



THE IMPACT OF GIVING ²³/₂₄

SHARING THE TRANSFORMATIVE
POWER OF PHILANTHROPY



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.

Front Cover: RCH patient Jacob, story on page 14

CONTENTS

The year in numbers	4	RCH Champions	38
Thank you from the RCH Foundation	6	Thank You, Samuel	39
A message from the hospital	7	In celebration	40
A message from the Good Friday Appeal	8	In memory	41
YOUR IMPACT	10	Bed Sponsorship	42
Key stats	12	Corporate Fundraising and Donations	44
Meet Jacob	14	Workplace Giving	46
Meet Nora	20	Thank You, Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation	48
Philanthropically funded positions	26	Auxiliaries	50
THANK YOU	28	LOOKING FORWARD	52
Bequests	30	AT A GLANCE	58
The 1870 Society	31	Financials	60
Thank You, Dianne	32	Board of Directors	64
Individual Giving	34	Committees	68
Trust and Foundations	35	Staff	69
RCH Foundation Managed Endowments	36	CONTACT US	70
Thank you, Peter and Sylvia	37		

**THE YEAR
IN NUMBERS**

IN THE 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR:

\$69.9M

FUNDS RAISED

200+

PROJECTS SUPPORTED

81,401

**EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
PRESENTATIONS**

19,752

SURGERIES

410,190

OUTPATIENT APPOINTMENTS

52,312

INPATIENT ADMISSIONS





Ryan Brown

THANK YOU



Richard Leder OAM

Welcome to this year's Impact of Giving, celebrating the incredible power of philanthropy, and the role that it plays in changing the future of children's health.

Thanks to you, this year The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Foundation raised \$69.9 million and supported more than 200 projects, people and initiatives across the RCH, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and the University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics.

Your generosity supports thousands of sick kids every year. By donating to the RCH Foundation, you help us fund excellence and innovation across the campus, ensuring that the hospital remains at the forefront of paediatric healthcare – now and into the future.

From the moment a child walks through the doors of the RCH, it's a community that contributes to their care, and right along their journey, you have helped ensure that that community is world-leading. From the friendly music and art therapists, to the vital equipment delivering medication and nutrition, world-leading cancer research and holistic centres that operate as a one-stop shop for care, philanthropy helps ensure that each child and family walks away with positive memories.

This is especially true for RCH patients Nora and Jacob. Both children have been through an unimaginable amount in their short lives. But thanks to the incredible people, projects and initiatives you help fund, they have the best chance of thriving.

None of this would be possible without you.

The passion, dedication and commitment of our community is inspiring, and we're so grateful for the important role you play in supporting children across the hospital.

From individuals like Dianne, who has not only supported the hospital as an Auxiliary member but has also committed to generously leaving a Gift in her Will, to young people like Samuel, who has donated funds from his bar mitzvah to the RCH Foundation, supporting other kids like him, your motivation is so clear – to make a difference in the lives of children and young people.

We're grateful to the Auxiliaries, the hospital's longest standing supporters, who in their 102nd year raised an incredible \$1.5 million, contributing to another record-breaking 2024 Good Friday Appeal total.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the Good Friday Appeal on another fantastic year, and for all that they do to support sick children at the RCH.

But that's just the beginning.

With your ongoing support we can keep funding excellence, innovation and collaboration for many years to come.

Together, we can help create a world where all kids thrive.

Ryan Brown
Chief Executive Officer

Richard Leder OAM
Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM THE RCH BOARD CHAIR



It has been another remarkable year at the RCH, and on behalf of our patients, families, and staff, I extend my deepest gratitude for your support.

Your contributions help make the RCH much more than a hospital. Thanks to you, we can provide all children and young people with the opportunity to realise their full potential. Your generosity ensures our patients have access to cutting-edge treatments, equipment, and facilities that may not be available elsewhere in Australia. It also enables us to attract the most talented health professionals from around the world, fostering a workforce that reflects the diverse community we serve. On behalf of our patients, their families, and everyone at the RCH, I offer a heartfelt thank you.

2024 has presented us with new challenges. Families across the community are facing significant financial pressures, making your continued support of the RCH Foundation even more appreciated. Your contributions enable us to keep children and young people at the heart of everything we do, strengthening our capacity to provide the safest, most accessible, and kid-centred care in the world.

The funding we received from the RCH Foundation is supporting a number of projects including the development of the Joey Pod, a new physical environment dedicated to a specialised service for young people aged 13-18 with eating disorders. Thanks to your support, we are one step closer to building a space that will offer tailored interventions, ultimately improving outcomes for those who need it most.

We are incredibly grateful for the support that has made the RCH Burns Fellow position possible. Burns Service is the leading statewide burns service for children in Victoria, and the fellowship provides essential surgical capacity and continuity of care. Moreover, it plays a crucial role in training the next generation of paediatric burns surgeons across

Victoria, Australia, New Zealand, and Asia to ensure specialist care into the future.

Building upon the findings of the RCH National Child Health Poll and the extensive reach of RCH Kids Health Info, the RCH Health Literacy Project will develop engaging and inclusive digital health communications for young people and their families. Your support empowers us to create resources that promote health literacy, helping communities stay informed and healthy. We couldn't undertake this transformative work without you.

These are just a few of the many ways your support makes a tangible difference in the lives of our patients.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the incredible RCH Auxiliaries, who work tirelessly throughout the year to raise funds for our hospital. Their daily stalls on Main Street bring joy to families, visitors, and staff alike, and I know their quarterly markets are a highlight on my calendar as they are for many others.

And lastly, I would also like to warmly congratulate the Good Friday Appeal on another wonderful year and express our gratitude for all they do to support children at the RCH.

Whether your contribution was large or small, I cannot thank you enough for everything you do to support us here at the RCH. We are profoundly humbled every day by the difference your generosity makes in our care.

Thank you for helping us create a world where all children thrive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rowena Coutts'.

Rowena Coutts
Board Chair
The RCH

**THANK
YOU**



Rebecca Cowan and Penny Fowler AM with the 2024 Faces of the Appeal, Emily and Finley

A MESSAGE FROM PENNY FOWLER AM, CHAIRMAN AND REBECCA COWAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL

This year the community was incredibly generous, giving their time, support and donations to raise an amazing \$23,368,724. To our volunteers, tin shakers, community groups and country towns, to media and corporate partners, and to the Federal and Victorian Governments, thank you.

These funds will have a profound impact, funding state-of-the-art equipment, research, training and patient and family centred care programs to continue the world-class care provided by the RCH.

For the first time in its 93-year history, funds will be distributed in partnership with the RCH to regional paediatric health services; Barwon Health, Bendigo Health, Grampians Health, Goulburn Valley Health, Albury Wodonga Health and Latrobe Regional Health. This will help families in regional Victoria receive care closer to home, strengthen capability in the regions and create stronger and more resilient communities across our state.

AN INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY

From kids supporting kids with local fundraisers like 8-year-old Charlie with her bake sale raising \$701, and current patient Immy raising a huge \$2,958 to the Yia Yia's from the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church who organised a raffle, donation drive and a lunch to raise \$7,500, the creativity and commitment from the community was inspiring.

Regional Victoria once again provided significant support, raising over \$5.2 million. Thank you to the 210 area managers who harnessed the goodwill in their local community, with many from the CFA which also raised \$1.8 million, along with Uncle Bobs Club, Pied Pipers, Lions Club, Rotary Groups and the RCH Auxiliaries who, in their 102nd year, raised over \$1.4 million.

Each year, thousands of volunteers generously give their time to door knock, rattle tins and assist to make the Appeal happen. Whether they are volunteering for the first time to those we acknowledged in their sixth decade, we thank our volunteers all over the state for their incredible support.

BUSINESSES GIVING GENEROUSLY

Thank you to Principal Partners, Herald Sun and Channel 7, who provided significant support to share the impactful stories, which also included the iconic Channel 7 telethon. Support from 3AW, Ace Radio Network, Nova, Smooth FM and QMS Media was outstanding, along with a Good Friday Appeal branded tram thanks to the support of Keolis Downer/Yarra Trams and JCDecaux.

Businesses of all sizes were committed to giving back. Woolworths raised \$1.3 million by engaging their teams and customers within stores and other activations. Henley Homes, Villawood Properties and their amazing team of trades and suppliers provided the 45th Charity House to raise a record breaking \$1.1 million with every dollar donated to the Appeal.

Bambi Mini Co donated the proceeds from their sock range in Chemist Warehouse stores with many customers also donating. Other partners included Cadbury, Costco, Little Athletics, Decjuba Foundation, Bunnings, Container Deposit Scheme, Hunky Dory, and Empower Australia. Our amazing raffle partners included Mazda, Majestic Caravans, Tempur, Woolworths, Telstra, Kogan, Inspiring Vacations, Masseur Massage Chairs, DoubleTree Hilton and Qatar Airways who donated the prizes to raise a remarkable \$1.1 million.

Our events connected and engaged the community. Run for the Kids had 25,000 participants which provided a unique experience going over the Bolte Bridge and through the Domain Tunnel and raised \$1.3 million. Thank you to the Herald Sun and Transurban for providing invaluable support with this event for the past 16 years.

Kids Day Out had nearly 95,000 visitors enjoying the family fun festival with carnival rides, entertainment, sports and the popular Teddy Bear Hospital supported by City of Melbourne and located at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) in their 10th year of support. Also at the MCEC, the phone room received 7,400 donations, supported by long standing partner Telstra, the Money Counting Room tradition continued and the behind the scenes operations were in full swing.

Sport fans were able to get behind their favourite code and support the Appeal with the AFL Superclash game with North Melbourne Football Club hosting Carlton Football Club on Good Friday, and Melbourne Storm, Racing Victoria, Country Racing, Greyhound Racing and Victoria Racing Club all getting behind the cause.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Since 1931, the Good Friday Appeal has raised an extraordinary \$468 million thanks to the generosity and dedication of the community with everyone giving what they can. Together we continue to make a difference to the lives of countless sick kids and their families.



Rebecca Cowan
Executive Director
Good Friday Appeal



Penny Fowler AM
Chairman
Good Friday Appeal



\$23,368,724

RAISED BY THE 2024 GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL



YOUR IMPACT



KEY STATS

IN THE 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR



41

new grants approved



**\$61.3
MILLION**

distributed to the hospital



29

grants supported
across Equipment
and Technology



44

grants supported
across Leadership,
Education and Training



44

grants supported
across Research



68

grants supported
across Patient and
Family Centred Care



**\$8.0
MILLION**

funding provided for
Equipment and Technology



**\$16.8
MILLION**

funding provided for Leadership,
Education and Training



**\$23.5
MILLION**

funding provided
for Research



**\$12.7
MILLION**

funding provided for Patient
and Family Centred Care

MEET JACOB



From the moment Jacob was born, his family knew him to be incredibly 'chilled' and 'relaxed'. But it wasn't until a six-week check-up that they realised this beloved nature could be a cause for concern.

Jacob's lack of movement and what mum, Brooke, describes as 'floppiness,' resulted in their general practitioner (GP) taking immediate action.

"We were originally diagnosed with low vitamin D, which apparently can cause muscle weakness. We then went back to the paediatrician two weeks later and she wasn't seeing any improvement, so she performed genetic testing," Brooke explained.

From there, it wasn't long until Brooke received a call saying that their little boy had spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) type 1, a rare genetic condition affecting the motor neurons of the spinal cord, causing muscle weakness, damage, wasting (atrophy) and eventual loss of function.

"Our GP rang me on a Tuesday. She told us it was SMA and that we were going to the RCH tomorrow. And so, within 24 hours, we were at the RCH for our first appointment at the RCH Neuromuscular Clinic," Brooke shared.

This was an extremely difficult time for Brooke and her family as they struggled to come to terms with what the diagnosis meant for little Jacob. As they faced countless unknowns, Brooke couldn't help but break down the moment they arrived.

"Everything was so overwhelming. I was crying and we still had no idea what was going on. Once we met the doctor, however, we felt things weren't going to be as bad as we initially thought," Brooke shared.

