

WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

Philanthropy Report 2024



ABOUT US

St Vincent's Curran Foundation is the fundraising organisation for St Vincent's Hospitals and Facilities in New South Wales.

The role of the Foundation, from its inception in 1984 to now and beyond, is to support St Vincent's by raising vital philanthropic funds through generous contributions of individuals, community groups and businesses so that St Vincent's can foster excellence and innovation in patient care, clinical education and medical research.

Our Foundation, along with St Vincent's, remains committed to helping all those in need, particularly the poor and vulnerable.

Mission

To raise funds for St Vincent's Hospitals and Facilities dedicated to advancing excellence and innovation in patient care, clinical education and medical research.

Values

The Foundation is guided by the values of compassion, justice, integrity, and excellence.

2023-2024 Trustees

Charles Curran AC (Chair)

Sister Margaret Beirne rsc

Monsignor Tony Doherty AM

James Dwyer AM

Belinda Hutchinson AC

Sandra McPhee AM

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Richard Haddock AO (Chair)

Selwyn Black

Jeremy Byrne

Glen Frost

Maggie Liu

Anna McFadgen

Louise Walsh

Heidi Barclay – resigned 12 January 2024

Richard Ryan – commenced 9 July 2024

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2023-2024 FINANCIAL YEAR

Support of St Vincent's Hospitals



\$33.01 million



\$6.01 million



\$921,319

During the year, total donations, bequests and grants received by St Vincent's Hospitals we support amounted to \$39.94 million. This included \$14.5 million in grants from St Vincent's Curran Foundation and \$7 million in grants from the JW & M Cunningham Foundation.

Foundation Revenue and Grants



\$18.3 million in
new donations, grants
distributed \$14.5 million



\$5 million in
new donations, grants
distributed \$7 million



\$10 million new
founding donation

St Vincent's Curran Foundation received a total of \$18.3 million in donations during 2023-2024. In line with our donors' wishes, some of these funds were specifically allocated to grow the St Vincent's Curran Endowment, some were reserved for future special projects, and others were distributed for designated special projects, all of which are included in the \$39.94 million mentioned above.

St Vincent's Curran Trustee Limited Structure



St Vincent's Curran Trustee Limited administers three Foundations: St Vincent's Curran Foundation, the JW & M Cunningham Foundation, and the Alan & Lynne Rydge Foundation which was established in 2023-2024 with a founding gift of \$10 million. All three Foundations provide philanthropic funds for St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney, Sacred Heart Health Service, St Vincent's Correctional Health Parklea, and St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith.

St Vincent's Curran Foundation is also the fundraising organisation for these hospitals and facilities, co-ordinating philanthropic activity and managing all donor relations and donor care.

WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

In this 40th anniversary year of many St Vincent's milestones, including Fiona Coote's successful heart transplant by Dr Victor Chang AC, we express our deepest gratitude to our supporters for your generosity.

At St Vincent's, philanthropy has been embedded into the fabric of our organisation since its inception, with community support of the vision of the Sisters of Charity enabling the foundation of St Vincent's Hospital Sydney in 1857.

In reflecting on our many achievements enabled by philanthropy, we honour the role that your support has played in ensuring better and fairer healthcare for all. We hope that these stories demonstrate how your contributions support St Vincent's Hospitals to improve the health of our community in Australia and beyond.

In 2023-24, supporters of St Vincent's Hospitals and St Vincent's Curran Foundation contributed \$43.4 million in new donations, bequests and sponsorships.

We are grateful for the generosity of all of our donors, and especially through visionary donations from The Pagent Family Foundation, Burcher Property Group, Andrew and Paula Liveris and the Liveris family, Delta Goodrem Foundation,

Steve Harker AM, Linda Harker and the Harker family, Dick Honan and the Honan family, NELUNE Foundation, Nick Paspaley AC and Mylissa Paspaley, Nick Politis AM and the Politis family, Peter and Rae Fletcher, The Bluesand Foundation, the late Laurie Sutton AM and the Sutton family.

We reiterate our gratitude to Ian and Maryanne Pagent and the Pagent family for their visionary support enabling the establishment of the Pagent Family Director of Heart and Lung Clinical Research, and we welcome A/Prof Clare Arnott to this new role.

This year, we are also pleased to welcome General Sir Peter John Cosgrove AK, CVO, MC (Ret'd) as an Honorary Life Member of the Foundation, in recognition of his service to St Vincent's, the Foundation, and to our wider community.

Richard Haddock AO
and Shanthini Naidoo



St Vincent's Curran Endowment Fund

The St Vincent's Curran Endowment, established in 1984 by Paul and Elizabeth Curran, was valued at more than \$45 million as of 30 June 2024.

Endowment Grants of \$1.5 million were distributed supporting key patient care, research and equipment needs as identified by frontline nurses, doctors, and allied health workers.

We are grateful to Steve Harker AM and Linda Harker and the Harker family for establishing the Harker Lungs for Health Program, with an endowed gift of \$1 million.

Additionally, the Fletcher family's named Endowment Programme, dedicated to supporting hospital needs, has grown to \$1.6 million.

JW & M Cunningham Foundation

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to founders John Cunningham AM SCM and Margaret Cunningham AM for their ongoing generous contributions. Together with investment growth, these efforts have helped the JW & M Cunningham Foundation reach a total value of \$78.3 million as of 30 June 2024.

The JW & M Cunningham Foundation again distributed \$7 million in special project grants supporting key priorities of St Vincent's Hospitals in Darlinghurst.

The Cunningham Fellows Program continued to provide an important pathway for the development of clinician researchers and specialists. (A detailed Cunningham Foundation report is included on pages 10-17.)

Alan & Lynne Rydge Foundation

Our special thanks to Alan Rydge AM and Lynne Rydge for their commitment to establishing the new Alan & Lynne Rydge Foundation with a founding gift of \$10 million.

This new Foundation builds on a long connection between the Rydge family, the Sisters of Charity, and St Vincent's. The Foundation will focus on supporting innovation and technology projects to ensure that St Vincent's Hospitals have access to the most advanced medical technology and equipment into the future.

Wholehearted thanks

We are extremely appreciative of the ongoing leadership of our Chairman of Trustees, Charles Curran AC, whose commitment and focus continues to inspire us all.

We warmly welcome Richard Ryan, CEO of St Vincent's Private Hospitals NSW. We are grateful to Hospital CEOs Anna McFadgen and Richard Ryan, as well as their frontline teams, for their ongoing efforts to ensure compassionate care for our community and patients.

Our sincere thanks to St Vincent's Curran Trustee Members, Board Members, and the Foundation team for your continued efforts to grow the impact of philanthropy at St Vincent's.

As stewards of your contributions and support, St Vincent's Curran Foundation wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors. Thank you.

Richard Haddock AO
Chairman of the Board
St Vincent's Curran Trustee Ltd

Shanthini Naidoo
CEO and Company Secretary
St Vincent's Curran Trustee Ltd

ST VINCENT'S HOSPITALS

Across St Vincent's nationally, our shared vision is to create a health system that serves every person with excellent and compassionate care, regardless of who they are or where they come from. Our key priorities are to connect care, transform the system, and enhance our impact. The unwavering support of our philanthropic partners is at the heart of advancing these initiatives.

Providing healthcare for people living on the margins was the calling of the Sisters of Charity that remains with us today, stronger than ever. Over the past decade, independent of governments, St Vincent's has invested in almost 260 projects focussed on research, service innovation, and advocacy for disadvantaged individuals, made possible by the foresight and generosity of our philanthropic supporters.

Transforming the system

This past year, St Vincent's Health Campus Sydney has launched several initiatives to future-proof our health services and continue our 165 plus year legacy of exceptional care to our communities.

Reflecting our historic expertise in homeless health in partnership with the University of Sydney, the City of Sydney, and others, St Vincent's trialed the city's first ever pop-up cooling hub, offering respite from the heat for people experiencing social disadvantage. Located in a central park, the hub provided shelter cooling fans, spray mists, water, and a place to rest or sleep. Recognising the physical risks of oppressive and relentless heat, health checks and ongoing medical observation were also available.

Another example of our commitment to health equity is the establishment of an Outreach Heart Failure Diagnostic Clinic by St Vincent's Hospital Sydney and St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith, in partnership with the Murrumbidgee Local Health District and the Aboriginal Medical Service. This service provides early screening and diagnosis for First Nations patients at risk of heart conditions.

Supported by local GPs, the clinic travels around the NSW Riverina region monthly, delivering specialised cardiac care and reducing the stress, time and costs of travelling to Sydney for rural patients.

With support from St Vincent's Curran Foundation, the clinic uses advanced cloud-based echocardiography imaging systems, allowing the team to review ultrasound images in real-time from any location, significantly enhancing telehealth capabilities.

Similarly, the Regional Diabetes Education Access and Management Program (DREAM) provides NSW Riverina communities with access to multidisciplinary diabetes specialists from St Vincent's Sydney, through face-to-face and telehealth interactions.

In partnership with rural Primary Health Networks, the St Vincent's team visits a different regional or remote community in rural NSW each month, assisting local clinicians in delivering specialised care to patients with complex needs through training for GPs and nurses. Patients then receive follow-up telehealth care from the St Vincent's team in Sydney. This important program was made possible by a generous bequest from the late Yoshiko Wright and a grant from the Fletcher Family Endowment.

Strengthening our care

Additionally, a collaboration between the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and St Vincent's Private Hospital's Urology Department has established the largest prostate cancer tissue bank and database in the southern hemisphere. With samples from over 20,000 patients, the biobank enables national and international researchers to explore breakthrough tumour markers and gain new insights into prostate cancer.

Philanthropic support enabled St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney to acquire a leading-edge Hana operating table, essential for advanced orthopaedic procedures like hip arthroscopy and fracture repairs, delivering outstanding results.

St Vincent's Private recently installed the latest Zeiss OPMI Lumera 700 Ophthalmic operating microscope, one of the most advanced surgical operating microscopes in the world supporting improved surgical outcomes for patients undergoing eye surgery.

To strengthen St Vincent's position as a Centre of Excellence in heart and lung transplants and treatments, we commissioned the redevelopment of the Heart Lung outpatient clinic. This facility enhances service delivery by increasing capacity and providing a more contemporary, purpose-built environment.

We also appointed A/Prof Clare Arnott as the inaugural Pagent Family Director of Clinical Research for the Heart Lung Stream. A/Prof Arnott will accelerate advancements in clinical trials research, focussing on mechanical heart, minimally invasive valve trials, organ perfusion, and transplant and cardiac imaging.

A/Prof Arnott's appointment, made possible by a visionary gift from the Pagent family, will empower the Heart Lung team to continue to lead clinical innovations in heart and lung health.

Several projects are already underway, including an international trial on cold storage preservation for donor lungs - the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific. We have also developed a shared care model to establish a second Australian paediatric heart transplant unit in NSW. Later this year, we will perform Australia's first total artificial heart implant, becoming only the second site worldwide to conduct this incredible life-saving cardiac intervention.



Dr Chua and theatre nurses with ophthalmic operating microscope

Connecting care

St Vincent's Interventional Cardiology Service provides integrated care for both public and private hospital patients, allowing us to optimise service delivery and to create operational efficiencies across our co-located hospitals.

Of the service's four laboratories, three needed immediate upgrades to ensure optimal facilities for our leading cardiology team. The JW & M Cunningham Foundation, Sutton family and other generous donors supported Phase 1 of this project in 2023 elevating infection control, patient safety, and outcomes, while enriching our translational heart research program.

By working closely together, we have achieved further operational efficiencies across our campus, including exceeding our elective surgery targets. In response to a significant backlog resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, we launched the Elective Surgery Recovery Program with the ambitious goal of reducing the number of patients waiting beyond appropriate timelines to zero, by 31 December 2023.

By expanding surgery hours and collaborating across campus for post-operative care, St Vincent's achieved its target of zero overdue surgeries before deadline, making it one of only three hospitals in NSW to achieve this.

Similarly, St Vincent's Sydney's Emergency Department maintained its improved performance in its 'transfer of care' times, consistently exceeding NSW benchmarks. This resulted in the hospital returning more than 1,500 hours of ambulance time to the system between November 2023 and March 2024.

Both St Vincent's Sydney public and private hospitals underwent Short Notice Assessments as part of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards this year. After a thorough four-day review, the auditors awarded St Vincent's Health Network Sydney full accreditation with no recommendations and a rare 3/3 ACSQHC maturity rating. Similarly, St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney also achieved full accreditation with no recommendations.

It was particularly gratifying to hear assessors highlight the extent to which they observed our mission and values in action, the teamwork in our patient safety and improvement efforts, and the level of dedication and commitment our staff demonstrates in delivering the best outcomes and experiences for patients and clients.

Richard Ryan, CEO
St Vincent's Private Hospitals NSW



Anna McFadgen, CEO
St Vincent's Health Network Sydney



Enriching our impact

Nursing excellence and education remain a key focus at St Vincent's. Extensive transition, continuing education, and postgraduate programs are all available to our nursing workforce across our campus, including in heart lung transplantation, perioperative nursing, intensive care nursing, anaesthetic and recovery nursing, interventional cardiology, and correctional health nursing.

Earlier this year, we celebrated International Nurses Day with St Vincent's ambassador, Delta Goodrem AM, who announced the Delta Goodrem Foundation's Angels and Heroes Nurse Recognition Program to honour our nurses' outstanding contributions. We are grateful for Delta's ongoing support through her Foundation, and for hosting the Delta Goodrem Foundation Gala Dinner that raised over \$1.1 million for ongoing St Vincent's Nursing Excellence and Cellular Therapies programs.

This financial year, we also provided a range of scholarships and short courses for nursing education in the Private Hospital, thanks to the Nan Kearins Bequest.

Finally, 1984 was a momentous year of innovations and firsts for St Vincent's, and this year we celebrated a number of significant 40th anniversary milestones.

We marked the 40th anniversary of Australia's youngest successful heart transplant, performed by Dr Victor Chang AC here at St Vincent's on 14-year-old Fiona Coote AM, at a gala event attended by Prime Minister the Honourable Anthony Albanese. To mark the occasion, St Vincent's announced it would host Australia's first St Vincent's National Heart Health Summit in 2025 and establish St Vincent's National Heart Health Alliance to improve heart health across Australia.

Many of the projects and initiatives from the past year were showcased in the groundbreaking SBS television docuseries, *The Hospital: In the Deep End*, featuring food author Melissa Leong, actor Samuel Johnson, and TV host Costa Georgiadis. The series received high ratings on SBS, boosting our hospitals' reputation and resulting in the confirmation of a second series for production in 2025.

This past year, our hospitals remained dedicated to enhancing expertise and innovation, expanding our reach and reputation, and improving health access for those who need it most.

Your belief in our mission, and commitment to social and health equity, empower us to provide better, fairer care for all.

Together, we are making a life-changing impact on individuals across Australia.

Anna McFadgen
CEO St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

Richard Ryan
CEO St Vincent's Private Hospitals NSW



Anna McFadgen and Delta Goodrem AM

JW & M CUNNINGHAM FOUNDATION

In its first five years, the JW & M Cunningham Foundation has grown in both its value and the maturity of its giving.

