ST VINCENT'S CURRAN FOUNDATION

# HIGHLIGHTS

St Vincent's Curran Foundation Newsletter
Fundraising for St Vincent's Hospitals and Facilities in New South Wales
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Spring 2020

# SUPPORTERS COME "TOGETHER AS ONE" TO ESTABLISH THE ST VINCENT'S CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN CELLULAR THERAPY

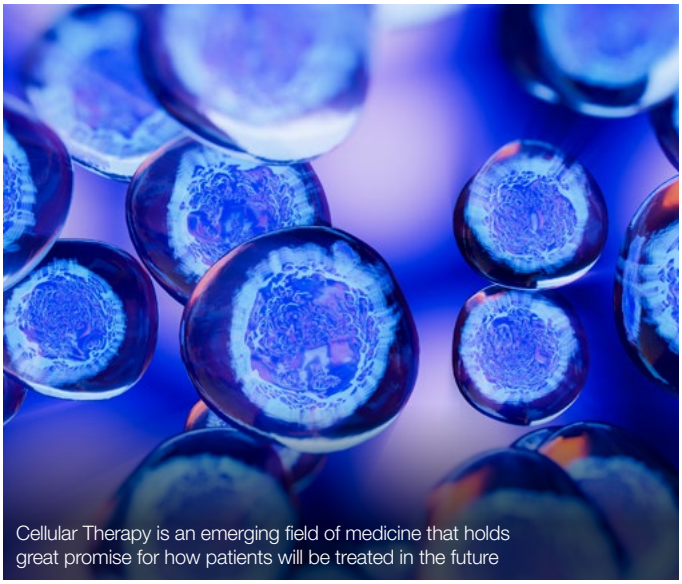
St Vincent's Hospital Sydney has been at the forefront of bone marrow and stem cell transplantation ever since the very first bone marrow transplant in Australia was undertaken at the hospital in October 1975. As we approach the 45th anniversary of this milestone, the St Vincent's Curran Foundation has been working closely with Dr Sam Milliken, St Vincent's Head of Haematology to raise funds to establish a Centre of Excellence in Cellular Therapy for malignant and autoimmune diseases.

The Centre of Excellence will focus primarily on haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) to treat blood cancers and some severe chronic immune conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis (MS). HSCT uses a patient's own cells to make new blood and immune cells that can re-establish damaged bone marrow and/or immune function. As with many new and emerging fields of medicine, we are relying on philanthropic support to establish the Centre.

The lynchpin of the new Centre will be recruiting the role of the new Director, a role which has now been generously funded through a multi-year gift commitment from Dr John Chong and Mrs Anne Chong. You might recall that John and Anne helped St Vincent's to build the new Haematology, Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit in memory of John Adam Chong, who died from complications related to Lymphoma. John and Anne's support is a tribute to their son and a commitment to the long-term vision of advancing treatment options for these complex diseases.

Both John, a former surgeon, and Anne understand the pivotal importance of research in improving treatments for blood cancers and autoimmune disease. The soon-to-be appointed Chong Family Director of Cellular Therapy will guide the St Vincent's research team to undertake clinical trials, leveraging and contributing to the work that other clinical research sites are doing around Australia and the world. We are incredibly thankful to them for this extraordinary support.

We are also grateful to the Bourne Foundation, The Delta Goodrem Foundation, the Medich Family, the Zamasa Foundation and MS Research Australia, who have joined John and Anne to support the vision of the new Centre of Excellence.



Cellular Therapy is an emerging field of medicine that holds great promise for how patients will be treated in the future

Assoc Professor John Moore and Delta Goodrem

# DELTA GOODREM FOUNDATION LAUNCH GIVES "WINGS" TO CELLULAR THERAPY FELLOW

The vision for the new Centre of Excellence was given a significant boost with the launch of the new Delta Goodrem Foundation by St Vincent's Hospital Ambassador, and Patron of The Kinghorn Cancer Centre, Delta Goodrem, in June 2020. In launching her Foundation, Delta generously pledged her support to establish the Delta Goodrem Fellowship in Cellular Therapy.

The Delta Goodrem Foundation Fellowship will enable an emerging clinician researcher to support the work of the Centre in using stem-cell treatments to treat blood cancers as well as undertake ground-breaking research into "adoptive immunotherapy" with chimeric antigen receptor T (CAR-T) cells.

"I am proud to be able to support St Vincent's and their dedication to improving the lives of cancer patients. My goal as a cancer survivor is to give people battling cancer hope. I want to secure a brighter future for people with cancer and my support to St Vincent's is part of this effort," said Delta.

Delta's personal journey with St Vincent's and her successful treatment for Hodgkin Lymphoma is known to many people. As a grateful patient, Delta has developed a deep appreciation of the opportunities and challenges of cancer treatment, for clinicians and patients alike. Delta's personal commitment and high profile promotion of the work of St Vincent's truly gives "wings" to our vision.