Jacob's journey with the RCH does not just end with the Neuromuscular Clinic. Since his diagnosis, he has been treated in the hospital's day medical centre, undergone multiple surgeries and more.

Fortunately, the toddler was also able to access the transformative gene therapy at the RCH last year, drastically changing his quality of life.

"The biggest thing we used to focus on was survival and keeping Jacob alive. Now we're aiming to get Jacob to walk, which wasn't even a thought for kids with SMA 10 years ago," Brooke said.

Today the family are incredibly optimistic about Jacob's future. He is spending even more time outside the hospital, and Brooke is proud to say that life-changing care is giving Jacob the best start to life.

“ ”

NOW WE'RE AIMING TO GET JACOB TO WALK, WHICH WASN'T EVEN A THOUGHT FOR KIDS WITH THIS GENETIC CONDITION 10 YEARS AGO

Jacob's mum, Brooke



JACOB'S JOURNEY

At just two years old, Jacob has already experienced the impact of philanthropy. From life-saving equipment to ground-breaking research, every day countless of children just like him have been able to receive the care they need to thrive thanks to your support.

**THE RCH
NEUROMUSCULAR
FELLOWSHIP**

**THE RCH
NEUROMUSCULAR
CLINIC**

**THE HUGH
WILLIAMSON
GAIT LABORATORY**

**GAIT ASSESSMENT
TOOL IN THE
NEUROMUSCULAR
CLINIC**

THE RCH NEUROMUSCULAR CLINIC

The RCH Neuromuscular
Clinic provides dedicated
care to around

600
children

Within the
Neuromuscular Clinic,
up to

18
clinicians from
different specialisations
work collaboratively on
patient care



RCH patient Jacob

The RCH's Neuromuscular Clinic provides dedicated care to around 600 children like Jacob each year. This philanthropically funded program is now the biggest multidisciplinary clinic at the hospital.

Dr Eppie Yiu is a paediatric neurologist and the lead of the clinic. In her role, Eppie ensures that children like Jacob can receive not just excellent but also holistic clinical care.

"It is really important to understand the impact of a chronic neuromuscular disorder on not only the child, but also the family. Our clinic has supported these families since 2008 and we have seen the treatment landscape and outcomes transform over this time," Eppie shared.

The clinic prides itself on developing a model of support that reflects how families feel their needs could be best met. For Brooke and Jacob, this has meant personalised and consistent care.

"There's so many times Jacob and I have been to a doctor, and it's felt very clinical whereas when you go to the RCH Neuromuscular Clinic and there's none of those aspects – it just feels so familiar and friendly," Brooke explained.

"Sometimes, when we're at the clinic, we'll have a conversation and it's just about life, not necessarily about what's going on and all the negative stuff that comes with SMA," she continued.

The RCH's Neuromuscular Clinic operates every Wednesday, allowing patients to see up to six specialists in a single afternoon. This saves families from travelling back and forth for separate appointments.

"We are one of the lucky ones – we don't live that far away. But being able to go in on a single day and get all our appointments done made a huge difference especially early on when we were at the hospital every couple of days," Brooke shared.

Throughout their journey with the RCH Neuromuscular Clinic, Brooke has felt nothing but grateful for the relationships they have fostered, and the excellent, holistic care received.

"The nurses and clinicians really consider that they are not just looking after the child, that they're looking after the parents as well," Brooke said.

Supported by:

Pizmony Family Foundation
Muscular Dystrophy Australia
The Orloff Family Foundation
KY Enterprises (Chi Lu)



THE RCH NEUROMUSCULAR FELLOWSHIP

Briana Davis

Meet Briana Davis, one of this year's RCH Neuromuscular Fellows. Thanks to philanthropy, Briana is one of five clinicians who have been given the opportunity to advance their skillset and provide excellent care to children like Jacob.

"The Neuromuscular Fellowship role at the RCH is quite unique. It has a really great team environment and collaborative approach. It also sees the child in a holistic way and doesn't look to just manage the medical problem but the child and family as a whole," Briana shared.

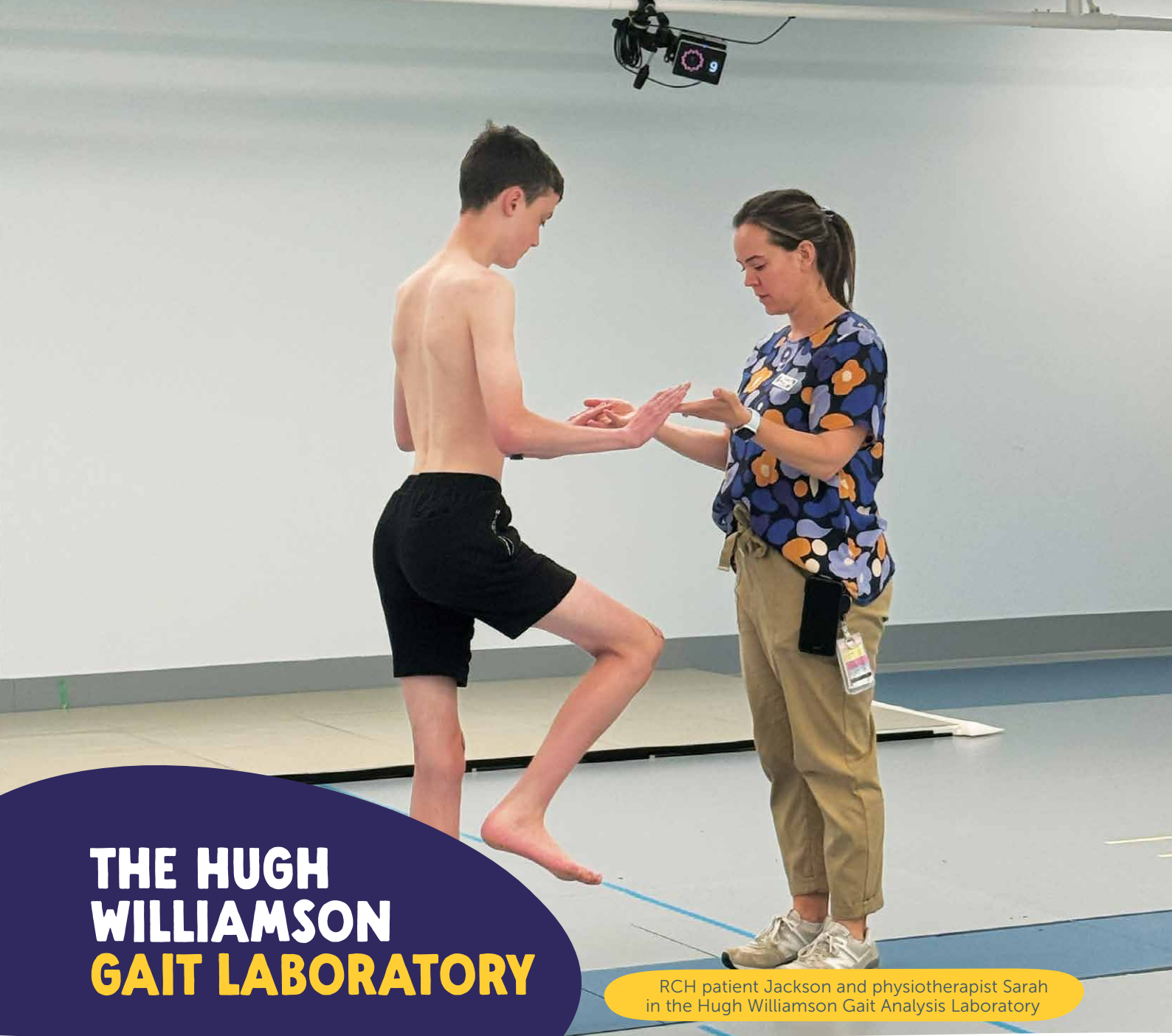
Operating as part of the RCH's Neuromuscular Clinic, Briana has been able to work with up to 18 different clinicians each shift, which she describes as 'inspiring'. She has also been incredibly involved in gene therapies in the hopes of revolutionising care for children with a variety of neuromuscular conditions including SMA.

"In my fellowship, I've been involved in some of the therapeutic trials and that's something I hope to take from my training back to South Australia. So, I think the fellowship is beneficial and far-reaching – beyond the children of Victoria," Briana said.

According to Briana, this is 'the age of advanced therapeutics and gene therapy'. While she has always been passionate about helping children, she has found it profoundly impactful to see this life-changing therapy give so many hope.

"One of the things I love about treating neuromuscular conditions is following people particularly when they receive disease modifying therapies and seeing them get better, stronger. Seeing the possibilities in this role has been really rewarding," she added.

Supported by:
Live Life Foundation
The Orloff Family Foundation



THE HUGH WILLIAMSON GAIT LABORATORY

RCH patient Jackson and physiotherapist Sarah in the Hugh Williamson Gait Analysis Laboratory

The Hugh Williamson Gait Laboratory is a world leader in walking disorders for children. Supported by the RCH Foundation, the lab features an innovative three-dimensional motion capture system and high-definition cameras that help capture movement.

As described by Pam Thomason, a senior physiotherapist and manager of the lab, this equipment is being used to 'measure how children walk', through three-dimensional gait analysis.

"The gait analysis team, which consists of physios and biomedical engineers, analyse the data through the computer and then we put it all together with our physical measurements," Pam explained.

This laboratory plays a crucial role in the long-term rehabilitation and care of patients like Jacob, but especially those with neurodevelopmental disabilities like cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and more.

The work performed by the team at the Gait Laboratory is challenging, but incredibly powerful. It provides personalised care to around 550 patients each year, ensuring that children with numerous walking conditions can thrive.

"Every child we assess is different, so you have to look at the data and marry it up with what the child does and what's important for them and what their goals are in life so everything that we do is different for each child," Pam said.

"This work makes a real difference to the lives of children that we see and also to the children we have yet to see," she continued.

GAIT ASSESSMENT TOOL IN THE NEUROMUSCULAR CLINIC

Thanks to philanthropy, a new, world-class gait assessment tool has been purchased for the RCH Neuromuscular Clinic. This piece of equipment is making a life-changing impact on children with neuromuscular conditions, like Jacob, every single week.

“This gait mat allows us to objectively measure walking in children and track their progress over time. It allows us to compare their performance to children who don’t have a neuromuscular condition,” Kate Carroll, Senior Clinician and Research Physiotherapist at the RCH Neuromuscular Clinic, explained.

In order to track and measure a number of important gait parameters, children are asked to walk on the brand-new mat. From there, the tool can calculate things like step length, speed, symmetry and more.

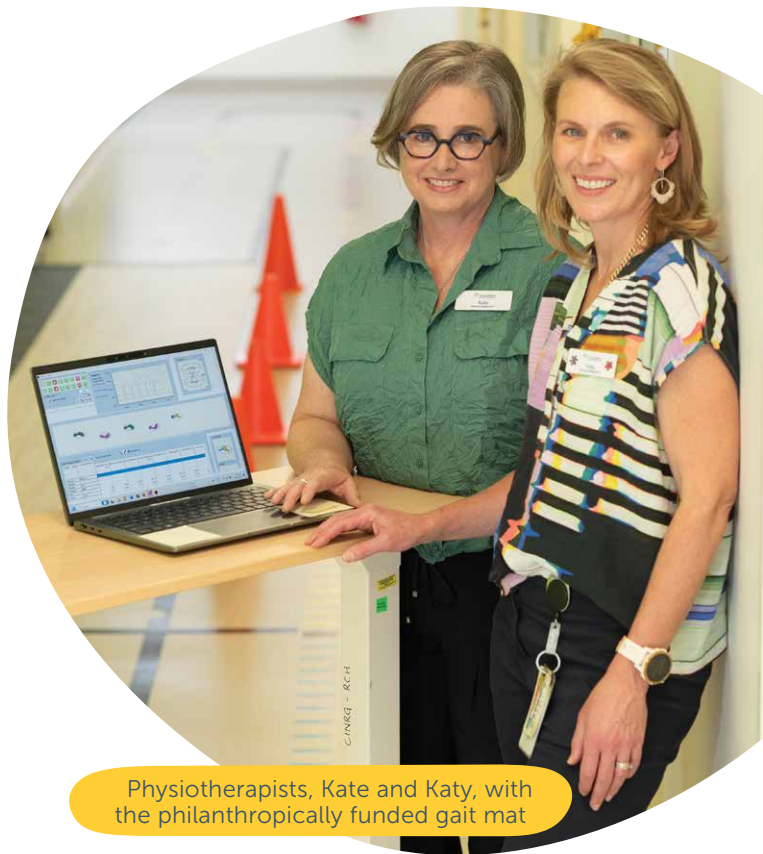
“All physios assess gait all the time. But usually, you do it by just watching a child walk up and down the corridor and you might measure how fast they can go. This tool gives us a whole extra level of information,” Kate explained.