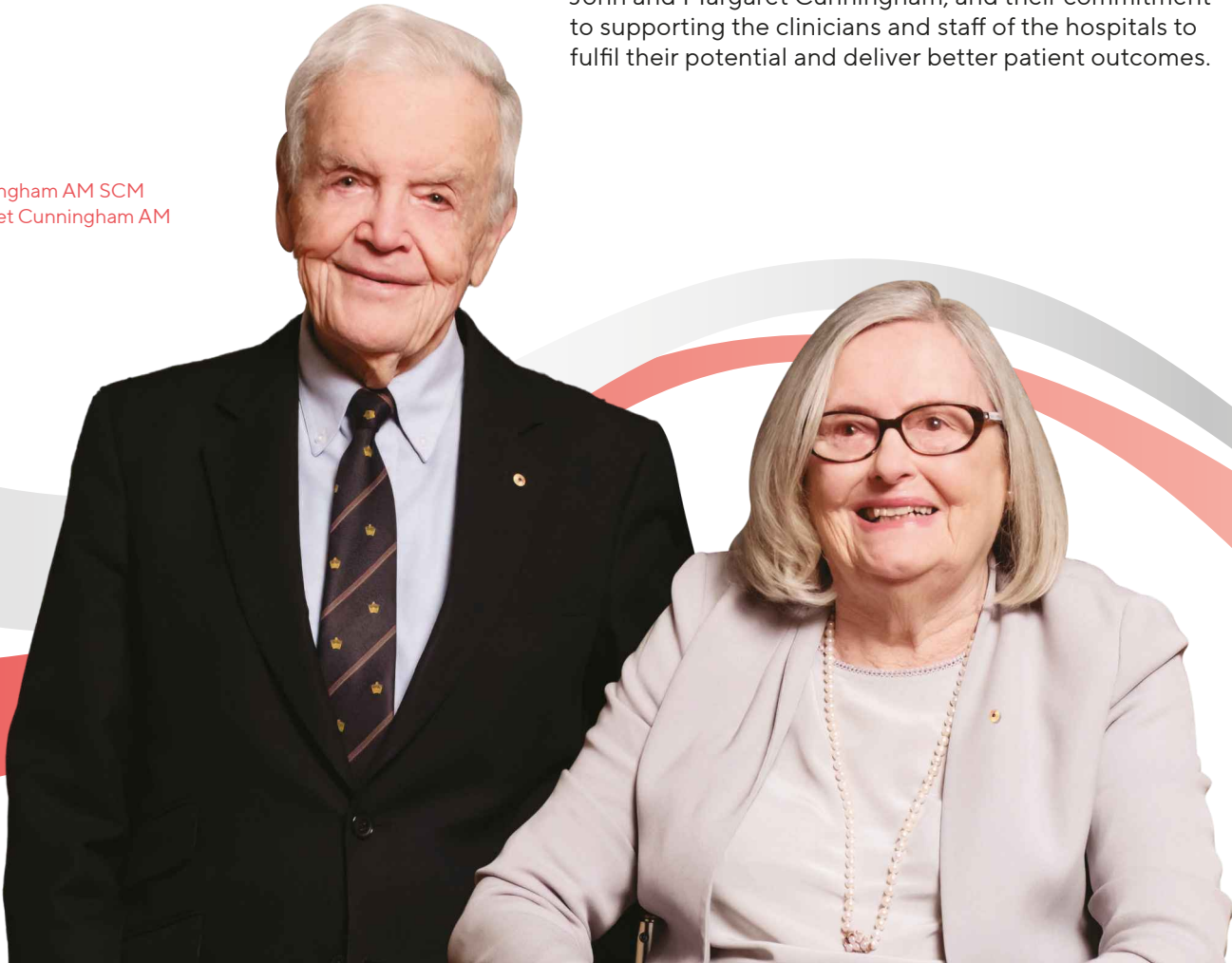
In 2019, John Cunningham AM SCM and Margaret Cunningham AM donated \$10 million to establish the JW & M Cunningham Foundation, a private ancillary fund with St Vincent’s Curran Trustee Ltd as the trustee. Additional contributions from the founders and favourable investment growth means the Foundation, now valued at \$78.3 million, can provide an extraordinary level of perpetual support for St Vincent’s Hospitals in NSW. In 2023-2024, the Foundation distributed more than \$ 7 million in investment earnings to expand the Cunningham Fellows Program and to support hospital priority projects, research and equipment.

Fulfilling John and Margaret Cunningham’s vision and commitment, the Foundation’s impact has grown significantly since its establishment enabling St Vincent’s Hospitals to achieve remarkable clinician development and patient care outcomes.

2023 – 2024 JW & M Cunningham Foundation Grants overview

The grant making strategy of the JW & M Cunningham Foundation focuses on hospital priorities and on critical projects where it can have meaningful impact. The strategy is underpinned by the vision of the founders, John and Margaret Cunningham, and their commitment to supporting the clinicians and staff of the hospitals to fulfil their potential and deliver better patient outcomes.

John Cunningham AM SCM
and Margaret Cunningham AM



PROJECT TITLE	GRANT AMOUNT	LEAD CLINICIAN
St Vincent’s Private Hospital Sydney Operating Theatre 5 redevelopment	\$1,000,000	Matthew Wall
Interventional cardiology suites	\$1,650,000	Prof David Muller, Dr David Roy
The Margaret Cunningham Nursing Leadership Academy	\$200,000 of \$1,000,000 multi-year commitment	Elizabeth Roberts
Patient Access Fund for MRgFUS Clinical Trial	\$300,000	A/Prof Stephen Tisch
Extension of the Theranostics Clinical Trials Governance Manager	\$112,827	Prof Louise Emmett
New Thoracic Medicine Trials Coordinator	\$163,609	Prof Anthony Byrne
New Outreach Geriatrician with St Luke’s Lulworth	\$187,431	Prof Sandy Beveridge
Gem Hemochron Monitoring System	\$64,975	Dr Michelle Moyle
Sentinel Node Probe Navigation System	\$110,200	Dr Michelle Moyle
Sonosite LX Ultrasound	\$100,000	Dr Michelle Moyle
Patient transport upgrades - Wheelchair upgrades (x30) - Powered wheelchairs (x4)	\$185,365	Bob Morris
Electric ambulance for wheelchair patients	\$200,000	Bob Morris
Statsensor Creatinine Meter	\$10,006	Prof Louise Emmett
Voice equipment upgrade	\$84,675	A/Prof Nigel Biggs
Liposuction equipment	\$83,000	Matthew Wall/Dr Davendra Segara/Dr Anthony Chambers

2024 Project Grants

Growing the AAA St Vincent's Clinical Exchange Program

In 2023, St Vincent's Hospital and the American Australian Association (AAA) established a two-way clinical exchange program between St Vincent's and leading US healthcare and research institutes.

The new JW & M Cunningham Foundation exchange in interventional cardiology will boost the Hospital's international reputation as a Centre of Excellence for cardiac medicine through alignment with other world-leading programs. Administered by the AAA under established parameters, the fellowship will fund the exchange of two clinical fellows each year for three consecutive years.

Operations and clinical trials

Margaret Cunningham Nursing Leadership Academy

In 2021, Margaret Cunningham AM announced the Foundation's support of \$1 million over five years to establish the Margaret Cunningham Nursing Leadership Academy.

The Margaret Cunningham Nursing Leadership Academy continued to thrive, supporting 59 nurses to undertake leadership and management training.

The Academy develops the knowledge and skills of nurses, allowing them to create strategies that translate new knowledge into best-practice clinical skills at the point of care.

In 2023-2024 this grant made possible:

- Four intensive coaching courses held for current and future nursing leaders
- Five senior nursing leaders received specialised individual leadership coaching
- Two nurses were supported to attend International Practice Development School
- A cohort of nurses were selected to attend conferences, for example:
 - Australian College of Nurse Practitioners Annual Conference
 - What's Right in Health Care Conference
 - Australian Delirium Association biennial Delirium Clinical and Research Days
 - National Health Workforce Summit
- 48 nursing leaders were supported to attend a 2-day Nursing Leadership course
- Development and implementation of a St Vincent's Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) Framework
- International Nurses Day 2024 celebrations, with presentation of Nursing Excellence and Leadership Awards

"In the short time I have been the Cunningham Fellow in Prostate Cancer, the clinical experience I have gained has been invaluable. At The Kinghorn Cancer Centre, I gain a wide exposure to not only prostate cancer but other tumour types including bladder, renal and testicular."

Dr Samantha Shekar

MRgFUS Patient Access Fund

In 2022, the Cunningham Foundation supported A/Prof Stephen Tisch's groundbreaking work using MRI-guided Focused Ultrasound (MRgFUS) to treat patients with focal hand dystonia. This support made treatment possible for 10 patients who could not otherwise afford it, as it is not yet covered under Medicare.

The results of the trial were published in *BMJ Neurology Open*, and the ABC's *7.30 Report* covered the successful treatment of professional violinist, Ella Laskova. By maintaining this funding, the JW & M Cunningham Foundation is supporting the trial's expansion to support an additional 10 patients in 2024-2025.

Thoracic Medicine Clinical Trials Coordinator

Our current clinical trial is exploring under-dosage of antibiotic medication in the treatment of lung infections specifically focussing on several drugs used in non-tuberculosis mycobacterial infections. Although patients typically take these drugs for one year, their dosage is not routinely examined during their course of treatment. These clinical trials will assist our thoracic clinicians to better understand and improve outcomes for patients affected by often debilitating lung infections.

The Clinical Trials Coordinator, supervised by Prof Anthony Byrne, will analyse these drugs to understand the effects of inaccurate dosing and whether outcomes are improved by increasing drug dosage.

Cunningham Outreach Geriatrician

Upholding the St Vincent's mission, the hospital provides a geriatric outreach service into residential aged care facilities and community settings, including St Luke's at Lulworth House. The new role of Outreach Geriatrics Fellow aims to review all elderly patients in these settings within one to two weeks of their discharge from St Vincent's, helping to reduce hospital transfers and re-admissions to the St Vincent's Emergency Department. This dedicated Outreach Geriatrician role will improve the patient journey and support healthy ageing by bridging the gap between acute care in hospitals and subacute care in residential facilities.

Capital works

Critical upgrades for Interventional Cardiology suites

The Interventional Cardiology Unit at St Vincent's Hospital is a central pillar of the St Vincent's Heart Lung Program. Led by Prof David Muller, the team provides transformative cardiac treatments, including valve replacements or repairs, closure of heart defects, and artery widening using stents.

This unit serves both public and private patients, ensuring the delivery of top-tier care through a dedicated specialist team while enhancing operational efficiencies. A total grant of \$2.5 million from the JW & M Cunningham Foundation made over two years is helping to fund the redevelopment of three new interventional cardiology labs, a vital infrastructure project that will support the ongoing expansion of this essential service.

The service's successful operation across our two hospitals also demonstrates how the operational gains from co-locating facilities can benefit patients through efficient care delivery.

St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney operating theatres redevelopment

The JW & M Cunningham Foundation's contribution of \$1 million this year, along with \$2 million in 2022 -2023, will allow the hospital to progress upgrades to theatres 5, 6, and 7, with the design phase for theatre 5 nearing completion. This redevelopment will help to alleviate the pressure on existing theatres by providing additional capacity and ensuring the Private Hospital is able to meet the needs of current and future patients.

Priority equipment

Surgical equipment upgrades

The JW & M Cunningham Foundation's philanthropy this year has translated into practical benefits for surgical patients.

Ensuring that the most advanced equipment is available for our surgical teams across St Vincent's Public and Private Hospitals helps them achieve better outcomes for patients undergoing surgery. The JW& M Cunningham Foundation supported the procurement of the following key items through grants in 2023-2024:

- A new four-machine Hemochron monitoring system will monitor patients' anticoagulation levels during cardiac and vascular surgery.
- New portable ultrasound machines have replaced the current and ageing units in the operating theatres.
- A new sentinel node biopsy system is enabling more accurate assessment of the lymph nodes in patients with breast cancer, which means less invasive surgery and faster recovery times.
- A new, in-department portable creatine meter can help surgical teams to test the levels of creatine and get results within 30 seconds instead of the 2.5 hours wait for blood sample test results.
- Liposuction equipment for breast cancer surgery patients – this updated technology allows surgeons to improve body shape and deficits caused by cancer surgery.

Patient transport upgrades

The St Vincent's Patient Transport Department provides valued services to support the smooth operation of the hospitals and the care of our patients. This year, the JW & M Cunningham Foundation supported the Transport Department to purchase:

Electric ambulance vehicle

The Electric Ambulance Vehicle donated to St Vincent's Hospital Sydney transfers patients to and from the hospital more comfortably. This new vehicle provides fit-for-purpose medical equipment and also significantly improves accessibility for wheelchair-bound patients. The custom hoist design ensures patient comfort and a positive experience, while reducing risks associated with manual lifting for patient transport officers when loading patients for their journeys.

Wheelchair upgrades

Four new electric wheelchairs enable safer and more comfortable patient transfers on uneven terrain when moving between different buildings on campus, and 30 new ward wheelchairs address the need for wheelchairs in the hospital.

Voice Clinic equipment upgrades

The St Vincent's Voice Clinic, one of the oldest in Australia, provides an assessment and rehabilitation service for a wide range of patients with voice problems. These patients may have suffered a stroke or experienced neurologic disorders or voice issues after cardiac or thoracic surgery. Led by Dr Georgina Harris and supervised by Prof Nigel Biggs, the grant will enable the purchase of a new stroboscope, to assess vocal cord vibration, and a laryngoscope with a HD video unit for improved visualisation of the larynx.

Dr Samantha Shekar,
2024 Cunningham Fellow
in Prostate Cancer



2023 Cunningham Fellowships

Fellow in Theranostics – Dr Aron Poole

This year, the JW & M Cunningham Foundation generously supported a key new fellowship for Theranostics/PET, which combines therapy and diagnostics to identify patients most likely to benefit from certain targeted treatments. Theranostics uses radiotracers – compounds made of radiation and chemicals that selectively bind to a specific target in the body, to diagnose and treat cancers.

Dr Aron Poole was appointed as the new Theranostics Clinical Trials Manager, supervised by Prof Louise Emmett, Director of Theranostics and Nuclear Imaging. The role will involve producing comprehensive and robust studies in collaboration with pharmaceutical companies, working with internal and external stakeholders and collecting data.

By taking part in a study, patients not only enable research to be translated into clinical practice, but also access the latest treatment and receive closer monitoring than non-study patients.

Fellow in Prostate Cancer – Dr Samantha Shekar

Supporting the delivery of the new model of care for Men's Health and working closely with the urology and oncology teams at St Vincent's, Dr Shekar's role supports the review of patients in all the Genitourinary (GU) clinics at The Kinghorn Cancer Centre. This covers a range of tumour types including prostate, bladder, renal and testicular cancer.

Dr Elizabeth Driscoll,
Dr Rachel Dear
and Dr Catrina Bines

Fellow in Breast Cancer – Dr Catrina Bines

Supervised by Dr Rachel Dear, Dr Bines coordinates regular activities such as breast cancer multidisciplinary clinics, regular oncology teaching, breast cancer trials meetings, and site initiation visits for opening of new trials in relation to breast cancer. Her work means that breast cancer patients can receive compassionate and the latest clinical care management.

Fellow in Orthopaedics Research Dr Marie March

The Orthopaedic Research Fellow is responsible for supporting the collaborative effort to build a multidisciplinary clinical research infrastructure at St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney. This role involves delivering select research reports and enhancing patient care in collaboration with A/Prof Sean Mungovan and A/Prof Nick Vertzyas.

Dr Marie March completed two research projects with medical students from the University of Notre Dame, enhancing their training. Her findings have been presented at an Australian Orthopaedic Association conference and St Vincent's Health Innovation Precinct Research Week, and she will present at the WCPT Congress in Japan in 2025.

Fellow in Interventional Cardiology Dr Stephanie Wiltshire

The Interventional Cardiology Fellowship program offered by St Vincent's Hospital is highly regarded for its comprehensive training of early career cardiologists seeking to acquire the necessary skills to become highly proficient interventional cardiologists.

Fellow in Interventional Cardiology Fellow Dr Hannah Kempton

In the Second year as an Interventional Cardiology Fellow, Dr Kempton has been specifically working on the TAVI - Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implementation program. These procedures help to repair damaged aortic valves.

Fellow in Emergency Department Psychiatry Dr Jemma Cho

The Emergency Department Psychiatry Fellow is involved in key projects that explore Borderline Personality Disorder, Complex Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, and drug-induced psychosis, to understand patients who present with these acute symptoms and can best treated in emergency medicine.

Dr Cho says, "As a Cunningham Fellow, I am currently involved in two projects, each with the aim of answering unanswered questions about Borderline Personality Disorder, complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and drug-induced psychosis."

Fellow in Youth Psychiatry Uspace Dr Tristan Cox and Dr Julian Kelman

Dr Cox and Dr Julian Kelman work in Australia's first private mental health service targeted to the needs of young adults aged 16 to 26. Uspace promotes the recovery and psychological wellbeing of young adults with severe and emerging mental health problems, extending beyond psychiatric consultations and psychological group therapy. The program delivers person-centred care and pioneering interventions in a safe, therapeutic and engaging environment specifically designed by award-winning architects and interior designers.

Fellow in Movement Disorders Dr Isabelle Osborne

The Movement Disorders Fellowship is focused on movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease, tremor, dystonia, and Fragile X syndrome. Patients with these conditions are benefiting from Dr Isabelle Osborne's work through enhanced diagnosis precision, tailored treatment plans, and advanced interventions.