If you are interested in joining our wonderful founding donors in supporting the Centre of Excellence in Cellular Therapy, please contact Victoria Stoddard at the St Vincent's Curran Foundation on 1800 800 595.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH MS RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

The St Vincent's Curran Foundation is delighted to announce a strategic partnership with MS Research Australia to advance cellular therapy for people living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

MS is a degenerative condition where the immune system attacks the protective layer around the nerve fibres, cutting the signals along the nervous system and brain. It effects more than 25,000 people in Australia and can cause severe disabilities to movement and vision.

While there is no known cure for MS, St Vincent's Hospital has been a pioneer in the application of stem cell therapies that have shown to reduce symptoms and slow the progression of the disease. With the support of MS Research Australia, we are looking to expand this research program and improve our understanding of the profound immune changes that occur in patients who receive cell-based treatments.

Stem-cell transplantation is an intensive procedure and there are risks associated with the treatment. This 5-year partnership aims to clarify who best responds to treatment as well as ensure that more people with MS can access stem cell therapies under observational trial conditions.

The program is being led by Associate Professor John Moore and Dr Jennifer Massey as part of the St Vincent's Centre of Excellence in Cellular Therapy.

This important partnership builds on the MS Research Australia's commitment to research in this area, including past grant and fellowship support to earlier stem cell research on the campus. We look forward to progressing our research to improve outcomes for patients with MS and would like to thank MS Research Australia for their ongoing support.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Over the past 6 months we have all experienced an extraordinary time of upheaval and change as our community navigates the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout this time, St Vincent's Hospitals have worked together to play a vital role in protecting and caring for the health of our community.

Our Hospitals have, as always, been supporting patients and their families in the "St Vincent's Way", reflecting the spirit of our Founding Sisters of Charity. We have cared for not only those who have tested positive to COVID-19 but everyone in the community who has needed the help of our Hospitals for any reason.

Your incredible support of St Vincent's Public and Private Hospitals' ongoing patient care and our capital and clinical research programs over the past year has been more generous than ever. For that we are truly grateful.

This edition of Highlights celebrates many extraordinary acts of philanthropy, big and small, all of which have helped us to make a significant difference to the work of our doctors, nurses and allied health staff in caring for our patients.

The very special role that our wonderful Ambassador and Patron, Delta Goodrem, has played in lifting the spirits of all our staff and helping to raise funds for our new Centre of Excellence in Cellular Therapy has been a highlight. Thank you to the Delta Goodrem Foundation, Bourne Foundation and Zamasa Foundation who have come together with John and Anne Chong to support the vision for this Centre of Excellence.

We are also very grateful to the JW & M Cunningham Foundation, and their visionary founders John Cunningham AM SCM and Margaret Cunningham, as we celebrate the distribution of $700,000 in inaugural annual grants, awarded to special projects across our Hospitals. Their generosity in growing the JW & M Cunningham Foundation to support St Vincent's continues to inspire us all.

Similarly, all your support in recent times has been uplifting. Your donations ensured important projects across areas such as mental health, cancer, gastroenterology, intensive care, heart lung and nursing can gain momentum and be delivered.

We have greatly missed not being able to connect with our "St Vincent's family" at events. I do hope that our more regular webinars and our special videos are helping to keep us all connected virtually.

I know I speak on behalf of all at the Foundation and St Vincent's Hospitals when I thank you again for the strength of your commitment to our work. As Delta so aptly sings, "*Together We Are One*".

**Shanthini Naidoo**
**Chief Executive Officer, St Vincent's Curran Foundation**

## JW & M CUNNINGHAM FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTE INAUGURAL GRANTS OF $700,000

The St Vincent's Curran Trustee Ltd as Trustees for the JW & M Cunningham Foundation are delighted to announce the distribution of $700,000 of inaugural annual grants from the new Foundation, which is a Private Ancillary Fund with the same objective as the St Vincent's Curran Foundation, to provide philanthropic support through annual grants to St Vincent's Hospitals in NSW.

The new Foundation was established in 2019, with an extraordinarily generous $10 million founding gift from John Cunningham AM SCM and Margaret Cunningham. During the year, John and Margaret increased the value of the JW & M Foundation growing the value to $19.3 million by 30 June 2020. Their extraordinary contribution to the establishment of this new Foundation in perpetuity is an outstanding act of philanthropy from which generations of patients at St Vincent's will benefit.

**2019/2020 JW & M Cunningham Grants**

- Funding for a Transoesphageal Ultrasound Machine for the Anaesthetics department
- An Impellar Heart Pump and 20 Intra-vascular lithotripsy catheters for the Cardiology department
- Funding for a Movement Disorder Fellow for Neurosciences
- An ENT Microsurgery TIVATO 700 Microscope for St Vincent's Private Hospital Day Surgery

Bronwen Ditton, one of three new Cancer Care Coordinators at the NELUNE Centre in The Kinghorn Cancer Centre

# HELPING PATIENTS FIGHT CANCER WITH DIGNITY

The NELUNE Foundation truly believes that they can make a difference to the journey of cancer patients and have now been doing so for almost 20 years.

