1955, they have contributed over \$47 million.

## Our generous partners

Thank you to our Principal Partners, Herald Sun and Channel 7 in their 65th year of support, along with media partners, Ace Radio Network, Nova Entertainment and 3AW, who shared stories that resonated with the community and inspired them to give.

Woolworths celebrated 35 years of support by their teams and customers, raising an incredible \$1.35 million and Little Athletics Victoria marked 50 years of fundraising. The phone room, supported by Telstra, received thousands of donations, continuing this special tradition. We would also like to thank Costco, Cadbury, Decjuba, Hunky Dory and our raffle partners, Mazda, Majestic, Tempur, Woolworths and Telstra for their support.

It was wonderful to see the return of our big events. For the first time since 2019, Run for the Kids saw thousands of participants pound the pavement over the Bolte Bridge to raise \$1.2 million thanks to the generosity of the Herald Sun, Transurban and everyone involved. Kids Day Out returned to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre with nearly 80,000 families enjoying the festival of carnival rides, Woolworths fresh fair and the popular Teddy Bear Hospital supported by 1,000 Melbourne University Students and Visy. Thank you to the City of Melbourne for their support of this wonderful community event.

3AW's Neil's Cruise for the Kids, raised over \$380,000 through the businesses and individuals who sailed on Melbourne River Cruises' La Contessa, only disembarking after their fundraising goal had been achieved.

The Charity House auction was back in Henley's 30th year and Villawood's 13th year of donating the land. It was another record breaking result, raising \$1,028,000, due to the incredible generosity of all involved.

Kick for the Kids returned with the North Melbourne and Western Bulldogs Superclash game. Other generous sporting supporters included Melbourne Storm, Melbourne Rebels and Greyhound Racing Victoria, with Racing Victoria expanding their support through Country Racing in Sale in addition to their All Star Mile donation.

The Federal and Victorian Governments both donated \$2 million to add to the incredible community support.

## Thank you

The Good Friday Appeal is about people and over the past 91 years, our wonderful community has helped raise over \$421 million, playing an integral role in helping to create one of the best children's hospitals in the world, impacting the lives of countless children and their families.

### Penny Fowler

Chairman  
Good Friday Appeal

### Rebecca Cowan

Executive Director  
Good Friday Appeal



The Good Friday Appeal has raised over \$421 million impacting the lives of countless children and their families.



The 2022 Good Friday Appeal little ambassadors, Alex and Isla











In 2021/2022, you helped fund over 200 life-changing projects across the Melbourne Children's Campus, helping to create a brighter future for all children.

# Celebrating 100 years of the RCH Auxiliaries

**The vibrant and dynamic RCH Auxiliaries are a fundraising force to be reckoned with, and in 2022, these incredibly dedicated and passionate volunteers are celebrating 100 years of supporting the hospital.**

The RCH Auxiliaries were first established in 1922 by Miss Mary Guthrie after she raised concerns with the Hospital Committee of Management about the financial capacity of the hospital. As a solution, Miss Guthrie formed the Auxiliary movement, as a way to create a steady stream of fundraising income to supplement other private donations and government grants. They would also make and supply clothing, hospital garments and bed linen to the hospital. By the end of 1922, there were 10 Auxiliary groups, along with an Executive Council, all committed to improving the lives of children and young people.

Now, 100 years later, there are 48 active Auxiliary groups and over 450 members who all fundraise under the mission: "One team working towards one goal – making sick kids better." Together, they have raised over \$47 million and supported countless life-changing projects at the RCH.

Since their establishment, the Auxiliaries have had a remarkable impact on the lives of Victoria's sickest children, from funding world-class projects and initiatives, to enabling the advancement of nurses through the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Nursing Development Scholarship, and even brightening the day for patients with personal handmade quilts.

As avid fundraisers, they have developed a longstanding relationship with the Good Friday Appeal including their involvement in the Kids Day Out and annual cheque presentation. Throughout the years, the Auxiliaries have instigated several iconic fundraising initiatives; in 1991 they held the inaugural Cuppa for Kids fundraising event which raised \$22,000 in its first

year, they raised over \$1 million from the sale of Auxiliaries tote bags and introduced market stalls at the hospital, selling baked goods and other specialities, which are much loved by staff and families.

Above all else, it is the individuals who make up the Auxiliaries who are the heart and soul of the operation. Some members have experienced the care of the hospital directly. Others are second, third and even fourth generation Auxiliary members, a tradition passed down in their family. Then there are those who are just passionate about giving back to the community. No matter how they became involved, each member has one thing in common – a shared goal of helping sick children. It is that unwavering dedication that drives them to knit, crochet, bake, create quilts, host stalls, and organise events.

In recognition of their centenary, a series of celebratory events and initiatives were delivered throughout 2022 as part of the Auxiliaries Centenary Program, including a high tea, the publishing of a commemorative book and the use of special centenary branding.

Dr Miriam (Mim) Weisz OAM, President of the RCH Auxiliaries, said that the Auxiliaries Centenary Program has acknowledged the incredible history of the Auxiliaries and celebrated the many hardworking individuals who have dedicated countless hours to helping others.

"The Auxiliaries are the heart and soul of the hospital, we are so proud to recognise the incredible impact they, as a group, have had on sick children in Victoria and beyond. As well as this, it is also an opportunity to honour and thank all members, past and present, for the significant role they play in making great care possible, while setting the agenda for what we hope will be another successful 100 years of the RCH Auxiliaries," said Mim.

One team working towards one goal – making sick kids better.







*Left to right: Dr Miriam Weisz OAM, outgoing President, the RCH Auxiliaries; Louise Gourlay AM, outgoing Patron, the RCH Auxiliaries; Tiffany Lucas, incoming President, the RCH Auxiliaries and Penny Fowler, incoming Patron, the RCH Auxiliaries*



*Left to right: Cancer in Kids Auxiliary (CIKA) members Diane Attrill, Sala Rubinstein, Ruth Edelsten, Rachelle Better-Johnson and Lynette Weber*



*An Auxiliary member serving a customer at a hospital stall in 1981*







# Changing the future of children's health

## THE IMPACT OF

# Equipment and technology

The RCH Foundation supports the purchase of life-changing equipment specifically designed for children and adolescents.

Thanks to our donors, the following initiatives were supported in 2021/2022:

Ensuring patients can continue to access the **latest technology in medical imaging** through the operation of the magnetic resonance positron emission tomography machine (MR PET)

Reducing stress and anxiety for children undergoing needle treatments through the **use of virtual reality devices**.

**Improving testing facilities** for the Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia Diagnostic Service, which will allow newer reported forms of the condition to be identified

**Upgrading to an electronic bedside meal entertainment system**, meaning patients can order their meals electronically rather than using the current paper based menus

Improving accuracy and safety during cranial and spinal procedures with **advanced imaging and intraoperative equipment**

Introduction of **an automated blood culture system** that enables rapid isolation of microorganisms causing blood stream infections, allowing for appropriate and timely antibiotics treatment, critical to patient management

Purchase of a **trolley for the Emergency Department** to use for bereaved family and friends

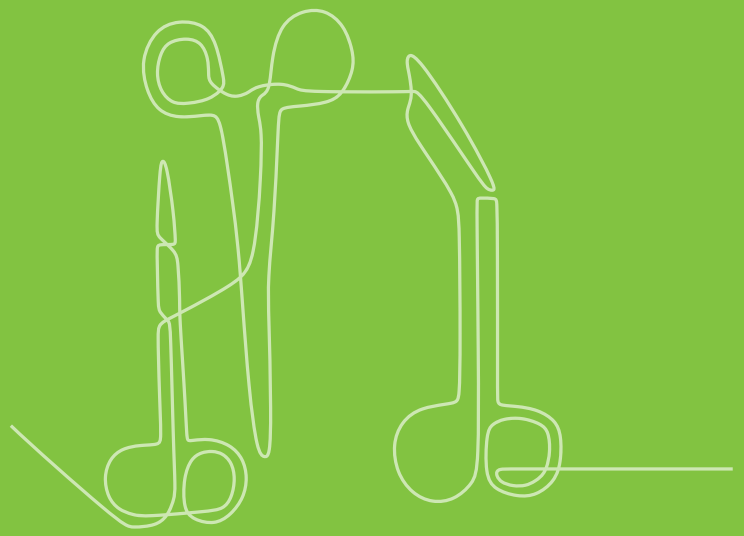
**Play equipment** to assist Child Life Therapists and Music Therapists to support patients to cope with their healthcare experiences

Enhancing the digital process capabilities of the Anatomical Pathology Department of Laboratory Services with a new **transmission electron microscope tilting stage and digital camera**

**Utilising new genetic testing technologies** for childhood tumours to obtain faster diagnosis and guide specific treatments

**Purchasing world-class manometry equipment**, which measures changes in pressure in the body including in the colon, rectum and anus

**Providing vital and cutting edge medical equipment**, including upgrades, to deliver excellent care in the hospital



Upgrading **medical equipment** used for monitoring patients' vital signs and the medication used for general anaesthesia in the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner

Ensuring **safer and more effective treatments** for patients through the intraoperative MRI system (IMRIS)

Upgrading **Gait Lab technology**, including ten infra-red strobe cameras which capture the child's walking patterns in 3D

Assisting in the strengthening and functional training for children with spinal cord injuries and acquired brain injuries with a **portable stimulation device**

Improving the quality of life for burns patients with **new laser technology**, which can dramatically improve the appearance of scars and allow for greater range of movement

Purchasing new **state of the art diagnostic equipment** for neurophysiology patients, which will be used for complex spine, vascular and brain surgeries

Purchasing a centrifuge for the **Children's Cancer Centre Biobank** to enable efficient processing of tissue samples for children with cancer

Creating positive experiences for parents and babies within the NICU through the purchase of **supportive tools and equipment** including baby activity mats, gyms and mobiles



# New equipment to support vital patient care

**Having access to the most advanced equipment and technology is essential to achieving the best outcomes for patients. Thanks to the Auxiliaries, who in 2022 celebrated 100 years of supporting the RCH, the hospital can continue providing the best diagnosis and treatment for some of the sickest children in Victoria and beyond through vital equipment upgrades.**

In celebration of their centenary year, the Auxiliaries have come together to give the hospital a special gift, funding almost \$1.8 million worth of new equipment in the hospital.

To date, 29 Auxiliaries have put funds towards the purchase of equipment for departments and wards right across the hospital, including Ophthalmology, PICU, Neurosurgery, Cardiology, Emergency, Medical Imaging, Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery, the RCH Gender Service, and Day Cancer. Of these 29 groups, 18 have joined forces this year, pooling their fundraising dollars to purchase vital pieces of equipment.

Dr Miriam (Mim) Weisz OAM, President of the RCH Auxiliaries said that the Auxiliaries wanted to do something special to honour the hospital in their centenary year.

"In our 100th year, we wanted to give a gift to the hospital that would leave a lasting legacy. Each of the items will have an impact on many children, not just now but for many years to come. Being able to fund such an important project in this, our centenary year, is something all Auxiliaries should be incredibly proud of," said Mim.

Mr Mike O'Brien, Chief of Surgery at the RCH, said philanthropic supporters like the Auxiliaries allow the hospital to be a world leader in the way it cares for its patients.

"Healthcare innovation moves along at a pace that government funding cannot possibly keep up with. Consequently, if you want to be able to provide the best possible standard of care, then you need the help of philanthropy and groups like the Auxiliaries," said Mike.

"Thanks to the Auxiliaries, we can purchase cutting edge equipment, innovate the way we care for our patients and transform the future of children's health," he added.

One of the vital pieces of equipment that the Auxiliaries have supported is a

3D Mapping System for the Cardiology Department.

The 3D Cardiac Mapping System creates a real-time three dimensional model based on the anatomy of the patient's heart. This will allow precision mapping of electric signals via catheters in the heart and displays the position of the catheters and electrical activity simultaneously onto the 3D model.

Not only does the equipment provide accurate data that identifies abnormal areas of activation, which can then be targeted and ablated, but it also helps reduce radiation and the need for further intervention.

According to Associate Professor Andreas Pflaumer, Paediatric Cardiologist and Clinical Lead Interventional Electrophysiology at the RCH, the new equipment will have a significant impact on patient care at the hospital.

**"The new system has many new innovative upgrades, including the magnet mode. It will provide a much more detailed 3D reconstruction of the structures of the heart, which for our complex congenital patients will result in a more accurate area of focus for ablation," said Andreas.**

"It also comes with a higher resolution, better signal quality and can acquire more points of information in a shorter amount of time which will potentially lead to shorter procedure times and therefore shorten anaesthetic time."

"We are so thankful to the Auxiliaries for funding the new 3D Mapping System. It will make an enormous difference to countless cardiac patients and will ensure the hospital remains at the forefront of patient care for many years to come," he added.

One of the vital pieces of equipment that the Auxiliaries have supported is a 3D Mapping System for the Cardiology Department.



Associate Professor Andreas Pflaumer, Paediatric Cardiologist and Clinical Lead Invasive Electrophysiology at the RCH





*Clockwise from the top: Michael at the RCH, Michael during one of this many hospital stay and Michael and his older sister Aurora*



# Meet Michael

**Four year old Michael loves superheroes. Any chance he's given, he'll put on one of his many costumes. But for mum Karlie, Michael doesn't need to don a disguise – her little boy is a real life superhero, having battled a rare congenital heart condition his whole life.**

Karlie and her husband Kriss were overjoyed when they fell pregnant with Michael, their second baby, in 2017. However, at their 20 week scan, their joy turned to fear as they were told their child had a rare congenital heart defect called Ebstein anomaly, a serious condition that affects one of the four valves in the heart, the tricuspid valve.

When he was 17 days old, Michael had his first episode of supraventricular tachycardia (SVT), which is an irregularly fast heartbeat. During an episode of SVT, the heart beats between 180 to 240 times per minute – more than double a regular heartbeat.

"That first episode was terrifying. We took him straight to the RCH where our cardiologist diagnosed him with Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome (WPW), a condition arising from his initial diagnosis of Ebstein anomaly. People with WPW, like Michael, have abnormal or extra electrical pathways in their heart, which can cause episodes of SVT," said Karlie.

Michael spent the next week at the RCH, where they started him on medication to stop the SVT from occurring. Over the next year, the family were in and out of hospital almost every month, while clinicians adjusted Michael's medication and dosage.

"We spent nights just listening to his heart beating and hoping the medication would work and the episodes would stop. Thankfully, just after Michael's first birthday, they did. For a while, it was like we had a normal child again," she added.

Unfortunately, the family's relief was short lived. In October 2021, when Michael was three and a half years old, his heart started beating irregularly again.

In February 2022, after another five months of back and forth from the hospital, Professor Andrew Davis, Clinical Lead, Arrhythmia Service at the RCH, called Karlie.

Andrew recommended a procedure called an electrophysiology (EP) study, which would be done by Associate Professor Andreas Pflaumer, the Clinical Lead Invasive Electrophysiology.

Michael's first EP study was done in early March 2022, to explore the possibility of an ablation, which is a risky procedure given the combination of a small child with congenital heart disease.

During the procedure, Andreas discovered that there was more than one extra electrical pathway in Michael's heart. They used ablation, a procedure that uses small burns or freezing to cause scarring on the inside of the heart, to block the additional pathway.

Unfortunately, post procedure, Michael's ECG was still showing signs of extra pathways and 9 days later, he had another episode of SVT. Then, three weeks later, he had another.

"It was a lot. When his heart is in SVT, it is like the equivalent of an adult doing a HIIT workout for 15 hours. He was exhausted, pale, sweaty, and he was sick from the medication. Imagine that for 12 hours. It was just awful," said Karlie.

A few weeks later, and after another episode of SVT, Michael underwent another EP study, and another attempt at ablation, but these were unfortunately followed by another series of SVT episodes and trips to the PICU.

"During one particular episode, because of everything he had been through, he was so distressed about having to be admitted and face being prodded with more needles, he returned his heart rate back to normal on his own. He was so traumatised that he physically screamed his heart rate down."

After yet another SVT episode and trip to PICU, Michael's cardiologist called Karlie and suggested they have another go at an EP study.

"They were so worried about his mental health after his last episode that they wanted to try the EP study again. We weren't sure because the last two times weren't successful. But a few days later, he went into SVT again. That made up our mind for us – we had to do whatever we could to make sure our boy could have a normal and happy life."

In early August 2022, Michael was admitted to hospital for his third EP study procedure. Before he went into the procedure, clinicians performed a CT scan under general anaesthetic. The images generated were then merged into a 3D mapping system, an innovative piece of technology that would help Andreas to identify the points inside the heart that were causing the SVT.

With this precision guidance, the assistance of a specialised sheath to help position the ablation catheter, and many hours of delicate work by Andreas, all the extra pathways were finally ablated.

"He was gone from us for about seven hours. The whole time I was just hoping this procedure would work. And so far, it has, and he is medication free for the first time in four and a half years."

As Karlie explains, Michael is like a new child, something that she attributes to the use of the 3D mapping tool and the expertise of clinicians like Andreas and his team.

**"I am so grateful that this technology exists. Without the 3D mapping system and Andreas, we would still be in and out of RCH with SVT episodes, so knowing that the hospital will be able to get an even better version of this machine thanks to philanthropy is incredible. It has changed our lives, and we know that it will change the lives of so many more kids like Michael."**

"To know that there are people like the Auxiliaries who work so hard to raise money for equipment like this means the world to us. We are so lucky to have such generous people who want to invest in the future of our children," she added.

## THE IMPACT OF

# Leadership, education and training

The RCH Foundation provides funding for academic leadership, scholarship and fellowship positions, education programs and training opportunities for staff. This ensures that patients now and into the future have access to the world's best brightest medical minds.

Thanks to our donors, the following initiatives were supported in 2021/2022:

Continuing support of training for for the **Neurodevelopment and Disability teams** to improve the care of disabled children

Developing an organisational wide program to build a **positive workplace culture through the RCH Compact**

Embedding **allied health research into clinical practice** on the campus by building allied health research capacity, promoting allied health research leadership and providing mentorship to improve child health

Bringing the **RCH's 150 years of history to life** by creating a digital archive

Investigating **commercialisation of RCH intellectual property**

Developing the **Centre for Health Analytics** to become an internationally leading paediatric centre in the use of health data to improve all aspects of care, operations and research

Promoting excellence in patient care, safe clinical practice and education for RCH campus staff and community healthcare workers through **the Simulation Program**

**Supporting the Children's Bioethics Centre** to provide clinical ethics services across the RCH campus

**Continued support for the Allied Health and Nursing Education Outreach Program**, which offers tailored education and training to regional health sites based on their identified learning and professional development needs



Continued support for the **Leadership Development Program** to ensure a strategic, well designed and purposeful leadership development journey for RCH staff.

**Ongoing support for an education hub** on the Melbourne Children's Campus which aims to increase collaboration, upskill educators and enhance the delivery and use of technology

Enhancing collaboration and coordination in research between the **Children's Cancer Centre and the MCRI**, by bringing together clinical and applied research into one unified and sustainable framework

Supporting the delivery of an **ongoing education and professional development** program for Allied Health and Nursing staff

Funding for the educational activities of the **Children's Bioethics Centre**, including professional development and formal education programs for staff



# Centre for Health Analytics

**When a child or young person is seen at the RCH, they have their health information entered into the hospital's Electronic Medical Record system (EMR). This may include blood testing, medical imaging, genetic and diagnostic testing, whether they are involved in a research project or clinical trial, and if they use a health app or a wearable medical device, to name a few examples. With thousands of patients seen weekly at the busy RCH, to say there is a huge amount of data collected is an understatement.**

Thanks to a generous five year grant provided by the RCH Foundation, the Melbourne Children's Campus is utilising this data and information to improve all aspects of patient care, operations, education and research through the Centre for Health Analytics. The first of its kind in Australia, the Centre for Health Analytics is a partnership between the RCH, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and the University of Melbourne.

Health analytics is the digital meeting place of health care, information technology and science. At the right time, the right data presented in the right way can inform decisions and impact the prevention, treatment, and cure of conditions.

Kate Lucas, the Director of the Centre for Health Analytics, said the Centre, which launched in June 2021, has addressed a gap in data analytics.

"We take in a lot of data about clinical care and through medical and clinical research, but prior to the establishment of the Centre we had all this data and we were not doing enough with it," Kate said.

"There was also a gap in data technology; using the EMR a clinician can see information on one patient, but it's hard to see all the patients they've seen that year or search to see how many of their patients required follow up for a specific reason – the Centre has already addressed these shortcomings."

The Centre boasts a team of over 40, comprising data analysts, data researchers, informatics researchers and support staff. Together they are

working to improve the technology to access data, and upskilling staff, clinicians and researchers across the campus on how to better utilise data. Even though the Centre is in its infancy, the implications have already been far-reaching, improving efficiency, safety and child health outcomes.

In one example, by dissecting existing hospital data, kidney clinicians were able to spot the early signs of genetic kidney disease and suggest a genomic test. This test enables a speedy, cost-effective diagnosis for patients, and has a major impact on their health in the long term.

"By utilising data and going back through the EMR, clinicians flagged all the children who provided a urine sample with blood present whilst at the RCH, who weren't followed up. There can be blood in the urine for many reasons and often it's nothing to worry about but kidney clinicians recognised that blood could be an early warning sign for Alport syndrome, a type of genetic kidney disease," Kate said.

Using the data available they went back through and identified the children at the highest risk – and collected a repeat urine sample. From the 120 responses received, eight children were found to have persistent blood in their urine and were then offered genetic counselling and a genetic test to see if they had Alport syndrome. People with Alport syndrome experience progressive loss of kidney function, and often experience kidney failure by the time they reach 40 years old.

"From this genetic testing, clinicians have already identified a child that has Alport syndrome, which can be easily treated with medication. This means 10 to 15 years more of kidney function thanks to early detection and that their families can be tested," Kate said.

Screening and simplified testing will benefit patients like Archer, who last year was diagnosed with Alport syndrome following an arduous medical process to find a diagnosis. Despite the four year search for answers, Archer now has a better quality of life thanks to early intervention and his diagnosis means his wider family can be tested to see if they are also impacted or carriers of the affected gene.