The Cunningham Movement Disorders Fellow is assigned to the Fragile X mutation carrier (FXTAS) clinic to assess all new patients and the Neurogenetics Clinic and the Clinical Genomics Unit. The highlight of 2024 is our first two FXTAS patients treated with deep brain stimulation and MRgFUS thalamotomy for tremor, the results of which we expect to be published scientifically.

"My time as the Cunningham Fellow in Movement Disorders has enriched my development as an early career neurologist. My regular activities include several subspecialised clinics and a multidisciplinary neurogenetics clinic, which has allowed me to refine my clinical skills in this area. I also participate weekly in a busy Botulinum toxin therapy clinic, gaining invaluable experience in highly specialised injecting techniques."

Dr Isabelle Osborne

Cunningham Fellows Program Honour Roll 2013-2024

YEAR	FELLOW	CLINICAL AREA	SUPERVISING CLINICIAN
2013	Dr Lyn Chiem	Inaugural Uspace Registrar Fellow, Mental Health	Prof Elizabeth Scott, Director Uspace
2014	Dr Richard Baker	Uspace Registrar Fellow	Prof Elizabeth Scott, Director Uspace
2015	Dr Pal Gupta Dr Aaron Berger	Uspace Registrar Fellows	Prof Elizabeth Scott, Director Uspace
2016	Dr Candice Jenson Dr Nicole Burston	Uspace Registrar Fellows	Prof Elizabeth Scott, Director Uspace
2017	Dr Nathan Jacobs Dr Sonali Pandey	Uspace Registrar Fellows	Prof Elizabeth Scott, Director Uspace
2017-2018	Dr Sam Bolitho	Fellow in Inaugural Movement Disorders	A/Prof Stephen Tisch, Head of Neurology
2018	Dr Cate McHugh	Uspace Registrar Fellow	Prof Elizabeth Scott, Director Uspace
2019	Dr Anne Geisser	Uspace Registrar Fellow	Prof Elizabeth Scott, Director Uspace
2020	Dr Dori Rakusin Dr Karina Karel	Uspace Registrar Fellows	Prof Elizabeth Scott, Director Uspace
2021	Dr Ben Allard Dr Tessa Neilson	Uspace Registrar Fellows	Dr Gary Galambos, Director Uspace
2021	Louise Lynagh	Fellow in Cancer Genetic Counselling	Prof Allan Spiegelman, Director Cancer Genetics Unit
2021	Dr Shikha Agrawal Dr Aron Poole	Fellows in Theranostics Clinical Trials	Prof Louise Emmett, Director of Theranostics and Nuclear Imaging
2021-2024	Dr Kathleen Batty Dr Elizabeth Driscoll Dr Cat Bines	Fellow in Breast Cancer Extension Fellows	Dr Rachel Dear, Staff Specialist Oncology
2021-2024	Dr Tarcisio de Campos	Fellow in Orthopaedic Clinical Research, St Vincent’s Private Hospital Fellow	Dr Nick Vertzyas and A/Prof Sean Mungovan
2021-2024	Dr Timothy Lukins	Fellow in Neurosurgery	Dr Mark Winder, Head of Neurosurgery
2021	Dr James Peters	Fellow in Movement Disorders, St Vincent’s Private Hospital	A/Prof Stephen Tisch, Head of Neurology
2022	Dr Joel Rabindran	Fellow in Upper Gastro-Intestinal Surgery	Dr Douglas Fenton-Lee, Upper GI Surgeon
2022-2023	Dr Hannah Kempton	Fellow in Interventional Cardiology (TAVI Program)	Dr David Roy, Cardiologist

YEAR	FELLOW	CLINICAL AREA	SUPERVISING CLINICIAN
2022	Dr Cameron Grover	Fellow in Mental Health Emergency Department	Dr Lyn Chiem, Clinical Director Mental Health
2022	Kate Rowley	Fellow in Mental Health Nursing Educator	A/Prof Anna Thornton, Executive Director of Nursing SVHNS
2021	Dr Belinda Pan Dr Sarah Cohn	Uspace Registrar Fellows	A/Prof Gary Galambos, Director Uspace
2023	TBA	Fellow in Clinical Research Unit for Anxiety and Depression	Dr Mike Millard and Dr Lyn Chiem
2023	Dr Samantha Shekar	Fellow in Prostate Cancer	Dr Megan Crumbaker, Staff Specialist Oncology
2023-2024	Dr Joel Maamary	AAA St Vincent’s Hospital Sydney Clinical Exchange Program – Cunningham Exchange Fellow in Movement Disorders Extension Fellow	A/Prof Stephen Tisch and Dr James Peters
2023	Dr Usuma Mohamed	Fellow in Long COVID Rehabilitation Fellow	Prof Steven Faux, Rehabilitation and Pain Physician Prof Anthony Byrne, Senior Staff Specialist Thoracic Physician
2023-2024	Dr Tristan Cox	Uspace Registrar Fellow	A/Prof Gary Galambos, Director Uspace
2023-2024	Dr Yvonne Nguyen Dr Jemma Cho	Fellow in Mental Health Emergency Department	Dr Jackie Huber and Dr Lyn Chiem
2024	Dr Shikha Agrawal	Fellow in Theranostics	Prof Louise Emmett Director of Theraistics and Nuclear Medicine
2024	Dr Stephanie Wiltshire	Fellow in Interventional Cardiology	Prof David Muller/ A/Prof Andrew Roy and Dr David Roy
2024	Dr Cat Bines Dr Elizabeth Driscoll	Extension Fellow in Oncology Clinical Research Program	Dr Rachel Dear
2024	TBA	Fellow in Neurosurgery	Dr Mark Winder
2024	Elena Bartos	Fellow in Orthopaedics Rehab	A/Prof Sean Mungovan, Director of Allied Health Services
2024	Dr Isabelle Osborne	Fellow in Movement Disorders	A/Prof Stephen Tisch

ALAN & LYNNE RYDGE FOUNDATION

Visionary philanthropy

Alan Rydge AM and Lynne Rydge have generously supported St Vincent's for over 10 years. Their generosity has included long-standing support of the SIRENS group's fundraising for the emergency department and medical imaging.

This year, their commitment was strengthened with the establishment of the Alan & Lynne Rydge Foundation in June 2024.

By choosing a private ancillary fund for their \$10 million investment under the stewardship of St Vincent's Curran Trustee Ltd, Alan and Lynne will be able to strategically contribute to the future of innovation and technology in health care at St Vincent's Hospitals.

From financial year 2024-2025 the Foundation's new grant making strategy will align with hospital priorities and where the Foundation can make the most strategic impact to deliver on better patient outcomes guided by the needs identified by our Hospital CEOs.

Technological advancements have driven industry-wide innovation across all medical disciplines and transformed how hospitals and health care systems operate. Embracing leading technology has always enabled St Vincent's to successfully achieve optimal patient outcomes – and the Alan & Lynne Rydge Foundation will help make this possible into the future.

The Rydges have distinguished themselves through their extensive philanthropy and community involvement in healthcare, the arts, animal welfare, reef research, and surf education and training.

We thank Alan and Lynne Rydge for this transformative gift of philanthropy that will impact generations to come.

Alan Rydge AM, Prof Yael Barnett and Lynne Rydge



AAA FOR OUR NEXT GEN CLINICIANS

In 2023, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney entered into an exciting new partnership to facilitate development of our medical staff through the valuable exchange of ideas, training and research. The two-way clinical exchange program with the American Australian Association leverages both organisations' expertise and resources. Doctors and nurses from Australia and the US can participate in immersive clinical research experiences in their host countries while working alongside renowned experts in their fields.

Neuromodulation offers hope for movement disorders

St Vincent's Neurologist Dr Joel Maamary was named as the inaugural recipient of the JW & M Cunningham Foundation Clinical Exchange in Movement Disorders. Dr Maamary is now undertaking a six-month advanced research project at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City on Parkinson's disease and how changes in brain activity patterns (frequency modulations) affect electrical signals in the subthalamic nucleus in the brain.

For Dr Maamary, the opportunity to work at Mount Sinai has been a longstanding dream, but after training at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and completing a two-year fellowship at St Vincent's, Dr Maamary thought his formal learning was finished.

His research is part of a larger international project that aims to understand how these signals differ in people who develop Parkinson's at a younger age due to genetic factors. By developing his ability to sense modalities, his specialised expertise will further strengthen St Vincent's place as an international leader in neuromodulation.

"My time here in New York has been the best decision that I've made professionally. I am so very thankful to John and Margaret Cunningham for their support in providing this opportunity. It has been a time of intense skill development, both clinical and research, that I will be able to bring back to implement at the St Vincent's campus."

Dr Joel Maamary



Dr Joel Maamary

More Clinical Exchanges for better healthcare

We are deeply grateful to the Delta Goodrem Foundation, for funding a clinical exchange in Nursing in Cellular Therapies, and the late Valerie McKenzie, whose bequest will fund a future exchange in pain management.

We are thrilled to announce that two more clinical exchanges are set to launch next year. The new JW & M Cunningham Foundation Exchange in Interventional Cardiology and the Nick Politis AM and Politis Family Exchange in Theranostics/Nuclear Medicine will open new doors for collaboration and discovery, fuelling our collective optimism for the future of healthcare.

Thanks to these incredible philanthropic commitments, we can welcome international medical professionals and researchers to St Vincent's and continue to provide our doctors and nurses with exciting professional development opportunities, creating a dynamic environment of innovation and growth.

ST VINCENT'S CURRAN ENDOWMENT

The St Vincent's Curran Endowment Fund was established with a founding gift of \$500,000 by Paul and Elizabeth Curran in 1984. The Endowment ensures discretionary funds are available to provide assistance to St Vincent's Hospitals in areas of innovation, clinical education, and research or to ensure excellence in patient care.

For almost 40 years, the Fund has been supported by annual contributions from an outstandingly loyal group of supporters. Thanks to their incredible commitment, the Endowment Fund, including Named Programs within it, had grown to \$45 million by 30 June 2024. Through your support, coupled with a sound investment strategy, the Foundation has been able to award more than \$1.5 million in grants to our clinicians and staff across 38 projects in 2023.

The engagement of our frontline staff and clinicians in applying for Endowment grants and suggesting important projects and innovations to improve patient care is a reflection of their passion for ensuring better and fairer health outcomes for all our patients.

Richard Haddock AO
and Stephanie Worboys



St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

Ms Tami Ebner - \$110,024 to improve wayfinding for St Vincent's Public Hospital patients through BindiMaps, digital touchscreens and signage.

Ms Lingmeng Ding - \$16,320 to purchase an Otology Skeeter drill, which is a crucial surgical instrument used for ear surgery. This new drill will improve patient care as well as surgery safety.

Mrs Amy Aitkenhead - \$6,241 for the early diagnosis and management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) for people experiencing homelessness, using the Easy on-PC spirometer. COPD is a progressive and disabling chronic lung condition. Early detection and treatment are crucial to help improve a patient's quality of life.

Ms Julie Gawthorne - \$80,011 to fund the introduction of 41 nurse-initiated Emergency Care and Treatment (ECAT) protocols in the Emergency Department. By providing nurses the ability to initiate prompt treatment such as X-rays and pain relief, it will reduce the time to treat patients.

St Vincent's Private Hospital

Mrs Gail O'Grady - \$91,241 towards Sonosite ST Point of Care Ultrasound Imaging Systems for the Operating Theatres at St Vincent's Private Hospital.

Ms Stephanie Worboys - \$13,749 for the purchase of two portable headlights. They give additional light, which greatly improves the surgeons' field of vision during lengthy and complex surgeries, assisting in providing best patient outcomes.

A/Prof Sean Mungovan - \$13,914 to help enhance patient care and rehabilitation outcomes through the acquisition of a tilt table. A tilt table enables controlled changes in a patient's position from lying into standing, aiding in the management of a range of medical and surgical conditions where patients face significant challenges in safely maintaining upright positions.

Mrs Louise Gallagher - \$9,500 to purchase Wound and Stoma Education Simulation Models. The hands-on teaching provided through simulation training will enhance nursing staff's clinical skills, confidence and proficiency, enabling them to deliver excellent and quality care.

St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith

Mr Darryl Mackie/Mr Matthew Kearney - \$11,882 to fund training for upskilling two theatre nurses and two palliative care nurses.

Ms Emily Christie - \$97,407 to purchase two colonoscopy scopes and \$82,984 to purchase two gastroscopy scopes. Endoscopy is a vital service that St Vincent's Private Community Hospital provides in the Griffith region.

St Vincent's Correctional Health Parklea

Ms Sarah Salleras received three grants to support the health operations at Parklea.

\$54,930 was used to purchase eight clinic vital sign machines to ensure all treatment rooms have access to a working machine.

\$30,708 was used to purchase 11 laptops with SIM capability, allowing Parklea staff to access clinical applications in real time.

\$11,024 to support training, education and upskilling of all Parklea staff in workplace and environment-specific First Aid Training.



Louise Walsh and Julie Gawthorne

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Endowment in 2024, we are grateful to all Endowment donors who increased their annual contributions and gave us special anniversary gifts. With the ongoing support of our Endowment and Evolution donors, we are aiming to grow the Endowment value to \$50 million by the end of 2025.

PLANNED GIVING MAKING A LIFE CHANGING DIFFERENCE

Creating a legacy of support for St Vincent's Hospitals

The St Vincent's Curran Endowment Fund includes five named programs that will make a lasting impact on St Vincent's Hospitals. These programs provide perpetual funding for their founders' areas of interest, ensuring stability for hospital activities and creating a philanthropic legacy that will benefit St Vincent's Hospitals and future generations of patients.

Named programs, a form of planned giving, can be established in two ways: a structured gift made during the donor's lifetime or through a bequest left in a Will. St Vincent's Curran Foundation is honoured to manage these gifts and facilitate the distribution of returns, which are then granted to support research or to fund further training and development for our clinicians and staff.

Programs established with the bequests of the late Neville Holmes Grace and Nan Kearins provide annual grants in support of Arts Health and St Vincent's Private Hospital Nursing programs.

Steve Harker AM and Linda Harker with Liarna Honeysett - Clinical Nurse Consultant, Heart and Lung Transplantation.

Harker Family Lungs for the Future Program

In 2022, Steve Harker AM was diagnosed with a severe autoimmune condition, which developed into a life-threatening lung disease. He received a double lung transplant at St Vincent's Hospital.

In October 2023, Steve and Linda Harker established the Harker Family Lungs for the Future program with a \$1 million gift to support lung transplantation and research. Launched in February 2024 at Crown Sydney, the program received an additional \$400,000 from generous donors at the event. This funding will support groundbreaking clinical research at the Heart Lung Centre of Excellence at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, which has performed over 1,350 lung transplants since 1990.

This funding will enable clinicians to analyse anti-rejection drugs, develop personalised immunosuppression strategies, enhance donor-recipient matching, and improve pre- and post-transplant rehabilitation, for optimised patient outcomes. Thank you to Steve and Linda for their transformative gift that will help lung transplant patients into the future.



Barbara Jarry, Founder Jarry Program for ICU Nursing

Fletcher Family Endowment Programme

In 2022, donors Peter and Rae Fletcher made a visionary gift of \$1 million to establish the Fletcher Family Endowment Programme, which has since grown to \$1,582,844 through additional donations and strategic investments. This program supports projects in the family's areas of interest across the St Vincent's campus, through an annual grants program.

Additionally, the program facilitated the purchase of a new bladder scanner for the St Vincent's NELUNE Men's Health Centre. It also provided \$6,000 to the St Vincent's Hospital Pride Network to participate in the annual Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade. The hospital's presence in the parade is an important symbol for the community, and this year was particularly special as it marked the 40th anniversary of Ward 17 South, Australia's first ward dedicated to the care of patients with HIV/AIDS.

We are also grateful to Peter and Rae Fletcher for their visionary contribution to the Urban Health Hub at Green Park and other major project grants, which go above and beyond their commitment to growing the Fletcher Family Programme.

Jarry Program for ICU Nursing

The Jarry Program was established through a generous donation to the Foundation by Barbara and Kevin Jarry in gratitude for the care their daughter Malinda received from the intensive care nurses at St Vincent's Hospital. The initial gift of \$1 million has since grown in value to \$1,773,346 through additional contributions from the founders, their friends, and members of the public.