As the calculations are performed on a computer, Kate can share findings with patient families in real time, providing extremely personalised and family-centred care. Critically, this tool is also portable and readily accessible, ensuring children from the RCH Neuromuscular Clinic have access to the care they need, as they need it.

“We can roll the mat out in the corridor, turn it on, add a child to the database and collect the data straight away. This gives us a quick snapshot of information within the constraints of a busy clinic,” Kate shared.

Looking forward, Kate is incredibly optimistic about the gait tool’s findings and its ability to advance healthcare for children like Jacob – now and for generations to come.

“Children who have undergone gene therapy for SMA are forging a new path and this is resulting in a new natural history that we need to learn and understand,” Kate shared.



Physiotherapists, Kate and Katy, with the philanthropically funded gait mat

“Using the gait mat can help provide a really detailed level of information about walking in these children and what’s the new normal,” she added.

Jacob’s mother, Brooke, is excited to know that her son could one day explore the world independently thanks to gene therapy and tools like the gait mat. Each assessment, piece of equipment and personalised treatment plan can bring Jacob closer to exploring the outdoors on his own and provide the toddler the chance to tap into his adventurous spirit.

Kate is incredibly grateful to the RCH Foundation for helping fund this latest piece of equipment. From research to measuring progress, this tool is ensuring that children with neuromuscular conditions are able to thrive.

Supported by:

The Orloff Family Foundation
Hugh Williamson Foundation



MEET NORA

When Dana took her then four-year-old daughter, Nora, to the family GP with persistent tummy pain and weight loss, she thought it was nothing more than constipation.

The doctor recommended a high fibre diet and plenty of water, but when Nora's pain continued, Dana took her to the Emergency Department at their local hospital.

Dana stood firm when the hospital diagnosed constipation once again, convinced there was something more going on with her little girl, and insisted on an X-ray and ultrasound.

"I still remember the doctors saying they couldn't find her kidney or spleen, and that there was a mass," said Dana.

After more tests, Nora was rushed to the RCH in an ambulance, where the unthinkable was confirmed - Nora had cancer.

Within 48 hours of her arrival at the RCH, Nora began six weeks of chemotherapy ahead of surgery to remove the mass. It was hoped the chemotherapy would shrink the tumour, but it failed to work.

"In surgery, Nora's surgeon, Michael Nightingale, found a 17cm tumour under Nora's ribs and down into her pelvis. They ended up removing her kidney and the tumour, and a biopsy of the 1.4kg tumour and kidney tissue confirmed that it was two types of Wilms' tumour," said Dana.

"She had a second surgery a week later where doctors found a lesion on her remaining kidney. Thankfully they were able to remove it, but in the same surgery, they also identified a Chyle leak, which happens when your lymphatic vessels are damaged. Nora ended up having to stay at the RCH for three months after that," she added.

CARES (4 KIDS) PROGRAM

NORA'S JOURNEY

Throughout the last nine months, Nora, like hundreds of other patients across the hospital, has experienced world-leading care only made possible thanks to philanthropy.

MUSIC THERAPY

CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTRE (CCC) BIOBANK AND CANCER RESEARCH

SYRINGE DRIVERS

Unfortunately, that wasn't the end of Nora's journey at the RCH – she soon began another 34 weeks of chemotherapy and underwent a third surgery to remove more tumours from both of her lungs.

Dana is eternally grateful for the support their family received during Nora's three-month stay on Kookaburra Ward.

"Our whole family developed such great relationships with the nurses and doctors, we call them our Kookaburra family," Dana said.

"We honestly could not be more thankful for the RCH. All the specialists are there, and you know you're in the best hands possible," she added.

While it has been a long journey for Nora and her family, the treatment has worked, and Nora is officially in remission.

CARES (4 KIDS) PROGRAM

Funded by the RCH Foundation, the CARES (4 Kids) Program provides holistic care for children and young people undergoing treatment in the RCH Children's Cancer Centre (CCC).

One component of CARES (4 Kids) is the Comfort First program.

Fully integrated within the CCC, it is considered a fundamental part of patient care and aims to empower children and families by teaching coping strategies and building on their existing strengths to help reduce distress and anxiety throughout treatment.

Dana credits the Comfort First team with making 'the whole experience a little lighter'.

"If it wasn't for the Comfort First team, I don't know where we'd be, they've done an amazing job at keeping my girl calm," shared Dana.

It was the Comfort First team that helped Dana and Nick realise that Nora likes to have a plan. Knowing this, the team made sure to keep Nora informed about what was happening and why, which immediately reduced her stress.

The Comfort First team also introduced Nora and her family to the Beaded Journey.

These colourful beads are given to cancer patients at the RCH to mark each milestone and significant event throughout their treatment. Each bead symbolises a specific procedure completed – for example, a gold bead with vertical lines represents surgery while a cream bead represents chemotherapy – and tells a powerful story of how far they've come.

Nora has 319 beads and counting, with a few months remaining of chemotherapy treatment. One of the most special beads she has is a multicoloured balloon bead she was given on her birthday in April while on the ward.

She loved the program – and her favourite clinicians Alicia, Jess and Kari – so much that she now wants to be a Comfort First clinician when she grows up.



Nora has also been able to enjoy art therapy, another component of the holistic CARES (4 Kids) Program.

"Art therapy can be used as an effective modality for self-expression, self-regulation and for processing the experiences of hospital and illness through a creative form. It allows choice and control for patients in a situation in which they have minimal control," said Matilda Dawson, Art Therapist at the RCH.

Nora loved doing art therapy with Alex and Tilly, who gave the bubbly four-year-old the nickname 'glitter queen'.

"We'd come in after an art therapy session and Nora would be just covered in glitter, and grinning from ear to ear," Dana recalls with a laugh.

"Nora had had two abdominal drains so she couldn't move around much, so it made a huge difference to have Alex and Tilly come to us, and it was just the best way to break up the long days in hospital," Dana added.

Supported by:

Woolworths via the Good Friday Appeal
Camp Quality
My Room Children's Cancer Charity
Lifestyle Communities

MUSIC THERAPY



Nora with her music therapist, Lauren

Music can be incredibly powerful in a clinical environment, and can assist in decreasing anxiety and stress, refocussing from pain, and release endorphins to improve mood and overall wellbeing.

For music therapist Lauren Miller, actively engaging in a personalised music therapy program can connect children with elements of their life or self, prior to diagnosis and hospitalisation, and provide ongoing support throughout their treatment journey.

“Active engagement in positive and meaningful activities enables children in hospital to develop trusting relationships with staff, and support healthy coping skills, leading to increases in a child’s confidence and mastery of the hospital environment and aspects of their treatment,” she said.

Thanks to the generosity of the community, music therapy is offered to patients right across the hospital, just like Nora. Lauren was the first person Nora connected with at the hospital.

“The first day we walked into the RCH, Nora spotted Lauren setting up in the Hut on Kookaburra. Nora tugged on my top and asked, ‘who’s that?’. Lauren overheard and came over to chat with us. She introduced herself and asked Nora if she wanted to sing a song,” Dana recalled.

“My heart just soared when they started singing Let it Go from Frozen. Nick and I were in gushes of tears - it was so nice to see Nora happy in that moment after the rollercoaster we’d been on in just a few days,” she added.

Lauren became a constant for Nora during her time on Kookaburra, with music therapy sessions most days.

Nora proudly shared that she ‘got pretty good on the guitar and drums’ because of music therapy, which is music to Dana’s ears.

Supported by:
The Shine On Foundation
Various RCH Foundation Bed Sponsorship donors

SYRINGE DRIVERS



Clinical Nurse Consultant Kym
with the new syringe drivers

Thanks to the support of philanthropy, the RCH has been able to upgrade its fleet of syringe drivers – a small yet mighty device used in the care of children like Nora every single day.

A syringe driver is a small, portable battery-operated pump that gives a steady flow of medicines through a small tube just under the skin of a patient's arm, leg, stomach or back. The devices make it easier than ever before for medical staff to precisely administer intravenous medications, fluids and nutrition to some of the hospital's sickest and most fragile patients.

The new syringe drivers also feature animated pictures on the front that give children a visual guide as to how long the procedure will take – something Nora loved.

"Nora liked watching the picture on the front and calling out as the syringe emptied – 'it's half-way, it's almost done, only a little bit to go, it's done!' It made a routine part of treatment much less stressful and even a little bit fun!" Dana said.

Supported by:
The RCH Auxiliaries
The Good Friday Appeal

CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTRE (CCC) BIOBANK AND CANCER RESEARCH

Each day across the RCH and the MCRI, hundreds of clinicians and researchers work on vital cancer research, ensuring that the hospital remains at the forefront of paediatric healthcare. From innovative cures and treatments, to improving the quality of cancer care, they work tirelessly to ensure a brighter future for sick children like Nora.

A key player in enabling this cutting-edge cancer research is the philanthropically funded, Children's Cancer Centre (CCC) Biobank.

By collecting tumour samples from children, including Nora, the CCC Biobank plays a pivotal role in supporting cancer research efforts. Scientists and researchers rely on these samples to investigate the causes of cancer, develop new treatment strategies, and minimise the side effects of existing therapies.

"The CCC Biobank is a resource for diagnostics and discovery. From a diagnostic perspective it allows for further testing to be done without the need for repeat patient samples or procedures. From a discovery perspective, the CCC Biobank has supported 44 translational research studies, covering a wide range of tumour types and methods," said Dr Louise Ludlow, CCC Biobank Manager.

These research efforts have also been amplified by Professor David Eisenstat, Director of the CCC, and the rest of his team. Both Louise and David believe that the Biobank has the potential to help every child diagnosed with cancer at the RCH.

"Sometimes the only way you can get a child enrolled in a clinical trial is to make sure their tissue has genes affected that would respond to that drug," David shared.

"In some ways, investing in the Biobank leverages savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars in drugs that we wouldn't otherwise get. This is a big deal to us and to our patients," he continued.

David's work also extends far beyond the Biobank.

Thanks to the RCH Foundation, David and his team have been able to focus on the 'quality of survivorship'. This means leveraging clinical trials and research to develop safer drugs, use existing drugs more safely and critically, understand how cancer develops during childhood.

"If we can understand normal developmental pathways, we can take that knowledge, harness it and apply it to treat the cancers themselves, instead of just hitting children with chemotherapy and radiation," David explained.

"From there, we can figure out and reinstate the normal process of development in that cell. Then it will stop dividing and stop acting like the cancer," he added.

David is also proud of his team's ability to approach difficult concepts using a holistic approach. By asking the same questions as families and following patients after their treatment journey, David's lab has been able to advance cancer research in a groundbreaking and one-of-a-kind way.

Together, David and his team are building a healthier future for children in Australia and around the world.

"For those who relapse, the success rate is 10 per cent. So, if we don't cure them the first time, the next time it's diminishing returns. That's why we want to improve what we do up front," David shared.

"We're in a really good position at the RCH to make a difference, both in innovating here on campus, but also applying advances elsewhere in the world to help provide that for our children," he continued.