For many clinical trials and research projects, the creation of the Centre for Health Analytics has greatly improved efficiency. As part of the Centre's embedded trials, the hospital is the first in Australia to build clinical trials within the EMR, which can be integrated with routine care. For example, when a clinician is providing care to a child, if the patient meets the criteria for a clinical trial, a pop up will appear that alerts them the patient is eligible for that trial. For researchers, the ability to access data and see it quickly en masse rather than looking at patients or lab results one at a time has already greatly improved efficiency and the cost effectiveness of research.

Philanthropic funding from the RCH Foundation has ensured the hospital continues to innovate and lead the way in the adoption of big data technologies and systems for healthcare in Australia.

**"We're incredibly grateful to our donors and to the RCH Foundation for seeing the potential of data to improve child and adolescent health. Using data in a safe and secure way to deliver better care takes time and effort, and through the funding that the Centre has received, we've started building those vital foundations. This kind of work takes long term vision and commitment, and would not be possible without the ongoing support of our donors and commitment from the RCH Foundation," Kate said.**

While the Centre has already had an impact in many aspects of patient care, safety, education and research, Kate says the full potential of the Centre is still to be realised.

"The Centre is only just starting on the data journey; we are leading Australia in this space but it's still just the beginning and that's very exciting. We have really new, really powerful data techniques that in five and ten years' time will see amazing benefits for patients. We'll be able to use our data to predict health problems and intervene early, helping kids live healthy and fulfilling lives. We'll use our data to find new trends and patterns, build knowledge and become more and more proactive so we can keep children out of hospital."

Philanthropic funding from the RCH Foundation has ensured the hospital continues to innovate and lead the way in the adoption of big data technologies and systems for healthcare in Australia.



*Kate Lucas, Director of the Centre for Health Analytics*



# Meet Archer

**For Archer, the journey to find a medical diagnosis wasn't an easy one. It took a lengthy medical process, a number of years and numerous tests to finally give him, and his family, an answer. Despite the shock diagnosis, this means Archer now has access to early management of his condition and will enjoy a better quality of life.**

From the time nine year old Archer was born, he was sick on and off, with the root of his issues unknown. By the time he was four, he was a frequent flyer in hospital in his home town of Geelong. Then, later that same year, he received a referral to a paediatrician who found high levels of protein in Archer's urine.

From there, Archer was transferred to the RCH under the care of paediatric nephrologist, Dr Cathy Quinlan, and enrolled in a genetic sequencing trial at the RCH in the hope of finding some answers. After an involved process lasting several years, it was through this trial that Archer was diagnosed with Alport syndrome.

Alport syndrome is a genetic kidney disease that results in progressive kidney damage and is often associated with hearing loss and problems in the eyes. It is caused by a mutation in one of three genes for a protein called collagen. Children with this condition are born with normal kidney function, and if they are diagnosed early enough, they can start on a medication which delays the progression of their kidney disease.

As part of the genetic sequencing trial, Archer underwent blood test screening, which ruled out a lot of kidney conditions, but couldn't definitively give the family any answers. In the years following, Archer then underwent further genetic screening through the Kidney Flagship and a kidney biopsy.

"The first genetic screening occurred in 2018 and Archer was officially diagnosed in 2021, so it was a very long process," Archer's mum Kirie said. "In the midst of that, because we couldn't find an answer, Archer also had to have a kidney biopsy, followed by further genetic sequencing," she added.

The second genetic screening tests yielded results, confirming Archer's parents' worst fears and a diagnosis of Alport syndrome.

"We found a variant in a common gene, but it was difficult to find and required us to go beyond our usual clinical testing strategies, using a process that we call Enhanced Variant Analysis," Cathy said. "This is why it took us so long to give Archer a confirmed diagnosis. We learned a lot from his case, and it changed how we assess anyone with a query of Alport syndrome," she added.

Passionate about ensuring children with kidney conditions get the best possible care, Cathy has been working with the Centre for Health Analytics since 2019. Made possible with funding from the RCH Foundation, the Centre is utilising and analysing health data to improve all aspects of patient care, operations, education and research at the RCH.

One project the Centre is undertaking, which will support patients like Archer, is going through existing hospital data and identifying any patients who have presented at the RCH with blood in their urine – a common early warning sign of Alport syndrome. From here, clinicians have been able to analyse children at risk and offer an appointment with the Kidney Genetics Clinic to see if they have the condition and if so, they can intervene early – something that Kirie is thankful for in their own journey.

"While this outcome isn't what anyone would want, it was a relief to have an answer, and to be able to intervene early. It's obviously overwhelming and you don't want to have these things or give them to your kids but you want to be able to have treatment and give your kids the best possible outcome," Kirie said.

Cathy reiterates how important early intervention is for patients with Alport syndrome, as treatment can begin sooner and testing can determine who else in the family may be at risk.

"An early diagnosis is vital as it means that the child can get started on the only treatment strategy we have, along with education, setting expectations and reproductive counselling. Starting a safe, once daily, oral medication, delays the onset of kidney failure by 15 years on average. The earlier it's started, the more effectively it works," Cathy said.

"Finding these children as early as possible is key to the best outcomes and I'm so grateful to now be able to reach out to at risk families and offer saliva testing to children during a telehealth appointment, which is a much better process than Archer's experience," she added.

For Archer and Kirie, the diagnosis has also opened the door for their immediate and extended family to get tested. Kirie is the oldest of eight siblings and Archer is the second eldest of five siblings, who will all eventually undergo genetic testing to see if they are affected.

"The genetic testing has changed rapidly in the years since Archer underwent the initial blood test – it can now be done via saliva. It's amazing; you don't even need to see the doctor in hospital, we can do it via telehealth, and you get a definitive answer. People will be spared what we went through – we spent so much of Archer's life thinking, it might be this or it might be that."

**"We are incredibly grateful to the RCH and to Cathy, as if we didn't have the testing, we don't know how much more damage would have been done to Archer's kidneys," Kirie said.**







RCH patient, Archer



## THE IMPACT OF

# Patient and family centred care

The RCH Foundation wholly supports the hospital's philosophy of using and developing innovative models of patient and family centred care. This ensures that patients receive the very best care, and that their families are recognised as instrumental in the process and included each step of the way.

Thanks to our donors, the following initiatives were supported in 2021/2022:

Building resilience and support for patients in the Neurology and Rehabilitation Departments through **music therapy**

**Supporting burns patients and their families,** and educating staff on specialised treatment, with a dedicated burns nurse coordinator

Supporting an administration position within the **Neuromuscular Clinic** to help streamline appointments for patients with muscular dystrophy

Building resilience and support for adolescent patients through **music therapy**

Supporting patient outreach with **transport funding**

Providing **funding for patients and families** to cover the cost of expenses incurred by frequent and lengthy hospital admissions

Delivering **ongoing care to families who have transitioned out of NICU** with follow up sessions to track the progress of their child's development and identify issues for treatment

Establishing the RCH as a leader in **neuromuscular care** through the support of the Neuromuscular Program within the Neurology Department

**Alleviating the stress and anxiety of hospitalisation** on patients and their families through RCH TV programs

**Providing positive procedural support and experiences** for patients through educational child life therapy

**Providing funding to assist bereaved families** who are experiencing economic hardship, to help cover the cost of their child's funeral

Reducing distress and anxiety experienced by children and adolescents receiving cancer treatment with **dedicated Comfort First clinicians in the Children's Cancer Centre**





Coordinating the care of complex patients with movement disorders including dystonia with a multidisciplinary team, and **improving quality of life with the development of a Deep Brain Stimulation Program**

Enhancing care for children with brain tumours by providing a **dedicated neuropsychologist to assess the adverse effects of treatment** and identify any learning difficulties

Providing creative outlets for children undergoing cancer treatment with the **Art Therapy Program in the Children's Cancer Centre**

**Improving clinical outcomes** for children with infectious diseases

Enhancing cancer care with a **dedicated bone marrow transplant research** nurse coordinator and donor coordinator in the Children's Cancer Centre

Ensuring children from regional areas can access services closer to home by **educating and upskilling clinicians in regional centres on paediatric care**

**Providing social work support for children and families** in the Children's Cancer Centre

Measuring parental attitudes, experiences and priorities on health issues and trends for Australian children to inform public discussion and **promote RCH leadership through the RCH National Child Health Poll**

**Establishing Australia's first dedicated apheresis service** to support patients across the RCH, including those with leukaemia and undergoing stem cell transplants, and assisting with the management of organ rejection following transplantation

Upskilling staff to **improve timely access to enteral feeding pump training** for families prior to discharge

**Providing holistic care and management for children** with complex colorectal conditions by coordinating services and teams across the RCH

**Establishing a mobile at-home EEG monitoring service**, which will be able to record patients electrical brain activity for a longer period of time in the comfort of their home

**Providing cancer patients and families with practical and emotional support** during inpatient stays or visits to the Children's Cancer Centre

**Developing and piloting an innovative new model** of intake and screening for children with developmental concerns

Enhancing patient experiences with the **development of the Music Therapy Program** in the Children's Cancer Centre, PICU, and the Cardiac and Palliative Care Units

**Coordinating psychosocial support and resources for children**, adolescents and their families with disorders or differences of sex development

Creating further clinical positions within the Children's Cancer Centre to <b>support the Comfort First Program</b> , which aims to reduce pain and distress associated with cancer treatments	<b>Improving care for children with multiple sclerosis</b> and other demyelinating disorders with a dedicated clinic and multidisciplinary team	<b>Coordinating a complex care and transition program</b> for patients with epidermolysis bullosa, a group of rare and debilitating genetic conditions that result in blistering of the skin and mucous membranes	
<b>Supporting the implementation of COCOON</b> , a specially designed patient-centred, family-integrated, baby-led model of care in the NICU	<b>Ongoing support for the Hospital After Hours Program</b> , which recruits highly trained senior medical and nursing clinicians for after-hours leadership roles, ensuring safe, high-quality care is available to all children at all times of the day and night	<b>Continuing to provide therapeutic group work</b> in the community to children and families who display challenging behaviours or have a history of family violence	<b>Improving outcomes for children with heart disease</b> by increasing access to clot busting treatments and the implementation of state-wide protocols to rapidly diagnose stroke
Developing a trial which aims to improve children's health and development by bringing <b>specialist paediatric expertise and support into the Wimmera Southern Mallee region</b> via digital technology	<b>Developing and enhancing the peer support program</b> for young people living with a chronic illness	<b>Supporting patients with disorders</b> related to hormonal dysfunction or physical development through an endocrinology nurse position	<b>Supporting access to genomic testing for RCH patients</b> via additional clinical and laboratory staff
<b>Supporting the Fertility Preservation Service</b> to ensure patients who undergo cancer treatment have the ability to receive fertility preservation procedures in adulthood, if required		Developing intravenous medication procedures to <b>improve the safety of children in the PICU</b>	Implementing a program aimed at <b>improving the quality of trauma care at the RCH</b>
<b>Ongoing support for the Music Therapy Program on Banksia</b> , which uses the power of music to improve health outcomes	<b>Continued support for the POCUS Program</b> , which empowers clinicians to conduct ultrasounds at a patient's bedside, rather than a medical imaging specialist or sonographer	<b>Providing immediate financial assistance</b> to families experiencing significant hardship as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic	<b>Enhancing targeted therapies for children undergoing cancer treatment</b> through the appointment of a molecular oncologist within the Children's Cancer Centre
<b>Providing psychological and emotional support</b> for children with cancer and their families	<b>Providing support and engagement for patients</b> undergoing in-patient treatment for mental health and their families	<b>Providing emotional, social and cultural support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children</b> and their families who use the hospital by funding the Wadja Aboriginal Family Place	Ensuring the RCH is <b>delivering best quality and accessible mental health care for patients and families</b> across the campus by resourcing, training and project funding for mental health programs

Supporting the care of patients requiring anticoagulation medication with a <b>dedicated anticoagulation lead</b>	Establishing a virtual care platform and leveraging virtual care technologies to enable the <b>delivery of clinical care remotely</b>	<b>Providing support, education and treatment</b> for children with severe acne in a public sector setting	<b>Enhancing care and support for children and adolescents</b> with autism and intellectual disability through the appointment of a clinical nurse
<b>Ongoing support for the apheresis service</b> , which involves the filtering and removal of blood components to have potentially life-saving impacts, including a renewed focus on gene therapy	<b>Comprehensive cancer care for children and adolescents</b> which incorporates holistic aspects including psychosocial, financial, mental health and wellbeing, as well as educational and vocational needs	<b>Enabling the continuation of the RCH Multidisciplinary Weight Management Service</b> , which provides assessment and management of children and adolescents with complex obesity in the context of other complex disease or disability	
<b>Delivery of an activity-based engagement program</b> with young people during times they are experiencing high anxiety and distress	Funding for customised pressure garments for <b>burn scar management for patients</b>	Development and publication of educational videos for <b>liver transplant recipients</b>	<b>Trialling the use of a virtual reality device pre-operatively</b> , as a distraction and calming therapy for patients undergoing surgery and procedures
<b>Providing memory-making services</b> to all RCH inpatients and their families during end of life care	Strengthening links to the Aboriginal community and Elders to <b>ensure enhanced cultural safety for Aboriginal staff, patients and families</b>	<b>Improving evidence based care</b> provided to children with severe acquired brain injuries whilst in hospital	Facilitating the <b>Diabetes Camp program</b> , which provides a peer-mentoring opportunity for children and adolescents diagnosed with type 1 diabetes
<b>Improving care and clinical outcomes for trauma patients</b> through improved communication, education, risk reduction and enhanced positive experience for patients, families and staff	<b>Supporting the ongoing expenses of the Magnetic Resonance Positron Emission Tomography (MR PET) service</b> , which gives patients access to the latest technology in medical imaging	<b>Supporting allied health staff to care for children with complex colorectal conditions and their families</b> , including a Child Life Therapist, Dietitian, and Continence Physiotherapist	





# The Wadja Aboriginal Family Place

**Nestled between the busy clinical spaces of the RCH, the Wadja Aboriginal Family Place, simply known as Wadja, offers a culturally safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and their families to have a break from wards and clinical areas.**

Not only is it a place where families can come for a yarn and a cuppa, this dedicated service has been specifically designed to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people by providing culturally sensitive, responsive and timely services to patients and their families. This innovative model of care is made possible thanks to the generosity of philanthropy, including support from The Debbie Stach Memorial Fund, The Pratt Foundation and the community through the Good Friday Appeal.

Wadja was first established in 2009, following a pilot program funded by the RCH Foundation. The aim was to build on the pre-existing Aboriginal Hospital Liaison service and provide a dedicated case manager from admission through to discharge. As well, a general paediatric health clinic was created. Delivered by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of case managers, paediatricians, mental health clinicians and allied health clinicians, the clinic aims to address the complex medical and social needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.

Since then, the service has grown exponentially, with the multi-disciplinary team, managed by Iman woman Selena White, supporting thousands of children and young people each year.

Since its inception, Selena has worked with the Wadja team to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and families attending the RCH culturally appropriate and equitable access to healthcare. As she describes it, Wadja is helping to provide the very best quality of care they can.

"Our role is to support the delivery of holistic wellbeing of our patients. Their health is just one part – we also look after the spiritual, physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of patients and their families," said Selena.

"The service has grown a lot over the last 15 years. When Wadja first commenced, our team saw three patients in the first month. Now, in the last financial year, we had over 4,500 outpatient encounters throughout the hospital. We've also seen 454 patients in the clinic during this time, with an attendance rate of 84 per cent".

Despite the challenges presented over the past two years, Wadja has continued to flourish. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Wadja adapted the outpatient service model to telehealth, allowing them to maintain excellent care for patients, families and the Aboriginal community. The telehealth service was also met with a further increase in attendance due to the convenience, reduced travel needs, and cost.

Selena explains that Wadja is so important because of what it gives to patients and their families, who are often facing many barriers when it comes to receiving care including difficult childhood experiences, grief, loss, and effects from intergenerational trauma.

"A large majority of our patients are referrals from local Victorian Aboriginal organisations who support vulnerable Aboriginal children. We have patients who are actively accessing Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) in home support services, or who are in out of home care," said Selena.

"We also have a significant number of patients who come from interstate. For them, coming to the RCH might be the first time they are leaving their community. More often than not, it is also the first time they've gotten on a plane or come to Melbourne."

"Because of these things, the hospital can be an overwhelming place. So, we're there with them every step of the way and often our case managers wear many hats. Not only are they a support person, they also ensure parents or guardians understand things like consent forms and what their child's surgery involves," she added.

The incredible impact of Wadja extends further than just its patients. Since 2009, the Wadja team has developed a significant reputation within the community, working closely with local Victorian Aboriginal organisations including the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) and VACCA to provide service delivery and referral pathways for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. They have also played an integral role within the hospital, building understanding, empathy, cultural knowledge and culturally safe care amongst RCH staff.

**For the Wadja team, philanthropy has made a remarkable difference to the service it is able to provide to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients across the hospital.**

"Without the generosity of philanthropy, we would not be able to deliver the most comprehensive model of care to our Aboriginal patients, their families and our community," said Selena.



Selena White and Netty Gaulton from the Wadja team





*Clockwise from the top: Malu with his older brother Kai, Malu in hospital as a toddler and Malu at the RCH when he was first diagnosed with IVA*



# Meet Malu

**The first 24 hours of Malu's life were pretty magical for second time parents Kirra and Micheal. However, as the days progressed, their new bundle of joy seemed to be struggling with feeding. He became increasingly unwell, before eventually losing interest in breastmilk entirely. By his fifth day of life, Malu was limp, lethargic and having mini seizures.**

"During Malu's first day of life he seemed like a normal little baby and had no complications. But as time progressed, he started to become quite unwell. Later, we found out this was because he was consuming breastmilk, which contains protein – something that isovaleric acidemia (IVA) kids cannot break down," said Kirra.

"We spent the first few days in hospital with Malu after he was born and noticed he wasn't feeding well. However, doctors just thought he was being fussy and eventually sent us home. He was still unwell and not eating, so we took him to our local hospital. They thought he was just dehydrated, but then he started getting limp and having what seemed like mini seizures," she added.

Concerned, doctors ordered blood tests to screen for a range of conditions. Results showed that Malu had ammonia in his blood, prompting him to be transferred via ambulance to the RCH where he underwent further genetic testing and was diagnosed with IVA, a rare metabolic condition where the body cannot breakdown certain parts of the proteins found in food.

Once he was admitted to the RCH, fast acting clinicians treated Malu with dialysis and a blood transfusion to filter his blood. He was also put on medication that will be required for his lifetime. Malu spent close to two weeks at the RCH, first on the Butterfly Ward, then the Rosella Ward, before being transferred to the Cockatoo Ward.

"Everything was so unknown when Malu was first unwell, but as soon as the doctors at the RCH knew he had the ammonia in his blood, they were all on top of it – it's incredible how smart the

doctors are and how capable the staff are. If he continued on for a couple of days, he might not be here today."

When Malu was admitted, Kirra and Micheal, were introduced to the Wadja Aboriginal Family Place. This essential service, made possible thanks to support from The Debbie Stach Memorial Fund, The Pratt Foundation and the community through the Good Friday Appeal, provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and families attending the RCH culturally appropriate and equitable access to healthcare. For Kirra, this service has been a "life saver".

"As soon as Malu was admitted to the RCH, we were introduced to the Wadja Aboriginal Family Place and given a dedicated Case Manager who helped support us during those daunting and emotional days spent in hospital with Malu," said Kirra.

The Wadja Case Managers ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have equitable access to mainstream health care services. They also provide emotional, social and cultural support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families who use the hospital.

**"Having somebody who was also Indigenous that we could talk to when we were in a really emotional state and open up to and connect with was a godsend. I think when we connect, as Indigenous people, nine times out of 10, there's an instant connection together and you feel super comfortable talking to that person in an open manner. Even Malu, who didn't warm to a lot of people as a COVID baby, warmed up to them straight away," Kirra said.**

"It was also helpful to have someone there walking us through all of the administration side of things, from parking to financial matters. They would also check in on us, and make sure we felt comfortable, despite everything that was going on. If we didn't have support from Wadja, we wouldn't have felt as comfortable, as we did through that time."

Malu is now regularly seen by the Metabolic team at the RCH who manage his medications and strict low protein diet. The family's current Case Manager, Kooma woman Netty Gaulton, continues to support and connect with Malu and his family during these visits and his admissions to hospital.

"It's awesome knowing that Netty and Wadja share the same kind of cultural values and backgrounds and they understand how we might feel about things from a cultural perspective – it is really reassuring to feel that there's somebody there who cares. That's what I love about the RCH, you get that feeling from all the staff there, but then having Wadja is the icing on the cake for us as Indigenous people," Kirra said.

"It's quite touching that the wider community want to put time and money into this kind of service. I think it shows that our country as a whole and our community is understanding the need for our people to support us at certain times, especially in a big environment like a massive hospital. It's a pretty big testament towards reconciliation and closing the Indigenous health gap," she added.

Despite his rough start to life, Malu, who celebrates his second birthday in November, is now like a regular toddler.

"Malu's very active, he's happy and thriving. When he was first diagnosed there was concern because he was slipping into a coma that there could be neurological damage, but we are very blessed that there wasn't. He was walking by ten months and is hitting all his developmental milestones," Kirra said.

"These outcomes wouldn't have been possible without the incredible work of the RCH and the people who support it financially."

## THE IMPACT OF

# Research

The RCH Foundation works closely with the RCH and campus partners Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and the University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics to find new diagnoses, treatments and cures for childhood illnesses and diseases.