In 2023-24, the Jarry Program provided full scholarships to 16 nurses undertaking the Graduate Certificate in Intensive Care Nursing at the Australian Catholic University. The program also supported nurses in attending professional conferences for Intensive Care, Critical Care and Heart and Lung Transplantation, as well as training courses on intra-aortic balloon pumps, and six team leaders in an intensive Leadership and Coaching course.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Steve and Linda Harker, Peter and Rae Fletcher, Barb Jarry and the Jarry Family, the Estate of Neville Holmes Grace, and the Estate of Nan Kearins for their inspirational support, which will enable St Vincent's Hospitals to enhance staff education and advance research for all patients well into the future.



GRATITUDE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Being 'In it for good' is the driving force behind the Evolution Giving Circle, a network of passionate philanthropic contributors to the St Vincent's Curran Endowment Fund. Many supporters are inspired by the legacies of their parents and grandparents, continuing the tradition of putting their values into action for the benefit of society. Established in 2020, this network of emerging community, business, and healthcare leaders all recognise the importance of investing in the future of healthcare.

Each supporter of the Evolution Giving Circle helps raise awareness of St Vincent's Curran Foundation and St Vincent's Hospitals and Facilities across NSW. Beyond their own philanthropic contributions, they actively engage the next generation of supporters to foster and expand a culture of philanthropy.

The Evolution Giving Circle is coordinated each year by the Evolution Advisory Committee, a team of emerging philanthropists and leaders co-chaired by Jeremy Byrne, St Vincent's Curran Foundation Board Director and grandson of the Foundation's founders, Paul and Elizabeth Curran; and Andrew Muston, Head of Wholesale Distribution at Roc Partners.

The Committee plays a vital role in expanding the Evolution Giving Circle support base through their networks and guiding the development of the annual Evolution program of activities. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all Committee members for their ongoing commitment, guidance and time.

Diana Liu and Maggie Liu



'In it for good'

In May 2024, Evolution Giving Circle supporters and their invited guests enjoyed the Giving Circle's annual dinner at Coco Republic.

Anthony Liveris, Evolution Advisory Committee member and the Chair of the Discovery and Innovation Campaign, facilitated an insightful and informative panel discussion on the critical role of innovation, research and discovery in developing groundbreaking medical treatments.

The panel featured Dr Jennifer Massey, a neurologist and postdoctoral researcher in cellular therapies, alongside Amber Adair, a Multiple Sclerosis and stem cell transplant patient. Amber shared her poignant healthcare journey and the life-changing experiences made possible through the innovative care she received at St Vincent's.

The evening's showcase of medical advancements underscored the important role Evolution Giving Circle supporters play in driving excellence in clinical research and patient care, now and for future generations. Together, their generous support provides an enduring and self-sustaining source of discretionary funding through the Endowment.

We extend our gratitude to our committee for their time and effort in helping to grow the Evolution Giving Circle: Co-Chair Jeremy Byrne, Co-Chair Andrew Muston, Matthew Duncan, Michael Frazis, Dr Brett Leavers, Maggie Liu, Anthony Liveris, Anna Longley, Simon Mills, and Annabel Rogers. We are also grateful to our 70 Evolution Giving Circle donors for being 'in it for good'.



Anthony Liveris, Amber Adair, Dr Jennifer Massey

A LEGACY OF CARE AND SUPPORT

Since 1880, bequests have significantly impacted patient care and medical research at St Vincent's Hospitals. Generous community members leaving gifts in their Wills are helping transform healthcare and change lives for generations.

An unlikely pairing: spider venom and healthy hearts

The late Helen Cameron never forgot the compassionate care her late husband, Rupert, received while he was a patient at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney. When she made her Will in 2013, she left a legacy gift to support heart research.

Now, 10 years on, Helen's gift has not only supported nursing research in frailty assessment for valve replacements in elderly patients, but has also advanced ground breaking research into a potentially lifesaving treatment for heart attacks. Prof Peter Macdonald AM and his postdoctoral team are studying the use of venom from the funnel-web spider.

Could Hi1a, a protein derived from this venom, prevent damage from heart attacks and extend the life of donor hearts for transplants? Pre-clinical studies have shown promise, and the St Vincent's research team hopes to translate these clinical findings into patient studies in 2025.

This incredible research may soon save lives at St Vincent's and across Australia, thanks to Helen's generosity.

"The survival of heart cells is vital in heart transplants. Treating hearts with Hi1a and reducing cell death will increase how far the heart can be transported and improve the likelihood of a successful transplant. An extra 10 minutes could mean the difference between someone receiving a heart or missing out."

Prof Peter Macdonald AM

A charitable gift

Victor Archibald 'Vic' Perrin, a beloved Rose Bay local, passed away in 2023, leaving a generous gift in his Will to St Vincent's Hospital in gratitude for the care he and his wife, Carole, received. A humble truck driver and true gentleman, Vic requested that his gift support the hospital's highest priorities. His legacy now enriches our Healing, Hope and Humanity Fund, providing vital care and support to at-risk individuals in need, giving them access to high-quality care and support that would otherwise be out of reach.

Prof Peter Macdonald AM

A legacy gift 35 years in the making

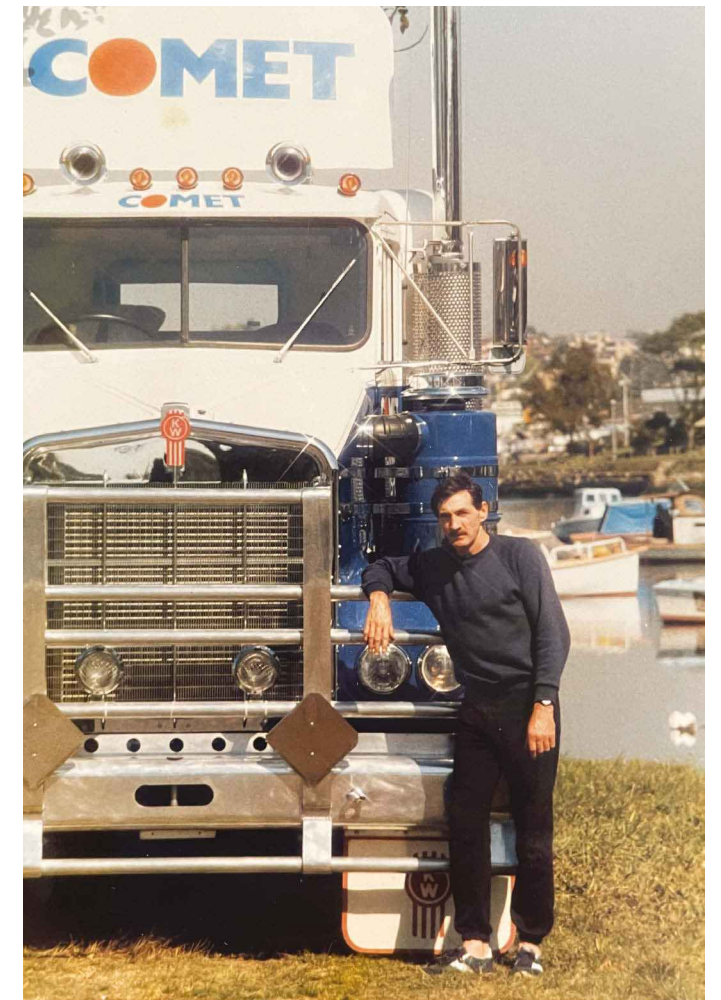
When the late Alma Eileen Millane made her Will in 1985 she could not have foreseen the impact of her legacy gift to St Vincent's. Born in Newtown in 1900, Alma and her husband, Elwin Millane, purchased a home in Maroubra in 1956. Elwin received compassionate care at Sacred Heart Hospice at St Vincent's before his passing in 1980 at age 80.

Grateful for his care, Alma structured her Will to support her friend and carer, Cheryl, while also benefitting a cause dear to her heart. She arranged for Cheryl to have a home for life, with the property sold afterward to support Sacred Heart.

Now, 35 years later, Alma's foresight has come to fruition. Valued at \$190,000 in 1989, the house sold this year for \$2.14 million. Alma's gift will provide crucial equipment for palliative care patients, allowing them to receive safe care at home, covering costs not typically covered by the government, such as specialised hospital beds, supplemental oxygen, reclining chairs, and wheelchairs.

Alma's legacy will support education and clinical research to improve patient and caregiver outcomes. This includes hiring a palliative care research trials coordinator to manage symptoms for patients with life-limiting illnesses, as well as providing resources for studies that do not attract government grants. It will also help staff pursue higher degrees or training in end-of-life care.

We are eternally grateful for these legacy gifts.



The late Vic Perrin



Prof Richard Chye and Dr Davinia Seah, Palliative Care at Sacred Heart



ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY FOR THE FUTURE

St Vincent's Private Hospital has a long history of providing exceptional healthcare. St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney, established by the Sisters of Charity, opened in October 1909 and was recently redeveloped in 2016 including a new wing - the Mother Mary Francis McGuigan rsc Wing.

Thanks to our generous donors, more than \$6 million in donations in 2023-2024 supported St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney, ensuring we are *Equipping Your Hospital of the Future*.

We are grateful to the ongoing leadership of the patron of the Friends of St Vincent's Private Hospital Mrs Roslyn Packer AC in stewarding this special group of our supporters.

Heartlifting support

Two new life saving heart lung perfusion machines were funded this year. Perfusion machines keep patients alive during open heart surgery by diverting blood away from the heart and lungs, allowing the heart to be stopped safely. We thank our visionary donor Dick Honan and the Honan family, and Manildra Foundation for their support in funding this lifesaving equipment.

A revolutionary new ophthalmic microscope, was also acquired through generous donations. The microscope's superb clarity leads to safer and superior surgical outcomes for patients undergoing procedures such as corneal transplantation, glaucoma surgery, cataract surgery, and advanced vitreoretinal surgery.

Myliisa Paspaley and Matthew Wall,
General Manager and Director of Clinical Services,
St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney



Grants from the JW & M Cunningham Foundation has continued support for a research fellow in the USpace program, the young adult mental health unit at St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney. USpace provides services for individuals aged 16-26 in a purpose-built mental health facility featuring 20 single rooms, day services, and on-site consulting suites. It aims to support the recovery and psychological wellbeing of young adults facing severe and emerging mental health issues.

Thank you to the JW & M Cunningham Foundation for their support of St Vincent's Private including the acquisition of equipment for the operating theatres.

State of the art equipment for orthopaedic surgery

The HANA surgical table for orthopaedics is widely renowned as the leading technology for patient positioning for hip replacement and fracture repair procedures. The table has a unique capability to position the patient's legs independently and features carbon fibre construction to allow for unobstructed intraoperative imaging. It can also be used for arthroscopic hip surgery.

"Offering this cutting edge, joint preserving surgical procedure at St Vincent's Private allows us to support not only our more senior patients in need of joint replacement surgery, but also younger patients with pre-arthritis hip pain, ensuring excellent and much needed continuity of care for all age groups in our community," said Dr Amir Kalanie, Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Thank you to our visionary donors Robert Millner AO and Janine Millner for funding this operating table.

We would also like to thank our visionary donors to our Precision Medicine and Robotics Program: Alf Moufarrige AO and Marian Moufarrige, John and Ros Sample, Nick Paspaley AC and Myliisa Paspaley, as well as all the generous donors to the private hospital for their support this year.

Tribute to Lang Walker AO

5 July 1945 - 27 January 2024

St Vincent's Curran Foundation wishes to acknowledge the sad passing of Lang Walker AO, who leaves an incredible legacy of philanthropy at St Vincent's and throughout the community.

The Walker Family's generosity and visionary support was pivotal to St Vincent's establishing Australia's first artificial heart program. In 2017, their significant donation of \$5 million for the new Mother Mary Francis McGuigan rsc Wing, and the redevelopment of St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney, provided leadership support for this important project. In recognition of their visionary contribution, Level 8 of the Private Hospital is named The Lang and Sue Walker Family Floor.



Aoife Connor, Nurse Unit Manager and Chloe Poniris, Theatre Nurse, with HANA surgical table

OUR REGIONAL HEALTH HUB

The Regional Health Hub, launched in 2022, brings together the specialties needed in the Griffith area and has been the focus for service development over the past two years. It continues to be the backbone for vital health concerns in cardiology; gastroenterology; orthopaedic; and ear, nose and throat services, as well palliative care and cancer services.

We are fortunate to have our leading Sydney clinicians bringing their medical expertise to support these services in Griffith, with special thanks to A/Prof Andrew Roy, Dr David Roy, Dr Simon Ghaly, Dr Oliver Khoo, and Dr Brett Leavers and their clinical teams.

We are grateful to all our supporters in the Murrumbidgee region and other key stakeholders, whose caring commitment to the Health Hub has enabled equipment purchases and technology upgrades in 2023-2024, keeping our hospital at the cutting edge of treatment options.

Friends for Life Campaign launch

In August 2023, St Vincent's Curran Foundation launched the Griffith Friends for Life Campaign at Zecca Handmade Italian. The event was hosted by Chris Blake, Group CEO St Vincent's Health Australia and Gabrielle Wood, General Manager St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith.

We announced a generous gift of \$100,000 over the next five years from the family-owned regional transport business, Ron Finemore Transport, being honoured through naming rights of a palliative care room at the hospital. We extend our thanks to Ron and Alan Finemore and the Finemore family for their exceptional contributions to both our Sydney and Griffith Hospitals.

A second palliative care room will be named in memory of the Groat family, following a generous gift from the Estate of the late Glen Groat of \$107,245.

We are also grateful for the support from Calabria Family Wines who has pledged support of \$50,000 also being honoured through naming rights of a patient room.

We also give thanks to Friends for Life supporters for their generous donations this year: Dick Honan and the Honan family, the Manildra Foundation, Joy Gamble and family, the Sergi families, and Josie and John Codemo.



Lena and Bill Callabria

Scopes for improvement

In August 2023, baritone singer, Patrizio Buanne, returned as a very special guest to the hospital, having previously contributed to fundraising efforts for its construction in 2014. Staff and patients were thrilled to have Patrizio on-site, where he delighted patients with a personal serenade.

Special thanks to the Casella and Spagnolo families for hosting Patrizio at an intimate charity evening held at the Casella McWilliam Wines cellar. The night raised much needed funds for the upgrading of theatre scopes and equipment for compatibility with updated AV technologies.

John and Joe Casella made a significant donation through the Casella Spagnola Trust to purchase an Innologic scope, which is critical in diagnosing prostate cancer. The scope is now regularly used for ongoing patient monitoring and diagnoses.

Baiada family connects future doctors to regional health

Students from the University of Wollongong in their third year of the Postgraduate Doctor of Medicine program are focusing on regional and rural medicine. This marks the 16th cohort of medical students hosted in the Murrumbidgee region with five students based in Griffith, Narrandera and Leeton.

Their placement at the Baiada Family Murrumbidgee Clinical Teaching and Learning Centre is essential to their education, offering invaluable insight into the roles of specialists outside of major cities.

Clinicians are regularly invited to present guest lectures, using the High-Fidelity Mannequin and simulation room, the tutorial room, and other student spaces. These facilities are also routinely used by students to review and practise their skills.

We give enormous thanks to Baiada and the Camilleri families for their ongoing and generous support of this important initiative.



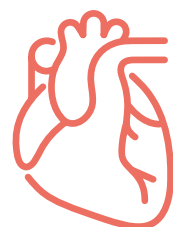
Ron Finemore AO and Alan Finemore
with Gabrielle Wood



Roy Spagnolo, Richard Haddock AO and John Casella

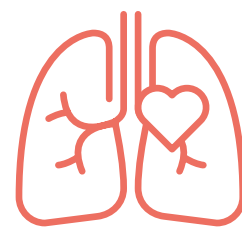
40 YEARS SUPPORTING HEART LUNG INNOVATION

Since 1984 St Vincent's Hospital Sydney has performed:



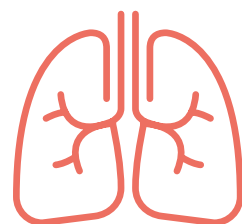
1320 +

heart transplants
since 2014



MORE THAN 100 +

combined heart and lung
transplants since 1990



1350 +

lung transplants
since 1990



141 TRANSPLANTS

using "Heart in a Box"
technology since 2014

Some of the key milestones along this remarkable 40-year journey enabled by philanthropy since the first successful heart transplant at the St Vincent's Healthcare Precinct Sydney.

1984

First successful Heart Transplant performed at St Vincent's by Dr Victor Chang AC.