“ ”
**THIS IS A BIG DEAL TO US
AND TO OUR PATIENTS**

Professor David Eisenstat

Supported by:

The Samuel Nissen Charitable Trust
Robert Connor Dawes Foundation
H.T. Pamphilon Fund
Cancer Crusaders Auxiliary
Cancer in Kids Auxiliary (CIKA)

PHILANTHROPICALLY FUNDED POSITIONS

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND CHAIRS

Academic Burns Surgeon

Dr Monique Bertinetti

Apex Chair of Neurodevelopment and Disability

Professor Christine Imms

Chair of Child Health Informatics

Professor Jim Buttery

Chair of Genomic Medicine

Professor John Christodoulou AM

Clinical Leader for Trauma,
Burns and Surgery Research

Associate Professor Warwick Teague

Director of Allied Health Research

Associate Professor Kelly Weir

Director of Medical Education

Dr Wonie Uahwatanasakul

Geoff and Helen Handbury

Chair in Adolescent Health

Professor Susan Sawyer

Jigsaw Chair of Paediatric

Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery

Professor Tony Penington

Professor of Paediatric Emergency Medicine

Professor Franz Babl

Professorial Sessions for the Lorenzo and Pamela
Galli Chair of Developmental Medicine

Professor David Amor

The Donald Ratcliffe and Phyllis Macleod Director
of Nursing Research

Professor Fiona Newall

FELLOWSHIPS

The Aitken Fellowship

(Endocrinology and Diabetes)

Apheresis Fellow

Children's Cancer Centre Fellowships

Clinical Education Fellowships

Clinical Education Fellowships,
Mental Health Strategy

Clinical Research Fellow,
Paediatric Epilepsy Services

Clinical Research Fellowship,
Paediatric Neurosurgery

Clinical Research Fellows, Cystic Fibrosis

Clinician Scientist Fellows

Education Hub Fellows

Emergency Department POCUS Fellow

Gastroenterology Fellow

Global Health Fellow

Health Services Clinical Fellow

Neuromuscular Fellowship

Neurology Clinical Research Fellowship

Neurodevelopment and Disability Postdoctoral
Research Fellowship

Nursing Research Fellowship (BEST Practise)

Paediatric Intensive Care Unit POCUS Fellow

Paediatric Plastic and Burn Fellow

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Disability

Post-Doctoral Fellow (Bioinformatics)

Principal Research Fellow, Trans20

Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship

Senior Research Fellow, Melbourne Children's
Trials Centre

Simulation Allied Health Fellow

Simulation Medical Fellow

Simulation Nursing Fellow

UBC Neurology Fellowship

Victorian Burns Fellow

SCHOLARSHIPS

Allied Health and Nursing Development,
Education and Leadership Program

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Nursing
Development Scholarship

Elizabeth Fearon Scholarship

Professor Frank Billson Research Scholarship

Jadeybird Ophthalmology Travelling Scholarship

Jeff Crouch Memorial Scholarship

Jeannie H Poolman Scholarship

Karmien Chan Memorial Scholarship

Postgraduate Health Research Scholarships

Research Excellence Scholarships

Rosemary Derham Scholarship

RCH Paediatric Handbook
Travelling Scholarship

Rosen Family, Lily's Gift Travelling Scholarship

The Pied Pipers' Scholarship

UBC Travelling Scholarship

The Volunteers' Nursing Scholarship



Cathy Lewis, Chief Orthoptist at the RCH
and Anu Mathew, Director of Ophthalmology at
the RCH, recipients of the Professor Frank Billson
Research Scholarship



**THANK
YOU**



BEQUESTS

Leaving a Gift in your Will is a deeply touching way to support generations to come. In 2023/2024 the following people generously remembered the hospital in their Will and we sincerely thank them. In their memory we recognise and honour their legacy.

A

William Angus

B

Margaret Beggs

C

Stella Cachia

Ramona Margaret Chhibber

Neville Thomas Condron

Jeffrey Owen Cox

Joan Curran

D

Catherine Joanna Doyle

E

Johan Eisma

F

Audrey Farmer

Catherine Finocchiaro

Daniel Freiverts

Richard George Frappell

G

Beverley Agnes Gotzky

H

Jennifer Harte

Dorothy Joyce Hitchins

Brian Howlett

Constance Hunt

K

Ellen Kasek

M

Gordon Manning

Kevin Norman Maxwell

Irene McCall

Eric John McCarthy

Wallace McKenzie

Neil McNeill

Robert McPhee

Clyde McTaggart

Beverley Leah Moore

Pamela Audrey Morgan

N

Patricia Neary

Michael Neill

Elaine Newbould

P

Constantinos Ploudias

Donna Potaris

R

Denis Ryan

S

Hendricus Sarolea

Renata Grace Slavik

Jeffrey Smith

T

Wendy Twining

John Wilfred Tyler

W

Elizabeth Whelan

Leonard Willis

Y

Ronald Young

THE 1870 SOCIETY

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.

A

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

B

Margaret Baker
Robert Baker
Gerhardus and Jeanette Bakker
Margaret Barnett in memory of
Stephen James Minns
Margaret Barton
Craig Baxter
Kerrie Beauglehall OAM and Ross
Beauglehall
Jeremy Bein
Graeme and Penny Bentley
Megan Brinsmead
Ryan Brown

C

Christine in loving memory of
her son Evan Callow
Jess and Luke Carey
Nick Cartwright
Janine Clark
Andrew Connell
Tino Cucinotta

D

Aldo De Iulio
Lucia and Antonio Di Maio

E

Helen Exarchos-Jacobs

F

Ash Falla
Denise and Peter Ferguson
Family Gift
Leslie Fleming

G

Christos and Maria Gabriel
Dennis Garnham

H

Gary Hawkins
Natalie Henderson

Tess Heron
Hayden Hickey
Stuart Hodges
Alan Hollensen
Vanessa Humphrey
Sue Hunt AM

J

Leanne James

K

Nectaria Kalogerakis
George and Evelyne Katsoulis
Louise Kenneally
Barry and Katrina Knight
Barbara and Kirstin in memory
of Kye

L

Nabil Labbad
Rosalie Lee
Barbara and Graeme Love
John Lowrie

M

Lois Mathieson in memory of
Alexander Macleod Mathieson
Catherine Millie
Cindy and Paul Molenaar
Fiona and Ashley Murrie

N

Barry Novy OAM

P

Paul David Pacey
Joanne and Eddie Pallotta
Dianne and Roger Paul
Dawn Lorraine Pick and Norma
Pick
Dr Michael Toggias and Christine
Politis
Steve Portway

R

Tom Reisner
Da Silva Renukabe
Gloria Riddell
Ena and David Roach
Helene and Clarrie Rowdon
The Runyan-Tait Family

S

Nicholas Scott
The Seaman Family
Kyle Sheldon Memorial Fund
Baljinder Singh Dhaliwal
Katie Spencer

T

In honour of Mabel Barrett
Lee Tan
Glenda Thomas
Ian and Elaine Thomas
Judi Thomas
Norma Thomas
In memory of Rachel May
Thomas
In memory of Wayne and Peter
Thompson
Karin Tiedemann
Jason Tomlin
Ross Twentyman

V

Veronika Vala
Ian and Jane Veltman
Dr Usha Venkataraman

W

In honour of Ray Warfe, 2nd
Field Ambulance, Rat of Tobruk
Miriam Weisz OAM and Tibor
Weisz
Carol Wigney
Glenn Williams
Leslie Williamson
Richard Winchester
Merilyn and Ian Woodhouse
Y
Peter Yates AM
Jane Yescovitch

Anonymous: 168 Supporters

THANK YOU, DIANNE



Dianne Paul

When Dianne Paul first walked into the RCH in 1968 as a 17-year-old trainee nurse, it was the beginning of a wonderful 53-year nursing career that would take her around Australia. Little did she know at the time, it was also the beginning of an inspiring journey of giving back to the RCH.

“My favourite thing about nursing at the RCH was, of course, the children. They were such amazing patients, and so brave. I still consider myself a children’s nurse and I’m really proud of that,” Dianne said.

Her experience at the RCH held her in good stead when she moved from the RCH in 1972 to take on nursing and midwifery roles in Sydney, the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Queensland, and Knox City Council.

“My work at RFDS took me to all corners of Queensland, including remote communities where children and families were experiencing illnesses that we rarely see now in suburbia – rheumatic heart disease, iron deficiency anaemia, skin and parasitic infections,” Dianne said.

“My paediatric experience in ENT conditions, infectious diseases, and nutrition – all gained at the RCH – was really helpful in those primary health care settings,” she added.

Dianne’s link to the RCH came full circle in 1991, when she started a new role as a Maternal Child Health Nurse at Knox City Council. One of her new

colleagues had also been a trainee nurse at the RCH and she invited Dianne along to an event held by the League of Former Trainees (LOFT) Auxiliary.

Dianne went along and joined the LOFT Auxiliary committee soon after. She is proud to have been a LOFTie for the past 33 years, including roles on the General Committee, as well as Vice President from 2010 until 2012 and President from 2014 until 2024.

“I’m so proud of the community we’ve built with LOFT, everyone supports one another and we’re all friends who fundraise and have fun along the way,” said Dianne.

“I’m also very proud that we’ve been able to support today’s RCH nurses through the Elizabeth Fearon Scholarship, our annual nursing development program, since 2008,” she added.

Dianne has also recently decided to leave a Gift in her Will to the RCH Foundation, which means her dedication to helping sick children at the RCH will be remembered for generations.

“I feel a deep connection to the work of the RCH. As a former trainee, working at the RCH shaped a lot of my sense of who I am,” Dianne shared.

“ ”

I GIVE WHAT I CAN SO THAT CHILDREN CAN SUFFER LESS, SURVIVE MORE AND PARENTS STILL HAVE THEIR FAMILY INTACT.

Dianne Paul



Dianne and Lauren Jorgensen, the 2019 Elizabeth Fearon Scholarship recipient

“Nursing and medicine have come so far, and I really believe that I was lucky to be there at the beginning of humane nursing, a time when the concept of patient first was becoming a reality thanks to technology. But to keep seeing improvements in paediatric care, the hospital needs funds,” she added.

Dianne’s Gift will provide vital financial support for a range of areas in the hospital, such as brain cancer and nursing clinical research.

“Our 15-year-old nephew succumbed to a glioma (brain tumour), a tragic and painful loss, and I’m especially passionate about supporting nursing clinical research to help bring about optimal care for every child and their family who needs the RCH,” she said.

Dianne also has a simple message for anyone considering leaving a Gift to the RCH.

“I give what I can so that children can suffer less, survive more and parents still have their family intact. Mine is not a huge Gift, but if each person gives something, the total will be useful,” she said.

INDIVIDUAL GIVING

The RCH Foundation is delighted to acknowledge the individuals who are making a difference to children's health through their philanthropic support.

A

Alex Auldist AO

B

Maree and Geoffrey Bentley

Wendy Ben-Galim for Noa

Edith Burgess

C

The Calvert-Jones Foundation

Canary Islands Social Club

Sally Carmichael

John and Trish Cerini

Peter and Jan Clark

Nicole Cossley

D

Barry Davies

Royce and Catherine DeSousa

Hang Do

The Dyer Family Trust

E

Betty Ebsary

F

Marisa Femino

Debbie Forrest

G

Catriona Galbraith and
Suresh Senathirajah

Simela Gigis

Robert and Nellie Glas in
memory of Noah Felmy-Glas

Noel Goods

Grosman Family Foundation

H

Annette Hill

Ian Hill

Robyn Hill

Sue Hunt AM

I

The IN Group

J

Ron Jobe

K

Danny Karabinas

Ian Kennedy AM

Shelley Kline

The Ky Enterprises Pty Ltd

L

Pat LaManna OAM and Helen
LaManna Cancer - Stroke
Research Legacy

Philip and Susan Lewis and
Family - Olivia's Gift

LTE Civil

M

Patrick MacFetters and
Stephanie Anderson

Committee of
Madonna di Servigliano

The McDonald Family

Patrick McQualter

Aaron Miller

Harry Lyon Moss Estate,
managed by Equity Trustees

N

Ibrahim Nemer

Barry Novy OAM and Sue Selwyn

O

David O'Dea

Dave Quinlan

P

Pangortinian Association
of Melbourne

R

Donald Ratcliffe and
Phyllis Macleod Trust

R, B and B Fund

RedZed Lending Solutions

Steven and Kylie Richardson

Vivien Rosenfeld

S

Perry Sambor

Grant and Margaret Sheldon

Kim Shoppee-Lynch

Mehrab Singh

Gillian Sparkes AM

St Antonio Committee
Altona North

Andrew Squires

Judith Stenbridge

T

That's Amore Cheese

Tuan Tiet

Effie Trellis

V

VVGA Victorian Vietnamese
Golf Association

W

Bart Ward

George Wright

Y

Peter Yates AM and Susan Yates

TRUST AND FOUNDATIONS

Thank you to the charitable Trusts and Foundations that donate to support the important work of the hospital.