Thanks to our donors, the following initiatives were supported in 2021/2022:

Fostering cooperation and research excellence across the RCH campus through **support of researchers with scholarships and career grants**

**Providing seed research funding to MCRI**, which is then used to leverage further government funding

**Investigating the delivery of care in the home** for patients with urinary tract infections

**Supporting high level peer reviewed research** that narrowly miss out on national competitive funding

**Creating an age specific blood database** to aid critical clinical decisions for children with complex blood conditions

**Increasing the accessibility, quality and efficiency of clinical trials** through the Melbourne Children's Trials Centre

**Establishing an Indigenous Health Research Program** to support Aboriginal children and adolescents

**Providing paediatric training pathways to lead research**, which will allow the development of a strategic program to improve the international position of the campus research as a whole

**Supporting the Children's Cancer Centre Biobank** to collect and distribute samples for research and clinical trials

**Streamlining research and clinical trials on brain cancers** to ensure that every child has access to timely and accurate treatment, improved drug access and novel therapies

Investigating children who are slow to recover from concussion to **provide better outcomes and accelerate recovery**

**Developing tools to assist clinicians in making informed decisions** based on real time visualisation of complex medical imaging data, particularly imagery of the brain

Appointment of specialist paediatricians for a project that will **trial an integrated model of care program with general practitioners**, increasing their knowledge of child health management in general practice

Promoting cross disciplinary collaboration to address child health priorities by developing and **supporting research with the LifeCourse Solution Hub**

Improving patient flow and **strengthening community care**

**Ensuring best practice transition of young people from paediatric to adult care** with a globally significant study in partnership with hospitals in Finland

**Supporting hearing impaired children** by utilising the Victorian Childhood Hearing Impairment Longitudinal Databank for research purposes



**Developing precision medicine** for children with kidney disease

Investigating the best ways to use antibiotics to **reduce harm in children**

Improving outcomes for critically ill babies with a **dedicated neonatal research nurse**

**Investigating the optimal approach to managing hip displacement** in children with cerebral palsy

Establishing a dedicated research laboratory to **deliver high quality paediatric cancer care**, exploring the origins of childhood cancer and identifying cancer biomarkers through national and international collaboration

Transforming care for children with speech apraxia through **genetic sequencing and analysis**

**Delivering genomic diagnoses and personalised care** for children with rare disease through global alliances with other paediatric hospitals

**Developing a new cord blood cell therapy** for children with deficient heart function and children at risk of death from heart failure

**Supporting patients with brain cancer** by increasing access to clinical trials

**Increasing the capability for population research** using a digital platform to measure and evaluate large amounts of data to address children's health problems

Ongoing support for a register to improve cardiac patient care and **quality of life after Fontan heart surgery**

**Developing and evaluating an integrated clinical and laboratory program** for ultra-rapid genomic sequencing in acutely unwell patients admitted to RCH with suspected genetic conditions

**Advancing treatment for patients with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and lymphoma** through access to an international study

**Supporting a study which aims to develop a preclinical model** to test novel medical and surgical treatment for two major inherited heart conditions

**Understanding the mechanisms underpinning common disorders of the developing brain** in conditions such as autism and epilepsy to develop clinical trials and targeted interventions

Ensuring **improved health outcomes for transgender young people**





Staffing support for the Australian Hand Difference Register, a project which aims to **improve the quality of care for children born with hand or arm differences**.

**Establishing a disease registry** for a disorder that causes bone pain due to inflammation, in order to investigate the history of the disease and outcomes for patients

**Developing a research hub** which aims to rapidly improve the health and participation of children and young people living with a disability

Improving the lives of patients with childhood heart disease through the facilitation of **collaboration between clinicians and scientists**, as well as being the driving force for translation of stem cell medicine

**Ongoing support for the Clinician Scientist Fellowship program**, which enables doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to pursue academic research alongside clinical practice.

**Supporting the Melbourne Children's Global Health initiative**, which aims to improve the health of children and adolescents in disadvantaged populations by developing partnerships in research, public health, education and advocacy

**Optimising the long-term health and developmental outcomes** of all high-risk newborn infants through personalised precision approaches and treatment

Studying the **impacts of rapid genomic sequencing** in infants with epilepsy

**Enhancing surgical research** to support patients with complex colorectal, urological and gynaecological conditions

**Supporting postgraduate research positions** aimed at improving current models of colorectal care



# Melbourne Children's Trials Centre

**Whether it's a new treatment for childhood cancer, a vaccine to prevent pneumonia, or a device to help cerebral palsy patients, clinical trials are vital for the treatment and care of patients right across the RCH.**

The ability to take part in, and often lead, national and international clinical trials allows patients at the hospital access to ground-breaking treatment initiatives. Clinical trials can assess the efficacy of new drugs, medical devices and approaches to surgery, evaluate new diagnostic or screening programs, and test new ways to prevent diseases, including medicines and vaccines.

The RCH Foundation has been funding the Melbourne Children's Trials Centre (MCTC) since its inception in 2015 and, in that time, MCTC has grown from one nurse facilitating trials to a team of over 30. The number of trials undertaken in this time has more than doubled, as has the number of children involved in trials, which continues to increase each year. The state of the art trials centre is a unique collaboration between the RCH, MCRI and The University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics, bringing together expertise in research, clinical practice and education.

Professor Andrew Davidson has been at the helm of MCTC since the beginning and says the centre continues to advance and innovate care at the RCH, providing children with access to life changing treatment that they otherwise wouldn't have had access to.

"Clinical trials are the last step of rigorous research testing that a new treatment, device or prevention must go through before it's approved for everyday use. For some children and their families, clinical trials mean giving patients that extra hope when other options are limited. They can be life changing; clinical trials are at the forefront of medicine," said Andrew.

MCTC recently facilitated a clinical gene therapy trial to try to extend and improve the lives of children with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), which is a rare genetic disorder that affects the part of the nervous system that controls muscle movement. The treatment

involves using gene therapy to deliver the missing gene that causes SMA to appear in an infant's cells. In July 2021, the RCH treated its first SMA patient with this gene therapy.

"With this treatment the child has a one-off dose which could potentially cure an otherwise lethal condition. Usually a child with SMA dies very young. It's still very early days, but with this new therapy children are now walking and much closer to typical development," said Andrew.

Clinical trials for rare or difficult to treat conditions have increased rapidly over the past five years. With more of these trials and gene therapies on the horizon, MCTC is leading the way in adopting gene therapy technology.

"With adults, health priorities are often dominated by common conditions such as hypertension or cardiovascular disease, whereas with children there are a lot of rare diseases such as metabolic disease or rare neurological diseases. Logistically, trials for rare or uncommon conditions can be hard to run as it's difficult to get the upfront infrastructure like the patients, staff and coordinators, if you are only recruiting a few patients a year. With the trials centre, and ongoing RCH Foundation support, we are able to pool together resources to ensure these trials are actually run," said Andrew.

"Trials in children with rare or complex conditions may have low numbers but these trials are often the most valuable as they may be the only hope of finding treatment options. In the past, these patients may have had to go overseas for treatment, or they don't get it at all."

For patients like Charlotte, who suffers from Progressive Familial Intrahepatic Cholestasis, a rare liver condition, the clinical trial offers her and her family the first real hope of a successful treatment to help with the incessant itching, weight loss and sleeplessness that goes along with her condition.

Charlotte is participating in an international medication trial which involves just three children in Australia and 120 worldwide. If the medication

is successful in treating her symptoms it will be life changing for her and will mean she can live as close to a normal life as possible.

With up to 70 trials running at any one time, MCTC not only supports industry sponsored trials, but also trials where local investigators are leading the trials. These trials put MCTC at the forefront of generating translational research, which changes the way children are treated worldwide. To do this more effectively, MCTC has embraced the use of innovative trial design and is leading the way with the adoption of new clinical trial technologies.

**"MCTC is the first site in Australia to embed trials completely into the RCH's EMR, which greatly improves the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of undertaking research," said Andrew.**

"MCTC is also utilising adaptive trials. This means the study can change as the trial goes along, depending on the outcome, and can make the trial more cost efficient, take less time and may require fewer participants."

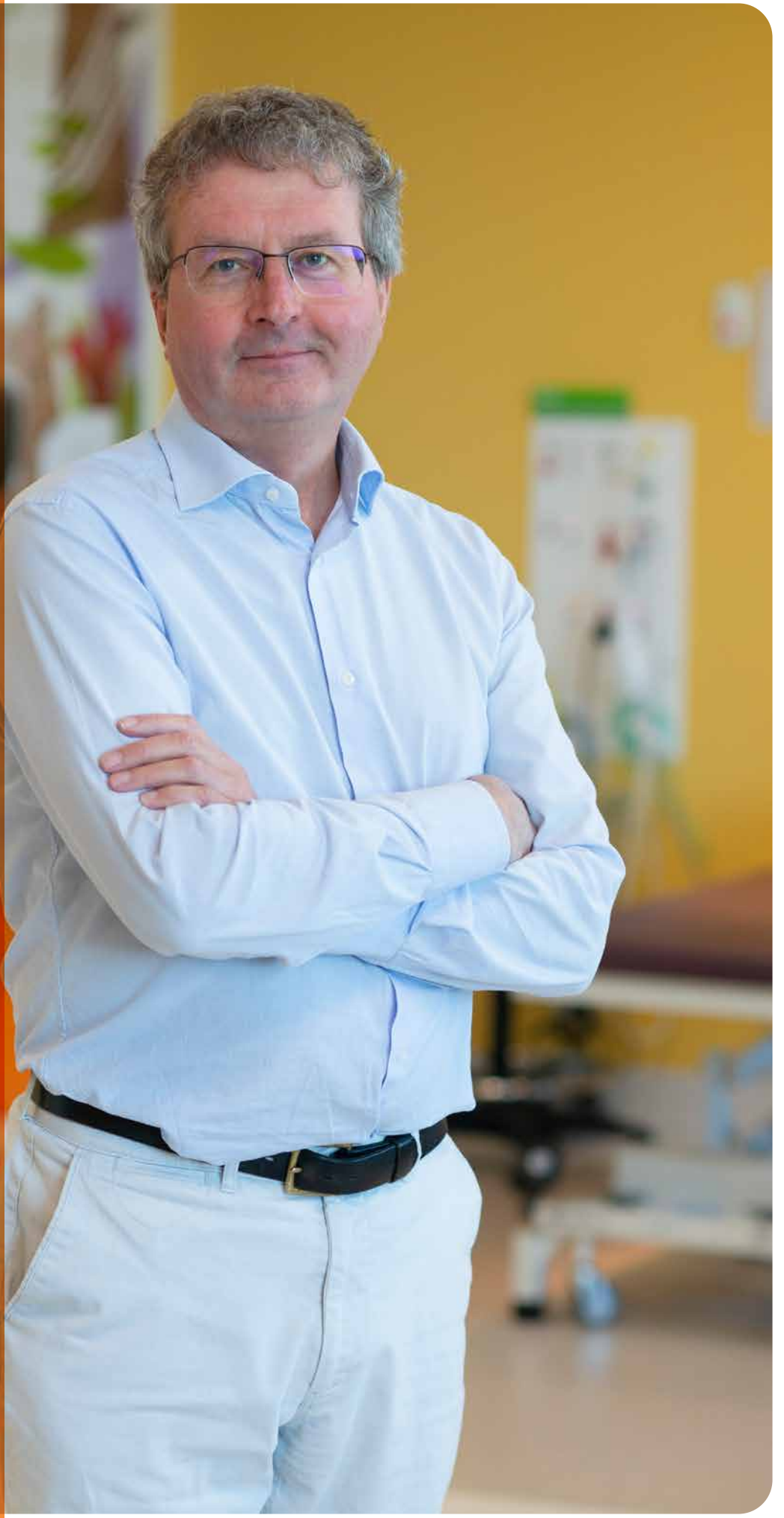
Andrew is emphatic when he says the MCTC would not exist without the funding support provided by the RCH Foundation.

"No paediatric trials centre in the world operates without philanthropic funding, so the funding we receive from the RCH Foundation is absolutely crucial," said Andrew.

"Not only does the funding help to provide the infrastructure to run successful trials, it also helps fund the initial study design process. As government and grant funding is so competitive, you need to have an absolutely top-notch idea to get these competitive grants. The RCH Foundation provides the seed funding so researchers and clinicians are able to get their research idea and study design to that level."



For some children and their families, clinical trials mean giving patients that extra hope when other options are limited - they can be life changing.



*Professor Andrew Davidson, Director, Melbourne Children's Trials Centre*



Clockwise from top: Charlotte during her most recent visit to the RCH, with her dog Cleo, and relaxing at home



# Meet Charlotte

**When 11 year old Charlotte is feeling well, she loves nothing more than singing, dancing and painting. She is outgoing, loves going to school and playing with friends. However, when she's unwell and experiencing the symptoms associated with Progressive Familial Intrahepatic Cholestasis (PFIC), a condition that affects her liver, Charlotte's life is put on hold.**

When she was just three months old, her parents, Lou and Len, noticed that her skin and eyes had become jaundiced. Charlotte was hospitalised and eventually diagnosed with a form of PFIC, a rare, life threatening liver disease.

In PFIC, the flow of bile from the liver is impeded and the build-up of bile in liver cells results in damage to the liver. One of the symptoms associated with PFIC is severe itching (pruritus).

Periodically, Charlotte's liver doesn't function properly, and she suffers from episodes of extreme itching, sleep deprivation, weight loss, nausea and jaundice. These episodes can last for months at a time.

"During these episodes Charlotte is irrepressibly itchy and scratches constantly, resulting in scratches, soreness and bleeding. The itching escalates at night and Charlotte is often unable to get to sleep until five or six in the morning, when she might finally fall asleep for a few hours," said Charlotte's mum Lou.

"Throughout the night Charlotte has multiple showers to try and get some relief from the relentless itching, but really there is nothing that helps to alleviate the itch. So far, no medications have been effective at reducing her symptoms or lessening the duration of her episodes."

Charlotte will be 12 in December, and as she gets older her episodes appear to be getting worse. She is currently in the midst of an episode that has been ongoing for seven months. Last year, Charlotte had an episode that lasted for five months, and previous episodes tended to last for three months. This condition means that she misses months of school and when Charlotte is unwell, Lou is unable to work as she effectively becomes Charlotte's carer.

"The condition is cruel and debilitating. This episode seems like it is going on forever. It is the worst episode Charlotte has had so far and has resulted in Charlotte losing so much weight that she had to be fed via a nasogastric feeding tube for a while" said Lou.

However, there is hope on the horizon for Charlotte and her family. Charlotte has been accepted into a clinical trial at the RCH through the MCTC. The trial is for a new medication, Odevixibat, for children with PFIC. The medication is believed to decrease the reabsorption of bile across the intestine and improve the symptoms and consequences of PFIC, including the intense itch.

Professor Winita Hardikar is leading the RCH arm of the global trial, which involves just three children in Australia and 120 children worldwide.

"As a paediatric hepatologist, I look after children with rare, severe and chronic liver disease, many of which have no effective treatment. Participation in clinical trials allows us to access medications to manage, treat and even cure some of these conditions. For a patient like Charlotte, who suffers from PFIC, which is an extremely rare condition, clinical trials are the only way to access promising and expensive new treatments," said Winita.

Charlotte and her family live in Armidale in regional New South Wales and will be required to travel to the RCH every few weeks to participate in the 84 week trial. So far, Charlotte has travelled to the RCH three times for screening visits and the family have just received confirmation that Charlotte can begin the medication.

"Inclusion in the trial means that Charlotte's medication and travel expenses are covered. It is an incredible opportunity to be able to access this medication without financial burden" said Lou.

**"We don't know whether the medication will help Charlotte, but we are quite hopeful that it will improve her quality of life. The condition is debilitating and disruptive, so if the medication is effective, it will be life changing" said Lou.**



# Philanthropically funded positions

## Leadership positions and Chairs

Jigsaw Chair of Paediatric Plastic  
and Maxillofacial Surgery  
*Professor Tony Penington*

Geoff and Helen Handbury  
Chair in Adolescent Health  
*Professor Susan Sawyer*

Translational Research Academic  
Paediatric Surgeon  
*Professor Sebastian King*

Professor of Paediatric Emergency  
Medicine  
*Professor Franz Bahl*

Academic Paediatric Plastic Surgeon  
*Mr Daniel Wilks*

Academic Paediatric Surgeon and  
Head of Trauma Services  
*Associate Professor Warwick Teague*

Apex Chair in Neurodevelopment  
and Disability  
*Professor Christine Imms*

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*Dr Monique Bertinetti*

Orthopaedic Oncology, Limb  
Reconstruction Surgeon  
*Mr Stewart Morrison*

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*Professor John Christodoulou AM*

The Donald Ratcliffe and Phyllis McLeod  
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*Professor Fiona Newall*

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*Professor Jim Buttery*

Director of Medical Education  
*Dr Amy Gray*

The Victor and Loti Smorgon  
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*Professor Julie Bines*

Professorial Sessions for the Lorenzo  
and Pamela Galli Chair of Development  
*Professor David Amor*

## Fellowships

After Hours Fellow

The Aitken Fellowship  
(Endocrinology and Diabetes)

Apheresis Fellow Clinical Education  
Fellowships

Cardiac Research Senior Fellowship

Children's Cancer Centre Fellowships

Clinical Research Fellow, Paediatric  
Epilepsy Services

Clinical, Educational and Research  
Fellowship in Paediatric Rheumatology

Clinical Research Fellows in  
Cystic Fibrosis

Clinical Research Fellowship in Paediatric  
Neurosurgery

Clinician Scientist Fellowships

ED POCUS Fellow

Gastroenterology Fellow

Health Informatics Clinical Research  
Fellowship

Health Services Clinical Fellow

Indigenous Early Career and Senior  
Research Fellowships

Infectious Disease Fellowships

LifeCourse Research Fellowships

Nursing Research Fellowship  
(BEST Practise)

Neurodevelopment and Disability  
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Neurology Clinical Research Fellowship

Neuromuscular Fellowship

Paediatric Plastic and Burn Fellow

PICU POCUS Fellow

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Disability

Professorial Sessions for the Lorenzo  
and Pamela Galli Chair of Developmental  
Medicine  
*Professor David Armor*

Principal Research Fellow, Trans 20

RD Now Bioinformatics Postdoctoral  
Fellow

Thanks to your generous support, over 60 positions have been philanthropically funded across the hospital.

Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship  
Senior Research Fellow, Cardiology  
Senior Research Fellow,  
Melbourne Children's Trials Centre  
Simulation Allied Health Fellow  
Simulation Medical Fellow  
Simulation Nursing Fellow  
Uncle Bobs Clinical Neurology Fellowship  
Victorian Burns Fellow

### **Scholarships**

Allied Health and Nursing Development,  
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Development Scholarship  
Elizabeth Fearon Scholarship  
Jadeybird Ophthalmology Travelling  
Scholarship  
Professor Frank Billson Research  
Scholarship  
RCH Travelling Scholarships  
Research Excellence Scholarships  
Uncle Bobs Club Travelling Scholarship



*Eloise Borello, the 2022 Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Nursing Development Scholarship recipient*



*Dr Monique Bertinetti, Academic Burns Surgeon*











Thank you



We ensure the RCH Foundation has the respect, trust and confidence of our supporters and friends.



# Donor rights

**To ensure the RCH Foundation has the respect, trust and confidence of our supporters and friends, we declare all donors have the following rights:**

- To be informed of the RCH's mission and vision, and the way in which their gift will fulfill this mission and vision while meeting the supporter's philanthropic intentions
- To be advised of the membership of the various boards and committees that govern the RCH Foundation and to expect the Board will exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities
- To have access to the RCH Foundation's most recent financial statements and investment policies
- To be assured that their gift is used effectively for the purposes specified by the supporter, or where such purposes are no longer practicable or appropriate, that the RCH Foundation and hospital promises to remain as true as possible to the supporter's original intentions and stipulations
- To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition for their generosity
- To expect that their request for anonymity is strictly observed
- To expect that all information about their support or intended support is handled with professionalism, respect and confidentiality and in a manner equal and above that required by law
- To be provided with prompt, truthful and forthright answers about any aspect of their gift
- To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers or employees of the RCH Foundation
- To have the opportunity to update their communication preferences and unsubscribe from mailing lists
- To be assured we value their privacy and information.

To read our privacy policy, please visit [www.rchfoundation.org.au/privacy](http://www.rchfoundation.org.au/privacy)



The Peter and Susan Yates Endowment will support clinicians like Dr Sarah McNab, who is Director of General Medicine and a Clinician Scientist Fellow at the RCH.



*Dr Sarah McNab, Director of General Medicine and a Clinician Scientist Fellow at the RCH*



# Thank you Peter

**As a member of the RCH Foundation Board for over 20 years, including the last 10 as Chairman, Peter Yates AM has played an integral role in supporting the future of children's health. And now, even as Peter steps down from the Board, his impact within the hospital will continue well into the future through the Peter and Susan Yates Endowment.**

A successful businessman and passionate philanthropist, Peter's long-standing relationship with the RCH Foundation began in 2001 when he first joined the board as a Director at the invitation of Barry Novy OAM, who was Chairman of the RCH Foundation at the time.

"I'd met Barry through a shared alumni event organised by the Melbourne Stanford Business School, Wharton Business School and London School of Economics Alumni Associates. Bill Conn had just stepped down as Board member, and Barry wanted an investment banker to replace Bill. At the time, I was an Executive Director at Macquarie Bank, and I had also worked closely with Laurie Cox, who was Chairman of the MCRI, and he encouraged me to join the RCH Foundation Board," said Peter.

Since 2001, Peter has been instrumental in advancing outcomes for the RCH Foundation both as a philanthropic body, as well as significantly expanding the impact of community generosity in advancing health outcomes for children globally. He played a key role in the establishment of the Grants Committee and the development of the rigorous granting program.

He also helped establish the RCH Foundation's Investment Committee, implementing a model of management which elevated the philanthropic impact of our community, enabling the RCH Foundation to fund bigger and more impactful projects both now and into the future.

In the June 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours, Peter was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for service to education, to the financial services industry and to a range of arts, science and charitable organisations, including the RCH Foundation. In 2012, Peter became Chairman of the RCH Foundation Board, a position he held for 10 years before retiring in 2022.

Outside his commitment to the Board, Peter has been a proud philanthropic supporter of the RCH Foundation for many years. As well as being a member of the RCH1000, Peter has supported the Leadership Circle and is a member of the 1870 Society, having committed to leave a gift in his Will. Most recently, Peter has set up an endowment fund which will help support clinician scientists at the RCH.

"Philanthropy has helped shaped the RCH into the world leading institution it is today. Over the past 20 years, one program in particular has struck a chord with me – the Clinician Scientist Fellowship program. Through this program, our clinicians, with the support of both the hospital and the MCRI, can drive down the time it takes to get a research idea into clinical care," said Peter.

The program supports over 20 fellows each year, with the outcomes of their research making a remarkable impact directly on patient care at the RCH. It is this impact that encouraged Peter and his wife Susan to invest in the future of

children's health and set up The Peter and Susan Yates Endowment, which will support an annual Clinician Scientist position at the RCH, allowing for protected research time for some of the hospital's brightest minds.

**"Research is so important in the advancement of medicine, which is why we need clinician researchers to not only identify the big clinical challenges, but to help solve them," said Peter.**

"My experience is that in science, the intersection between research and practise, whether clinical as in a hospital or commercial as in a business, is the hardest thing to do and due to various rules regarding funding, has the least financial support."