2014

The first successful organ donation after cardiac death (DCD) heart transplant. This remarkable feat was made possible by the revolutionary "Heart in a Box" organ care system.

1990

First single lung transplant in Australia.

2014

St Vincent's Heart Lung Innovation Fund launched to raise funds for innovation projects, research and clinical trials.

1991

First bilateral lung transplant in Australia.

2019

Australia's first dedicated Advanced Cardiac Imaging Centre (ACIC) opened.

1994

First left ventricular assist device (LVAD) implanted in Australia providing a bridge-to-transplant for patients on the waiting list for heart transplants.

2020

The Cannon Genesis Lung CT Scan is purchased revolutionizing diagnostics for non-malignant lung diseases and cancers.

1994

Establishment of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute enabling specialist research and clinical trials working in collaboration with St Vincent's clinicians.

2023

Australia's first successful transcatheter transplant of the Tricuspid heart valve performed on an elderly patient not eligible for heart surgery.

2005

First robotic heart surgery in Australia using the Da Vinci surgical robot.

2024

Over 20 Tricuspid heart valve transplants performed.

2008

First transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) conducted in Australia.

2024

St Vincent's Heart Lung transplant team expand support to Vietnam, Thailand and Bangladesh to aid the progression of local transplant programs.

WHOLEHEARTED GRATITUDE

Refreshing our clinic

Over the past two years, our generous philanthropic supporters have donated \$6.2 million of the \$6.5 million needed to redevelop our busy Heart Lung Clinic and begin the development of new Intensive Care Unit single unit pods to enable the very best of care for cardiac patients.

We are sincerely grateful to the donors who have provided support including: the JW & M Cunningham Foundation, the Hon Dennis Mahoney AO KC, the Bluesand Foundation, Ferdie Dominelli OAM, Josephine Dominelli and family, Ginia Rinehart Robinson, the Harry Triguboff Foundation, Sally White OAM, Dr Peter Brennan AM and Michael Lynch, the Ubeja family, Wenning Wang, Geoff and Rachel O'Connor, Brian Larkin, the Estate of the late Elaine Irwin, the Howarth Foundation, and many, many more.

Pagent Family Director of Clinical Research announced

We were extremely proud to confirm the appointment of A/Prof Clare Arnott to the newly created role of Pagent Family Director of Clinical Research – Heart Lung, established through a generous donation from the Pagent family. A/Prof Arnott will lead, develop and direct a transformative program of clinical research across St Vincent's Heart Lung programs. This critical work will advance clinical trials research and accelerate improvements in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart and lung diseases. This is a key role in the development of the St Vincent's Heart Lung Centre of Excellence.

Life changing artificial hearts a reality

Earlier this year, a team of surgeons in the USA successfully implanted the Australian-designed BiVACOR® Total Artificial Heart into a 58-year-old patient in Texas. We anticipate the first implantation of this titanium artificial heart at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney will proceed in late 2024.

We are incredibly grateful to the generous anonymous donor whose support has supercharged this life-changing research program. We would also like to thank and acknowledge the support of Mr Daniel Petre AO, Carolyn Petre and the Petre Foundation, as well as Christopher Switzer for his gift in memory of Marleen Switzer.



Dr Samia Pinkee and
Dr Natcha Bunwatcharaphan



Dr Paul Jansz, Alison and Simon Rothery

Heart Transplantation 40th Anniversary Dinner

This year we celebrated 40 years since Dr Victor Chang AC performed Fiona Coote's heart transplant and the role which philanthropy has played in supporting the development of St Vincent's world leading heart lung transplantation unit.

At the April dinner, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia, applauded St Vincent's ongoing role in the development of innovative treatments and procedures for those needing transplants. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Lauren Sutton for announcing the \$5 million contribution from the Sutton family towards the Interventional Cardiology suites redevelopment and to Jimmy Barnes AO for sharing his heartwarming story with guests.

Rothery Family Patient Access Fund

The Rothery Family Patient Access Fund assists financially disadvantaged patients to access world-class cardiothoracic surgery that is not readily available in their home country. The surgery is performed at St Vincent's Sydney under the leadership of Dr Paul Jansz, Director of the Cardiothoracic Surgical Unit. To date, patients have

come from Thailand, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Taiwan. One patient was inspired to carry on the Sisters of Charity ethos on returning home to Solomon Islands by completing her nursing studies with the goal of improving the health of others in her community.

Rothery Family Cardiothoracic Fellows

The Rothery Family Cardiothoracic Fellowships, typically undertaken over a year, provide overseas Fellows with a unique, intensive opportunity to develop and enhance their surgical skills in ways that would simply not be possible in their home country. This year we have two fellows from overseas, Dr Samia Pinkee from Bangladesh and Dr Natcha Bunwatcharaphan from Thailand.

Dr Samia Pinkee, a cardiologist with special interests in heart transplant and heart failure, began her fellowship in early 2023.

Dr Pinkee said, "I want to extend my sincere thanks to the Rothery family for their support and to Dr Paul Jansz and the heart transplant team here at St Vincent's Hospital. I hope that in the future, Bangladesh will develop a successful heart transplant program, and St Vincent's will always be part of that history."

Maximising outcomes with minimally invasive valve trials

Since 2008, St Vincent's minimally invasive valve replacement clinical trials program has driven breakthroughs in cardiac care and offered hope to patients who would otherwise be ineligible for heart surgery. The program relies heavily on philanthropy, and our sincere thanks go to all our generous donors, including Les Schirato AM and Luisa Schirato, Vittoria Coffee, the Estate of the late Patricia Hayllar, and the Estate of the late Ken Coxon.

"These procedures are expensive, and the only way we have been able to build and run our valve program over the last 16-plus years has been through the generosity of St Vincent's donors. We are extremely grateful to every donor," said Prof David Muller, Director of the Interventional Cardiology Service.

Minimally invasive valve procedures require the most advanced laboratories or interventional cardiology suites, as they are often described. In early 2024, the redeveloped Cath Lab 4 became operational, significantly improving both patient and clinician experience. With \$9.6 million secured to date, we are well on the way to achieving the \$11.8 million needed to redevelop three remaining suites.

We are immensely grateful to those who have generously supported this priority project. A special thank you to the JW & M Cunningham Foundation, the late Laurie Sutton AM and the Sutton family, and Jack Cowin AM and Sharon Cowin for their visionary gifts.

Les Schirato AM and Prof David Muller



Uplifting lung transplant research

Despite advancements in lung transplantation techniques, more research is urgently needed to bring survival rates for lung transplant patients in line with other organ transplants. Chronic rejection occurs when the patient's own immune system injures the transplanted lungs. Dr Eisa Tahmasbpour, the Carina Martin Lung Transplant Research Fellow, is working to better understand CLAD, improve early detection of organ rejection, and implement more patient-centred approaches to treatment under the leadership of Dr David Darley.

This important work has been made possible by the generous support of the Alexandra and Lloyd Martin Family Foundation. We also acknowledge the many donors who have remained committed to supporting the broader lung research program at St Vincent's, including the Eva and Tom Breuer Foundation, Geoff Cox and the Bluesand Foundation, Steve and Linda Harker and the Harker family, and the Handbury Foundation.

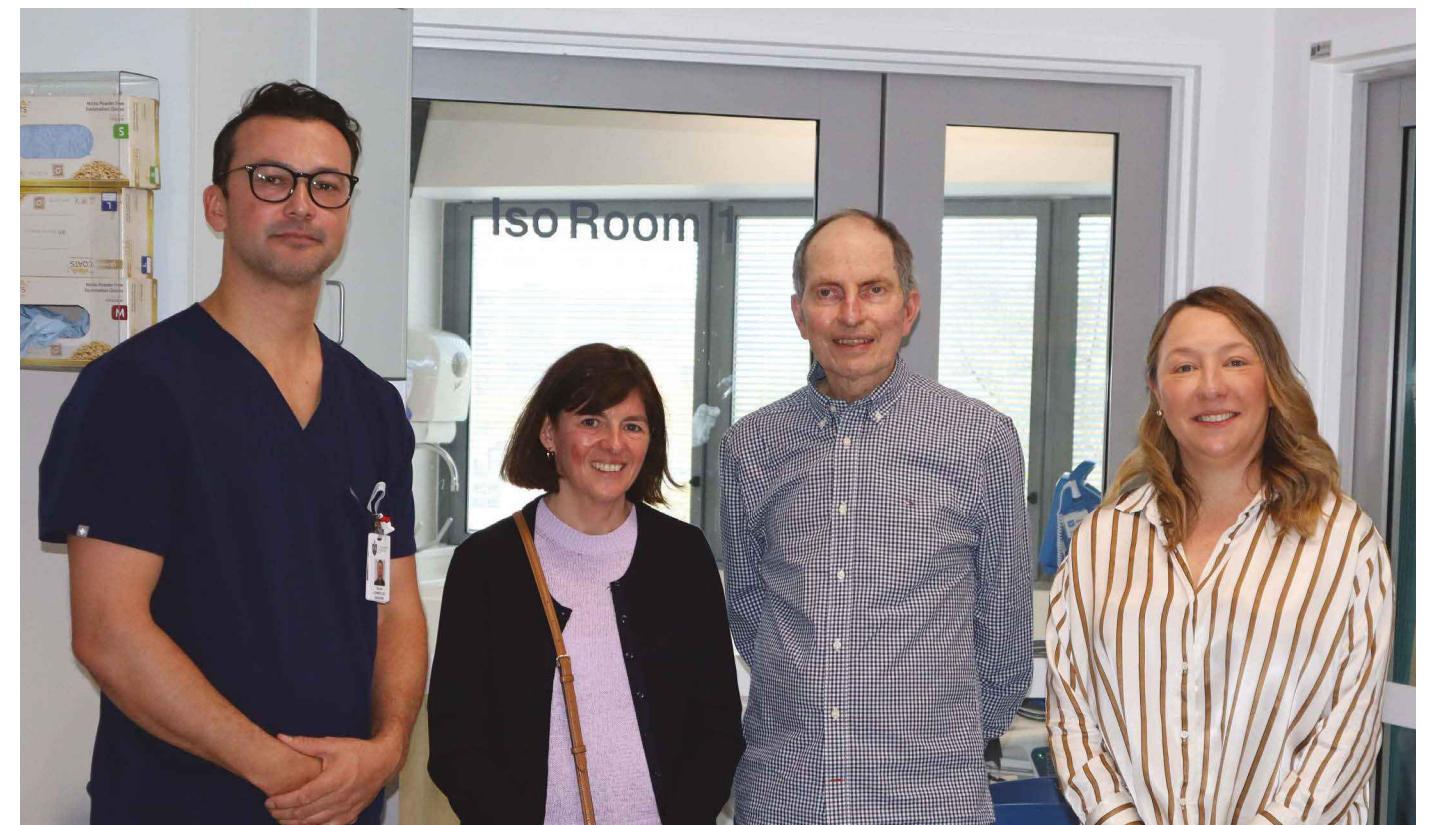
State-of-the-art lung 'Eskies'

Thanks to generous support from our donors, our lung transplantation team was thrilled to purchase cold preservation donor lung devices. Affectionately known as 'lung eskies', these devices are specialised refrigeration units that allow the safe transportation of donor lungs over a longer time period. This enables the retrieval of donor lungs from across Australia and New Zealand and reduces waitlist times for recipient patients.

The 'eskies' will also help other lung transplant units across Australia to accelerate their own transplant programs.

Dr David Darley, Acting Medical Head of the Lung Transplant Unit, said, *"For 35 years, we've transported donor lungs in an esky on ice at 0 to 4 degrees. The research is now clearly showing us that 10 degrees is the best temperature for preserving and transporting lungs. The new device from Traferox Technologies will be a game changer in improving the logistics of lung transplantation across Australia and New Zealand."*

A special thanks to Stephen Fitzgerald AO, the estate of the late Robin A. Underhill, and the many other donors to our heart lung innovation program who have made this progress possible.



Dexter Cornelius Nurse Educator, Dianna and Geoff Cox, Nicole de Tullio, Transplant Coordinator, Heart Lung Clinic

TRANSFORMING CANCER CARE AND RESEARCH

Visionary donor Nick Politis AM has supported St Vincent's programs for over nine years. We are incredibly grateful to Nick and his family for a transformational gift of \$5 million to establish the Nick Politis AM and Family Cancer Care and Research Initiative, which is supporting strategic projects across a range of areas.

Navigating cancer care

Funding for a new cancer care position will help address treatment issues, prevent delays and link patients to external support services. The Politis Family Prostate Cancer and Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer Coordinator will help patients navigate the complex health care system and manage their multidisciplinary care.

Leading Theranostics trials

Theranostics is a highly personalised cancer treatment that combines therapeutic and diagnostic tools to target specific cancer cells. The Politis family's funding will support pioneering clinical research trials and establish a new clinical exchange within the American Australian Association – St Vincent's Hospital Sydney Clinical Exchange Program.

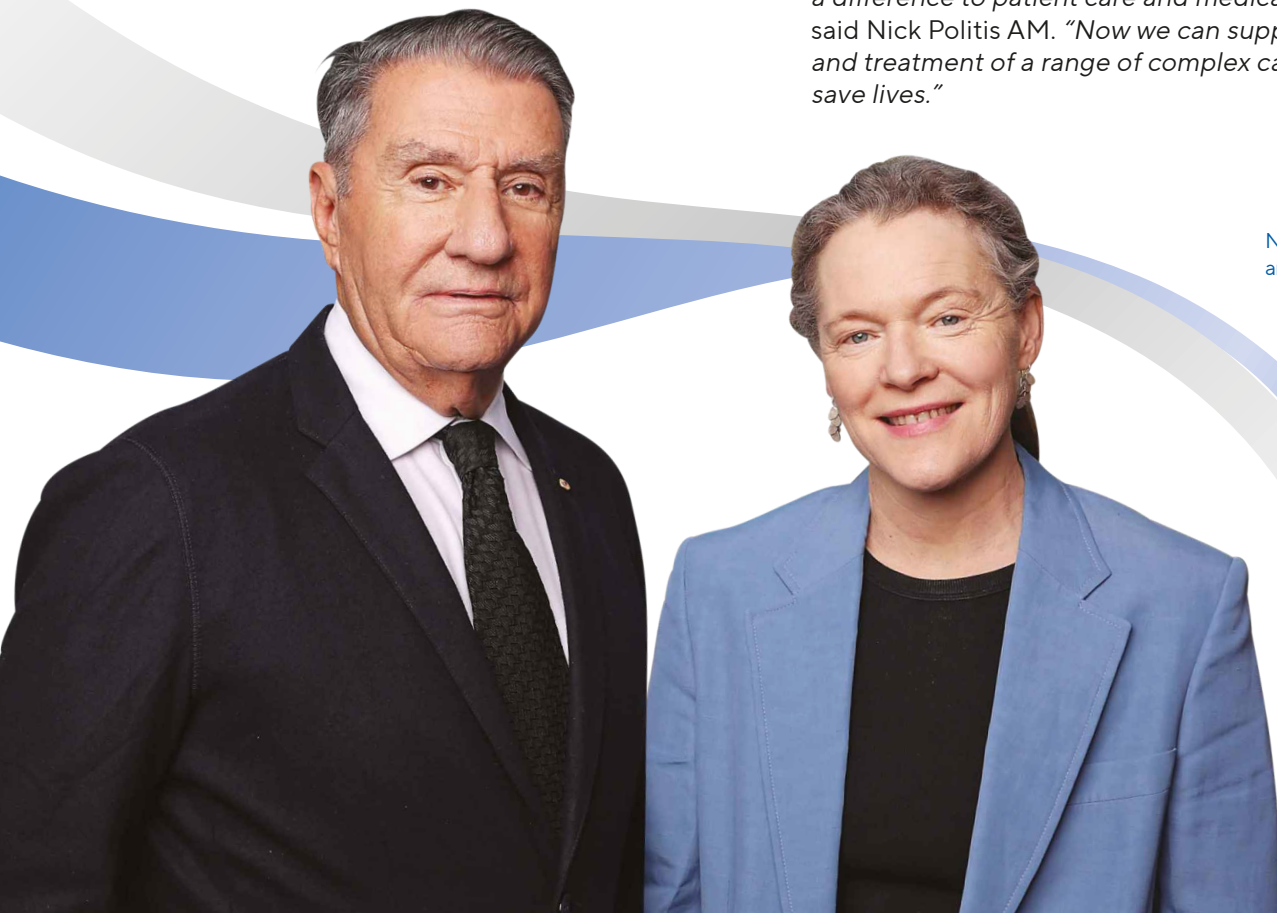
"Theranostics is a growing force in the fight against cancer and embodies the concept of personalised medicine."