\$1,000,000+

Harry Lyon Moss Trust Fund

\$200,000+

Donald Ratcliffe and Phyllis Macleod Trust

Live Life Foundation

The Loti and Victor Smorgon Family Foundation

The Debbie Stach Memorial Fund Endowment

Jigsaw Foundation

Gandel Foundation

The Shine On Foundation

\$100,000+

Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation

Camp Quality

Children's Cancer Foundation

H. T. Pamphilon

The Hugh D.T. Williamson Foundation

MacKenzie Family Foundation

My Room

Robert Connor Dawes Foundation

Sporting Chance Cancer Foundation

The Orloff Family Foundation

The Pratt Foundation

The Samuel Nissen Charitable Foundation

The William Buckland Foundation

\$50,000+

Andrew and Geraldine Buxton Foundation

DEBRA Australia

Giving 4 Tomorrow Foundation

Jakob Frenkiel Charitable Trust

Muscular Dystrophy Australia

Lucia Crinis Legacy Fund

Nigel and Patricia Peck Foundation

Peter and Susan Yates Foundation

Rae and Peter Gunn Family Foundation

The Percy and Ruby Haddy Foundation

The Smith Family

\$20,000+

Allenby Foundation Pty Ltd

Child's Play

Hislop Family Foundation

Kel and Rosie Day Foundation

Maddie Riewoldt's Vision

Robert C Bulley Charitable Fund

Rae Burnett Farmer Collins Bequest

The Calvert-Jones Foundation

The Stuart Leslie Foundation

\$10,000+

Altitude Children's Foundation

Dean Laidlaw Foundation

Fortnum Foundation

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

The Humanity Foundation

Kaplan Foundation

The Kumar Family

Pizmony Family Foundation

Riverlee Foundation

Roger and Susanne Smith Foundation

Roseanne Amarant Charitable Trust

RCH FOUNDATION MANAGED ENDOWMENTS

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.

Apex Foundation Chair in Developmental Medicine

Betty Cosgrove Endowment Fund

Professor Frank Billson Scholarship Fund

Bob Semple Legacy Fund

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Nursing Development
Scholarship Endowment Fund

Geoff and Helen Handbury Chair in
Adolescent Health

Helen Novy Volunteer Service Memorial Fund

Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship

Run for the Kids Burns Coordinator Fund

The Margery and Keith Aitken Endowment

The Aitken Fellowship Bequest

The Auxiliaries Legacy Fund

The Debbie Stach Memorial Fund

The R, B and B Fund

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

THANK YOU, PETER AND SYLVIA

Growing up, Debbie Stach had always sought to help people. So, when she graduated from Monash University with a medical degree, it seemed like the beginning of a wonderful career, caring for others.

Debbie's parents, Peter and Sylvia, smiled as they recalled their daughter's strong will and determination to follow her own path in life.

"Whether it was bringing extra supplies for school friends going through tough times or tutoring her fellow high school students who were falling behind, Debbie always wanted to help people," Sylvia said.

"After Year 12, she travelled to Israel for 12 months, volunteering as an orderly at a hospital for three or four months and teaching English to Ethiopian migrants," she added.

Sadly, Debbie's dream was tragically cut short when she died in a car accident in February 2004, soon after completing her GP training with the Northern Territory General Practice Education.

While Peter and Sylvia were heartbroken, they were also driven to continue Debbie's legacy of helping others and with overwhelming support from family and Debbie's friends, the couple established the Debbie Stach Memorial Fund in June 2004.

The fund aimed to continue Debbie's beliefs and support initiatives in areas she was passionate about – environmental issues, artistic and cultural pursuits, and Aboriginal health.

During this time, Peter and Sylvia's good friend, Barry Novy OAM – former Chair of the RCH Foundation Board and current Chair of the RCH1000 Committee – mentioned that the RCH was planning a new health service for Indigenous children and their families.

Peter and Sylvia immediately knew Debbie would have loved it.

"During her medical studies, Debbie volunteered for the Fred Hollows Foundation in Nepal, and she was so excited to finish her medical training working with Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory," Peter explained.

Peter and Sylvia met with the RCH Foundation and decided to fund two research roles. The researchers,



Peter and Sylvia



Debbie

supported by the couple, sparked what is now the Wadja Aboriginal Family Place, or simply Wadja.

Established in 2009, Wadja supports Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander patients across the hospital through both the Wadja Health Clinic and dedicated Case Managers who support inpatients. The Wadja Health Clinic is a general paediatric health clinic offering a weekly general medical outpatient service for Aboriginal patients presenting with complex medical and social issues.

The service is delivered by a multidisciplinary team consisting of Aboriginal case managers, paediatricians, mental health clinicians and allied health professionals.

The Stach family's impact on the hospital hasn't stopped there. Through the fund, Peter and Sylvia have been able to support other departments and initiatives, including the RCH Psychology Unit, bioethics conferences, a book titled 'This Is My Mob', and the RCH150 Aboriginal Art Project.

Today, 20 years on from establishment of the Debbie Stach Memorial Fund, Peter and Sylvia have decided to gift the remainder of the fund to the RCH Foundation to establish an in-perpetuity endowment in Debbie's name.

Their generous gift will be directed towards three key areas that Debbie was so passionate about - education, regional care, and Indigenous health - with annual distributions from the endowment ensuring that services like Wadja can continue to provide much-needed care for Indigenous children and their families for years to come.

For Peter and Sylvia, the establishment of this endowment is the perfect way to make sure that Debbie's name and compassion will live on.

"Debbie would have been so impressed by Wadja, and so chuffed that her name is lent to supporting the work they do," Peter said.

"As I said at the opening of Wadja – out of a tragedy, a little good has come. Giving is good, if you can, and the children are the future," he added.

RCH CHAMPIONS

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

A

Alisa Camplin-Warner AM and Oliver Camplin-Warner - Finnan's Gift

AMCL Masters Golf Day

Anthony Kromwel's Challenge for the RCH

Australian Macedonian Community of Lerin Annual Dinner Dance

Ava and Yasmin's Batmitzvah

B

Beyond the Bike

BIG JOE

Black Day Out Good for Golf

BSX Ultra Annual Fundraiser

C

Campaspe Golf Club

Cherelle and Nimary Court Christmas Light Fundraiser

Cooper Irvin

Cycling for a Cure: Melbourne to Darwin

F

Finnan's Gift

Demak Timber & Hardware

Fortnum Foundation

Mackenzie Family Foundation

Ray White Pty Ltd

Sport Australia Hall of Fame

Frank Fruci - Mambo Italiano

Freddy and His Gangs Haunted House Geelong

K

Kyle Sheldon Memorial Golf Day

L

Lifestyle Communities

M

Martincitopants

Melbourne Dai Loong Association

N

New Zealand Australian Punjabi Cultural Association

O

OneSchool Global

P

Paddy says thanks to NICU

The Procure Group

R

Rawdon Court Christmas Lights

S

Salesian College Sunbury

Samuel Davis' Bar mitzvah

Shane Larsen - Zeke's Fund Christmas Lights

V

Veneto Club Melbourne

W

Wu Family

THANK YOU.

SAMUEL

Fourteen-year-old Samuel is known for his ability to commit to everything he does – including his passion for playing the drums. He recently channeled this same dedication to giving back to the RCH Foundation through his bar mitzvah celebration.

"In the Jewish tradition, when a boy turns 13, they will hold a bar mitzvah ceremony. This event celebrates the progression from childhood into adulthood," Danielle, Samuel's mother explained.

As part of the bar mitzvah, a party is often held for close family and friends to celebrate the occasion. While gifts are typically brought to the event, young people like Samuel can decide to give back to the community instead.

"In lieu of having gifts for his bar mitzvah party, Samuel chose to raise funds for the RCH Foundation because he wanted to help sick kids," Danielle said.

"I just wanted my donations to make an impact and give children across the hospital really excellent care," Samuel added.

Samuel's bar mitzvah raised over \$8,000 for the RCH Foundation, which will go directly to helping sick and vulnerable children – just as he intended.

The 14-year-old's passion for giving back to the RCH Foundation is also reflective of the world-class care he has received from the hospital over the years.

"My son receives care from the Ophthalmology Department. He has received treatment from Dr Johnathan Ruddle who is a fantastic doctor," Danielle shared.

"Sam also receives care under Immunologist Dr Marine Robinson at the RCH," she continued.

"I have received care from Johnathan since I was very young. He is so knowledgeable, and he has given me and so many children the care they need so they can do excellent things in the future," Samuel said.

The family's generosity doesn't stop there. As a result of her son's long-standing history with Ophthalmology, Danielle has also given to the Professor Frank Billson Research Scholarship.

"I have been donating to this scholarship in the hopes even more children with eye conditions can get the care they need, especially in the years to come," Danielle said.

The Professor Frank Billson Research Scholarship, established by philanthropist Shelley Kline, supports clinicians from Ophthalmology, allowing them to undertake vital work so they can improve outcomes for children with eye conditions.

Both Samuel and Danielle are grateful to be in the position to help sick children and their families get access to world-leading care.

"We are extremely happy to be able to help fund healthcare and provide children with the treatment they otherwise wouldn't have been able to receive," Danielle shared.

IN CELEBRATION

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.

A

Aarohi's 5th Fundraiser
Akshayaa 1st Birthday
Amelia's 7th Birthday

B

Barry Novy's Birthday
Birth of Amelia

G

Gaby and Mike's Wedding

H

Hakim Wedding

P

Penny 1st Birthday
Peter Pryle's Birthday

T

Terence's 60th Birthday



RCH patient Olivia

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

A Alianopolous

Mia Angeloni

Kye Azimi

C

Paolo Cimino

In Memory of Anita Corsano

Amelia Grace Costa

E

Donna Eaton

G

Leslie Ann George

Frankie Glass

In memory of John Alfred Gooding

Marie Valentine Green

H

Grant Hodgetts

L

Marjorie Esmá Lade

Ashraf Sadat Larjani

Aidan Leonard

Ching Ngai (Marcus) Li

Ngau Lu

M

Dimitri John Maniotis

Jazmine Margaret

Vicky Milevski

N

In memory of Tina Nelson

P

Gracie Pascolo

Gino Peda

R

In memory of R, B and B

Dennis Read

S

Giovanni Sansonetti

Tate Scarce

T

Angela Tarascio

V

Mario Vella

Y

In memory of Mrs Yen Thi Vo

Z

Zoi Zaharakis

BED SPONSORSHIP

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.