"That is why I am thrilled to be able to support the future of the RCH through this endowment fund, and I look forward to further contributing to it both during and after my lifetime. My vision is to eventually create a multimillion dollar endowment fund to support these fellowships and I hope others in the RCH community will join me by donating to this endowment fund. It is my hope that through this fund, clinicians will be able to discover new ways to better care for patients now and into the future." he added.



Left to right: Sue Hunt, Chief Executive Officer, the RCH Foundation with Peter Yates AM and Susan Yates.

# Individual Giving

## A

Badi Aftasi  
Tabish Akhtar  
Michael Arain  
Argyle Foundation Trust  
Silvia Arifin  
Alex Auldish AO

## B

Andrew and Natalie Bassat  
Kate Beattie  
Beige Technologies  
Rohan Bentley  
Frank Billson AO and  
Margaret Billson  
Megan Blair  
Huseyin Bilge  
Maxine Bowness  
Nevenka Bradica  
Stefan Bradica

## C

Jim Carroll  
Cassaro Social Club  
Kevin Chambers  
Johnny Chang  
Cher Family Foundation  
Dave and Mary Choy  
Nerina and Mario Ciach  
John Clitheroe  
Sally and Peter Crinis  
Nicole Crossley

## D

Andrew Davidson  
Mayur Deivasigamani  
Royce DeSousa

Jasmine and Robert  
Dindas  
Hang Do  
Wayne Dobell  
John Dowling  
Brian Dudakov  
Dipna Dus

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David Fitzgerald  
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Steven and Jane Forrester  
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Elizabeth Fraser  
Muriel Frazer  
Tiffany Fuller

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in memory of Noah  
Felmy-Glas  
Sara Gold  
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Roger Goldsmith  
Alan Goodfellow  
Caroline Goulden  
Louise Gourlay AM  
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## H

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Haddad  
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Kenneth James Harrison  
AM KSJ and Jillian Joan  
Harrison OAM DSJ  
Jie He  
Hickory Group  
Jane Hu  
Sue Hunt  
Sylvie Hutchins  
de Crespigny

## I

The IN Group

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J P H Bell Partnership  
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JL Group Holdings Pty Ltd  
JNK Nominees Pty Ltd  
Paris Jolly

## K

Steven Katsifolis  
Richard Kearney  
Ian Kennedy AM  
Denis and Pam King  
Stephen and Susie Kleid  
Gideon and Lillian Kline  
Shelley Kline  
David Kobritz  
Steven Kolar  
Chris Kontis

The RCH Foundation is delighted to acknowledge the individuals who believe that through major philanthropic support, they can make a difference to children's health.

Margaret Korman  
Neos Kosmos  
Maria Kouppas  
The Kumar Family

## L

Jonathan Christian La Fontaine  
Pat LaManna OAM and Helen  
LaManna Cancer - Stroke  
Research Legacy  
Patrick and Lynda LaManna  
Janette Lanzer  
Jason Lewis  
Philip and Susan Lewis and  
Family - Olivia's Gift  
Cassy Liberman and Ben  
Krasnostein  
Lifestyle Communities  
David and Irene Loh  
Juno Luo

## M

Jonathan Mandel  
Danielle Marshall  
Noel Martin  
Judy Matear  
Graham McKnight  
Gary and Desa McMillan  
Alan and Irene Messer  
Danielle Meyer  
Pasquale Mezzatesta  
Aaron Miller  
Amir and Mariam Mina  
Nishantha Mohotti  
Richard Moshinsky

## N

Akritis Nalbandidis  
Richard Nelson  
David Ng  
The Ngo Family  
Charles Nodrum Gallery  
Richard Norman  
Dorothea Nossbaum  
Barry Novy OAM

## O

Donald Ord  
Yoshie Ouchi  
The Owies Family Trust

## P

Paul Burns  
Michael Pepi  
Peter Kinsman  
Peter Windmill  
John and Jenny Petschel  
Michael and Brooke Pope  
Helen Post

## R

The R, B and B Fund  
RCH1000  
RedZed Lending Solutions  
Joseph Reich  
Andrew Rettig  
Cameron Rider  
Riverlee Foundation  
Marc Ruedegger  
Yoko and Adam Ryan

## S

June Sainty  
Perry Sambor - Live Life  
Foundation  
Suresh Senathirajah  
Kyle Sheldon Memorial Fund  
Shane Sibraa  
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Parminder Singh Saggu  
Jai Southall  
Roberta Spicer  
Robert and Beverly Squire  
Andrew Squires  
R L Stanton  
Judith Stenbridge  
Larry Stewart  
Anthony Strahan QC  
The Strong Family Gift  
David Swales

## T

Donna Taylor  
Russell Taylor  
Marlene Tham  
ToyBox Australia  
Xi Nhi Truong  
Tu An Buddhist Monastery

## V

Jitendra Vohra AM and Freany  
Vohra  
Minal Vohra  
Shyla Vohra  
Sunil Vohra

## W

Elizabeth Wales  
Bart Ward  
Dr Miriam Weisz OAM and Mr  
Tibor Weisz  
Janice Wheeler  
Stevie White  
Aaron and Sarah Whitehead  
Tim Williams  
Leslie Williamson  
Wingate House Pty Ltd  
Wai King Wong  
Merilyn and Ian Woodhouse  
Victoria Woods

## Y

Hani Yakoop  
Peter Yates AM and Susan Yates  
Yin Pin Yeoh  
Jan Young  
Haiyan Yu  
Mohamad Yunus Haqiqzai

## Z

Stephen Zamel  
Associate Professor Phillippe and  
Mrs Marilyn Zimet

## The Good Friday Appeal

We're grateful to the Good Friday Appeal, and the countless individuals, organisations, volunteers and community groups who come together each year to so generously raise funds for the hospital.



## THE IMPACT OF OUR DONORS

# Corporate Fundraising

### A

AA Holdings Pty Ltd  
Amazon Australia  
Anywhere Auctions  
Autobarn Clayton

### B

Better Value Pharmacy  
Box Hill

### C

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Chocolate Destinations  
Pty Ltd  
Commonwealth Bank  
Rowville Branch

### E

Epicure

### G

Gift & Accessories  
Greythorn Amcal  
Balwyn North

### I

IGA Community Chest

### J

Jones Lang LaSalle

### K

K&S Corporation Ltd

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Lazy Moe's Restaurants  
Bendigo  
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Tullamarine  
Linkt

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Council  
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### P

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### R

Riverview Hotel

### S

Selandra Rise Amcal  
Pharmacy  
Shaw and Partners  
Financial Services  
Specsavers

### T

Tennis Australia  
The Bread Spot

### V

VicRoads Burwood  
Customer Service  
Centre

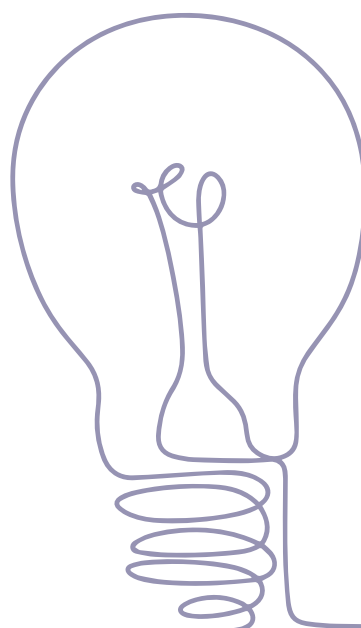
### W

Woodhouse Grove  
Healthcare Pharmacy

### Z

Ziba Espresso Barbers

Thank you to all of the generous businesses that held fundraisers in support of the hospital throughout the year.



# Thank you Kmart

**Kmart is synonymous with joy and fun, and their support of the RCH is no different. From helping to bring festive cheer to the hospital each Christmas, to supporting innovative youth centred programs, Kmart is truly making every day brighter for sick and injured children and young people.**

"Kmart's involvement with the RCH spans more than 10 years. Initially, we started to donate toys to give to children on Christmas Day. Then, when the hospital opened on the new site in 2011, we got heavily involved in designing and donating the Christmas tree that goes up each year," said Tracie Walker, General Manager, Corporate Affairs and Sustainability, Kmart Group.

In 2021, together with their partner, Dovecote, Kmart commissioned a brand new tree to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the original Christmas tree. As well as traditional decorations like lights and baubles, the nine metre tall tree features specially designed plush animals that move, chirp and sing Christmas carols every hour. Each year the Kmart team also coordinates Santa visits and donates presents so that those patients who are too unwell to leave the hospital still wake up to gifts on Christmas morning.

**"Staff at the hospital always tell us not to underestimate the relief that the tree, decorations and gifts bring to everyone in the hospital. Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, it is pure joy and light, especially in a time that can be very dark for patients and their families," said Tracie.**

"Outside of bringing brightness and joy to patients, families and staff at Christmas time, we are also passionately committed to making a difference in the lives of as many children and young people as we can, which is why we made a pledge at the RCH150 Anniversary Dinner," Tracie added.

The money donated by Kmart at the Anniversary Dinner will support the Chronic Illness Peer Support program, also known as ChIPS.

ChIPS offers support to young people aged 12 to 24 who have been diagnosed with a chronic illness. The program, which was established in the early 1990s, offers young people the opportunity to develop networks of peers and mentors who understand



*The Kmart Christmas Tree at the RCH in 2021*

the shared experience of living with a chronic illness. ChIPS also offers a wide range of opportunities including facilitated discussion support groups, social events, leadership opportunities and camps. A truly unique program, the ChIPS model has since been adopted at hospitals in Sydney, Perth and even Denmark.

Through Kmart's generosity, the program will continue to flourish, ensuring more young people living with a chronic illness feel connected and less isolated, something that Harry Brown, Program Manager of ChIPS, says "means the world."

"Thanks to Kmart, we can continue

to support our amazing young people to participate in activities and have opportunities that their peers, not having to navigate life with a chronic illness, may take for granted," said Harry.

"It's been lovely meeting the passionate team at Kmart. Their generous donation and the genuine connections they've made with young people in the program are humbling and appreciated by the whole ChIPS community," he added.

# Corporate Donations

We are grateful to our corporate donors who have supported us through monetary and in-kind donations.

## A

AA Holdings Pty Ltd  
Amazon Australia  
Anthony Pasquariello  
Arrow Pharmaceuticals  
Austunnel Pty Ltd

## B

BankVic  
Beige Technologies  
Bendigo and Adelaide  
Bank

## C

Central Equity  
Chase Shiel  
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Coles Oakleigh  
Comtex Pty Ltd

## D

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## H

Hickory Group

## I

Interplast

## J

JL Group Holdings Pty Ltd  
JNK Nominees Pty Ltd

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K&S Corporation Ltd  
Kmart  
KS Environmental

## L

Linkt  
Lovelight

## M

M&S Transport  
Maxwell & Williams  
Melbourne Jet Ski Hire  
Meydan Family Charitable  
Trust  
MPE Group

## N

Nelson Alexander  
Charitable Foundation  
Nutricia Australia  
Nutrien AG Solutions

## O

Ord Minnett Limited

## P

Pitcher Partners  
Melbourne  
Poultry Harvesting Pty Ltd  
Prize Pool Australia  
Property Wholesalers of  
Australia

## R

Riverlee

## S

The Samuel Nissen  
Charitable Foundation  
Specsavers  
South Food Group  
Spotless Group  
Spotlight Foundation  
Strathmore Community  
Services Ltd

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Tapanda Pty Ltd  
Telstra  
Teska Carson  
Timbeck Charitable Trust  
ToyBox Australia  
Treasury Wines

## V

Vogue of Brighton

## Y

Yarrabank Group

## Anonymous





# Thank you Specsavers

**Specsavers started with one goal in mind: to make a real difference by making high quality eye and hearing care accessible to everyone. This drive to change lives through better sight and hearing is echoed in their support of the RCH.**

"Specsavers has always been a purpose driven company," said Cathy Rennie Matos, Head of Public Relations at Specsavers ANZ.

"We challenge ourselves to make better sense of the role we play not only in the lives of our patients and customers, but also the people we work with, the communities we operate in and the planet we share."

The Specsavers model sees locally owned stores operating with a local focus.

"A big part of who we are as a company lies in the communities we serve. Our unique partnership structure means that every Specsavers store is locally owned and operated and our store teams have always done an amazing job in serving their local communities," Cathy added.

Just shy of 10 years ago, the Specsavers Community Program was launched as a way to provide stores with a mechanism to give back to their local community. While Specsavers has a national charity partner in The Fred Hollows Foundation that all stores support, this new program enabled individual stores to choose a local charity partner to support as well.

"We had a number of stores in Melbourne who wanted their giving to be as impactful as possible and therefore they came together and chose to support the RCH Foundation," said Cathy.

This passion from individual stores saw a total of 23 stores support the hospital. Since 2013, they have donated over \$240,000 to the RCH Foundation.

This support has helped fund a number of different initiatives including the Tobii Eye Gaze Device, which gives young non-verbal patients and those with movement disorders the chance to communicate with voice output by using their eyes.

**"The RCH Foundation is a great charity that makes such a difference to the lives of children in Victoria," said Cathy.**

"The team are fantastic to work with – over the years they have worked with us to identify applicable programs or initiatives for our donations to go towards which were aligned with our business purpose."

"They have also helped us organise events for our store partners to visit the hospital, see the impact of their giving and find out more about what the RCH Foundation does, which is really important for ongoing engagement," she added.



The Specsavers team with the Tobii Eye Gaze Device

# Workplace Giving

## A

A & L Windows and Doors  
Accenture  
Achievers  
Adobe  
ADP  
AECOM  
AGL Energy Limited  
Aimia Proprietary Loyalty Australia  
Atura Hotels  
Australia Industry Group  
Australia Post

## B

Bain & Co  
Bank Australia  
Bank of Queensland  
BankVic  
Bendigo and Adelaide Bank  
Benevity Inc  
Benojo  
Bluescope LYSAGHT  
Bluescope Steel Limited  
Boeing Aerostructures Australia  
Bupa Australia Group

## C

CAF America  
Campari Australia  
Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)  
Citi Australia

Coca-Cola Europacific Partners Australia;  
Coca-Cola Europacific Partners API Pty Ltd

Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation  
Computershare  
Country Road Group  
CSL GivingForGood

## E

Ernst & Young  
Event Hospitality & Entertainment

## F

Findex

## G

Golden Nugget Hotel  
Good Company  
Good2Give  
Google Australia  
Greater Union  
Greenstone  
GTA Consultants  
Guo Joint

## I

IAG  
IFM Investors  
The Illumina Foundation  
Insurance Australia Group

## J

JBS Australia  
Jemena  
Juniper

## K

Karma Currency Foundation  
Kosciusko Thredbo Resort

## L

LJ Hooker Swan Hill  
Louis Vuitton Australia

## M

Macquarie Group  
Medibank Community Fund  
Melbourne Water  
Microsoft Australia  
MYOB Australia

## N

National Australia Bank  
National Tax & Accountants' Association

## O

One Tomorrow Charitable Fund  
Optus - Corporate Office  
Oracle Corporation  
Origin Energy

## P

Paypal Giving Fund  
Pinnacle Investment Management  
Powercor Australia

Thank you to employees from companies who choose to make regular donations to the RCH Foundation through their pre-tax pay. Many business partners enhance the collective impact of their Workplace Giving program through donation matching, fundraising, volunteering, skill sharing and in-kind support.

## Q

Qantas Airways  
QT Hotels & Resorts

## R

REA Group  
Ridge Tool Australia  
The Royal Children's  
Hospital Staff  
Russell Investments  
Rydges Esplanade  
Rydges Horizons Snowy  
Mountains  
Rydges Mackay Suites  
Rydges Melbourne

## S

Sage Foundation  
Salesforce Australia Pty  
Ltd  
SAP Australia  
Schneider-Electric  
Slumbercare Bedding  
(Aust) Pty Ltd  
Smartsalary  
South East Water Limited  
Specsavers  
Sugar Australia  
Suncorp Group  
SuperChoice

## T

Toyota Finance Australia  
Limited  
Toyota Motor Corporation  
Australia  
Transdev Melbourne

## U

Unisuper

## V

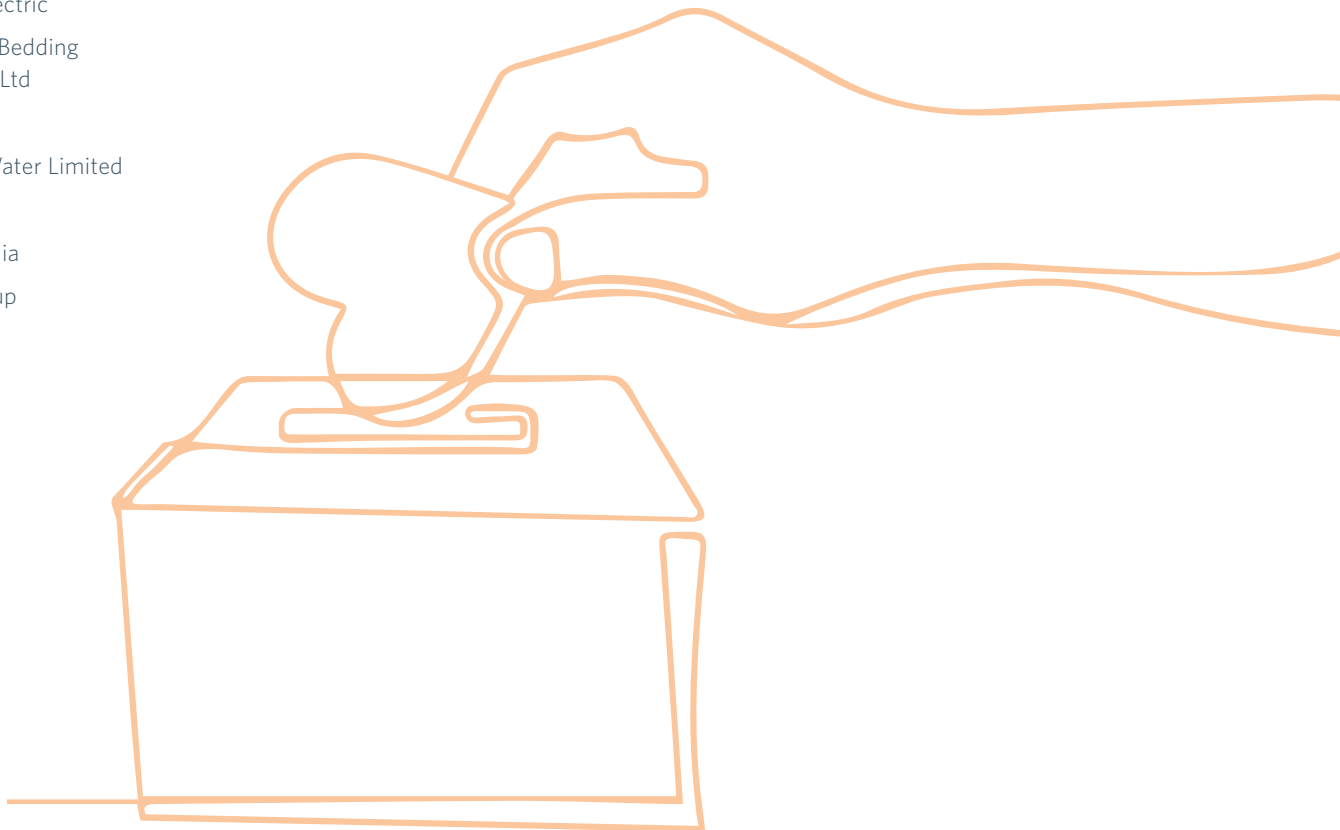
Viasat  
The Victoria Hotel  
VIVA Energy Australia

## W

Westpac Group  
Wilmar Foods

## Z

Zoos Victoria





# Trusts and Foundations

## \$500,000+

Donald Ratcliffe and  
Phyllis Macleod Trust  
Ekpanyaskun Family Trust  
Gandel Foundation  
Harry Lyon Moss Estate,  
managed by Equity  
Trustees  
The Shine On Foundation

## \$200,000+

Children's Cancer  
Foundation  
Jigsaw Foundation  
Loti and Victor Smorgon  
Family Foundation  
My Room

## \$100,000+

Camp Quality  
H T Pamphilon  
Live Life Foundation  
MacKenzie Family  
Foundation  
Muscular Dystrophy  
Australia  
Pat LaManna OAM and  
Helen LaManna Cancer  
- Stroke Research  
Legacy  
The Hugh D.T. Williamson  
Foundation  
The Orloff Family  
Charitable Trust  
The Pratt Foundation  
Rae Burnett Farmer Collins  
Bequest  
Robert Connor Dawes  
Foundation  
The Samuel Nissen  
Charitable Foundation  
Sporting Chance Cancer  
Foundation

## \$50,000+

Andrew and Geraldine  
Buxton Foundation  
The Beddison Foundation  
Collier Charitable Fund  
DEBRA Australia  
Jakob Frenkiel Charitable  
Trust  
Lucia Crinis Legacy Fund  
Rae and Peter Gunn Family  
Foundation  
Robert C Bulley Charitable  
Fund  
The Smith Family  
Zoe's Fight

## \$20,000+

Altitude Children's  
Foundation  
Brian M Davis Charitable  
Foundation  
The Calvert-Jones  
Foundation  
EL&C Baillieu Charities  
Fund  
The Gillin Boys Foundation  
Hislop Family Foundation  
The Stuart Leslie  
Foundation

## \$10,000+

Child's Play  
Daly Family Foundation  
Pty Ltd  
Erdi Foundation  
Helen Macpherson Smith  
Trust  
The Humanity Foundation  
Kaplan Foundation  
Michael Heine Family  
Foundation  
Peter and Susan Yates  
Foundation  
TK and MN Lu Trust

## \$5,000+

6A Foundation  
A&E Finkel Foundation  
Trust  
The Alfred and Jean  
Dickson Foundation  
Alter Family Foundation  
Bowness Family  
Foundation  
The Cuming Bequest  
The MARD Foundation  
Meydan Family Charitable  
Trust  
The Owies Family Trust  
Peter and Sylvia Stach  
- The Debbie Stach  
Memorial Gift Fund  
Rhys Jones Charitable  
Endowment  
Rigg Memorial Trust  
Syd and Ann Wellard  
Perpetual Trust  
Victorian Community  
Foundation

## \$2,000+

Georgina Menzies  
MacOnachie Charitable  
Trust  
Hanlon Foundation  
Hogan Family Foundation  
The Lord Mayor's  
Charitable Foundation  
The Peter Isaacson  
Foundation  
Scanlon Foundation

Thank you to the charitable trusts and foundations that donate to support the important work of the hospital.