**Prof Louise Emmett,
Director of Theranostics
and Nuclear Medicine**

We are so grateful to Nick and his family for their life-changing commitment to cancer care and research at St Vincent's.

"It has always been important to our family to help make a difference to patient care and medical innovation," said Nick Politis AM. "Now we can support the diagnosis and treatment of a range of complex cancers to help save lives."

Nick Politis AM
and Prof Louise Emmett



Progressing the lung cancer research landscape

New studies are helping clinician researchers at St Vincent's and the Garvan Institute of Medical Research work towards novel treatment strategies for lung cancer, with generous and impactful support from Avrom and Lindy Sank.

A/Prof Venessa Chin is researching techniques for managing anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) and lung cancer. Working with the Centenary Institute, her lab is trialling a new method of extracting, isolating, and analysing individual cancer cells from blood samples to help guide therapy choices.

"Support from the Sank family has allowed us to establish this new collaboration and trial two exciting new technologies in the lab," said A/Prof Chin. "Our goal is to demonstrate that isolating and studying circulating cancer cells is feasible and informative and can influence patient care - the first step to bringing this technology to the clinic."

A/Prof Emily Stone is researching the implementation of science and public health implications of lung cancer. Her three main areas of focus are the implementation of lung cancer screening across Australia, the study of smoking cessation for patients with cancer, and equity of treatment access.

A/Profs Chin and Stone hope to find intersections in their research that will lead to better outcomes for patients with lung cancer.



Lindy Sank, A/Prof Venessa Chin and Avrom Sank

A unique career development program

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of Greg Alt and Peter Purcell, the Beverley Alt Oncology Education Fellowship has become a significant professional development asset at The Kinghorn Cancer Centre. Honouring the life of Beverley Alt, a former patient at the Centre, the fellowship provides educational and career training activities for junior medical oncology doctors at St Vincent's Hospital. The funding can enable valuable applied or academic experiences at national or overseas Centres of Excellence or travel scholarships for attending conferences. This year, 14 grants were awarded to seven doctors, including a three-month fellowship at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston for Dr Lucy Haggstrom.

We are also grateful for the support of Bob and Wendy Dunnet to create the International Exchange Program in Breast Cancer Research with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The program, developed by Prof Elgene Lim, Head of the Breast Oncology Unit at The Kinghorn Cancer Centre, will enhance breast cancer treatment knowledge across the institutions.

This year, the exchange saw two junior researchers from St Vincent's travel to Dana-Farber on the Naomi Simpson International Exchange Program in Breast Cancer Research Scholarship, named in honour of Bob and Wendy's daughter. Dr Erica Mayer, Director of Breast Cancer Clinical Research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, visited St Vincent's to collaborate with our breast cancer team. She also delivered the keynote Dunnet Family Lecture at the Australian Translational Breast Cancer Research Symposium held at the St Vincent's precinct in October.

ADVANCING EXCELLENCE IN CELLULAR THERAPIES

Chong family funding carries research forward

Since St Vincent's Hospital Sydney undertook Australia's first bone marrow transplant almost 50 years ago, we have made transformative progress in the treatment and care for patients with blood cancer and severe autoimmune conditions.

We are deeply grateful to Dr John and Mrs Anne Chong for their visionary gift that established the Chong Family Director of Cellular Therapy. In this role, Prof John Moore leads a highly innovative and expanding clinical research program that is reshaping the treatment landscape for patients today and into the future.

We are thrilled that a visionary gift this year will launch another new position – the Nick Politis AM and Politis Family Cellular Therapies Senior Scientist. Focused on stem cell transplantation, the role will manage our cellular therapies laboratory and partner with key clinical staff campus-wide to deliver the best patient outcomes in ground-breaking trials.



Dr Betty Gration

"This role will drive innovation in cellular therapies," said Prof Moore. "The field is rapidly changing, and the appointment of a chief scientist will allow the Haematology Unit to provide cutting-edge cellular therapies to St Vincent's patients."

We are profoundly grateful to Nick Politis AM and the Politis family for their generosity, along with the Delta Goodrem Foundation and Bourne Foundation for the roles funded with their support.

Multi-year support expands myeloma program

Myeloma is an incurable blood cancer that causes bone lesions, anaemia, and kidney failure. Philanthropic support, complementing government grants, is allowing St Vincent's to develop a comprehensive approach to myeloma research and patient care across all stages of the disease.

St Vincent's haematologist Dr Georgia McCaughan leads a significant myeloma clinical trials program in partnership with the Garvan Institute of Medical Research. This important program, generously supported by David and Pippa Beak and Tour de Cure, leverages our ongoing partnership with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, made possible by the visionary support of James and Amelia Symond.

The success of one of these donor-facilitated clinical trials, overseen by Dr Betty Gration, has won a significant grant from the US-based Leukemia and Lymphoma Society that will greatly expand patient access to the trial. Dr Gration's role as ZAMASA Myeloma Research Fellow was established in 2021 by the late Greg Arandt's ZAMASA Foundation. A wonderful example of the multiplier effect of philanthropic support!

We extend our sincere thanks to our donors, including Robin McGuinness, Mary-Anne Armstrong, the Bourne Foundation, and many others, whose generosity drives our fight against myeloma.

Treating Multiple Sclerosis through stem cell transplant

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an autoimmune disorder that affects vision, balance, memory, thinking, and emotional state. It is the most commonly acquired chronic neurological disease in adults and can occur at any age.

In progressing towards a Centre of Excellence for Cellular Therapies, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney aims to become the NSW State Centre for Autologous Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (AHSCT), a chemotherapy treatment that rebuilds and essentially 'resets' the immune system. The hospital already offers a clinical trial of AHSCT transplant for MS, and the results are promising: 85% of patients are lesion-free after five years and 78% after seven years.

Becoming a state centre will lift our annual MS patient numbers to approximately 30 transplants – a significant increase supported by specialist MS nursing positions, a dedicated clinical trials manager, and additional specialist MS clinical staff. As well as delivering truly comprehensive care for MS patients, there is the opportunity to advance our ongoing collaborations with national and international centres.

St Vincent's Neurologist Dr Jennifer Massey said, *"It is a fantastic step forward to be able to continue to offer this vital therapy to patients with enhanced support. Becoming the statewide referral centre will enable us to continue helping the growing number of people with MS who will benefit from this treatment."*

We thank MS Australia for its ongoing generous support of our cellular therapies program, which helps us accelerate research into AHSCT, and Andy Price of the Kiriwina Investment Company.

Setting the Payce with specialist equipment

In the past two years, Brian Boyd and the PAYCE Foundation have funded the replacement of our Optia Apheresis machines, which are crucial for blood cancer treatment. These cellular therapy machines perform up to 400 treatments a year, including 300 plasma exchanges, and collect stem cells for bone marrow transplants at St Vincent's and other hospitals worldwide. We are deeply grateful to Brian and the PAYCE Foundation for enabling better outcomes for blood cancer patients.

"This role will drive new innovation in cellular therapies. The field is changing rapidly and the appointment of a chief scientist will allow the haematology unit to expand cutting-edge cellular trials to patients on the St Vincent's campus. The unit is very grateful to Mr Nick Politis and his family for this visionary gift."

Prof John Moore



Prof John Moore

ADVANCING OUR BRAINS TRUST

Since 2021, when the Brains Trust campaign was launched, we have received over \$10 million from generous donors supporting innovative, world-class neurological research and the vision of establishing a St Vincent's Sydney Health Innovation Precinct Neuro Centre of Excellence.

Paving the way for migraine research

Every year, chronic migraines affect six million Australians and cost the Australian economy over \$37 billion in lost productivity. St Vincent's is the only tertiary referral hospital in Sydney specialising in headache and migraine. Our services, led by A/Prof Susan Tomlinson, Staff Specialist Neurology, are in high demand.

We are very grateful to Peter Brennan AM and Michael Lynch for recommitting their support to A/Prof Tomlinson and her research. Their generous ongoing commitment allowed us to create a research fellowship specialising in headache, a position presently held by third year registrar, Dr Usman Ashraf.

This additional resource enables the neurology department to increase capacity and double the number of headache clinics, as well as manage and coordinate several groundbreaking research projects. Dr Ashraf is creating a database linked directly to building a sustainable platform for research and developing an education program, which will translate clinician research about headaches into enhanced patient care through greater awareness of available treatment and referral options.

Michael Musgrave and
A/Prof Lucette Cysique

Breakthroughs in HIV-related neurological problems

The Peter Duncan Neurosciences Research Unit, led by Prof Bruce Brew AM, has an extensive HIV research program that collaborates with US scientists. Blood tests are analysed to determine which drugs work best in treating and eradicating HIV from the 'HIV reservoir' in the brain and other areas of the body.

The trial that followed patients living with HIV for five years has discovered that many of the current drugs fail to silence the virus and why they failed.

This finding has implications for other brain diseases, providing a means for monitoring, and opens a pathway for the development of new, more effective drugs.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Michael Musgrave for his long commitment to HIV neural research through his support of the Musgrave Neurosciences Research Fellow, A/Prof Lucette Cysique. A special thank you also to the Broinowski Foundation, the Peel Fund (an Australian Communities Foundation fund), and Pirtek Fluid Systems for their support.

Clinical Neurosciences and Regenerative Medicine Initiative 'SWITCH'

The Clinical Neurosciences and Regenerative Medicine (CNRM) Initiative conducts basic, translational and implementation research to identify new diagnostic and effective treatment modalities for people living with cognitive impairment, including dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and related disorders.

Led by Prof Bryce Vissel, the CNRM team recently identified a molecule in the brain that controls loss of nerve cell connections and is decreased in the brain of a person with Alzheimer's. The team has essentially rescued memory in mice without the need to remove the protein clumps believed to cause Alzheimer's.

Prof Vissel and his team subsequently identified key factors that may influence synapse and death. Two of these factors are inflammation resulting from infection and specific neural pathways. The findings indicate that 'druggable targets' are the first crucial step towards a potential pharmaceutical solution.

The CNRM relies entirely on donations and grants for its funding. We would especially like to thank the Boyarsky Family Trust, Tony Howland Rose, Doug Battersby, The ISG Foundation, and Richard Gelski for their generous support of this important work.

Celebrating 10 years supporting neurology

During the year we were delighted to welcome members of the Dunbier family to the Peter Duncan Neurosciences Unit to hear about the impact of their visionary support over the past 10 years. The family also unveiled a plaque in recognition of their parents, Beverly Dunbier and the late Max Dunbier OAM, who generously initiated the family's support for St Vincent's 10 years ago.



Sarah Davies, PhD student, AMR Research Scientist

MOVING MEN'S HEALTH FORWARD

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men and accounts for one in eight cancer fatalities, making it the second-leading cause of cancer death for men in Australia. Donor support is enabling St Vincent's Hospital Sydney to pursue initiatives to improve this dire statistic.

St Vincent's NELUNE Men's Health Centre

Navigating the health care system to obtain treatment and long-term support for prostate cancer can be complex and, in many cases, expensive. The typical pathway involves a referral from a GP to a urologist in the private health care system. Financial challenges can often deter patients from seeking treatment, while pathways through the public health care system often lead to significantly less successful patient outcomes.

With this knowledge, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney has been planning to establish a comprehensive, holistic service for men living with prostate cancer. St Vincent's NELUNE Men's Health Centre will revolutionise prostate cancer care in NSW, thanks to visionary funding from the NELUNE Foundation and St Vincent's Curran Foundation supporters.

Led by Nelune Rajapakse AM and Anna Guillan AM, the NELUNE Foundation is one of St Vincent's most significant partners for cancer services, with an extraordinary legacy of supporting projects that enable patients to fight cancer with dignity. The three-year gift will establish a coordinated, holistic range of services, including nurse navigation, physiotherapy, social work, psychology, psychosexual therapy, and dietitian programs. This transformational support is bolstered by generous gifts from several donors, notably Peter and Stephanie Wainberg and the Curtis Foundation.

"It is so exciting to witness the evolution of holistic care where the patient is central and they are supported by so many expert clinicians in their prostate cancer diagnosis. Patients are already benefitting from the improved care experience and the guidance, education, and support of the team," said Dr Ben Namdarian, Clinical Lead for the Men's Health Project.



Kammy Mok Nurse Unit Manager, Anna Guillan AM, Nelune Rajapakse AM and Dr Jeremy de Leon Radiation Oncologist

"Thanks to the support of the NELUNE Foundation and St Vincent's Curran Foundation, we will be able to offer our services to both public and private patients, at no cost."

Kammy Mok, Men's Health Program Manager

St Vincent's Curran Foundation is proud to support this unique resource. We also thank other donors to Prof Stricker's research, including the late Bill and Pamela Caralis, and Marcus Blackmore AM.

Tracking the target

The St Vincent's Hospital Sydney Theranostics and Nuclear Medicine unit is leading a research project on advanced, often treatment-resistant, prostate cancer. Dr Megan Crumbaker and her colleagues are using PSMA (prostate-specific membrane antigen) PET scans to track the spread of cancer throughout the body, while examining how to best use the scans with Lutetium PSMA, a targeted radiation therapy, to deliver optimum treatment. The goal is to create a more personalised approach to treatment.

This research is generously supported by Felice Montrone OAM and Miranda Montrone, as well as the Father Atanasio Gonelli Charitable Fund.

Thank you to all our donors who are providing prostate cancer patients with better health outcomes.

Biobanking on the future

The Garvan Institute of Medical Research houses the largest prostate cancer tissue bank and database in the southern hemisphere, thanks to its collaboration with the St Vincent's Hospital urology department guided by Prof Phillip Stricker. The facility contains over 20,000 samples allowing national and international researchers to investigate breakthrough tumour markers and glean new insights into prostate cancer.

Prof Phil Stricker says, *"This critical database continues to be one of the most valuable prostate cancer resources in Australasia and is now supported across the campus. I am extremely grateful to St Vincent's Curran Foundation donors for supporting the work of the key data collector, Anne-Maree Haynes, who has been integral to the collection for over 25 years. This contribution means her vital work can continue and will ensure the legacy of this project remains at St Vincent's."*

Cav Felice Montrone OAM





LAUNCHING THE ST VINCENT'S DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION PROGRAM

Liveris family powers up innovation at St Vincent's

In March, St Vincent's Curran Foundation launched the St Vincent's Discovery & Innovation Program with a visionary \$1 million leadership gift from the Liveris family. The program aims to raise \$4.5 million over the next three years to enhance clinical research, innovation and entrepreneurship across the St Vincent's Sydney Health Innovation Precinct. Transformational grants and fundraising will be critical to realising our vision for top-tier 'bench to bedside' research-driven patient care.

The program is built on three pillars of activity:

The Paula Liveris Innovation Hub, will be located in the St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research on Level 9 of the Lowy Packer Building, and will facilitate industry collaboration and ideation. An innovation manager will coordinate the innovation and progression of projects across the precinct.

Pitch for Health grants will foster excellence in translational medical science as well as advance health and medical discoveries, by enabling researchers to progress the development of new drugs, diagnostics or devices.

Research Fellow, Postgraduate and Clinician Buy Back grants will give St Vincent's clinicians the opportunity to pursue important research to achieve optimal patient outcomes. The grants will also support research fellows, who are the bedrock of successful research teams, and postgraduate positions that will bring young talent into the research sector.

Commenting on his family's reasons for supporting the program, Anthony Liveris said, *"The St Vincent's Precinct represents probably the best untapped research ecosystem in Australia and is poised to become an innovation powerhouse."*

The Discovery & Innovation program is now attracting new donors with the goal of launching the Pitch for Health grants in 2025.

Welcoming our corporate partners

We are delighted to have Bonitz Advisory and Proto Axiom join us as corporate partners of the program. Proto Axiom's Chief Executive Officer, Anthony Liveris, is also Chair of the Discovery & Innovation Program.

Discovery & Innovation podcast

A new Discover St Vincent's podcast was developed to coincide with the program launch and is a great way for donors and supporters to find out more on a range of areas where St Vincent's clinician researchers are leading the way. Scan the QR code now to register your interest and start an insightful journey into the world of innovation for better health care.