A

Sam Agha
Allenby Foundation Pty Ltd
Sophia Andrianopoulos
Australian Pacific Touring Group
Austunnel Pty Ltd

B

BFG Asset Management
Big Bedding Australia
Britax Childcare Pty Ltd
Eden Brown

C

Sally Carmichael
John and Patricia Cerini
The Chan and Harwood Families
Ashwini and Sonia Chandra for
Veena Chandra
Cisco Matching
Cisco Systems Australia
Peter and Jan Clark
Zoë Sylvie Judith Craig
Crew Services Group Australia

D

Valentina De Maria
Riley Docker and Family

E

Ensemble Strategy Pty Ltd
Essendon District
Football League

F

Jakob Frenkiel Charitable Trust
Cathleen and Wesley Fry

G

Louie Grech
MPE Group
Anuradha Gunasekharan

H

Alia Homes
Hotel Sorrento
Sue Hunt AM

K

K and S Corporation Ltd
Keung To Australia Candies
Aaliyah Ali Khan
Ayedin Ali Khan

L

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

M

M and S Transport
Peter Maxwell Lane
McGrath Estate Agent - Croydon
Melton Country Club
Minaret College
Luca Miraglia Foundation
David and Tamara Murkies
for Zara

N

Neonate Mates Auxiliary
Nelson Alexander Charitable
Foundation
New Zealand Australian Punjabi
Cultural Association
The Norman Family

O

Oak Capital
Nora Eibhlin O'Dwyer
Cheryl O'Hanlon and
Bombora Advice
O'Shannassy Family

P

Anthony Pasquariello
PCI Consulting Australia
Christine Phillpot and David
Evans

S

Salesian College
Sam Grace and Eli
Miller James Schmidt
The Shah Family for Vrushika
SLC Partners
South Food Group
Spring Gully Animal Hospital
St. Mary's Indian Orthodox
Cathedral
Strathmore Community Services
- a branch of Bendigo bank

T

Tapanda Pty Ltd
Tara, Timour, Finlee and Bentlee
Team Jack
Mr Sein Teik Tan
That's Amore Cheese

R

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

U

Nikolina Ristevski Unispare LP

V

Vibe Hotel Melbourne

VU Electrical

W

Sean Woodhouse

Y

Yi and Li Family Trust

Jan Young

Z

Weihaio Zhang



Bed sponsor
Anuradha Gunasekharan
and her daughter

CORPORATE FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS

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

A

AA Holdings Pty Ltd
Amazon Australia
APS Amazon Crew
Associated Rigging

C

Cisco Systems Australia
Clever Clothing Pty Ltd
CNX 2 Sports
Croydon Medical Centre

E

Elco Food Co
Era Polymers Pty Ltd

K

K and S Corporation Ltd
Kmart

L

Leeds Club
Lifestyle Communities Chelsea Heights

M

McGrath Estate Agent - Croydon

O

Officeworks

P

Paypal Giving Fund

R

Rokon Pty Ltd Trucking Team

S

Specsavers

T

The Glen Asian Bakery

W

Whitehill and Co Pty Ltd
William Buck (VIC) Pty Ltd

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

A

AA Holdings Pty Ltd

B

Biovet Australia
Britax Childcare Pty Ltd

C

Campaspe Golf Club
CarBuyers.com.au
Chair Solutions VIC Pty Ltd
Chat 10 Looks 3 Productions Pty Ltd
Comtex Pty Ltd

E

Elco Food Co

G

GrapeCo Australia

H

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

I

Industry Fund Services

K

K2LD Architects

KenoGO

King and Collins

Kmart

L

Little Stars Early Learning and Kindergarten

Lucidity Australia

N

Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation

O

One Tomorrow Charitable Foundation

P

Pitcher Partners Melbourne

T

Thinktank Melbourne

Todd Devine Homes

W

Wellam Constructions



RCH patient Tyler

WORKPLACE GIVING

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.

A

A and L Windows and Doors
Achievers
ADP
AECOM
Atura Hotels
Australia Industry Group
Australia Post

B

Bain and Co
Bank Australia
Bank of Queensland
Beach Energy Ltd
Bendigo Bank Limited
Benjojo
Birch Carroll
Bluescope LYSAGHT
Bluescope Steel Company
Bluescope Steel Limited
Boeing Aerostructures Australia
Bupa Australia Group

C

CAF America
Campari Australia
Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)
Cisco Systems
Citi Australia
Coca-Cola Europacific Partners Australia
Coca-Cola Europacific Partners API Pty Ltd
CommUnity platform
Computershare

CSL GivingForGood

D

Dell Technologies Australia

E

Employees Of Toyota Australia
Ernst and Young
Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges
Estee Lauder Companies
Event Hospitality and Entertainment

G

Google Australia
Greater Union
Guo Joint

H

Howden Foundation

I

IAG
IFM Investors

J

JBS Australia
Jemena

K

Karma Currency Foundation
Kognitiv Australia Pty Ltd
Kosciusko Thredbo Resort

L

Louis Vuitton Australia

M

Macarthurdist
Macquarie Group
Medibank Private. Medibank Community Fund

Melbourne Water

Microsoft Australia

Motorola Solutions Foundation

N

National Australia Bank
NBN Co Limited

O

Optus - Corporate Office
Origin Energy
Origin Foundation

P

Pinnacle Investment Management
PWC Services Trust

Q

Qantas Airways
QT Hotels and Resorts

R

RACV
REA Group
Reece Group
Rydges Fortitude Valley
Rydges Horizons Snowy Mountains
Rydges Melbourne
Rydges Resort Hunter Valley

S

Salesforce Australia Pty Ltd
SAP Australia
Schneider-Electric
Smartsalary
South East Water Limited
Specsavers

Sugar Australia

Suncorp Group

T

Toyota Finance Australia Limited

Toyota Motor
Corporation Australia

Turosi Giving

U

Unisuper

V

Vicinity Centres

The Victoria Hotel

VIVA Energy Australia

W

Westpac Group

Wilmar Foods

Wilmar Sugar Pty Ltd

Workday

Z

Zoos Victoria

Zurich Foundation



NELSON ALEXANDER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

For well over a decade, the Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation has donated to charities like the RCH Foundation for one very important reason – connection.

Since its inception in 2005, the Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation has worked hard to support causes in their business footprint to create a better future. According to Kerryn Donchi, the organisation’s Foundation Coordinator, their mission is to create a concrete difference in the lives of their neighbours.

“It’s all about supporting and connecting with the community, just as they support us in business,” she shared.

The Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation has donated over \$140,000 to help sick and vulnerable children at the RCH through initiatives like Foundation Day and their small grants programme.

“Foundation Day is our major annual fundraiser where each of our offices donates the proceeds from an auction to a local organisation,” Kerryn explained.

“The RCH Foundation has been a recipient of Foundation Day proceeds over many years. These funds have gone to a variety of different programs and to supporting different wards,” she added.

Kerryn believes that these donations have the potential to foster a sense of connection and commitment. By generously supporting wards that have affected staff within the business, the Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation is letting their team know just how deeply they care for one another.

“When we’ve selected bed sponsorship, we’ve selected beds in wards where we’ve had families impacted, such as the oncology ward. We want to support families and our own families as well when they need to use the facilities at the RCH,” she said.

Aside from oncology, the organisation has generously supported areas across the hospital including neuroscience, endocrinology, mental health and more.



“ ”

WE WANT TO SUPPORT FAMILIES AND OUR OWN FAMILIES AS WELL WHEN THEY NEED TO USE THE FACILITIES AT THE RCH

Kerryn Donchi

Outside of this generosity, the Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation has also volunteered for the RCH – from toy sorting during Christmas to volunteering auctioneers for the RCH’s famous art trail. These efforts have not only enhanced their team’s sense of purpose but also deepened their connection to the cause.

“We love volunteering, and one of our favourite activities is toy sorting at Christmas. This year, we’re coming in to write thank you cards for those who are leaving donations in their Wills,” said Kerryn.

Next year, the Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation will be supporting the Chronic Illness Peer Support group, also known as ChIPS.

“As we’ve tried to diversify our giving, we’ve decided to look at ChIPS’s camping program to help longer-term patients within the hospital system,” Kerryn shared.

The Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation is extremely proud of not just the impact they have made on children and families, but for also being able to foster a sense of connection and purpose throughout their offices.

“When our staff members and their families are at the RCH, they can see touchpoints where Nelson Alexander exists. I think they all have a real sense of commitment and connection to the hospital as well as to the company,” Kerryn emphasised.

AUXILIARIES

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 \$1,502,467 for the 2024 Good Friday Appeal.

A

Absent Friends Auxiliary
American Women's Association
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

F

Footscray and 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

Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club Auxiliary

L

LARCH Auxiliary
League of Former Trainees (LOFT) Auxiliary
Let The Children Play Auxiliary

M

Mish Mish Women's Auxiliary

N

Neonate Mates Auxiliary

P

Pankina Auxiliary
Parkville Auxiliary
President's Fundraising Network

R

RCH Volunteers Auxiliary
Roxburgh Park Auxiliary

S

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

T

Templestowe/Yarra Valley Auxiliary
The Melbourne Sinfonia Auxiliary

V

VivaRCH Auxiliary

W

Wangaratta Auxiliary
Waverley Auxiliary
Werribee Ladies for Kids Auxiliary



Judy Aussems and Amal Daniel-Lolham from Neonate Mates Auxiliary



**LOOKING
FORWARD**



LOOKING FORWARD

The RCH Foundation plays a crucial role in improving children's health and transforming the delivery of healthcare. While government funding supports the core operations of public hospitals, it is philanthropic funds that enable world-class standards.

Child and adolescent healthcare is changing at an unprecedented rate. We are on the threshold of breakthroughs in technology like never before.

We now have the tools and techniques to develop treatments and cures unimaginable a decade ago.

The RCH Foundation is working closely with the hospital to drive innovation and excellence so that the lives of more children are saved at home and around the world. These are some of the new and exciting initiatives we are proud to be supporting.

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WITH RARE DISEASES

Currently, rare diseases are the biggest killer of children in the developed world. At least 1 in 20 Australian children are born with a rare disease, and 95 per cent of the approximately 7,000 known rare diseases do not have an approved therapy. Until recently, Recessive Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa (RDEB) was one of these.

RDEB is a severe, complicated and rare genetic disorder that causes deep layers of skin to blister, shear, and tear at the slightest touch. In 2023, a ground-breaking new topical gel was released, changing the game for RDEB care. This exciting new treatment can grow a child's skin where there was once a permanently open wound, dramatically reducing pain and health challenges.

Unfortunately, this life-changing medication is not yet available in Australia, meaning this significant medical advancement is just out of reach for the hundreds of Australians that live with this painful disease.

The RCH Foundation, in partnership with the RCH and EB Research Partnership, is working to help fast-track the topical gel into Australia, to radically improve the health outcomes for Australian children with RDEB for generations to come.



RCH patient, Jacob, is supported thanks to philanthropic support

LEADING THE WAY IN GENE THERAPY

In an Australian first, the RCH Foundation will support the establishment of an innovative gene therapy centre at the RCH, supporting hundreds of children every year. Staffed around the clock, the centre will provide specialised gene therapy to children with rare and previously incurable conditions including SMA and Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Gene therapy aims to treat diseases by altering the function of faulty genes. This often involves introducing healthy genes into a patient's cells to produce its missing protein. Establishing this centre will help the RCH improve outcomes for children in Victoria and pave the way for innovative care for future generations.



Proton Beam Therapy will support patients like Theodore, who was diagnosed with an ependymoma brain tumour

REVOLUTIONISING RADIATION THERAPY CANCER TREATMENT

Proton Beam Therapy (PBT) treats cancer by delivering a 'burst' of high precision proton energy without impacting healthy tissue, ensuring the best treatment for patients. PBT is especially beneficial for children, adolescents and young adults with cancer, and is widely accepted as both the gold standard and the best radiation treatment for paediatric tumours - especially brain, head and neck solid tumours.

The RCH Foundation and Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation have partnered to establish the delivery of PBT in Australia for the very first time at The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. This cutting-edge equipment will provide an opportunity for the RCH and Peter Mac to lead the way nationally and across the Pacific region in PBT for paediatric and adult patients.

DEVELOPING CAPABILITY IN REGIONAL VICTORIA

The RCH holds a special place in the hearts of generations of Victorians, and that is why we are pleased to extend our support beyond the four walls of the hospital, working to improve the health outcomes of children all over Victoria.

In partnership with the Good Friday Appeal and the Victorian Government, and for the first time in the Appeal's history, funding was distributed in 2024 to paediatric health services outside of the RCH. This new regional funding

is playing a critical role in building the capability and capacity of health services across the state because Parkville is a long way from Peshurst or Paynesville – and every child and family deserve the best possible care.

This funding is a powerful example of how effective partnerships in healthcare can benefit all Victorians, making it easier for families to get the support they need within their local community.



**AT A
GLANCE**





FINANCIALS

EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS

We are proud to share the 2023/2024 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.

2023/2024 REVENUE SNAPSHOT

The total revenue for 2023/2024 was \$69.9 million. Revenue is reported by principal funding source. Finance and investment income includes \$15.2 million in unrealised market movements for the financial year ending 30 June 2024.

GRANTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

During the year \$40 million was approved in funding, including 41 new grants and three variations to existing grants. Total distributions to the RCH of \$61.3 million were made in support of excellence in clinical care and equipment, research, leadership and training. Many of the grants extend over several years and this is reflected in the difference between granting decisions made and total distributions.

ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDRAISING COSTS

Total administration and fundraising expenses were \$9.3 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 existing forward commitments of over \$130.3 million over the next five years and is always planning for how future commitments will be supported. The RCH Foundation's financial corpus provides an important base to support future funding commitments for generations of families to come.

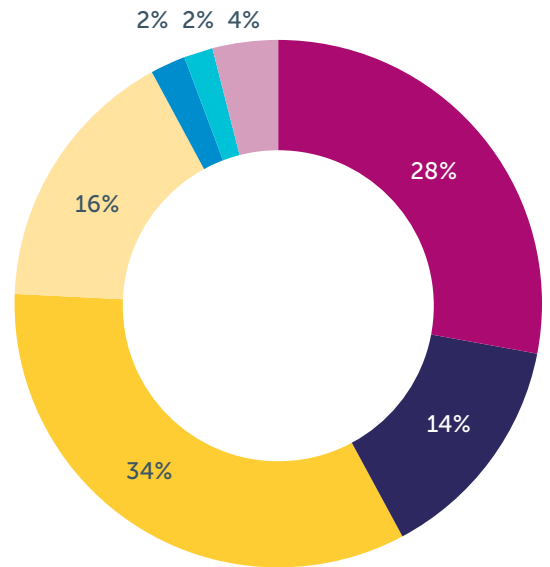
The RCH Foundation is committed to the highest standards of accountability and transparency. We report annually to the ACNC, ASIC and full Annual Financial Statements are available from the RCH Foundation office.

HOW THE FUNDS WERE RAISED

SOURCES OF REVENUE

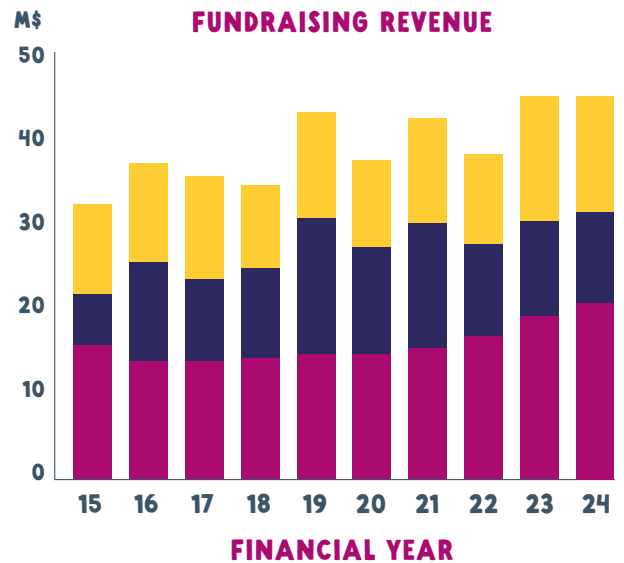
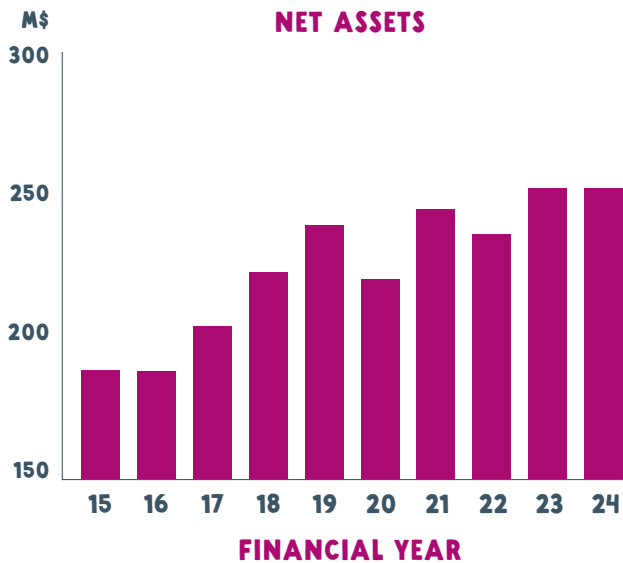
(\\$)

Good Friday Appeal*	19,518,101
Bequest and Estate income	9,983,192
Finance Investment income	23,583,686
General donations	11,324,631
Trusts and Foundations	1,547,103
Rental income	1,216,040
Other	2,823,111
Total	69,995,864



* Good Friday Appeal revenue is net of costs incurred in conducting the Appeal. Total funds raised were \$23,368,724

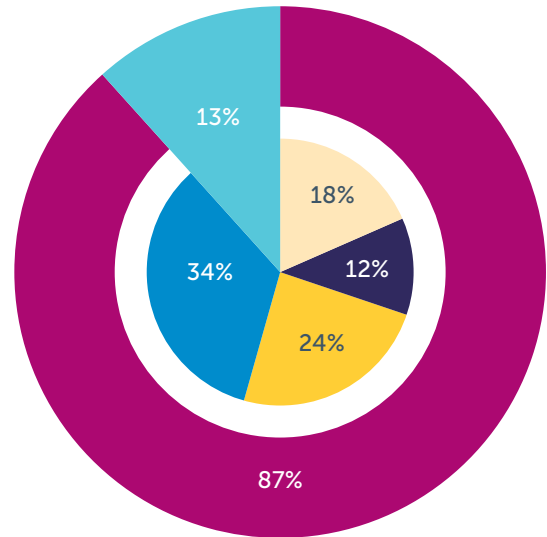
** From 1 March 2023 to 28 February 2024, the RCH Auxiliaries raised \$ 1,502,467 which was included in the Good Friday Appeal total. The balance represents amounts that will contribute to the 2025 Appeal.



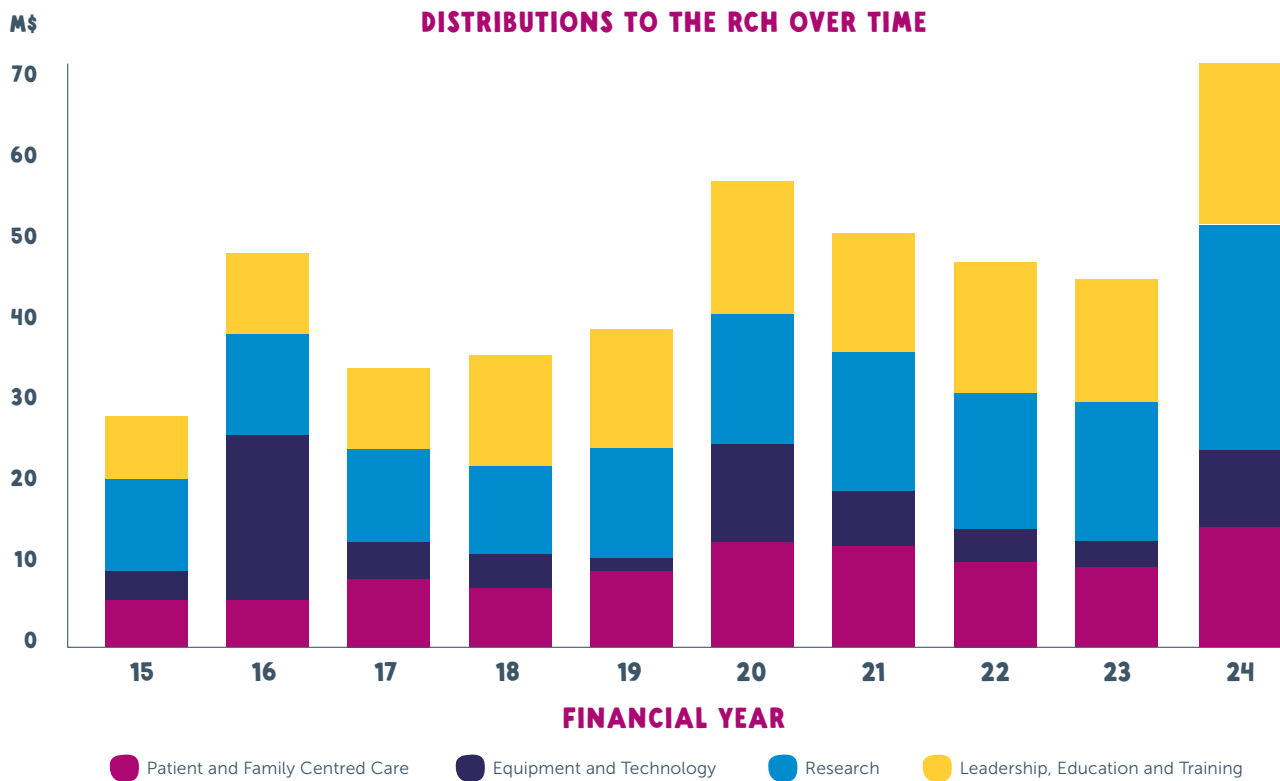
- Good Friday Appeal
- Gifts in Will and Endowments
- Other Fundraising

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

● Distributions to the RCH	\$61,300,166
● Patient and Family Centred Care	\$12,755,880
● Equipment and Technology	\$8,061,896
● Leadership, Education and Training	\$16,886,525
● Research	\$23,595,865
● Administration and fundraising costs	\$9,297,161
Total	\$70,597,326



All donations to the RCH Foundation support four key areas at the hospital, enabling access to life saving 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.



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 grant funding to the hospital for both its short term and long term granting requirements.

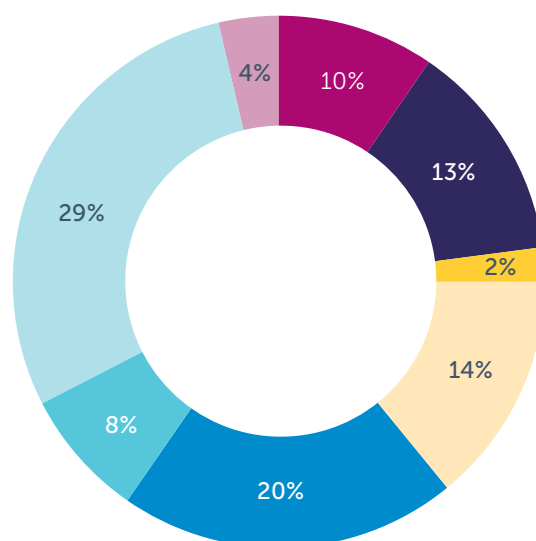
The RCH Foundation has a track record of exceeding its performance objective of a consumer price index (CPI) of greater than four per cent over the long term. The financial year ending 30 June 2024 generated a 10.4 per cent return after fees. During the year, the RCH Foundation took advantage of its Growth Asset Allocation and performance generated from its Australian equity and global equity asset allocations. Fixed interest and bond holdings assisted in stabilising the portfolio when markets were volatile.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

1 YEAR	3 YEARS PA	5 YEARS PA
10.40%	7.40%	10.40%

INVESTMENT ASSET MIX - ACTUAL ASSET ALLOCATION (AAA)

Cash and term deposits	10%	\$23,606,006.14
Specialist credit	13%	\$32,951,934.00
Fixed income	2%	\$5,363,605.00
Australian equities	14%	\$34,419,130.00
International equities	20%	\$50,402,888.00
Infrastructure	8%	\$19,440,974.00
Private equity	29%	\$71,079,810.00
Property	4%	\$9,080,000.00
100%		\$246,344,347.14



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



RICHARD LEDER OAM – CHAIR

Richard Leder OAM is the Head of Commercial Litigation at the law firm Wotton + Kearney. 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.

Richard was appointed Chair of the RCH Foundation in October 2022 having previously held the position of Deputy Chair since 2003. He serves on the Executive, Audit and Risk, Investment, Remuneration and Grants Committees of the Board. He also sits on the RCH1000 committee.

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 of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his contribution to the community, recognising in particular his long contribution to the RCH Foundation.

RCH Foundation Director since 1998 and Chairman since 2022.