# Thank you My Room

**My Room Children's Cancer Charity was founded in 1993 when a group of parents came together, after their children were diagnosed with cancer, to raise money to renovate the rooms of the cancer ward at the RCH. While the organisation and its fundraising targets have grown substantially over the years, My Room's vision was, and continues to be, ensuring that families going through the cancer journey are alleviated of financial and emotional stress so they can concentrate on what matters most: being with their child.**

Since its establishment, My Room has had an incredible impact on the RCH. In 1998, My Room began supporting a social worker position within the Children's Cancer Centre (CCC), something they still do to this day. Social workers play an integral role in the emotional and social wellbeing of children who are undergoing cancer treatment at the hospital, as well as their families, something that Chief Executive Officer of My Room, Margaret Zita OAM, says is incredibly important.

"Social workers are instrumental in making sure that families get the support and attention required, and families trust and confide in them. This information is in turn conveyed back to My Room, which allows us to act as Samaritans in the background, alleviating concerns for families where possible by supporting their financial needs," said Margaret.

"So many families are not even aware of the support that My Room provides. The charity has always prided itself on just alleviating the stress for families so they can continue to care for their child and family without the added pressures a cancer diagnosis brings. The social workers have the ability to bring those concerns directly to My Room, who in turn ensure that we alleviate any stresses with a quick turnaround and without bureaucracy."

In addition, My Room supports a patient amenity fund for the CCC, which provides invaluable financial assistance to families of children attending the CCC who experience financial hardship as a result of their child's illness.

"Supporting the patient amenity fund is extremely important to families. For example, My Room's ability to reduce the stress of paying for funeral costs makes a massive difference to families.

Like so many other situations, a difficult time is met with some reprieve, which is desperately needed for way too many families that are in major financial strain at the end of their journey," said Margaret.

My Room, which will celebrate its milestone 30 year anniversary next year, has raised in excess of \$30 million for a range of cancer related causes since its inception, and has been an avid and long-standing supporter of a range of projects at the RCH.

"This milestone means a lot to us as a charity that started out through humble beginnings. We aim to continue growing our awareness of the work we do so we can extend the support nationally across our four funding pillars; family support, medical equipment, clinical care and research and trials. We want to continue to evolve and advocate for children and their families and strive for the best possible treatment and outcomes for all kids and give them hope for a future free of childhood cancer and its debilitating side effects" Margaret said.



From left to right: My Room Chief Executive Officer Margaret Zita OAM, Chairman Maurizio Marcocci and Vice President Mary Kayalicos

# Bequests

## A

Linton Allan  
Peter Augustes  
Fred Aumann

## B

Arthur Barnes  
Kenneth Bassett, in  
memory of Madison  
Peter John Billing  
Gordon Boath  
Emilie Brown  
Kevin Brown  
Margaret Brown  
Ronald Brown  
Janet Bryson

## C

Donald Cheesman  
Valda Clarke  
Thomas Cleal  
Marjorie Coleman

## D

Kathleen Dye

## F

Audrey Farmer  
Maureen Fisher  
Margaret Fowler  
Lynette Freene  
Michele French

## G

Graham Griffin

## H

Pearl Hagenauer, in  
memory of Andrew  
Jennifer Harte  
John Hill  
David Hughson  
James Hunter

## L

Beverley Laity  
Shirley Le Gassick  
Donald Leith  
Kathleen Lewellin  
Eileen Loveday

## M

John Madden  
Anthony Major  
Mavis McArthur  
Mary McCartin

## O

William Ould

## P

Donna Potaris  
Patricia Priest

## R

Dorothy Raymond  
June Rosenfield  
Lovi Ross  
Geoffrey Bruce Russell  
Denis Ryan

## S

Russell Scott  
Harpal Sekhon  
Robert James Knox  
Semple OAM BEM  
George Service  
Valda Skinner  
Olive Smales  
Xanthipi Stefanou  
Margery Stemp  
Jacqueline Stephens

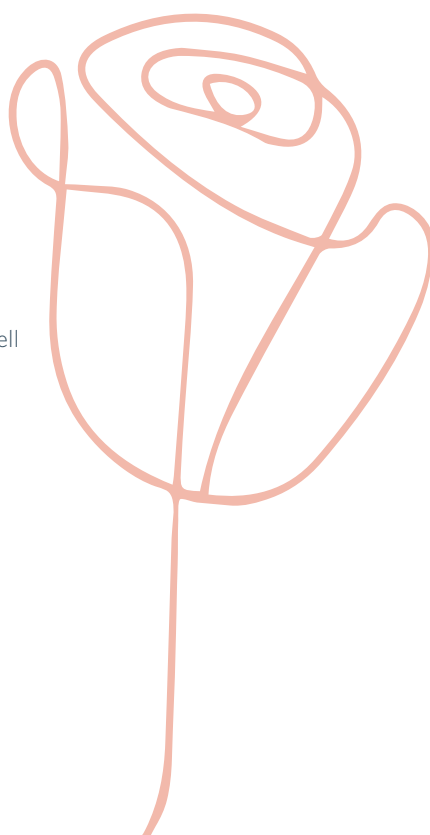
## T

Margaret Titulaer

## W

Colin Williams  
AN and BO Williams  
Foundation

Leaving a gift in your Will is a deeply touching way to support generations to come. In 2021/2022 the following people generously remembered the hospital in their Will and we sincerely thank them. In their memory we recognise and honour their legacy.





# Thank you Ken

**Anyone who knew Ken Bassett would describe him as a hardworking man, who was kind, generous and loved his grandkids more than anything else. It was this love and compassion that led Ken to leave a generous bequest for the RCH, a gift that will ensure thousands of patients at the hospital with an acquired brain injury (ABI) will get the most advanced care possible.**

"Dad was an incredible man. He was soft natured and throughout his whole life he was just so content with working hard to provide for his family," said Louise, Ken's youngest daughter.

"He was a truck driver by trade, before becoming a transport engineer, however farming was always such a passion for him. When we were growing up, it was always something he had going on in the background, with a number of share farms around the Echuca area. When he officially retired, he bought several hundred acres near Echuca, built a house and made the most of his time on the farm."

Louise explained the only thing Ken loved more than cars and farming was kids.

"Dad adored children and was lucky to have seven grandkids. Sadly, his first grandchild, Madison, was born sleeping in 1996, which was something that always stuck with him," said Louise.

"When he got older, anytime the conversation would come up about his Will, he would tell us that he wanted to give money to the RCH as a way to honour Madison. While she wasn't a patient at the hospital, I think it was Dad's way of acknowledging that she was still an important person in his life, so this was something he could do in her memory."

"We also had other connections with the RCH, which I think reinforced the idea for Dad. Two of my kids have had stays at the hospital, and my niece on my husband's side also experienced the care of the hospital after an accident when she was a toddler. While she wasn't Dad's flesh and blood, he hated to see kids not being able to have a go at life," she added.

When Ken passed away in 2021, Louise reached out to the RCH Foundation to inform them of his wish to leave a gift.

"I wanted to make sure Dad's memory would be honoured in the way he wanted, which was something that both Jessica and Fiona, members of the RCH Foundation's Planned Giving Team, really respected throughout the process."

Ken's generosity will help make a difference to the thousands of patients at the RCH with an ABI, with funds supporting an innovative multi staged project that will cement the RCH as a global leader in the delivery of evidence based practice for children with severe ABI.

An ABI occurs as a result of damage to the brain and encompasses any type of brain injury that occurs after birth. The most common causes of an ABI include traffic accidents, falls and sport accidents.

As one of the leading trauma centres in Victoria, the RCH treats hundreds of patients with an ABI each year, and while children admitted with ABI have variable levels of cognitive functioning, spanning unresponsive wakefulness to acute cognitive impairment, it is the ongoing problems that have can have a lasting impact the patient.

"Many children admitted with an ABI continue to experience cognitive and behavioural difficulties post-discharge with ongoing effects on participation and quality of life," said Associate Professor Adam Scheinberg, Statewide Medical Director of the Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service.

Following a successful pilot project, pre COVID, Associate Professor Scheinberg and his team, including Dr Sarah Knight, Senior Research Fellow, at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, will undertake dedicated focus groups with clinicians and patient families with lived experiences to identify current gaps in care for the very early stages of the ABI journey.

"Clinicians do an amazing job in saving the lives of the children. This work is focused on what happens when the patient is stabilised and they're moving out of the intensive care and onto the rehabilitation ward. This is when they are starting this really tough journey of recovering through the hospital system," said Adam.

"Thanks to Ken's gift, we will be able to ensure children admitted to the RCH with severe ABI receive the best possible care as inpatients, and their families feel well supported, which in turn will help to minimise the ongoing impact on both the patient and their family," he added.

**"I am so proud that Dad's legacy will live on through such an important piece of work. Living in the country, Dad would hear about so many accidents that result in an ABI, like kids falling off horses or farm machinery malfunctioning, so I know this work would have resonated with him. I also know that he would be so happy to know that his money will not only honour Madison, but it will also be able to help children with an ABI," said Louise.**



Ken with two of his grandchildren

# The 1870 Society

## A

Elizabeth Ahles  
Brenda Aisbett  
Robyn Anderson OAM and  
Stewart Anderson  
Donna Aranyi  
Alex Auldish AO

## B

Margaret Baker  
Gerhardus and Jeanette  
Bakker  
Craig Baxter  
Kerrie and Ross  
Beaughall  
Jeremy Bein  
Ryan Brown

## C

Christine in loving memory  
of her son Evan Callow  
Nick Cartwright  
Kevin Chambers

## D

Lucia and Antonio Di Maio

## F

Ashley Falla  
Denise and Peter Ferguson  
Family Gift  
Leslie Fleming  
Peter Fleming

## G

Christos and Maria Gabriel  
Dennis Garnham

## H

Hayden Hickey  
Stuart Hodges  
Sue Hunt

## J

Leanne James

## K

Nectaria Kalogerakis  
Barry and Katrina Knight

## L

Nabil Labbad  
Barbara and Graeme Love

## M

Rosemary Mangiamele  
Lois Mathieson, in  
memory of Alexander  
Macleod Mathieson  
Margaret Barnett, in  
memory of Stephen  
James Minns  
Fiona and Ashley Murrie

## N

In memory of Tina Nelson  
Barry Novy OAM

## P

Paul David Pacey  
Dawn Lorraine Pick and  
Norma Pick  
Steve Portway

## R

In memory of R, B & B  
Julie Rees  
Tom Reisner  
Gloria Riddell  
Helene and Clarrie  
Rowdon  
The Runyan-Tait Family

## S

Nicholas Scott  
Denis Shaw  
Baljinder Singh Dhaliwal  
Katie Spencer

## T

In honour of Mabel Barrett  
Lee Tan  
Norma Thomas  
In memory of Wayne and  
Peter Thompson  
Michael Togias and  
Christine Politis  
Jason Tomlin  
Ross Twentyman

## V

Veronika Vala

## W

In honour of Ray Warfe,  
2nd Field Ambulance,  
Rat of Tobruk  
Dr Miriam Weisz OAM  
and Mr Tibor Weisz  
Carol Wigney  
Richard Winchester  
Meryllyn and Ian  
Woodhouse

## Y

Peter Yates AM  
Jane Yescovitch

**Anonymous** - 92  
Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge supporters who have planned to leave a gift to the hospital in their Will. Your commitment inspires us, and will give hope to children and families for generations to come.



# Thank you Jeanette

**Jeanette Tarascio has fond memories of her dad, Ray Warfe, a man she affectionately refers to as her hero. So, when Jeanette was writing her own Will, she wanted to honour her dad and decided to create a gift in his name to celebrate his incredible life.**

"Dad was one of 10 children. He had seven brothers and three sisters. When he was a young man, he enlisted in the Second World War with two of his brothers – Verdun and Bill," said Jeanette.

"At the time, he was actually too young to enlist. He went along with his brothers anyway, one of whom was 12 months older than him. They told them both to take a walk around the block and come back as twins. So, they did – it was in the newspaper at the time," she added.

Ray was sent to Tobruk as a frontline medic, as part of the 2/5th Australian Field Ambulance. His older brothers were in the same unit. Along with 14,000 other Australian soldiers, Ray fought bravely in the Siege of Tobruk in Libya.

Forced to endure eight long months in dug-outs, caves and crevasses like rats, they withstood constant enemy fire, searing heat and bitter dust storms. Affectionately naming themselves 'the Rats of Tobruk' after their circumstances, the soldiers became a source of inspiration at the height of the conflict.

"Dad and his brothers all came home from the war, but they were expected to go back and live their lives as normal which was really hard, especially after what they had experienced," said Jeanette.

Thankfully for Ray and the other soldiers who were in Tobruk during the siege, the Rats of Tobruk Association was formed in the mid 1940s, with branches and subbranches established throughout Australia. In the years after the war, the Rats of Tobruk Association became a place for veterans to connect, share stories and continue their famous mateship.

"It gave them a place to spend time with people who knew what each other were going through," said Jeanette.

"The Rats would hold regular functions at their Hall in Albert Park which I would go to with Dad, and my sister, her children and I are all Junior Rats," she added.

In 2010, the Rats of Tobruk Association began supporting the RCH, presenting a cheque for \$1.5 million, generously donated from the sale of their Albert Park meeting hall in 2007. Held in perpetuity by the RCH Foundation, this donation established the annual Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship. The Fellowship provides a unique training opportunity for up and coming neurologists within the RCH's Neurology Department and ensures the Rats of Tobruk legacy lives on.

When Ray passed away in 2010, Jeanette knew she wanted to do something special to acknowledge him and all the sacrifices he had made as a Rat of Tobruk. She decided to leave a gift to the RCH Foundation in her Will, which will be directed to the Rats of Tobruk Association Neuroscience Fellowship Fund and support future fellows.

Jeanette's 1870 Society membership, which celebrates supporters who have included the RCH Foundation in their will, is also recognised in her dad's name – In honour of Ray Warfe, 2/5th Field Ambulance, Rat of Tobruk.

For Jeanette, being able to acknowledge her dad in this way means a lot to her.

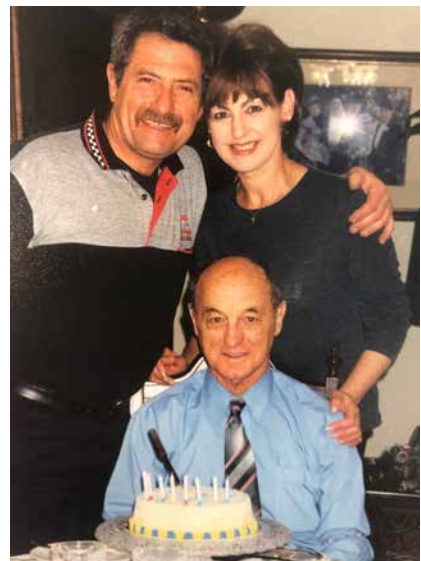
**"My dad was my hero – often times a silent hero – so being able to leave a legacy in his name means so much to me," said Jeanette.**

"Nine years ago, not long after the Rats had announced the Fellowship, my grandson fractured his skull and ended up on Cockatoo, the RCH's surgical and neurology ward. As a spiritual person, I felt like this was Dad's way of saying he was there to look after him."

"He would be so happy knowing he is being honoured in a way that is supporting future outcomes for young children," she added.



Ray with one of his grandchildren



Jeanette (right) with her late husband Joe (left) and Ray



# Endowments

## A

John Anderson

## B

Thomas Henry and  
Marjorie Betty Barnard  
Donation

Benjamin Barnes

William Barr

Arthur Edwin and Anne  
Edith Barry

Amy Bastings Trust

Frank Hincks Bateman

E C Blackwood Charitable  
Trust

Arthur Lyndhurst Blannin

Harry Tootal and Eva  
Broadhurst Memorial  
Trust

Ernest L Brown Charitable  
Trust

Jessie Carnegie Burnett

## C

Silas Clark Charitable Trust

Dennis Osborne Clarke  
Charitable Trust

Kevin Stewart Cowell

Thomas and Louisa Cowell  
Memorial Fund

Margaret Elizabeth Croft

Alfred Noel Curphey,  
in memory of Edith  
Curphey

## D

DTM and E Davies  
Memorial Trust

Dunn Family Perpetual  
Trust

## F

John Fleming

William Fletcher

John William and Anna  
Maria Ford Memorial  
Fund

## G

George Lawrence Godfree  
Bequest

Keith Goods Memorial  
Trust

The Grant Bequest

Alice Marion Grimwade

## H

Helen Hadi

Herbert William Hampton

Colin Hausler

Marjorie Hayes and Olivia  
Cock Memorial

Joyce Adelaide Healey  
Charitable Trust Fund

Margaret Henderson

Louisa Henty

Frank Hayley and Doris  
Verna Hodgson Trust

Elsa Holmes Charitable  
Trust

The Arthur and Sheilah  
Horne Charitable Trust

## I

William and Mary levers

## J

Ruby and Milton Johnson

The Doris and Rupert  
Joseph Charitable Trust

## K

Joseph Kronheimer  
Charitable Fund

## L

Fred and Vi Lean  
Charitable Trust

Joseph and Kate Levi  
Charitable Trust

Lillian Little Trust

Martha Miranda  
Livingstone

C D Lloyd Charitable Trust

## M

Alexander Clarke MacBean  
Bequest

William Macrow Estate

Charlotte Marshall

William Marshall

J R G and E McKenzie  
Bequest

Edith McTaggart  
Charitable Trust

Horatio R McWilliams

Margaret Lillian Merrifield  
Memorial Fund

George Wesleck & Violet  
Morewood Trust Fund

David Mathais Morgan

John Murdoch

Endowments are established by donors to provide long term support. Their gift is invested and the income earned is paid to the RCH Foundation on a regular basis to support the hospital.

## N

Katharine St. Clair Nanson  
Jenifer Nicholas Bequest  
The Emma Nowak Fund

## O

Eugene and Janet  
O'Sullivan Trust

## P

Leigh and May Price Trust  
For Charities  
Isabella Agnes Pritchard  
Peter James Provelson  
Trust Fund

## R

Kitty and Harry Ramondt  
Charitable Trust  
Frank and Sybil Richardson  
Charitable Trust  
Ethelwyn Elsbeth  
Richardson Trust  
Rigg Memorial Trust  
E J and M Roberts Trust  
Edith and Don Robinson  
Charitable Trust  
George Roche  
Simon Rothberg Charitable  
Trust  
William Hall Russell Trust  
Fund

## S

Andrew James Schreuder  
Foundation  
Archibald Shannon Trust  
Frederick B Shepherd Trust  
William Arthur Shipperlee  
Heather Sybil Smith  
Henry Brough Smith  
Charitable Trust  
Dorothy Isabel Stirling  
Charitable Trust  
John Henry James Symon  
Charitable Trust  
Mary Symon Charitable  
Trust

## T

Ruth and Harry Taafe  
Augusta Bessie Tadgell  
Alice Letitia D'Esterre  
Taylor  
Flora Louisa Thompson  
Charitable Trust  
Gary Thomson

## W

Jane H Walker  
Eliza Wallis Charitable  
Trust  
William and Aileen Walsh  
Trust  
Francis, Thomas and  
Jeanette Warren Trust  
Norman, Mavis and  
Graeme Waters Trust  
Ernest and Letitia Wears  
Memorial Trust Fund  
Arthur Wells Trust  
Judith Myrtle and David  
Edward Williams  
Emily Vera Winder  
John Frederick Wright  
Charles Wright Trust



## THE IMPACT OF OUR DONORS

# RCH Foundation Managed Endowments

The Margery and Keith Aitken Endowment

The Aitken Fellowship Bequest

Apex Foundation Chair in Developmental Medicine

The Auxiliaries Legacy Fund

Betty Cosgrove Endowment Fund

Professor Frank Billson Scholarship Fund

Bob Semple Legacy Fund

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Nursing Development Scholarship Endowment

Geoff and Helen Handbury Chair in Adolescent Health

Helen Novy Volunteer Service Memorial Fund

Rats of Tobruk Neurology Fellowship

The R, B and B Fund

The Rosen Family, Lily's Gift Travelling Scholarship for General Registered Nurses

Run for the Kids Burns Coordinator Fund

The RCH Foundation is proud to hold and manage a number of endowment funds on behalf of our donors. Thanks to our generous supporters, these funds will continue to have a long term impact on the care the hospital provides to sick children and their families.





# Thank you Shelley

**When you first meet Shelley Kline, her incredible glasses immediately stand out. Forming a key part of her stylish and bold identity, her eyesight is something she's immensely grateful for, and she is committed to empowering children with eye diseases and visual difficulties.**

Shelley was diagnosed with a debilitating eye condition, and credits ophthalmologist Professor Frank Billson AO for the life changing care she received. Shelley established the Professor Frank Billson Research Scholarship in his name to honour his clinical legacy and his lifetime commitment to treating children and babies with sight problems. She also wants to thank him for the outstanding personal care she received for close to 40 years.

Shelley Kline was eight years old when she was diagnosed with uveitis. What started innocuously as 'simply not feeling well', escalated to Shelley being referred to a number of specialists before an eye specialist eventually diagnosed her with the condition.

"In Australia at the time, there wasn't much information about uveitis, so my family and I travelled to San Francisco in America where there was a designated clinic. It was there that we found out more about the condition and how best to treat it," Shelley said.

Uveitis is a term used to describe a broad number of inflammatory diseases that produce swelling and redness within the eye, and ultimately destroys eye tissue. Uveitis can lead to scarring and permanent vision loss.

It was shortly following her diagnosis that Shelley was introduced to Frank, or 'Prof' as she fondly refers to him, as he was one of the only specialists in Australia with expertise in uveitis.

Frank has a long and distinguished career in ophthalmology which began in Melbourne. He has long standing ties with the RCH and was the Director of the Ophthalmology Department for seven years in the 1960's. The idea of early intervention and the benefits that early diagnosis and treatment could offer for children and their families was a major interest. During his time

at the RCH, the hospital's expertise in paediatric ophthalmology became internationally recognised.