Anthony Liveris, Anthony Politis and Erin Booker

DREAM PROJECT FOR DIABETES CARE

Diabetes prevalence is increasing across Australia with case numbers higher in regional and rural communities, who have limited access to the latest treatments, than in major cities.

The Diabetes Regional Education and Management (DREAM) project, launched in February 2024, is a partnership between St Vincent's Hospital Sydney and Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network. The project helps ensure that patients receive specialist medical advice from diabetes experts and that local doctors and nurses are fully trained in the latest developments in diabetes care. Patients then receive follow-up telehealth care from the St Vincent's Hospital Sydney team.

Each month, the St Vincent's mobile clinic visits a different regional or remote community across the Murrumbidgee region. Led by Prof Jerry Greenfield, Head of the Department of Endocrinology, and Clinical Nurse Consultant Gael Holters, the mobile team supports and observes local clinicians as they see those patients who require the most complex care.

The first five months of the project saw overwhelmingly positive results. One hundred patients from Tumut, Gundagai and Young, as well as the St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith community, have benefitted from the service, while clinicians in those communities have developed a heightened level of expertise and skill.

DREAM is one of several special projects empowered by the generosity and foresight of the late Tim and Yoshiko Wright. The Wrights' transformational bequest also funds studies on osteoporosis refracture and prevention and bone health, including the prevention and management of osteoporosis, particularly in complex patients with multiple co-morbidities, in particular, diabetic patients.

We also extend our gratitude to Peter and Rae Fletcher, who generously donated a mobile retinal camera – an essential resource for treating diabetic patients in a rural and regional settings.

Prof Greenfield says, *"Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our supporters, we are delighted to have begun the DREAM initiative. It has been very rewarding to work with local health care professionals to ensure that patients with diabetes who live in rural and regional NSW have access to specialist diabetes management."*

A special thank you goes to Little Wings for generously providing flights into regional Australia to transport clinicians and the resources needed to treat patients and upskill local healthcare workers.

Prof Jerry Greenfield
and Gael Holters



NURSING EXCELLENCE: COMMITMENT, COMPASSION AND CARE

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney prides itself on achieving a world-class standard of nursing excellence. The thoughtful support of our philanthropic community allows the hospital to deliver the best in frontline care by investing in the professional development of our nurses. We are especially grateful to the many donors that are supporting St Vincent's Nursing Excellence, including the JW & M Cunningham Foundation, Pratt Foundation, Stroke Management Foundation, Jackie Waterhouse, Geoffrey Cook, Marlee and Michael Anker, and Sandra Salteri.

Delta Goodrem Foundation extends to support nursing excellence

The inaugural Delta Goodrem Foundation Gala, held at the National Art School in May, was a resounding success, raising \$1.175 million to support St Vincent's Hospital nursing excellence and cellular therapies programs. The Delta's Angels and Heroes Nursing Recognition Program will support the hospital's initiatives to honour, recognise and thank nurses for the incredible work they do for our patients. Delta Goodrem AM honoured

St Vincent's nurses at the International Nurses Day awards and presented special awards to leading nurses, in addition to ongoing support of the Delta Goodrem Foundation for the American Australian Association exchange in cellular therapies nursing.

Postgraduate course in palliative care launches

This year saw the launch of our new Graduate Certificate of Palliative Care Nursing, in conjunction with the University of Notre Dame Australia. This postgraduate program addresses the urgent need for skilled professionals in palliative care and offers registered nurses at St Vincent's Health Network Sydney a pathway to a specialised qualification.

A key focus of the program is to prepare generalist nurses to provide exceptional palliative care. By offering comprehensive education and training, the program ensures that nurses across all health care settings can confidently and competently support patients with life-limiting illnesses.

Graduate students put learning into practice

St Vincent's heart and lung patients will benefit from the specialised nursing skills of nine graduates of the hospital's Postgraduate Cardiothoracic and Heart Lung Transplant nursing course. Ga Hyun, Lillian McNamara, Giulia Rinaudo, Rahmina Shrestha, Bridget Barnes, Julia Song Do, Anh Ta, and Sarah Loizou are already putting their development into practice.

One student is now a clinical nurse consultant in the Cardiac Catheter Lab for our TAVI (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation) patients, and another is training as a heart lung transplant coordinator. One student covered leave relief for the clinical nurse educator in their ward, and six students are upskilling into the role of team leader in their respective wards.



St Vincent's theatre nurses

Mental health and ICU graduates make a difference

In October 2022, the Cunningham Fellow in nurse education began creating and coordinating a new mental health postgraduate course, offered in conjunction with the Australian Catholic University.

Their commitment to professional development is already having an impact for patients. Two graduates have progressed to working as nurses in charge in the acute adult inpatient setting. Another has been acting as the clinical nurse consultant of the Caritas unit, and a nurse unit manager. Three are completing their portfolio for clinical nurse specialist applications.

Thanks to support from the Jarry Endowment Fund, Intensive Care has also seen significant upskilling. Six nurses who undertook postgraduate courses in the last 12 months were: Vanessa Miziniak, Connie Barry, Tracey Burns, Jacky Chen, Caitlin O'Shea, and Laura Waterson.

"This course has bolstered my confidence in providing quality care, equipped with a thorough understanding of pathophysiology and treatment. Witnessing patients' recovery has been an exceptionally rewarding aspect of the course."

**Ga Hyun, Registered Nurse,
Xavier 10 North**



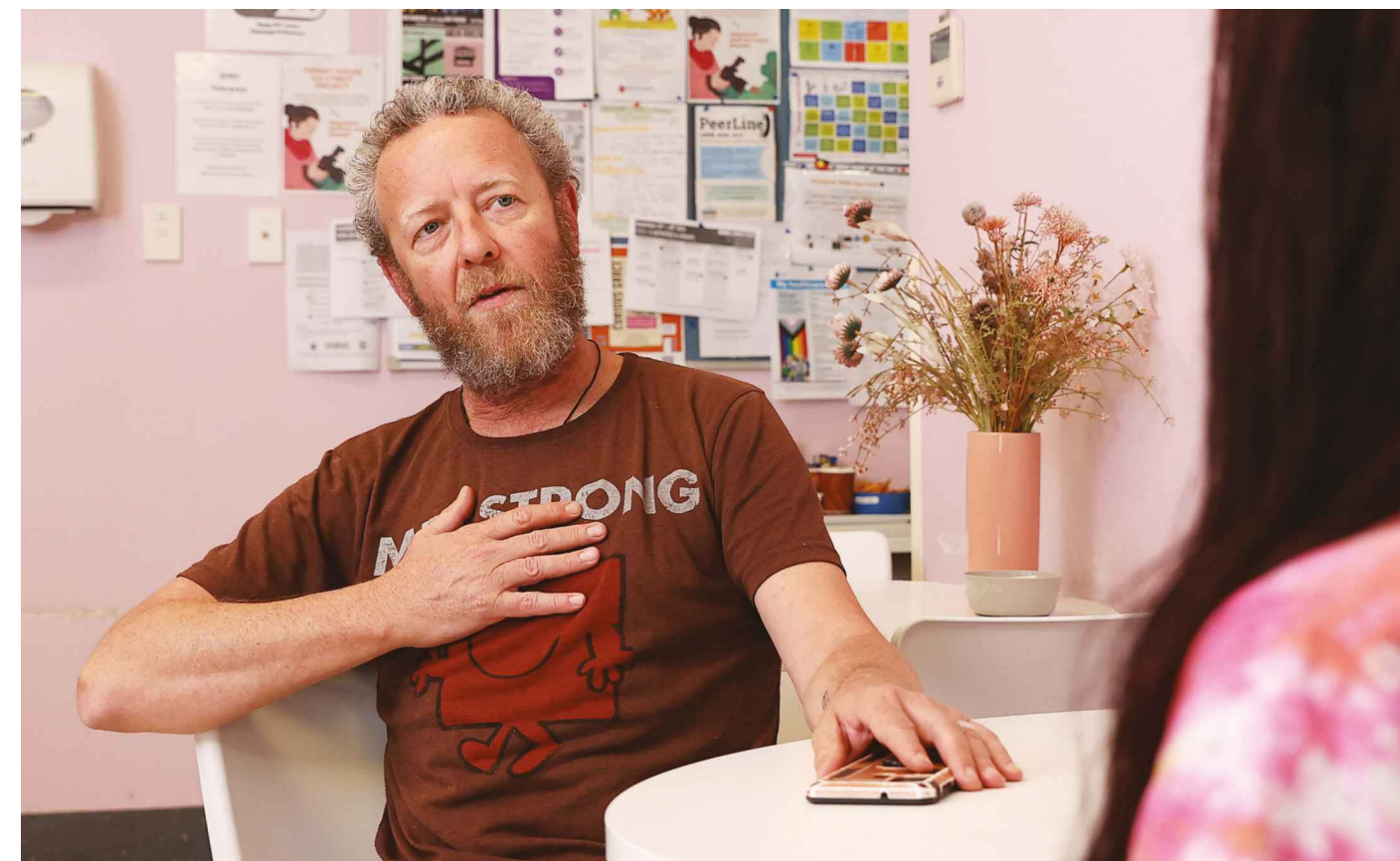
Delta Goodrem AM with Heart Lung Clinic nurses

A HELPING HAND FOR OUR HOMELESS

Every night in Australia, more than 120,000 people sleep rough. Many of these people never visit a doctor, so when their health issues become unbearable often their only option is their local emergency department. Being situated in an area with high rates of homelessness, St Vincent's is committed to pro-actively supporting our community by operating specialist services involving multi-disciplinary teams of clinicians including social, mental health, homeless health and addiction health workers. These life-saving and life-changing services have long been supported by donors to our homeless health programs.

Tierney House ensures continuity of care

We extend our heartfelt gratitude in particular to the Margaret Pemberton Foundation, Gary Pemberton AC and Margaret Pemberton for more than 12 years of strategic and compassionate support for St Vincent's Homeless Health programs and in particular Tierney House.



Cameron French, Residential Services Manager at Tierney House

The Pemberton family's generous contributions have been crucial to establishing, sustaining and growing Tierney House services.

In the past 12 years Tierney House has welcomed 2,550 residents aged 18 to 84 from 31 different nationalities, with 75% of referrals from St Vincent's Hospital, followed by Prince of Wales and Royal Prince Alfred Hospitals.

The Margaret Pemberton Foundation Samaritan fund ensures that Tierney House Residential Services Manager Cameron French and his team have ready access to funds to support the needs of homeless patients requiring urgent assistance and support for aspects of their healthcare and needs not covered by Medicare or other government funding. This highly practical initiative ensures our dedicated homeless health team have the resources to purchase clothing, assist with transport costs and other practicalities to address the needs of our patients.



2024 Payce Foundation Homeless Persons' Memorial Service

"Given residents are with us for two weeks we can formulate a care plan around housing, Centrelink, legal and financial support, along with psychosocial aspects that go along with physical health issues. It is a holistic service which goes beyond healthcare of our hospital walls."

**Cameron French,
Residential Services Manager,
Tierney House**

We are also grateful to Peter and Jenny Wohl, David Hall AM and Helene Hall, Howarth Foundation, and all our other donors whose support enables Tierney House to employ peer support workers and extend our homeless health outreach programs.

Donor family connects with compassion

One of the most powerful recent stories of generosity involves an anonymous donor who contributed \$185,000 to support our Homeless Health Services. Motivated by a significant charitable act extended to his own family when they first moved to Australia as migrants, this donor and his wife are committed to passing down the values of compassion to their children. His whole family has now become deeply connected to our Homeless Health team and are an inspiration to us all with their quiet but powerful philanthropic acts.

End to Street Sleeping Collaboration

Five years ago, leading homelessness organisations in NSW - the NSW Government, and the City of Sydney, along with individual philanthropists, came together with the shared mission to end rough sleeping in NSW by establishing the End Street Sleeping Collaboration.

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney is an active member of the End to Street Sleeping Collaboration, recognising that no single organisation or strategy, regardless of how large or successful it may be, could solve a complex social challenge, like ending rough sleeping, at scale.

One of the most special initiatives of the collaboration is the now annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Service held in Martin Place to pay respects and remember those who have tragically died while homeless.

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney is proud to actively support the collaborative efforts of the whole of the sector to enable improved health pathways and connections across the system to achieve better outcomes for people sleeping rough.

Along with other partners, we are grateful to the Payce Foundation who continue to stand by our side in addressing systemic change for this highly vulnerable population in our community.



HEALING, HOPE & HUMANITY

St Vincent's is built on the legacy of the Sisters of Charity who served the community by providing compassionate healthcare to those in need, particularly the poor and vulnerable. We are not only fortunate, but grateful that members of our community choose to keep this legacy of care and support alive by supporting our Healing, Hope and Humanity Fund.

Created in 2009, the Healing, Hope and Humanity Fund provides vital funding to cover vital medical treatment for marginalised or disadvantaged patients who may otherwise not have access to these services due to an inability to cover the costs. The fund supports a range of disadvantaged patients including those experiencing homelessness, refugees, and anyone who cannot otherwise access healthcare due to financial constraints or other socio-economic barriers.

Outreach services

For approximately 35,000 individuals facing the harsh realities of homelessness, Christmas can be an extra challenging time of year.

St Vincent's Community Outreach Medical Emergency Team (COMET), is a specialised homeless health service for the complex health needs of vulnerable people who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness. The team visits people sleeping rough or in crisis accommodation, conducting health assessments, treatment, referrals, and care coordination. This service has been philanthropically funded since 2010.

We are grateful to Peter Howarth OAM and Judy Howarth and the Howarth Foundation for their significant support of the COMET homeless health outreach program providing certainty for this essential service.

In addition to this, our generous supporters came together to raise more than \$117,000 towards our 2023 Christmas Appeal. The appeal supported our Homeless Health Service enabling our Community Outreach Medical Emergency Team to continue their vital work into the new year.

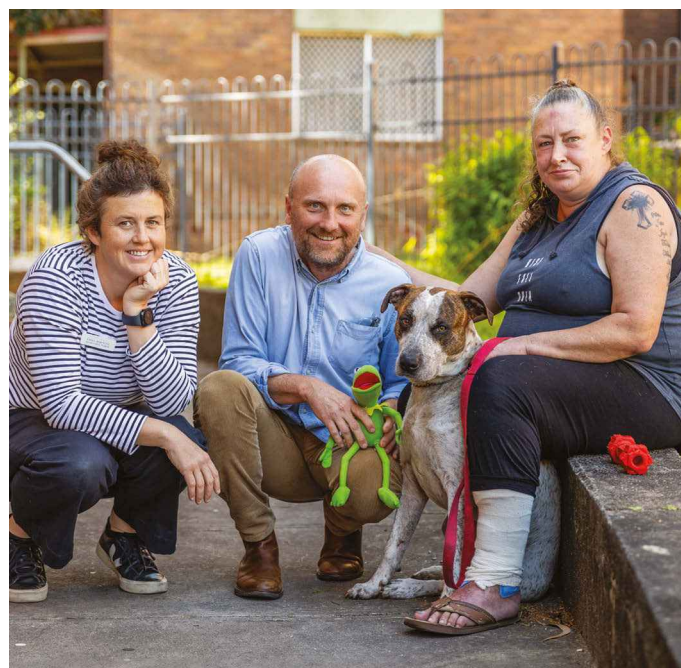
You may remember our Christmas story featured Nicolle, one of COMET's clients. While living on the streets, Nicolle developed a severe leg infection and was hospitalised, facing the threat of amputation. However, St Vincent's COMET service intervened by visiting Nicolle three times a week to provide essential care and dress her wounds.

"If it wasn't for these guys from St Vincent's, I would have lost my leg. Life is much better than it was, but it was unbearable before that. I was ready to give up."

Nicolle

We thank Nicolle for sharing her story and to all of our generous supporters who have enabled the St Vincent's Homeless Health and Mental Health teams to continue improving the lives and health of those in the community who need us.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to supporters, the Howarth Foundation, David Hall AM and Helene Hall, the late Vic Perrin, Alanna Therese McBride, Denis Stanley Klein, the late Robert Scot Skirving, Ross Anthony Mastroianni, and the many donors who are helping to keep our mission alive.



COMET team with Nicolle

REMODELLING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The development of the new St Vincent's Urban Health Hub at Green Park will mark a significant step forward in St Vincent's Hospital Sydney's commitment to providing innovative and integrated healthcare pathways, particularly for those in the community seeking mental health support.