DR GILLIAN SPARKES AM – DEPUTY CHAIR

Dr Gillian Sparkes AM has a distinguished 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 senior public service. Gillian held senior roles with both the Australian and Victorian Governments including Deputy Secretary Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, Chair Sustainability Victoria and held the role of Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability – an independent statutory role that reports and advises government and the community on the environment – for a decade, before stepping down in June 2024. Gillian

is currently the ministerial appointed member of the Monash University Council, Chair of FrontierSI (formerly the CRC for Spatial Information), a board member of the Industry Capability Network, Victoria and a Trustee of the Royal Society of Victoria.

Gillian holds a PhD in Applied Science, a Master 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, has an Honorary Doctor of Science from Swinburne University of Technology and is an Honorary Fellow of Monash University. Gillian was recognised as one of the Top 50 Victorian Public Sector Women in 2020 and appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (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 and Deputy Chair since 2022.



ANDREW ANDERSON

Andrew Anderson is the Director of Broadcast Operations at the Seven Network. He followed his passion for television at age 16 beginning a 45 year television career at Channel

7 in Melbourne in 1978. Andrew has worked on Seven's biggest telecasts as a technician, operator, manager, and television executive including the Olympic Games, AFL, Supercars, Horse Racing, the Australian Open Tennis, Seven News and Sunrise.

Starting as a technician, Andrew moved through various operational areas. He became Seven Melbourne's first programming and presentation manager in 1987 which was part of the transformation of the Seven Network from a series of local stations to a network based operation. Andrew also took an active role in the development of the revival of local live comedy and variety television resulting in the hit shows, Fast Forward and Tonight Live.

In 1992 Andrew was promoted to Network Presentation Manager at Sevens' Sydney HQ. He led the transition to full automation introducing operational efficiencies in 1994 across Australia. He

then spent two years as Director of Programming on the OptusVision movie channels for the then start-up of PayTV in Australia.

Andrew returned to Seven in 1998 to helm the technical project design and implementation of the Melbourne Broadcast Centre which transitioned the Seven Network to digital and centralised all channel playout to Melbourne, a first for Australian commercial television. He led the creation of the Martin Place television facility (Brekky Central) and more recently the project to relocate the operations to Eveleigh, the centralisation of Sevens' regional Queensland channel operations to Melbourne, the introduction of multichannel operations in 2010 and the introduction of high definition broadcasting.

In 2019 Andrew was part of the team which formed NPC Media, a joint venture with the Nine network. He managed the project that consolidated all of Seven and Nine channel playout to one facility in Sydney. Andrew is a current Director of NPC Media PTY LTD, he has completed his AICD training and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

RCH Foundation Director since 2023.



PROFESSOR JAMES ANGUS AO

Professor James Angus AO is an Emeritus Professor and Honorary Professorial Fellow in the Doherty Institute and 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, Jack Brockhoff Foundation; Director, RCH Foundation; Chair, Campus Council at RCH; Director, member, Melbourne University Publishing Advisory Board and Chair, Governande Board, Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics .

He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) 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 AM



Peter Blunden AM is the Executive Editor of News Corp Australia. In a career spanning more than 47 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 11 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.



TIFFANY FULLER

Tiffany Fuller is an experienced independent, non-executive director with over 10 years' 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 the boards of Computershare Limited, Washington Soul Pattinson and Company Limited and Australian Venue Co Limited where she is also either Chair or member of a number of Board Sub-Committees, including Audit, Risk and Remuneration.

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 qualified Chartered Accountant and a Graduate of the Institute of Company Directors.

RCH Foundation Director since 2020.



FELICITY GREEN

Felicity is the Co-Founder and Director of for-purpose strategy firm, Ensemble Strategy. She has dedicated her career to helping bold leaders create strategies for

a better world. Springboarding from corporate management consulting at Grant Thornton Australia, Felicity was an early entrant to the for-purpose advisory market, helping to launch Spark Strategy. She has spent the last decade advising clients across the not-for-profit, government and philanthropy sectors, running social impact consulting teams from the helm as Chief Executive Officer.

With an MBA from Peking University, multiple not-for-profit board positions and recognition in the Telstra Business Woman of the Year Awards,

she has a proven track record of innovative strategic thinking that drives tangible impact. With particularly deep experience in gender equity, the arts and philanthropy, Felicity is known for her ability to craft crisp strategic narratives and facilitate powerful partnerships.

An avid public speaker, she's also made guest appearances on leading podcasts and is widely published. Felicity is a key advocate of the B Corp and Shared Value movements and founding member of Women in Impact, the Impact Circle and League of Intrapreneurs.

RCH Foundation Director since 2023.



SAMEER KUMAR

Sammy Kumar is the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Sayers Group. He has over 35 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.



TIFFANY LUCAS

Tiffany has a background in law and not-for-profit management. She is currently a Special Counsel at CIE Legal practicing corporate and commercial law with a

particular focus on mergers and acquisitions and corporate transactions.

Tiffany holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and English (Summa cum laude), a Juris Doctor in Law (Magna cum laude) and a Masters of Bioethics from Monash University. She is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and was a participant in the Victorian Government's Women's Board Leadership Program.

Tiffany is the current President of the RCH Auxiliaries. She also holds several other philanthropic leadership roles including Director and Vice-President of Arts Project Australia (APA) and Chair of the APA Foundation.

She previously served on the Development Board of the RCH's Children's Bioethics Centre, the RCH Clinical Ethics Committee, as a Director and Secretary of Dancehouse Inc, as a Director of the Northern Rivers Performing Arts Centre (NORPA), as a Director and Head of Legal at TEDxMelbourne and was President of the American Women's Association.

RCH Foundation Director since 2022.



WENDY NORRIS

Wendy Norris is the Chief Executive Officer of OneFortyOne, a forestry and wood products company with 500 employees across Australia and New Zealand.

Previously Wendy spent 13 years in the investment team at Future Fund, most recently in the role of Chair of the Investment Committee for the \$250 billion sovereign wealth fund. Prior to this Wendy was Deputy Chief Investment Officer, Private Markets at Future Fund, responsible for leading investment strategy and implementation for the Infrastructure and Timberland, Private Equity and Property asset classes.

Wendy holds an applied science degree from the University of New South Wales, a graduate management diploma from the Australian Graduate School of Management and has completed the Advanced Management Program at INSEAD.

RCH Foundation Director since 2022.



CHRIS PIDCOCK

Chris Pidcock has over 30 years' experience in equity markets and superannuation funds.

He is currently a Consultant to Australian Super on Private

Equity Investments and his previous roles have included Director, Australian Equities at Super Investment Management (SIM), the wholly owned in-house asset manager for the Retail Employees Superannuation Trust (REST), Equity Strategist at Goldman Sachs and Head of International Research at JBWere in New York.

Chris also sits on a number of Investment Committees at not-for-profit organisations, as well as being the Chair of the Province Finance Advisory Committee for the Loreto Sisters in Australia and Southeast Asia.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical, Honors), Graduate Diploma in Accounting, Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance and Investment, and is a Fellow of FINSIA.

RCH Foundation Director since 2024.



RYAN BROWN - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND COMPANY SECRETARY

Ryan Brown is the Chief Executive Officer of the RCH Foundation, a position he was appointed to in 2024. Ryan

joined the organisation in 2017 and in this time has held senior leadership positions including as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Fundraising. He has played a key role in leading strategic philanthropic growth, building strong connections both across campus and with our donor community.

Ryan has over 20 years leadership experience, and has spent the past 12 years in the public health sector, including at the Northern Health Foundation, CARE Australia and Variety, the Children's Charity. He currently holds non-executive board positions with Omeo District Health and Gippsland Primary Health Network.

COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE, AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Dr Gillian Sparkes AM – Chair
Sameer Kumar – Co-Chair
Richard Leder OAM
Professor James Angus AO
Tiffany Fuller
Ryan Brown
Martin Lobb

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Tiffany Fuller – Chair
Richard Leder OAM
Wendy Norris
Chris Pidcock
Peter Yates AM
Ryan Brown
Martin Lobb
Macquarie Private Bank (external advisors)

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Richard Leder OAM – Chair
Dr Gillian Sparkes AM
Professor James Angus AO
Peter Blunden AM
Tiffany Lucas

Bernadette McDonald (non-voting)
Professor Kathryn North AC (non-voting)
Professor Amy Gray (non-voting)
Ryan Brown

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Richard Leder OAM – Chair
Dr Gillian Sparkes AM
Ryan Brown

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Richard Leder OAM – Chair
Dr Gillian Sparkes AM
Peter Blunden AM
Ryan Brown

AUXILIARIES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Penny Fowler AM – Patron
Tiffany Lucas – President
Jan Gilbertson – Vice President
Charlotte Spencer-Roy – Secretary
Robyn Anderson OAM
Jan Crockart
Ruth Murray
Ryan Brown
Martin Lobb – Treasurer ex-officio

STAFF

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Ryan Brown

Chief Executive Officer

Brooke Daly

Director, Strategic Projects

Rachel Thorsen

Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer

Kirsty Meziane

Manager, People and Culture

FUNDRAISING

Laura Buck

Director, Fundraising

Megan Harrington

Manager, Auxiliaries and Fundraising

Lucia Di Maio

Auxiliaries Coordinator

Georgia Gribble

Fundraising Coordinator

Jaxon Edwards

Fundraising Coordinator

Ari Brown

Gratitude Hub Coordinator

Kate Dear

Manager, Corporate Engagement

Ally Pekin

Manager, Philanthropy

Adelaide Kraina

Philanthropy Executive

Philippa Prescott

Philanthropy Executive

Hazel Westbury

Philanthropy Executive

Amanda McCosker

Trusts and Foundations Coordinator

Kathryn Sell

Manager, Gift in Wills

Annalese Fowler

Gift in Wills and Estate Coordinator

Natalie Andrews

Gift in Will Coordinator

Edward Murphy

Manager, Marketing and Supporter Relations

Samantha Townley

Senior Marketing Coordinator

Catherine Donaldson

Database Officer

Thomas Putan

Database Officer

Harminder Kaur

Supporter Relations Officer

COMMUNICATIONS AND GRANTS

Laura Sullivan

Director, Communications and Grants

Maddie Robinson

Manager, Communications

Andrea Selvarajah

Communications Coordinator

Lekhaa Nair

Digital Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Kyrin Edwards

Senior Graphic Designer

Chloe Boulton

Manager, Grants

Catherine Li

Grants Administrator

Coral Robertson

Grants Administrator

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Philip Martins

Chief Financial Officer

Jatin Khimasia

Manager, Finance Projects

Anjalee Herath

Senior Accountant

Vickie Bell

Accountant, Finance

Emma Brown

Office Manager



THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Level 2, 48 Flemington Road
Parkville, VIC Australia 3052

+61 3 9345 5037
rch.foundation@rch.org.au
rchfoundation.org.au

-  facebook.com/therchfoundation
-  twitter.com/rch_foundation
-  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
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
goodfridayappeal.com.au

Photos: Alvin J Aquino - RCH Melbourne and supplied



Fly for the Kids



One doctor, one plane, one mission: Raising \$4.5 million for The Royal Children's Hospital

In July 2025, Associate Professor Andrew Kornberg, a Senior Neurologist at the RCH, will take to the skies in support of sick children across Australia.

Andrew's mission? To help raise \$4.5 million, in partnership with the Live Life Foundation, to establish a dedicated centre for gene therapies at the RCH. This centre will help transform the lives of children with neuromuscular conditions like spinal muscular atrophy, and pave the way for future generations.

"Join me and make a life-changing difference in the lives of sick children across Australia. Let's take to the skies together and create a brighter future!"
- Associate Professor Andrew Kornberg

To learn more about Fly for the Kids, please contact:

Kate Dear

Corporate Engagement Manager and
Fly for the Kids Lead

✉ kate.dear@rch.org.au

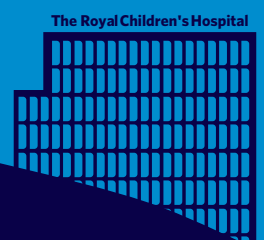
☎ 0466 314 713



The Royal Children's
Hospital Foundation



Live Life
FOUNDATION





**DONATE TODAY AND
SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF
PAEDIATRIC HEALTHCARE**