"Prof has had such a profound impact on my life. He was a brilliant doctor; he always had such a good way of presenting the information and allowing me to make my own decisions with regards to my health," said Shelley.

For most of her childhood and adult life, Shelley's eye condition has meant frequent visits to an ophthalmologist, and in her younger years she would visit a doctor weekly who would manage the inflammation and check for signs of glaucoma in her eye.

Shelley and her family also travelled from Melbourne where they lived, to the Sydney Eye and Ear Hospital for treatment where Frank was then working. Shelley continued to travel to Sydney seeking Frank's advice, even in adulthood, whenever there was a major or complex decision to make regarding her treatment.

**"The reason I wanted to create this scholarship is to honour the Prof's contribution to the world of ophthalmology. I feel blessed to have been his patient for almost 40 years. I received endless hours of his precious time. He also taught me one of the most invaluable lessons, which is never to allow my medical condition to define me."**

After a lifetime of treating her eye condition with steroids and medication, three years ago, Shelley received the news that there was no more that could be done. With the guidance of Frank, Shelley made the difficult decision to have her eye removed.

"The eye wasn't functioning properly, I was effectively blind and I could no longer handle the pain," said Shelley. "Throughout my whole life, whenever there have been complicated decisions to make about my eye, Prof has taken the time to research, empathise, be supportive and focus on the patient's choice - always."

The Professor Frank Billson Research Scholarship will provide funding for a staff member in the Ophthalmology Department to assist with research activities supported by the Department.

In mid 2022, Shelley reached her initial fundraising goal of \$285,000 to successfully establish the scholarship, with fundraising ongoing to ensure its continuation in perpetuity. And the impact is already making a difference for babies and children with eye conditions at the hospital, with two scholarships being awarded so far.

"I really wanted to do something as a way of saying thank you to Prof for doing so much for me throughout my life; he truly is a remarkable person. This is a way of honouring his legacy to medicine for generations to come, and on a personal level for me to say thank you for making a difference to my life, and to thousands of children with children with eye problems," said Shelley.



Shelley with Professor Frank Billson AO, his wife Gail and Shelley's husband Adam.

## THE IMPACT OF OUR DONORS

# In Celebration

### A

Abbie and Amelie's Bat Mitzvahs  
Abyank's 1st Birthday  
Alice's 6th Birthday  
Anja's 40th Birthday  
Aryan's 10th Birthday

### B

Bentley and Lexi's Birthday  
Bonnie's 1st Birthday

### C

Charlie and Ezra's Wedding  
Charlie's 1st Birthday

### D

Danielle Formica  
Darren and Shifi's Wedding

### E

Ella and April's Bat Mitzvahs  
Elliana and Jonathan's Birthday  
Elon Liberman Bar Mitzvah

### F

Freda's 70th Birthday

### G

Gabi and Aaron's Wedding  
George and Anastasia's Name Day

### H

Hannah's Birthday

### I

Ian Lin's 7th Birthday  
Isaiah's 2nd Birthday

### J

Jo's 50th Birthday

### K

Kevin Lee's 40th Birthday

### L

Layla's 1st Birthday

### M

Maddy and Phil's Wedding  
Max's 2nd Birthday  
Mayher's 3rd Birthday  
Millie's 1st Birthday  
Mim's 70th Birthday

### P

Poppy's 1st Birthday  
Puneet's 40th Birthday

### R

Rhi's 30th Birthday  
Riley's Birthday

### S

Sage's 1st Birthday  
Sebastian's 3rd Birthday

### T

Taylan's 1st Birthday  
Tiara Patel's Birthday Party

### V

Val's 40th Birthday  
Vasu Kumbarageri's 40th Birthday

### Z

Zac Rheuben's Bar Mitzvah

Giving in celebration is a simple and personal way to mark any special occasion. Over the course of the year, many generous supporters forward gifts to support the hospital in celebration of birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, Bar Mitzvahs, Bat Mitzvahs and other special occasions.



## THE IMPACT OF OUR DONORS

# In Memory

Giving in memory is a meaningful way to pay tribute to a loved one who has passed away.

During the last financial year, many families created a lasting legacy by requesting donations to the RCH Foundation. We acknowledge these loved ones below.

### A

George Ambatzis  
Kiem Kie Nio Ang  
Pina Angelo  
Mia Angeloni

### B

Talia Barbaro  
Craig Barnett  
Cheydan Tori Barr  
Ann Beaumont  
Jermain Robert Bourbon

### C

Brian Carey  
Paolo Cassarino  
Edwina Chambers  
The Chloe Clash  
Maria Carmela Condello

### D

Charlie DiCerbo  
Montana Dubignon

### E

Elizabeth (Beth) Ewing

### F

Noah Felmy-Glas  
Michelle Fenati  
Alexandria Lily Filippetto

### H

Mary (Mollie) Hunt

### J

Jadeybird Ophthalmology  
Travel Scholarship

### L

Jakob Lonnie

### M

Aubrey Marshall  
Callum McLoughlin  
Darren Grant Murray

### N

Samuel Thomas Nye

### P

Salvatrice Palazzolo  
Abigail Haven Palm  
Memorial Fund  
Agatha Papachronis  
Giuseppe Rocco (Joey)  
Posterino  
Hayden Michael Potts  
Elliott Preston

### R

Faith Rutland

### S

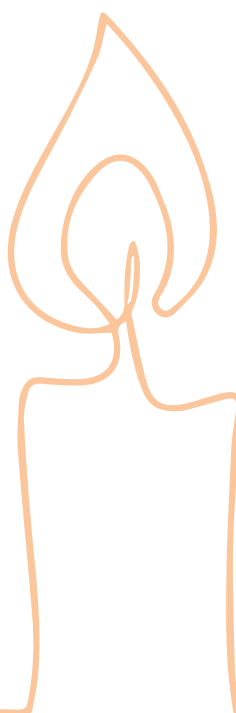
The Tate Scarce Fund  
The Kyle Sheldon  
Memorial Fund  
Michelle Gleeson -  
South West Tafe  
Justin Stickels  
Sharyn Swindon

### V

Joseph Vella

### W

Daniel Ryan Williams





# Bed Sponsorship

## A

A A Holdings for Sophia Andrianopoulos  
Aaliyah Ali Khan and Ayedin Ali Khan  
Amazon Australia  
Aruba Cafe Group

## B

BLC Aesthetics  
Bowery Capital  
Brave Goose Vineyard

## C

The Cassaro Social Club  
John and Patricia Cerini  
Club 27 Inc  
Ashwini and Sonia Chandra for Veena Chandra  
Cancer Crusaders Auxiliary  
The Cultural Centre of Florinians

## D

Valentina De Maria  
Riley Docker and Family

## E

Environmental Health Solutions

## F

Famiglia Pugliese D'Australia  
The Ferla Social Club  
Five Squared Property Group Pty Ltd  
The Jakob Frenkiel Charitable Trust  
The Fruci Family  
Cathleen and Wesley Fry

## G

The Ghafari Family  
GNT Fine Wines  
Gruppo Pensionati Italiani Keilor Inc  
Anuradha Gunasekharan

## H

The Holckner Family

## I

ICV - Islamic Council of Victoria  
IDP Lawyers

## K

K&S Corporation

## L

Warren Larsen and Family  
Philip and Susan Lewis and Family - Olivia's Gift

## M

Mabel Barrett Lee Tan  
The Mamie Family for Noah  
Melton Country Club  
Geoff McClure  
Luca Miraglia Foundation  
Lazy Moe's  
Motateam.com  
M&S Transport  
Zara Murkies  
Myer Community Fund

## N

Naked Wines  
Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation  
Neonate Mates Auxiliary  
New Zealand Australian Punjabi Cultural Association

## O

Nora Eibhlin O'Dwyer  
OneSchool Global  
The O'Shannassy Family

## P

The Pannipitiya Family  
Anthony Pasquariello  
Christine Phillpot

## Q

Qenos Contractor Workforce

## R

The Rinku, Vanya and Gupta Family  
The Riverlee Foundation  
The Rotary Club of Sunbury

## S

Perry Sambor  
Wendy Sammells for Eva  
Seamless SMSF  
The Shah Family for Vrushika  
SLC Partners  
South Food Group  
In Memory of Noah Souvatzis  
The Spring Gully Animal Hospital  
Stows Waste Management  
Franca Strano  
Strathmore Community Services Ltd  
St Kilda Auxiliary for Mavis Pope  
Sue Hunt

## T

S. T. Tan  
Tapanda Pty Ltd  
That's Amore Cheese  
Tu An Buddhist Monastery

## U

U Group Media

## V

Veer Charitable Association  
Jake Vilella

## W

Weihaio Zhang

## Y

The Yarrabank Group

By generously sponsoring a bed in a hospital ward of their choosing, our donors make a difference to an area of the hospital they feel passionate about or have a personal connection with.

## THE IMPACT OF BED SPONSORSHIPS

# Thank you Ferla Social Club

**Supporting the RCH Foundation has been a keen focus for the Ferla Social Club (FSC) since its founding in 1972. With the primary purpose of creating a community hub to support immigrants from the township of Ferla - in the province of Siracusa, Sicily, Italy - the FSC holds regular social gatherings, and in its early days staged theatrical activities and established youth sporting teams in netball and basketball. While motivated to uphold the traditions and culture of Sicily, the club also supports the integration of Italian culture with the Australian way of life.**

FSC Treasurer Alex Menta says the FSC was built from the support and hard work of its committees and members.

"As a social hub, contributing to the community is what these clubs are about. Giving back through financial, cultural learning, community integration, sporting activities and social support are fundamental to their very existence," said Alex.

In fact, the FSC's constitution directs that its funds when it ceases to exist, which have been accumulated over the years through memberships, fundraising social activities and the sale

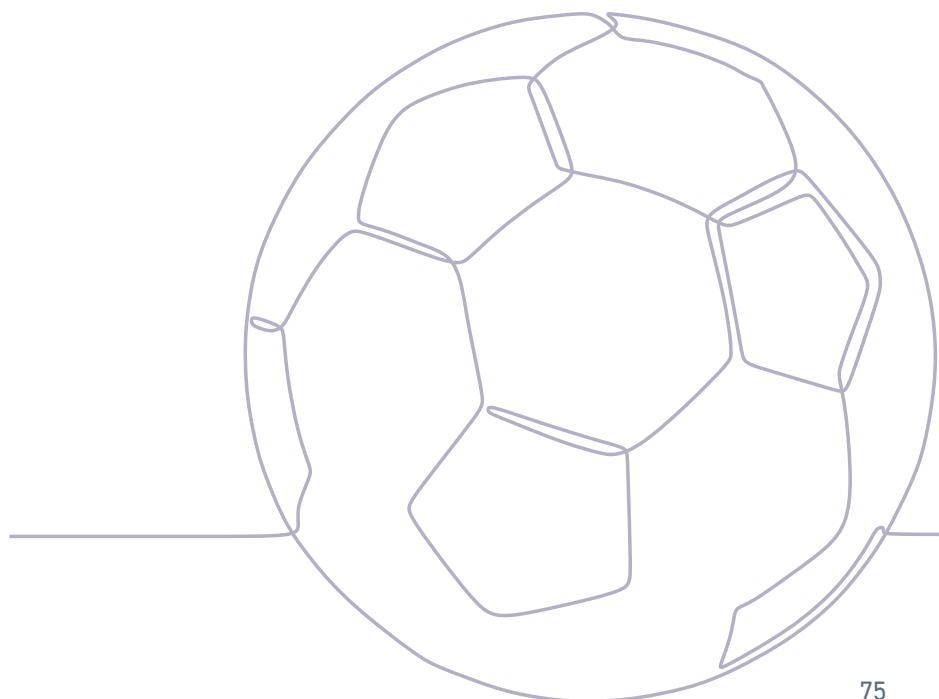
of a former premises, will ultimately be given to charitable organisations, at the committee's discretion, when the club ceases to exist. While it continues to operate, an annual proportion of the funds is distributed to charities for the wellbeing of the community at large.

When deciding where to direct their funds, the FSC chose the RCH Foundation since it was focused on children and located in or near the strong Italian bastions of Carlton, Parkville and North Melbourne.

"Focusing on children is the window to the future," said Alex.

In 2022, as the club prepared to celebrate its 50th anniversary, the FSC donated \$30,000 to the RCH Foundation to sponsor a bed in the Rosella Ward for four years, and Alex could not be more encouraging of others considering making a similar commitment.

**"The simple message is: there exists no better gift than the gift of giving," Alex said.**



## THE IMPACT OF BED SPONSORSHIPS

# Thank you M&S Transport

**RCH corporate supporter M&S Transport is a second generation family owned business that operates primarily in the energy and power, mining, defence and specialised manufacturing markets. Founded in 1974, the business has since grown to have a network of over 800 vehicles across Australia, while not losing sight of what matters close to home.**

Like many in the community, M&S Transport General Manager, Travis Madden, found the COVID-19 pandemic served as a reminder that life is fragile, and that we are all more connected than we often realise.

"I would say that it is very easy to take life for granted. We have immense strength when we have to stand and support each other," he said.

"Giving back is important to our business and our family because there are people in our community who need support, and who often do not have a voice. Those of us in a fortunate position can provide assistance to those in need," said Travis.

As Christmas 2020 was approaching, the M&S Transport team decided to break with tradition. In lieu of supplying their clients with small festive gifts, they instead elected to sponsor two beds on Kookaburra, the oncology ward at the RCH.

"The response we received from our clients was overwhelming," said Travis.

"It was exceptionally well received with many people personally reaching out to me to thank us for making the switch. It was because of this response from our business family, our network, that I realised giving to the RCH Foundation would become a permanent part of our organisation. Giving back and supporting those less fortunate, or who are battling life threatening illness - especially children - is incredibly valuable."

Like many parents across Melbourne, Travis has experienced the Emergency Department at the RCH, with both his son and daughter needing urgent care in their younger years. Fortunately, his family has never faced a life altering illness or required a long term stay - but he understands that there are many that have and do every day.

"The wards of the RCH are filled with children who are battling life threatening illness. At a time in their lives when they should be in parks and playgrounds, they are receiving infusions and immunotherapy. They exhibit bravery, courage and dignity on a level beyond the comprehension of most of us. Where else could we find a more worthy cause than to stand with those brave children, their parents, and the staff of the RCH?"

As the company approaches its 50 year anniversary, M&S Transport has increased their bed sponsorships at the RCH. Travis feels strongly that there is power in helping people, and there is value and a greater sense of purpose when you support people in need.

"High performance mindfulness coach Emma Murray speaks of trauma hitting like a hurricane, and how futile it is to try and stop the hurricane, despite an overwhelming urge to take the pain away," said Travis.

**"We need better methods of helping people cope with hurricanes in their lives. Whether this comes in the form of medical care, mental health support or meals and accommodation for parents supporting their sick children, it all costs money."**

"We may not have the skills or the talents to be able to provide it ourselves, but we can donate our time and money to those who can. We can lend a hand in our own way," he added.



One of M&S Transport's vehicles



# Thank you Kyder-Gould Family

**A simple act of kindness can have a big ripple effect. This was certainly the case when eight-year-old Harriett took fundraising into her own hands for a cause close to her family, inspiring a statewide fundraising campaign for kids.**

Harriett's older sister Millie was born with a condition called ichthyosis, a broad group of skin conditions that result in dry, scaling, or peeling skin. Currently there is no precise way to make a diagnosis and there is also no set treatment, which can cause ongoing stress and confusion for families, including Millie's parents, Ainsley and James Kyder-Gould.

"When our eldest daughter was six weeks old, she was diagnosed with a type of ichthyosis called congenital ichthyosiform erythroderma. We were grateful to know what condition she had, but we fell off a cliff after that. There was no advice on how to manage it, everything was about trial and error," said Ainsley.

"As so little is known about ichthyosis, we decided that we wanted to support research into the condition to get clarity around diagnosis and treatment paths to help give families a better experience than us," she added.

Ainsley and James's set a fundraising goal of \$200,000, which will allow researchers at the Melbourne Children's Campus to investigate the genetic origins of ichthyosis, as well as fund the development of a disease registry.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing lockdowns in Melbourne, the family's fundraising efforts had been proving difficult. That was until May 2021 when Harriett was inspired to contribute and help others with ichthyosis like her sister.

"I was working from home when Harriett asked me how our fundraising was going, and I was embarrassed to say we were a long way off the goal. Unbeknown to me, Harriett left the conversation and decided she was going to do something about raising money."

She asked me to help her put her table outside so she could play in the front yard, and I didn't think much of it at the time, until I was in a meeting when I heard noise outside. Harriett was yelling, 'come to the sale, help raise money for ichthyosis'," said Ainsley.

On her own initiative, Harriett had taken some of her toys, DVDs and CDs and set up a stall at their front gate. Neighbours were drawn over to Harriett's pop up stall, and many were moved to buy an item or donate when Harriett explained she was fundraising for ichthyosis. In under two hours, Harriett had raised \$300 to add to her family's fundraising total.

"I had DVDs for sale for \$2, and people paid \$25 for them! Lots of other people just donated," said Harriett.

After the success of Harriett's stall, Ainsley wanted to encourage other kids to give back as Harriett did. Together with her business co-founders at The Together Apart, she launched the Kids4Kids Market Day.

The Together Apart and Harriett worked hard to promote the Kids4Kids Market market. Harriett spent a morning visiting 13 classrooms in her local area, handing out over 300 leaflets to promote the market. She shared with all the classes that we want to raise money for Ichthyosis research.

The Kids4Kids Market Day took place on Sunday 27 March 2022 and was a resounding success, with several kids setting up markets all over Melbourne, each with a goal to raise \$100.

**"Harriett's own Kids4Kids market raised over \$250 going towards Ichthyosis research, and from all the markets on the day, a total of \$1,000 was raised towards the cause, which really shows that kids are capable of anything. We want to thank all the kids who worked hard, shared their time and raised money for other kids," said Ainsley.**

"Remember that you can change lives for people with ichthyosis by fundraising," Harriett added.



*Harriett marketing the Kids4Kids Market at local schools*

## THE IMPACT OF OUR DONORS

# RCH Champions

## A

Alisa Camplin-Warner  
AM and Oliver Camplin-  
Warner - Finnan's Gift  
Albie's Allies - Emma  
Moore

## B

Bendigo Christmas Lights -  
Aaron Carter  
Bob's Christmas Shave -  
Bob and Marlyn Clark  
Bound and Tied Cafe  
BSX Ultra

## C

Castello's Victorian Tavern  
Chanel's Fundraising Pins -  
Chanel Rizzardo  
Cherelle and Nimary  
Court Christmas Light  
Fundraiser  
Chop off the Mullet - Alyx  
Brewster  
COCOON Cocktail Party -  
Lani and David Fixler  
Craig Freer  
Cycle 42 4 Cancer -  
Jonny Hobbs

## E

Eadie Carty  
Elsie's Sixty-Five Roses  
Emily Arnold  
Erin Parker

## F

Finnan's Gift  
Andrew Hagger  
Barbara Thomson  
Carolyn and Lachlan  
Buszard  
Christopher Carolane  
Demak Timber Pty Ltd  
Elizabeth Gillies

Fortnum Foundation  
Jason Chivers  
MacKenzie Family  
Foundation  
Merridy Moore  
Robert Wright  
Ray White Estate  
Pty Ltd -  
Bayswater  
Commercial  
Ferntree Gully  
Forest Hill  
Loan Market  
Wantirna  
Fred Murphy

## G

Geelong Grammar School  
Georgia Viney  
Goldie's Giveback  
Goodstart North  
Melbourne  
Grace's Journey - Grace  
Kenessey

## H

Hair by Casey Jade  
Hemant Panchal  
Henrietta Avenue  
Christmas Lights  
Hug for Humanity - Vong  
Tay Yeu Thuong -  
Vietnamese Australians

## I

Ida and Luis  
Ilim College  
Inspire9  
Ironman Triathlon  
Fundraiser  
Isaac and Zoe Fundraising  
for CRMO Awareness  
Isabelle, Alana, Maggie  
and James

## J

Jacob and Adam Savva  
Jake Harty  
Jake Villella  
James , Harriet and  
Ainsley Kyder-Gould  
Jensie Schroen  
Joel Koolstra and Ethan  
Marganis

## K

Kingsbury Primary School  
Koala Kids Foundation

## L

Lily Fletcher and Georgia  
Baynham  
Lina Nesteroff  
Linda Stimson  
Lucerne Investment  
Partners

## M

Mackenzie's Cat Toys  
to Cure Cancer  
Monbulk Primary School  
Moondreamz - Tim  
Brayshaw  
Mullets for the Kids -  
Daniel Chalmers  
Hunter Surrey  
Jimmy Harper  
Jordan Vickers  
Ollie Gatford  
Terry Sefton  
Vincent Mcilwain  
Wil Spence

## N

Nikolas Claus  
Noah's Gift - Emma and  
Nathan Jones  
Norah Rasineni  
Northern Melbourne  
Harley Owners Group  
NZ AUS Punjabi Cultural  
Association

RCH Champions are supported by generous people from across Victoria.  
Thank you to the inspiring people who run these fundraising initiatives and  
the thousands of people who support them.