The Urban Health Hub will be non-clinical and welcoming in its approach providing a holistic health navigation service for those in need of help. Our aim is to create a space that fosters connection and support, allowing patients to navigate their health journeys with ease. The Hub will provide a menu of healthcare options, as well as essential referrals to both St Vincent's services and our network of external partners.

In addition to serving as a resource for information and education on prevention, recovery and wellness, the Hub will cater to some of our most vulnerable patients offering a range of patient support options including face to face interactions, digital engagement, and statewide virtual health programs, all facilitated through our dedicated webinar studio.

Developing the heritage-protected Green Park Hotel and designing the ideal environment for this new service is a complex process. We are grateful to those donors who have embarked on this journey with us through founding gifts including Peter and Rae Fletcher and the Fletcher family, Steve and Melissa Burcher, Kim and James Auswild, Suellen Enestrom, the JW & M Cunningham Foundation, Charles Curran AC and the Curran Family Foundation, Paynter Dixon, and Boffa Architects.

With this early support, \$3.8 million has been secured towards the total \$15 million in philanthropic support required to commence construction and undertake the model of care development. A new project manager is being recruited to lead this innovative new program, which will support the mental health of our community in the future.

Safe Haven Café

A cornerstone of our community outreach efforts is the Safe Haven Café, a welcoming environment designed for individuals experiencing emotional or suicidal distress. This initiative provides a vital space for support and social connection. Currently operating as a pilot program from our O'Brien Centre, the café will remain open until the completion of the Urban Health Hub. Since its launch in 2022, the Safe Haven Café has welcomed over 135 guests, offering them refuge and a listening ear.

Understanding the importance of connection during these challenging moments, our dedicated staff, alongside peer support workers who share their own lived experiences with suicidal distress, provide compassionate care and assistance to those in need.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Schirato family and Vittoria Coffee for their support of our Safe Haven Café.

Supporting early career psychiatrists

The Cunningham Fellowship in Emergency Mental Health offers crucial support for early career clinicians, particularly emerging psychiatrists in St Vincent's Hospital's Psychiatry Training Program. Recognising the challenges they face in balancing training with service delivery, the grant funds research into the most effective mental health care approaches for patients presenting to the emergency department. This initiative enhances patient outcomes, while also supporting the development of new psychiatrists.



Kim Auswild and Steve Burcher

THE ART OF HEALING

The founding Sisters of Charity understood the role of art in healing and with support from the community, started building our art collection from the hospital's first days.

The Neville Holmes Grace Arts Health Program helps to keep the Sisters' legacy and their vision of bringing compassionate care to the vulnerable and those most in need in the community alive.

Creating inviting spaces for all

A grant from the Neville Holmes Grace Arts Health Program is helping to make our emergency department waiting rooms more inviting and culturally safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

With a decades-long commitment to improving health outcomes for this community, St Vincent's is regarded as a leader in Aboriginal health care and research in a hospital setting. For this reason, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients will present to the St Vincent's Hospital Emergency Department throughout the year. However, emergency waiting rooms can often feel institutional, intimidating and confronting.

The grant enabled a series of creative community consultation workshops, led by the Boomalli Aboriginal Artist Cooperative, aimed at producing artwork to help make the emergency department a more inviting and culturally comfortable space. In response, Boomalli artist Wanita Lowe, created a visual work for exhibition alongside other workshop creations. The display highlighted the process and the developmental work, as well as invited further input and feedback from community members.

This collaborative initiative received the NSW Health Infrastructure Art and Health Award in November 2023. The award, a partnership between Museums & Galleries of NSW and NSW Health Infrastructure, celebrates the role of the arts in fostering the wellbeing and health outcomes of communities in NSW. It also highlights the importance of projects that promote the health-building capacity of arts in health care.



Boomalli Aboriginal Artist Cooperative

The healing power of music

In 2024, the Neville Holmes Grace Arts Health Program continued supporting 'A Sound Life' initiative, which brings performances by volunteer musicians to patients, families and staff at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney.

Neville Grace had a particular passion for music, and his legacy allows the gift of music to be shared with some of our most vulnerable patients and members of the community, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, patients in palliative care, and patients experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, or drug and alcohol issues.

The initiative is run by Christine Harvey, Volunteer Coordinator at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney. Christine successfully applied for a Neville Holmes Grace Arts Health Program grant in 2022, allowing her to begin a three-year expansion of 'A Sound Life' in line with the St Vincent's Envision 2025 objectives of caring for the most vulnerable in our community. Since 'A Sound Life' first started, Christine has collaborated with nurse unit managers to expand the music services to three new areas: geriatric and dementia patients in Ward 9 North, long-term hospital admissions and immobile patients in Ward 7 North, and the Rehabilitation Services at Sacred Heart Health Services.

'A Sound Life' clearly contributes to the hospital's patient-centred care approach and with philanthropic funding, can make all the difference to our patients' healing journeys.

Art as therapy: creating inspiring patient experiences

A special thank you to Prof Ross Steele AM whose generosity has enabled St Vincent's Arts Trolley Project to continue by providing crucial support for the arts health facilitator role and supplies. The arts health facilitator takes the trolley, which is stocked with a range of arts and creative materials, to patients' bedsides, places of treatment, and appropriate waiting and communal areas.

Art-making activities include collage, colouring in, watercolours, or simple sculptural activities. The Arts Health Program makes a life changing difference for patients experiencing stress or anxiety, particularly those who are bed-bound or spending an extended period in hospital. In 2023-2024, the Arts Health Program received the St Vincent's Health Network Sydney Patient Experience award.

Annette Innis,
St Vincent's Arts Health Facilitator



COMMUNITY PARTNERS COMBINE FOR IMPACT

Our committed community fundraisers have been supporting patient care and valuable research since the Sisters of Charity opened the first St Vincent's Hospital in Potts Point in 1857. This has been made possible with the generous fundraising efforts of the community coming together to achieve impact.

Tour de Cure grant for multiple myeloma

Every day in Australia, six more people are diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a blood cancer that develops in plasma cells in bone marrow. Dr Georgia McCaughan's research into the progression and treatment resistance of this life-threatening disease has been boosted by \$200,000 thanks to another remarkable grant from Tour de Cure.

Using pioneering technologies, Dr Georgia McCaughan and Bone Biologist Prof Peter Croucher, Immunologist Prof Tri Phan, and teams from St Vincent's and the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, have identified dormant myeloma cells, previously only seen in mouse samples, in newly diagnosed patients.

They now hope to examine how these dormant cells and other myeloma cells interact with bone and immune cells at various times in the disease journey, particularly in response to different therapies, and how this interaction corresponds with disease behaviour and relapse.

The generous grant funding from Tour de Cure will contribute to this important research, and we extend our sincere thanks to David Beak and Tour de Cure for their ongoing support that is making a difference to the lives of multiple myeloma patients.



Warren and Jordan Williams



St Vincent's Staff run City2Surf

100kms of Heartbreak Hill

Heartbreak Hill, a steep and punishing incline that is part of the City2Surf, is the section of the route that most runners dread. Yet, the week before the public event, Jordan Williams ran up and down Heartbreak Hill 25 times to raise awareness and funds for heart health and cardiac research. He covered 100 kilometres and ascended over 2,500 metres. Dubbed the Heartbreak 100, this epic challenge was inspired by his father, Warren Williams, and his tenacity in battling a cardiac condition.

Warren was a competitive athlete living a healthy lifestyle when he discovered he had atrial fibrillation at a routine check-up, and had to be fitted with a precautionary pace maker. Atrial fibrillation (AFib) is the most common heart problem affecting Australians. It causes the heart to beat out of rhythm and often too fast. It affects half a million Australians and is a major cause of stroke, heart failure and death.

Supporters of Heartbreak 100 raised \$43,000, which will support St Vincent's cardiologist Prof Diane Fatkin's cardiac research. Prof Fatkin is leading a research team at the Victor Chang Research Institute, working to uncover the genetic causes of atrial fibrillation by analysing the genes of 150 Australian families with AFib.

City2Surf 2023

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated participants who joined us in this year's City2Surf event. With immense pride, we celebrate the efforts of our two teams and the individual fundraisers who, together, raised an incredible \$6,852 through combined energy and determination. These funds will significantly benefit the St Vincent's Heart Lung Clinic and Prof Jerry Greenfield's type one diabetes research, helping to advance crucial medical research and patient care.

We also express our gratitude to Amber Dixon and her 'Dash for Diabetes' team for taking on the challenge for the third year.

Joshua's marathon run for his dad

In tackling his arduous personal goal of running a marathon, Joshua Panetta decided he also wanted to give back to the hospital that gave so much to his family. In 2004, Joshua's dad, Leo, suffered from cardiomyopathy, and the St Vincent's Heart Lung Clinic cared for him for two years. During that time, Leo suffered several heart attacks and was fitted with a defibrillator before eventually receiving a donor heart in 2006. Fast forward 17 years, and Leo is still working as a concreter and living life as a dad, grandad and husband.

An eternally grateful Joshua raised \$4,970 for St Vincent's Heart Lung Clinic.

We would like to express our deepest thanks to all our community fundraisers for their time and efforts to support the causes that are close to their heart.

COLLABORATING WITH CORPORATES FOR BETTER HEALTH

The Corporate Circle partnership program allows companies to give back to the local community through supporting St Vincent's. Donated services and products also make a significant difference to our hospitals by enabling us to do more with donor funds while also providing brand recognition and exposure.

Harnessing AI in health care

Artificial intelligence (AI) in health care, particularly its ethical, clinical and human impact, is a hot topic. Last November 2023, our corporate breakfast at Uccello, courtesy of our corporate partner Merivale, included a panel discussion on 'Harnessing artificial intelligence in health care'. The panel comprised Dr Aengus Tran, founder and CEO of Harrison.AI; A/Prof Mayoora Namasivayam, St Vincent's Staff Specialist Cardiologist and Associate Director of Echocardiography; and Prof Steven Faux AM, Director of Pain Medicine.

We thank Katrina Strickland, editor of Good Weekend Magazine, for navigating this intriguing, insightful and engaging discussion, and our corporate partners and clinicians who gave their time to join us. A big thank you also to Merivale for their ongoing support.

Pirtek – Pioneering neuroscience research

For 16 years, Pirtek has generously supported neuroscience research through the annual Pirtek Fishing Challenge and two Ultimate Motorsport Prize raffles, the Repco Bathurst 1000 and Indianapolis 500. We are grateful to the team at Pirtek for their long-standing commitment to the Peter Duncan Research Unit at St Vincent's.



Dr Aengus Tran, Katrina Strickland, Prof Steven Faux AM, A/Prof Mayoora Namasivayam

Putt for Prevention – supporting Heart Lung Innovation

Our valued corporate partners and supporters joined us in June 2024 at our fourth Putt for Prevention, hosted by the Magenta Shores Golf and Country Club with Imagination Graphics and GSA returning as presenting partners.

After a day of golf, our cardiothoracic clinicians enthralled the audience with accounts of St Vincent's many innovations over the last 40 years. We extend our gratitude to our clinicians for giving their time and expertise, both on and off the course: Dr Paul Jansz, A/Prof Andrew Roy, Dr David Roy, A/Prof Peter Macdonald AM, and Prof Chris Hayward.

The event and silent auction raised \$70,000 to support the redevelopment of our interventional cardiology suites, which will benefit patients at both our public and private hospitals. We are very grateful to our wonderful partners: Magenta Shores Golf and Country Club, Pullman Magenta Shores Resort, and Levantine Hill for providing the fabulous wines for the evening.

We also extend our gratitude to our auction event supporters: Levantine Hill, qualia Resort, Coolmore Australia, Accor and Novotel Sydney Olympic Park, Michael Cassell AM, Pullman Hyde Park, Karen Lindley AM, and the Australian Golf Club. A final thanks to the Elusive Miss Lou and Jack de Ross for providing their iconic optical eyewear as prizes for our winning teams.



John Gibbs, Paul Hines, Adam Revai and Kerry McCabe

Recognising our health care workers

Acknowledgement of our health care workers at St Vincent's Hospitals for their hard work is incredibly important. We would like to thank the following for their ongoing support of our staff and for recognising our incredible nurses on International Nurses Day: Cue, Merivale, Accor, Vittoria, Lindt, Aesop, Chemist Warehouse, Revlon, Just Cuts, and Jules Robinson.

We are also grateful to our other partners: Calabria Family Wines and Casella Family Brands; Stanton & Stanton, for supporting our events and Hospital in Griffith; Paynter Dixon; Carroll and O'Dea, for their ongoing advice; and Vittoria, for supporting our events and Safe Haven program.

Partnering for progress

We are delighted to welcome new partners to our Corporate Circle Program. Visionflex is providing equipment to support virtual healthcare trials: Taylors Wines has come on board to support our Inside St Vincent's podcast series and we are thrilled to welcome back Di Jones Real Estate as a bronze partner.

We also welcomed Bonitz Advisory, our first corporate partner for the exciting new initiative, the Discovery & Innovation Program. We look forward to working with Jochen Bonitz, as well as Anthony Liveris and his team at Proto Axiom, to optimise our clinical research and entrepreneurship across St Vincent's Health Precinct.

Throughout the year, Levantine Hill supported major donor events to help us celebrate the achievements of philanthropic support at St Vincent's. We are deeply grateful to Elias Jreissati AM and Colleen Jreissati, Melissa Jreissati and the family for their ongoing support of St Vincent's.

Thank you to all of our corporate partners for your valued support, which enables us to continue delivering excellence and innovation in exceptional patient care and creating positive health outcomes for all.



Benefactors Lunch 2023
Anne Cooke and Dr John Cooke, Sr Margaret Fitzgerald rsc, Sr Genevieve Walsh rsc



Friends of St Vincent's Private Hospital Reception 2023
Margaret Cormie, Eric Tang MBE and Eileen Tang



Heart Lung Dinner 2024
Colleen Jreissati and Elias Jreissati AM, Melissa Jreissati



Green Park Lunch 2024
Glenda Duncan, Charles Curran AC, Josephine Sukkar AM, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull AC



Putt For Prevention
Emmanuel Buhagiar with team Imagination Graphics



Diwali Event 2023
Yogendra and Shradha Patel, Jai Patel



Spring Reception 2023
Rae and Peter Fletcher, Anna McFadgen



Heart Lung Dinner 2024
Ryan, Lauren and Craig Sutton



Evolution Dinner 2024
Zac Stenmark, Jasmine Lee



Evolution Dinner 2024
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Heart Lung Dinner 2024
Richard Haddock AO, Jane Barnes and Jimmy Barnes AO



Heart Lung Dinner 2024
Ian and Maryanne Pagent, Amanda Pagent



Delta Goodrem Nursing Excellence Dinner 2024
Jodi and Paul Hines



Future of Healthcare Event 2024
Josie Ashton Mills, Dr Philipa Harvey Sutton, Michael Ashton



Lights of Hanukkah 2023
Idan Goldberger, Dr Elisheva Vissel, Yael Zelas, Yadin Levy



Spring Reception 2023
Stephen Dutton, Prof Bruce Brew AM



St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith
Simon Camilleri, Gabrielle Wood, William Calabria



Benefactors Lunch 2023
Irene Cribbin and Sue Cullen



Heart Lung Dinner 2024
Cathy Ding, Garth Hu and Shasha Yang



Heart Lung Dinner 2024
Fiona Coote AM, Les Schirato AM and Luisa Schirato



Benefactors Lunch 2023
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Diwali Event 2023
John and Ros Sample, Shanthini Naidoo



Lights of Hanukkah 2023
Dr Craig Haifer and Dr Michael Kasovitsky



Lights of Hanukkah 2023
Kate Mason and Peter Mason AM



Spring Reception 2023
David Polson AM, Paul Denham



Friends of St Vincent's Private Hospital 2023
Jim Dwyer AM and Annie Dwyer



St Vincent's Private Griffith Lunch 2023
Alan and Maria Finemore



Lungs for the Future Dinner 2024
Clare Seranfi, Linda Harker and Steve Harker AM and Rachel Ray



Spring Reception 2023
Lauren Sutton and Claudia Stahl



Future of Healthcare Event 2023
Sharon Cowin and Jack Cowin AM



Future of Healthcare Event 2023
Peter and Jenny Wohl



Benefactors Lunch 2023
St Vincent's College Choir



Spring Reception 2023
Matilda and Molly Macqueen

WITH OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE THANK YOU

* Includes support through Friends of St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney
** Includes support of St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith

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