## O

Olive Campbell, Kimmy  
Campbell, Esther  
Ferwerda, Olive  
Ferwerda, Maeve  
Ferwerda, Macy Ogden,  
Mia Ogden

OneSchool Global -  
Bairnsdale  
Bendigo  
Berwick  
Hamilton  
Melton  
Nathalia,  
Swan Hill

## P

Paul Chesher - Paul's  
50km for 30 days

Pied Pipers

Pru's Half Marathon -  
Pru Jones

## R

Rene Hartnett Staff for  
Cancer Research  
5km for RCHF - Ryan Hall

## S

Sarah Shines  
Sebastiano Motta  
Shannen Gauci  
Snipping the Dreads -  
Zack Williams  
South West TAFE  
Southern Cross Grammar  
St George Jacobite Syrian  
Orthodox Church  
Melbourne

## T

Tanya Bobba  
Tate Scarce Fund  
Team Kilo India Delta  
Sierra (KIDS)  
That's Amore Cheese  
The Big Roast for Cystic  
Fibrosis-  
Eilis O'Ferrall  
Jacqui Clark  
Joanne Brimelow  
Kirsty and Stephen  
Bowness  
Kristy Aberline  
Neighbours Roast  
Rob Dolan Wines

The Chloe Clash

The Pip.ilepsy Foundation  
- Sara and Heath  
Crawford

Tintern Grammar -  
Year 5 Girls

## V

Veer Charitable  
Association  
Victoria Woods

## W

Waranga Basin Caravan  
Park  
Warwick Wesson

## Z

Zeke's Fund Christmas  
Lights - Shane Larsen





# Thank you Mim and the President's Fundraising Network



**The outgoing President of the RCH Auxiliaries, Dr Miriam (Mim) Weisz OAM has created a lasting legacy with this formidable group of fundraisers. Not only has she led them into their centenary year, a special milestone achieved in 2022, Mim also supported the Auxiliaries through the COVID-19 pandemic and established her own Auxiliary – the President's Fundraising Network.**

Mim was appointed President of the Auxiliaries in 2016 after a longstanding connection with the RCH. During this time, Mim was a strong leader, working tirelessly to ensure the strength, connection and legacy of this vibrant network, and with her at the helm, the Auxiliaries remained committed to their mission: one team working together towards one goal – making sick kids better.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Mim helped the Auxiliaries to adapt and innovate, keeping members connected and fundraising throughout the pandemic. She worked with the RCH Foundation to introduce the RCH Gratitude Hub Online Store, which opened up the Auxiliaries to a wider market. She also helped initiate a range of innovative digital fundraising campaigns for the Auxiliaries, which have been incredibly successful.

Mim has also been instrumental in ensuring the legacy of the Auxiliaries lives on through a number of endowment funds and ongoing grants. In 2018, she helped establish the Auxiliaries Legacy Fund, a special endowment that is funded

in perpetuity, ensuring the Auxiliaries can continue to support the RCH for many generations to come. Since 2018, the Auxiliaries Legacy Fund has supported a specific project at the RCH each year, making a remarkable difference to a wide range of areas and departments within the hospital. In 2022, Mim supported the Auxiliaries to come together and fund almost \$1.8 million worth of equipment through the RCH Equipment List grant.

It is also thanks to Mim's hard work and dedication that the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Nursing Development Scholarship will now be funded in perpetuity through the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Nursing Development Scholarship Endowment Fund, with a corpus of over \$1 million.

"I am very humbled that I have had the role of President for six years and have had the opportunity of also contributing to the RCH Foundation Board. Each day, I have been blown away by the passion, energy and dedication of all Auxiliary members to the cause and for that I feel so grateful," said Mim.

In October 2022, Mim received the Madge Tate Service Award, the highest honour an Auxiliary member can receive, in recognition for her extraordinary service to the hospital. She was also made a Living Treasure.

In addition to her incredible work leading the Auxiliaries, Mim established the President's Fundraising Network in 2018 as an innovative way to engage younger people with the Auxiliaries. In creating the Auxiliary, she also took on the role as President.

The Auxiliary started fundraising in 2018 and since that time has raised over \$800,000 by establishing giving circles, undertaking digital fundraising campaigns, and working closely with schools.

**"The aim of the President's Fundraising Network is to help advance the future of the Auxiliaries in a digital, highly engaged world. We do this by looking for innovative ways to engage and fundraise, including the establishment Giving Circles, each funding its own project.**

The first Giving Circle, Chai Impact, involved 12 families who donated funds in support of a project that provided psychological care for both families and staff in the PICU," said Mim.

More recently, the Auxiliary has focussed their efforts on engaging school children in a variety of fundraising activities including a group of kindergarten children who donated their birthday money to purchase a spirometer for a child with cystic fibrosis who lives in rural Victoria. Wesley College, another school engaged through the President's Fundraising Network, supported the purchase of a Philips VS3 Monitor, a piece of vital equipment used throughout the hospital.

The Auxiliary has also raised extensive funds through online campaigns supporting both the Christmas Appeals and the Good Friday Appeal Campaign through the RCH Foundation.

"I have been so very fortunate over the last six years, not just to lead a group of people who have dedicated a good part of their lives to supporting this hospital, but to join them in fundraising through my own Auxiliary. I feel enormous pride when I think of everything that we have been able to achieve through the President's Fundraising Network over the last four years," said Mim.

While Mim is stepping down as President of the Auxiliaries in 2022, she will still remain involved as the Treasurer of the President's Fundraising Network, something she is looking forward to.

"I am delighted to be passing on the baton to the new President of the Auxiliaries, Tiffany Lucas, and I look forward to being part of the group for many years to come as we continue making a difference in the lives of sick children."

The RCH Auxiliaries have proudly supported the RCH since their establishment in 1922. Today, over 50 Auxiliary groups across the state are actively fundraising for the hospital. Their dedication and goodwill raised over \$1,052,225.43 for the 2022 Good Friday Appeal.

## THE IMPACT OF OUR DONORS

# RCH Auxiliaries

### A

Absent Friends Auxiliary  
American Women's Association  
aRCHers Auxiliary  
Auxiliaries Legacy Fund

### B

BEADS Auxiliary  
Beyond Sight Auxiliary  
Bright Starts Auxiliary  
Brimbank ToRCH Auxiliary  
Broadmeadows Auxiliary

### C

Cancer Crusaders Auxiliary  
Cancer In Kids Auxiliary (CIKA)  
Caring Friends of Cystic Fibrosis Auxiliary  
Caroline Auxiliary  
CasKids Auxiliary  
Charli's Angels Auxiliary  
Children's Brain Tumour Association Auxiliary  
Children's Flyer Fund Auxiliary  
ChIPSXiliary  
Courage 4 Kids Auxiliary  
CPR Auxiliary  
Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust Auxiliary

### D

Dirty Hands Happy Hearts Auxiliary

### E

Ezy Breathing Auxiliary

### F

Footscray & Yarraville Juniors Auxiliary  
Friends of the CBC Auxiliary  
Friends of Transcend

### G

Geelong Auxiliary

### H

HAUX Auxiliary  
Hawthorn Auxiliary  
Heart Throb Auxiliary  
Heart to Heart Auxiliary

### I

Inverloch Diabetic Unit Auxiliary

### K

KidsCan Auxiliary  
Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club Auxiliary

### L

LARCH Auxiliary  
League of Former Trainees Auxiliary  
Let The Children Play Auxiliary

### M

Mish Mish Women's Auxiliary

### N

Neonate Mates Auxiliary

### O

Oesophageal Atresia Research Auxiliary

### P

Pankina Auxiliary  
Parkville Auxiliary  
PremBubs Auxiliary  
President's Fundraising Network

### R

RCH Volunteers Auxiliary  
Roxburgh Park Auxiliary

### S

Save my Platelets Auxiliary  
South Western Auxiliary  
Southern Rainbows Auxiliary  
St Kilda Auxiliary  
StroKidz Auxiliary

### T

Templestowe/Yarra Valley Auxiliary  
The Melbourne Sinfonia Auxiliary  
Trailblazers Auxiliary

### V

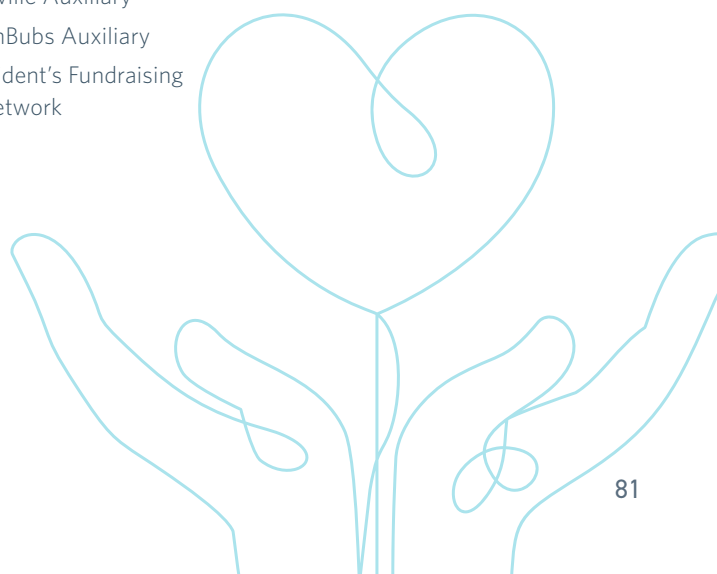
Victorian Quilters Very Snuggly Quilt Auxiliary  
VivaRCH Auxiliary

### W

Wangaratta Auxiliary  
Waverley Auxiliary  
Werribee Ladies for Kids Auxiliary

### Y

Yellow Ribbon Kids Auxiliary



# Thank you Ronnie

**Ronnie Hudson, who was born and raised in Melbourne, grew up watching the Good Friday Appeal on TV. Combined with the support of generous parents who instilled in him the importance of giving to charity, this experience led Ronnie to join the RCH Foundation's regular giving program, The Children's Tree.**

Ronnie works as a manufacturing technician at the CSL Broadmeadows plant, and he and his partner Daniela welcomed their first child, Isaac, about seven months ago. While Ronnie explains that their son has already had an incredible impact on their lives, Ronnie's passion for supporting the hospital started before he was a dad.

"My donations to the RCH began before we even thought about having a baby, even before I was in a relationship. There are plenty of different charities out there, but I thought there was nothing more important than to give to kids. They're the future and they're innocent and helpless in so many ways. I just couldn't find a more worthy charity to give to than the RCH, Ronnie said.

"I started donating when I wasn't doing well financially. It was during the pandemic, and even though I didn't have much at the time, I thought I could contribute whatever I did have towards people who were in a worse off situation than I was. It gives me a good feeling to know that I am able to contribute to such an important cause, especially now with my young one. I never know when, God forbid, I will need to visit the hospital with him. I really couldn't find a better cause."

"Regardless of how much money I make, I always feel it is my duty to give a percentage to charity. I don't expect anything in return, it just helps me sleep well at night and helps me feel good about being able to help others," he added.

Ronnie regularly drives past the hospital on Flemington Road and finds the buildings and facilities to be a visual reminder of the impact of his donations.

"When you can see something like that grow in front of your eyes, you know that your money is going towards something beneficial and something real. It's an organisation that is really benefiting the health of the future generations of Australia."

"I love knowing that my hard work, my money is being spent well. That I'm not working in vain, I'm able to provide for my family but I'm also able to contribute to the health and wellbeing of other, less fortunate children. It just makes me feel really good."

Ronnie couldn't be any more encouraging of others thinking of joining The Children's Tree.

**"Being a regular giver to the RCH makes me feel a sense of accomplishment. I think everybody can do it. We're a very generous country. We're a very wealthy country. And people really shouldn't give a second thought to giving back to this amazing organisation," he said.**



Ronnie, Daniela and Isaac







## THE IMPACT OF RCH 1000

# Thank you Paul

**As Managing Director of the family business KS Environmental, legacy is incredibly important to Paul Smith. The Melbourne based waste management company can trace its history back to a pig farm in Heatherton, and now offers a wide range of waste and recycling services to thousands of businesses across metropolitan Melbourne.**

In 2002, after some of Paul's nieces and nephews received care at the RCH, he became a member of RCH1000, a giving community in which each member makes an annual minimum \$1,000 donation, to help fund vital research projects across the RCH campus.

Since then, Paul has made annual contributions above and beyond his RCH1000 commitment, totalling more than \$80,000 and including a current commitment to donate \$10,000 per annum.

As a member of RCH1000, Paul acts as a beacon in the community. He is an advocate for the RCH Foundation, engaging and encouraging potential like-minded philanthropists to support the future of paediatric excellence.

From 2013, Paul also generously extended his support of the RCH through his business, with KS Environmental having given more than \$170,000 to date. This included becoming involved with the hospital's RCH150 celebrations, by sponsoring and pre-purchasing an UooUoo, buying a table for the Anniversary Dinner, and serving as a member of the Anniversary Dinner committee.

When asked why he supports the hospital, Paul was clear.

**"The RCH is a Victorian and Australian icon, and I just can't speak highly enough of the great work done."**

**"The RCH is a Victorian and Australian icon, and I just can't speak highly enough of the great work done."** – Paul Smith



Paul Smith, an RCH1000 member









About us



# Financials

## Every dollar counts

We are proud to share the 2021/2022 results as well as the total asset base, our forward granting commitments and how we invest funds for the future. Whether it's supporting our four funding areas, helping us save for multi-year projects or allowing us to raise more funds for the RCH's future, every cent we receive is helping to give seriously ill children the chance of a better future.

## 2021/2022 Revenue snapshot

The total revenue for 2021/2022 was \$45.5 million. Revenue is reported by principal funding source. In a challenging year, finance, property and investment income delivered \$7.3m. General donations from major gifts, and regular givers increased compared to the prior year. Amazing community generosity led to Good Friday Appeal funds received being the best ever.

## Administration and fundraising costs

Total administration and fundraising expenses were \$7.7 million. This is a result of the cost associated with fundraising, managing the grants process and ensuring that appropriate controls and governance procedures are maintained and strengthened.

## Corpus and investments

The RCH Foundation aims to provide long term sustainable support for the hospital. Some of our biggest grants require funding over many years. The RCH Foundation has forward commitments of over \$127.4 million over the next five years and is always planning for how future commitments will be supported. The RCH Foundation's Corpus provides an important base to support future funding commitments for generations of families to come.

## Grants and distributions

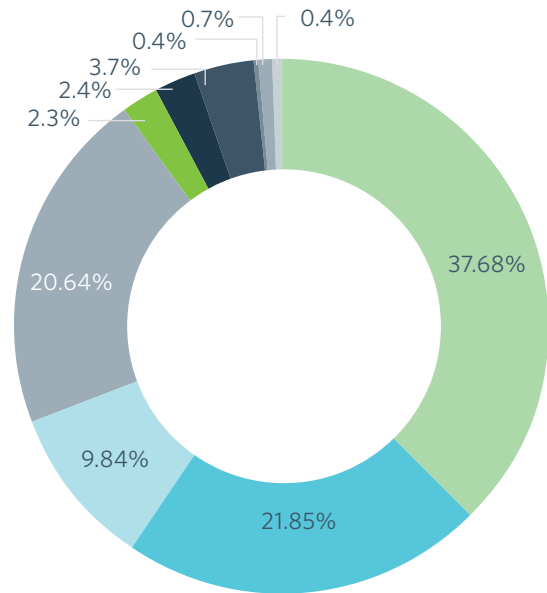
During the year, 37 new grants were approved, totalling over \$40.4 million. Total distributions to the RCH of \$46.6 million were made in support of excellence in clinical care across over 200 projects. Many of the grants extend over several years and this is reflected in the difference between granting decisions made and total distributions. \$8.8 million was used from the Corpus to fund granting commitments in 2021/2022.

*The RCH Foundation is committed to the highest standards of accountability and transparency. We report annually to the ACNC, ASIC and full Annual Financial Statements are available from the RCH Foundation office.*

# How the funds were raised

## Sources of revenue

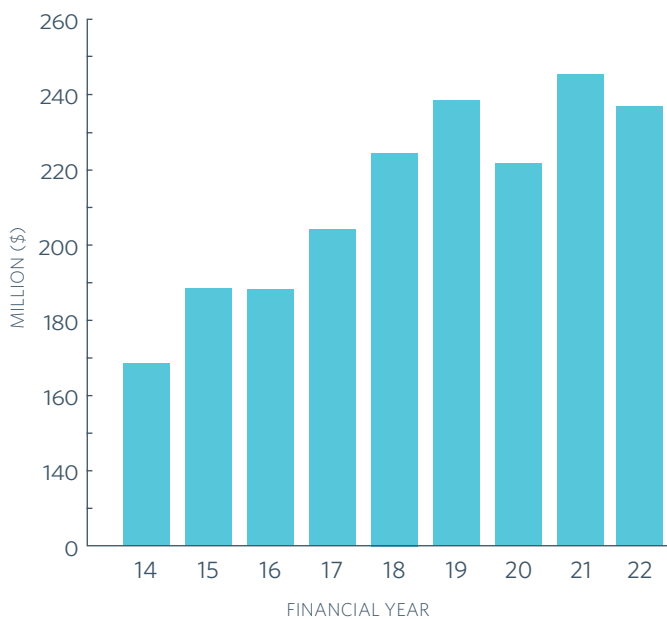
	(\$)
Good Friday Appeal*	17,138,412
Bequest and Estate income	9,940,033
Finance Investment income	4,475,356
General donations	9,388,385
Trusts and Foundations	1,047,947
Rental income	1,084,052
Sale of property	1,674,993
Auxiliaries**	200,932
Major event income	324,329
Other	199,217
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$45,473,656</b>



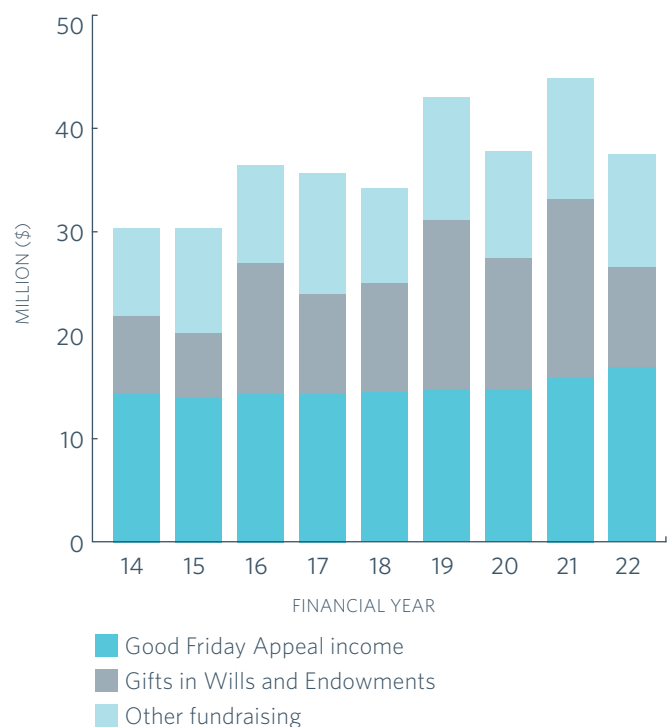
\* Good Friday Appeal revenue is net of costs incurred in conducting the Appeal. Total funds raised were \$22,328,154.

\*\* From 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022, the RCH Auxiliaries raised \$1,052,225 which was included in the Good Friday Appeal total. The balance represents amounts that will contribute to the 2023 Appeal.

## Net assets



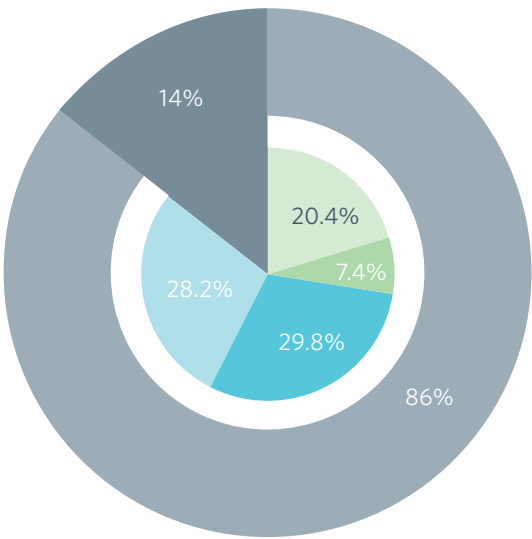
## Fundraising revenue



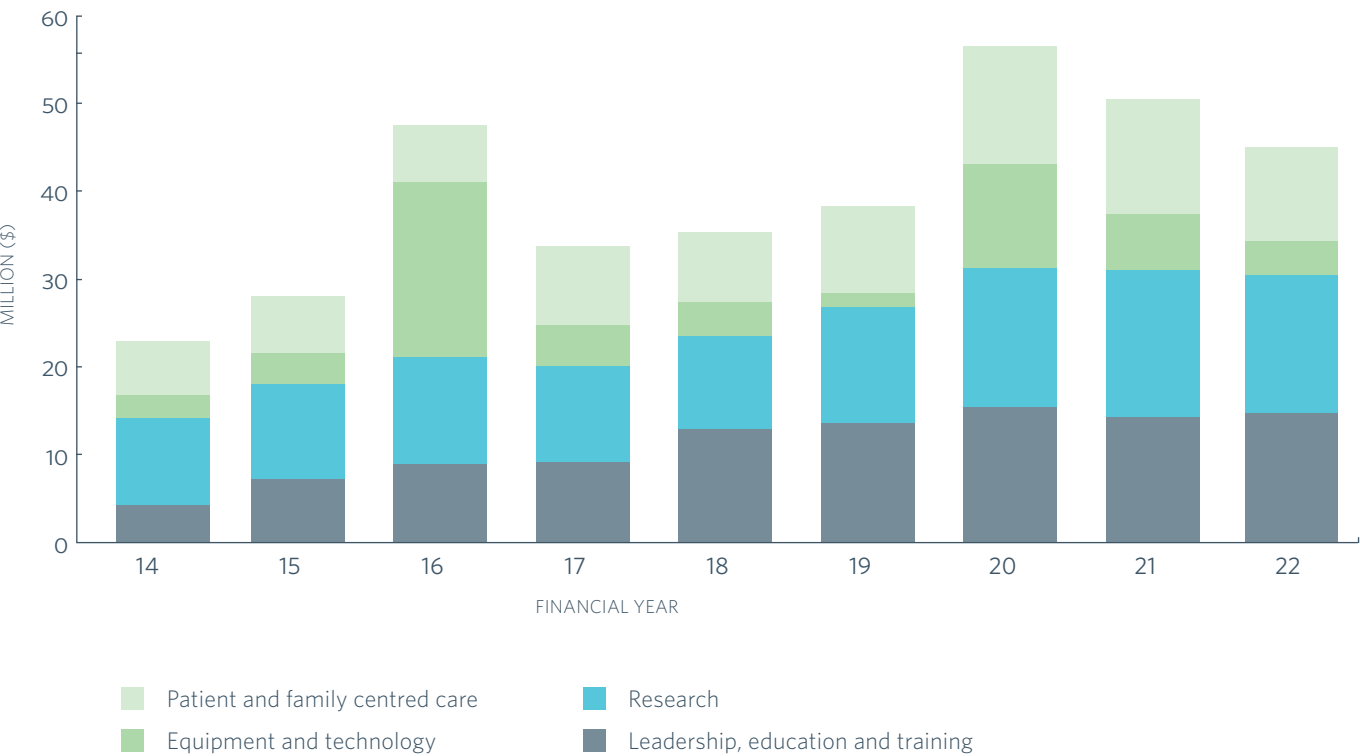
# Where your money goes

<div></div> Distributions to the RCH	46,617,579
<div></div> Patient and family centred care	11,059,415
<div></div> Equipment and technology	4,027,769
<div></div> Research	16,205,560
<div></div> Leadership, education and training	15,324,835
<div></div> Administration and fundraising costs	7,721,748
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,339,327</b>

All donations to the RCH Foundation support four key areas at the hospital, enabling access to lifesaving equipment and technology, supporting ground breaking research, developing medical minds through leadership, education and training, and supporting the best in patient and family centred care.



## Distributions to the RCH over time



## Investment management and philosophy

The RCH Foundation Investment Committee manages the RCH Foundation's Corpus. The RCH Foundation's Corpus includes general funds which are available for immediate distribution; endowment funds which donors have specified to be invested and income only distributed; funds which have been given for special purposes and retained earnings.

The RCH Foundation's Investment Strategy is underpinned by a philosophy of diversification across both growth and defensive assets. The Investment Committee utilises extensive benchmarking and research in assessing performance and risk parameters and balances liquidity requirements with longer term investments to enable funding to the hospital for both its short term and long term granting requirements.

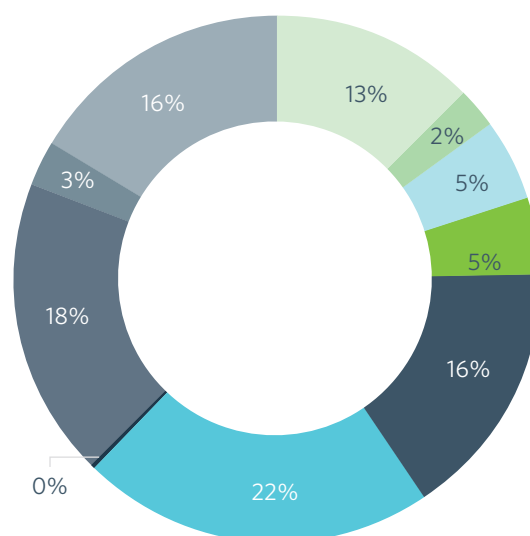
The RCH Foundation has a track record of exceeding its performance objective of a consumer price index (CPI) of greater than four per cent over the long term. The financial year ending 30 June 2022 generated a 1.32 per cent return after fees. During the year the RCH Foundation took advantage of its Growth Asset Allocation and performance generated from its Private Equity asset allocations. Fixed interest and bond holdings assisted in stabilising the portfolio when markets were volatile.

## Investment performance

	1 YEAR	2 YEARS PA	3 YEARS PA	5 YEARS PA
Total portfolio return (including Franking Credits)	1.32%	9.71%	7.48%	8.29%

## Investment asset mix – Actual Asset Allocation (AAA)

Cash and term deposits	International equities
Specialist credit	Infrastructure - Defensive
Fixed income	Infrastructure - Growth
Australian listed hybrids	Private equity
Australian equities	Property





# Board of Directors

## **Peter Yates AM FTSE FAICD BCom (Melb), Master of Science (MGT) (Stanford), Doctorate of the University (Murdoch)**

Peter is Chairman of AIA Australia Limited, a Director of Linfox Australia Pty Ltd and Mutual Trust Pty Ltd. He is Chairman of the Royal Institution of Australia, the Australian Science Media Centre, the Faculty of Business and Economics at Melbourne University, the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation, the Shared Value Project and the NHMRC Centre for Personalised Immunology at ANU and the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology at UNSW.

From 2004-2007 Peter was Managing Director of Oceania Capital Partners and held the position of Chief Executive Officer of Publishing and Broadcasting Limited from 2001-2004. Until 2001, he worked in the Investment Banking industry including 15 years with Macquarie Bank. He holds a Doctorate of the University from Murdoch University, a Masters degree from Stanford University Graduate School of Business and a Commerce degree from University of Melbourne. He speaks Japanese, having studied at Keio University in Tokyo.

Until May 2021, Peter was Chairman of Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited. He has been Deputy Chairman of The Myer Family Investments Ltd, a Director of the Royal Children's Hospital and the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Asialink, Publishing and Broadcasting, Crown Ltd, Foxtel Ltd, The Nine Network, Ninemsn, Ticketek, Veda Ltd, Oceania Capital Partners Ltd, the National Portrait Gallery, The Melbourne International Arts Festival, Centre for Independent Studies and the Australia-Japan Foundation.

In the June 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours, Peter was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for service to education, to the financial services industry and to a range of arts, science and charitable organisations and in 2017 was made a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE). He has also recently been awarded the Australian Academy of Science Medal for 2019.

RCH Foundation Director since 2001 and Chairman since 2012.

## **Richard Leder OAM - Deputy Chairman**

Richard Leder OAM has practised as a lawyer for 35 years. He specialises in commercial litigation and media law. He represents a range of media institutions including Channel 7 Melbourne and acted for the actress Rebel Wilson. He also advises the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and represents corporate and professional organisations and community welfare groups. He has held the position of Deputy Chair of the RCH Foundation since 2003 and serves on the Executive and Finance, Investment, Remuneration and Grants Committees of the Board. He also sits on the RCH1000 committee.

From October 2022 he will be Chair of the RCH Foundation.

Richard was the Deputy Chair of the Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board from 2018 - 2022 and serves on the boards of Australian Friends of Asha, The Conversation Media Group and the Melbourne Press Club.

In June 2019 he was awarded a medal in the Order of Australia for his contribution to the community, recognising in particular his long contribution to the RCH Foundation.

RCH Foundation Director since 1998.

## **Professor James Angus AO**

Professor James Angus AO is an Honorary Professorial Fellow and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biochemistry and Pharmacology in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS), University of Melbourne. In July 2013 he completed a 10 year term as Dean of the Faculty of MDHS at the University of Melbourne. Before becoming Dean, he was Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacology and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of MDHS. At the University of Melbourne, James has been President of the Academic Board (2000-2001), Pro Vice-Chancellor (1999-2001) and member of University Council (1999-2001). James was awarded the Gottschalk Medal of the Australian Academy of Science (1984), is a Fellow of the Academy

(FAA) and has been a member of its Council. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences. In 2003 he was awarded Australia's Centenary Medal for contribution to Pharmacology and the Community. James was a First Vice President of the International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR) and was President of the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists. From 2009-2011 he was President of Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand. His current roles include: Lieutenant Governor of Victoria from November 2021, Director, National Stem Cell Australia Foundation; Director, Jack Brockhoff Foundation, Director, RCH Foundation; Chair, Campus Council at RCH; Chair, Australian Advisory Council on the Medicinal Use of Cannabis; Director, Science Australia Gender Equity Ltd; and member Melbourne University Publishing Advisory Board. He was appointed an officer of the Order of Australia in 2010 for distinguished service to biomedical research, particularly in the fields of pharmacology and cardiovascular disease, as a leading academic and medical educator, and as a contributor to a range of advisory boards and professional organisations both nationally and internationally.

RCH Foundation Director since 2020.

## **Peter Blunden**

Peter Blunden is the National Executive Editor of News Corp Australia. In a career spanning more than 45 years with the company, Peter has held senior editorial positions with several of Australia's biggest newspapers, including The Australian, the Herald Sun and the Adelaide Advertiser. Peter has served as editor, editor in chief and managing director of the Herald and Weekly Times in Melbourne, which has been his home for the past 25 years.

Peter was Victorian Managing Director for eight years with responsibility for all News Corp print and digital mastheads in Victoria including the Herald Sun, Sunday Herald Sun, the Weekly Times, Leader Community Newspapers and the Geelong Advertiser Group, before which he served five years as Managing Director of the Herald and Weekly Times and eleven years as editor and editor in chief of the Herald Sun.

Peter edited the Adelaide Advertiser for more than five years, held various senior positions with The Australian, and was founding editor of The Australian's colour magazine in 1988. His career with News Corp Australia has taken him from Sydney to Canberra, Adelaide and Melbourne. Peter was inducted into the Victorian Media Hall of Fame in 2014, and was awarded a Centenary Medal for services to the media industry in 2001. Peter is a Director of the Herald and Weekly Times, the RCH Foundation, the Good Friday Appeal, and a committee member of the Moonee Valley Racing Club.

RCH Foundation Director since 2012.

#### **Alisa Camplin-Warner AM**

Alisa Camplin-Warner AM won Australia's first ever Winter Olympic Gold Medal in Freestyle Aerial Skiing, and is a respected leader in Australian business, sports administration and corporate governance. She spent 16 years as a global executive with IBM from 1996-2012, leading teams across sales, delivery and strategy/transformation. Today, Alisa is a highly experienced non executive company director, an in-demand keynote speaker and corporate consultant assisting organisations to achieve repeatable sustainable success through a focus on resilience, mindset and improved human performance.

Alisa is currently a Director of the Australian Olympic Committee (and Chair of Audit & Risk Committee), Olympic Winter Institute of Australia, Sport Australia Hall of Fame, and the RCH Foundation. Alisa is the co-founder of the charity project Finnan's Gift, the Collingwood Football Club's Patron of Women's Sport and recently held the

role of Deputy Chef de Mission for the Australian 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic team.

Alisa has previously held the roles of Chair: Australian Sport Foundation 2010-2013, Deputy Chair/Director: Sport Australia (Australian Sports Commission) 2007-2018, Director: Collingwood Football Club 2009-2018, and was the Performance Manager for Australia's 2018 Winter Olympic Team. Alisa holds a Bachelor of Information Technology, a Doctorate honoris causa from Edith Cowan University and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Alisa currently lives and works in Singapore with her young family.

RCH Foundation Director since 2013.

#### **Tiffany Fuller**

Tiffany Fuller is an experienced independent, non executive director with over 10 year's experience in public, private and philanthropic board roles. Tiffany's prior executive roles spanned careers in chartered accounting, corporate finance, funds management and investment banking with Arthur Andersen and Rothschild, both in Australia and globally, where she developed extensive skills across corporate and strategic advisory, management consulting, private equity and mergers and acquisitions. Tiffany currently sits on a number and public and private boards and is an experienced Committee Chair. Tiffany has held multiple philanthropic roles including at the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund and the Snowdome Foundation. Tiffany holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Melbourne and is a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, a Graduate of the Institute of Company Directors and a member of Chief Executive Women.

RCH Foundation Director since 2020.

#### **Stephen Gillin**

Stephen Gillin is the Commercial Manager for Production and Programming at the Seven Network. Stephen has been with the network for more than 11 years, playing a leadership role in organisational projects and is a member of the Melbourne executive team. Stephen brings a wealth of business acumen and experience to the Board, with more than 20 years' experience in both finance and human resources, having worked in various roles across State Government, civil infrastructure and media industries.

RCH Foundation Director since 2019.

#### **Hon Rob Knowles AO**

Hon Rob Knowles AO was Victorian Minister for Health from 1996 to 1999 and MLC for Ballarat from 1976-1999. He has also served as Chairman of Food Standards Australia and New Zealand; as a member of the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission; is a former Aged Care Complaints Commissioner and former Commissioner with the National Mental Health Commission. In addition to serving on the Boards of the RCH Foundation and the MCRI, Rob is currently a Director of: BeyondBlue Ltd; Drinkwise Australia Ltd; Global Health Ltd; Great Ocean Road Health, IPG Ltd and the Silverchain Group of Companies and was Chairman of the RCH from November 2012 to July 2022.

RCH Foundation Director since 2012.

#### **Sameer Kumar BBUS FCA**

Sammy Kumar is the Co-Founder of Sayers Group and Chief Executive Officer. He has over 30 years' experience across strategy, deals, digital, financial effectiveness and operations. Sammy served on the Board of the RCH from July 2012 to July 2015 and was reappointed in July 2018.

RCH Foundation Director since 2015 and Chair of the RCH Foundation's Audit Committee since 2016.

**Karl Kutner BPD**

Karl Kutner is an Executive Director of Central Equity. Karl is responsible for all acquisitions and town planning matters, along with overseeing the sales and marketing departments, and has been an integral member of the Central Equity Group since its growth years on Southbank in the early 1990's. Karl holds a Bachelor Degree in Planning and Design from the University of Melbourne along with a Certificate IV in Business from RMIT.

RCH Foundation Director since 2016.

**Bernadette McDonald RN, MHA, GAICD**

Bernadette McDonald has been the Chief Executive Officer of the RCH for 12 months, having been appointed to the position in September 2021.

Bernadette was previously the Chief Executive Officer of Canberra Health Services at a time of great change in the ACT's health service system. Prior to that appointment, she was the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and then Interim Chief Executive Officer of Austin Health, having previously been the Chief Executive Officer of the Orbest Regional Health Service.

Bernadette is a highly experienced leader with a track record of delivery in the Australian health sector. Known for her strategic vision, strong relationships, inspirational leadership and commitment to exceptional patient care, she demonstrates authentic leadership, and positions organisations for success by strategically assessing the environment and providing foresight to maximise impact and reputation.

Bernadette has a Bachelor of Nursing, a Masters of Health Administration, post graduate diplomas in Health Services and Health Systems Management, and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

RCH Foundation Director since 2021.

**Professor Fiona Newall PhD, MN, BSC, RN**

Professor Fiona Newall completed her undergraduate nursing training at Curtin University in Western Australia. In 1998, Fiona moved to Victoria and commenced working in the field of paediatric thrombosis and anticoagulation. Fiona completed her PhD (2009) and Master of Nursing (Research, 2005) at the University of Melbourne, both research projects exploring questions identified from her clinical practice. Fiona has published extensively within her field of clinical and research practice, and is internationally recognised as a clinical researcher. In addition to her positions as Director of Nursing Research and Director of Nursing Education at the RCH, Fiona has honorary appointments with the Departments of Nursing and Paediatrics at The University of Melbourne and Haematology Research within MCRI.

RCH Foundation Director since 2019.

**Andrew Shelton BA MA Cambridge FAICD**

Andrew Shelton was formerly the President and Chief Executive Officer of JP Morgan Canada, following a period with JP Morgan in New York. Andrew is a company Director, and was an independent corporate finance advisor and consultant. He is the Principal and Director of Andrew Shelton and Co Pty Ltd, and the Founder and Director of Ice Sports Australia Pty Ltd, a company that together with ING Real Estate, and the support of the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia, developed the National Ice Sports Centre in Melbourne Docklands as a commercial venture. He chairs the Pembroke College, Cambridge Australian Scholarship Fund. He is Chairman of the Investment Committee and a member of the Audit Committee.

RCH Foundation Director since 2013.

**Dr Gillian Sparkes AM**

Dr Gillian Sparkes AM has a career that spans the private, public and not for profit sectors having worked three decades in industries that interface with the environment and community, before becoming a senior public servant. Gillian has held senior roles with both the Australian and Victorian Governments including Deputy Secretary Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment and Chair of Sustainability Victoria. Gillian is currently Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, an independent statutory role that reports and advises government and the community on the environment. Other roles include Chair of the Board, FrontierSI (formerly the CRC for Spatial Information), Commissioner of the Victorian Building Authority Board, board member of Industry Capability Network, Victoria and a Trustee of the Royal Society of Victoria. Gillian holds a PhD in Applied Science, a Masters of Business Administration, is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a National and Victorian Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia and a member the Monash Sustainable Development Institute Advisory Council. Gillian was recognised as one of the Top 50 Victorian Public Sector Women in 2020 and awarded a Member of the Order (AM) in the General Division of the Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours for significant services to environmental sustainability, and to public administration.

RCH Foundation Director since 2015.

**Dr Miriam Weisz OAM DBA MBA BEC (HONS)**

Dr Miriam Weisz OAM has a Doctor of Business Administration specialising in Strategic Management in Education. She was an Associate Professor in Teaching and Learning at RMIT and was the Director of the University's quality improvement processes. After retirement from full-time employment, Miriam was appointed to the Victorian Board of the Australian Medical Board from 2011-2020, was a member of the Australian Medical Council from 2012-2017 and a Director of the Australian Joint Distribution Committee from 2014- 2017. She was also appointed to the Regional Board of the Psychology Board of Australia in 2017, the Victorian Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Board in 2021 and is a Board Director of the Victorian Nursing and Midwifery Trust. Miriam served as the Chair of the Development Board of the Centre for Adolescent Health at the RCH for 10 years from 2006 and she is currently President of RCH Auxiliaries.

RCH Foundation Director since 2016.

**Dr Rowena Coutts**

Rowena is the Chair of the RCH and consults to higher education organisations providing governance, legal, audit and policy advice and she is a partner in the family primary production business.

She is the immediate past Chair and Director of Ballarat Health Services and former Chair of the Grampians Regional Board Network.

As former Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Ballarat/ Federation University Australia she had responsibility for Corporate Services including Finance, Legal, Governance, HR, Technology Park, Commercial, International Education and PR. She is also a former Chair and member of Board of Directors, Ballarat Clarendon College. Rowena commenced her career as a lawyer, and holds an LLB and BJuris from Monash University and a Doctor FedUni (Hon).

RCH Foundation Director since 2022.



# Committees

## Executive and Finance

Peter Yates AM – Chair  
Richard Leder OAM  
Bernadette McDonald  
Professor James Angus AO  
Dr Gillian Sparkes AM  
Sue Hunt

## Audit and Corporate Risk

Sameer Kumar – Chair  
Alisa Camplin-Warner AM  
Andrew Shelton  
Stephen Gillin  
Tiffany Fuller

## Investment

Andrew Shelton – Chair  
Richard Leder OAM  
Peter Yates AM  
Tiffany Fuller  
Wendy Norris (external member)  
Sue Hunt  
Martin Lobb  
JB Were (external advisors)

## Grants

Peter Yates AM – Chair  
Richard Leder OAM  
Peter Blunden  
Professor Sarath Ranganathan  
Professor Kathryn North AC  
Bernadette McDonald  
Sue Hunt

## Remuneration

Peter Yates AM – Chair  
Richard Leder OAM  
Sue Hunt

## Nominations

Peter Yates AM – Chair  
Richard Leder OAM  
Peter Blunden  
Sue Hunt

## Auxiliaries Executive

Louise Gourlay AM – Patron  
Dr Miriam Weisz OAM – President  
Barbara Nicoll – Vice President  
Tiffany Lucas – Secretary  
Jan Gilbertson  
Robyn Anderson OAM  
Dr David Kolieb  
Shelley Kline  
Sue Hunt  
Martin Lobb – Treasurer ex-officio

In the 2021/2022 financial year, the RCH Foundation raised over \$45.5 million and funded over 200 projects and initiatives across at the hospital.



# Staff

## Executive Office

### Sue Hunt

Chief Executive Officer

### Jassie-Bree Salmond

Executive Assistant to Chief  
Executive Officer

### April Kelly

People and Culture Manager

## Fundraising

### Ryan Brown

Director, Fundraising

### Laura Buck

Manager, Auxiliaries and Fundraising

### Lauren McKellar

Fundraising Coordinator

### Rose James

Fundraising Coordinator

### Erin Davidson

Fundraising Coordinator  
(on maternity leave)

### Lucia Di Maio

Auxiliaries Coordinator

### Ari Brown

Gratitude Hub Coordinator

### Kate Dear

Manager, Corporate Engagement

### Ally Pekin

Manager, Individual Giving

### Adelaide Kraina

Philanthropy Coordinator

### Philippa Prescott

Philanthropy Coordinator

### Kath Sell

Philanthropy Lead, Planned Giving

### Jessica Frean

Senior Executive, Planned Giving

### Fiona Greco

Planned Giving Coordinator

### Amanda McCosker

Trusts and Foundations Coordinator

### Ben O'Connell

Manager, Supporter Relations

### Michelle Petrulis

Marketing Coordinator

### Catherine Donaldson

Supporter Relations Officer

### Thomas Putan

Supporter Relations Officer

## Grants

### Amy Whitehead

Director, Grants

### Anne Young

Grants Administrator

### Samantha Townley

Grants Administrator

## Business and Finance

### Martin Lobb

Chief Financial Officer

### Shane Buckley

Manager, Finance

### Christine Pickering

Management Accountant

### Natalie Ng

Senior Accountant

### Vickie Bell

Financial Accountant

### Vickie Kane

Finance Officer

### Emma Brown

Office Administrator

## Communications

### Laura Sullivan

Director, Communications

### Chloe Boulton

Manager, Communications

### Madeline Riddle

Communications Coordinator

### Wayne Oakley

Communications Coordinator

### Rita Palmieri

Senior Graphic Designer



Become a regular giver to  
**The Children's Tree**, and play an  
essential role in providing hope for  
patients at the RCH.

Your generosity is enabling research into new treatments and cures, access to the latest equipment and technology, education and advancement for nurses, clinicians and researchers, and ensures the hospital can provide world class care to patients, parents, carers and siblings.

Every dollar counts. **More than 200 programs** and initiatives wouldn't exist without donations such as yours.

Sign up at [rchfoundation.org.au/childrenstree](https://rchfoundation.org.au/childrenstree)



**THE  
CHILDREN'S  
TREE**  
Growing impact through  
regular giving

### **The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation**

Level 2, 48 Flemington Road  
Parkville, VIC Australia 3052  
+61 3 9345 5037  
[rch.foundation@rch.org.au](mailto:rch.foundation@rch.org.au)  
[rchfoundation.org.au](http://rchfoundation.org.au)

 [facebook.com/therchfoundation](https://facebook.com/therchfoundation)

 [twitter.com/rch\\_foundation](https://twitter.com/rch_foundation)

 [instagram.com/rch.foundation](https://instagram.com/rch.foundation)

 The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation  
Melbourne

ABN 15 007 143 142

### **The Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliaries**

The Auxiliaries are community groups established across Victoria that raise funds for the hospital.

+61 3 9345 5037  
[auxiliaries.office@rch.org.au](mailto:auxiliaries.office@rch.org.au)  
[rchfoundation.org.au/auxiliaries](http://rchfoundation.org.au/auxiliaries)

### **The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal**

PO Box 14744  
Melbourne, VIC Australia 3001  
+61 3 9292 1166  
[goodfridayappeal@heraldsun.com.au](mailto:goodfridayappeal@heraldsun.com.au)  
[goodfridayappeal.com.au](http://goodfridayappeal.com.au)



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 [instagram.com/rch.foundation](https://instagram.com/rch.foundation)

 [The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation Melbourne](#)