The NELUNE Foundation remains committed to ensuring cancer patients receive the best support possible through the introduction of three new Cancer Care Coordinators at the NELUNE Centre in The Kinghorn Cancer Centre, a joint facility of St Vincent's Hospital Sydney and the Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

"As a cancer survivor, I know from personal experience that the journey for most people from diagnosis is complex and challenging. Even in normal times, the possibility of getting "lost" in the healthcare system for cancer patients is high" said Nelune Rajapakse AM.

The three new Coordinators are playing a vital role in ensuring the continuation of patient-centred care and personalising the journey for all St Vincent's Hospital cancer patients. Their work provides a critical front-line resource to manage multi-disciplinary care across imaging, radiation oncology, chemotherapy, allied health and patient's social support needs. We would like to welcome Bronwen Ditton, Mary Hayes and Babita Khanal, who are already making a significant difference to the cancer patient's journey.

"Continuing to ensure patient-centred care in the midst of and following COVID-19 where face-to-face contact with highly vulnerable patients has been restricted, and will continue to be restricted, has presented a range of new challenges. The unwavering support of the NELUNE Cancer Care Coordinators is vital to helping us at St Vincent's to provide a trusted interface between doctors, patients and families," said Brian Gibbons, Nurse Unit Manager of the NELUNE Centre at The Kinghorn Cancer Centre.

Thank you to the NELUNE Foundation for their continued support.

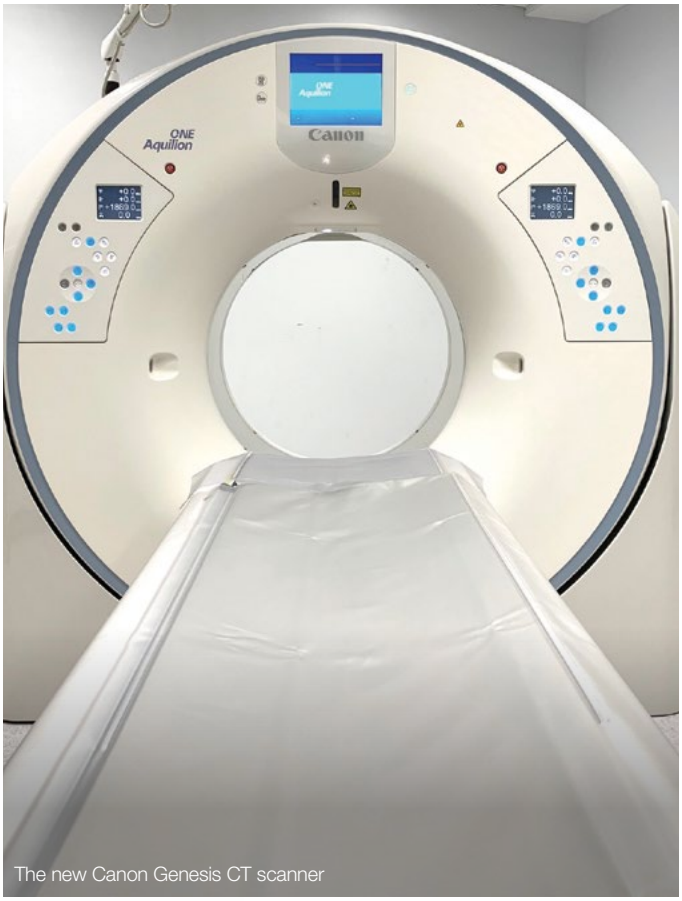
# INTRODUCING THE CANON GENESIS CT

It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce the arrival of the new Canon Genesis CT in St Vincent's Hospital's Medical Imaging Department. The CT was installed in May and is already in use providing superior diagnostic capabilities to benefit our many patients with lung diseases.

The new CT has smaller and faster micro-computers supporting its superior imaging capability, which will ultimately mean fewer biopsies and surgical procedures required for diagnosis. Advanced computing technology provides low-dose CT meaning far less radiation to patients (only slightly more radiation than a standard x-ray). For patients with lung disease, these programs will measure the different components of their diseases and how they change over time as well as allow clinicians to measure drug effectiveness and develop more targeted therapy-based lung imaging.

In Coronavirus patients it can assist to identify early lung disease, damage to lungs, and help triage patients that require intensive care. The CT images can also detect serious complications such as thromboembolism, which can be life threatening if undetected.

The cost of $3.2 million for the acquisition and installation of this state-of-the-art CT was made possible through the visionary support from the Vidor Family and Ron and Robyn Finemore. With their support and the Foundation's Neville Grace Enabling Fund, the new CT could be procured and installed to ensure the very best diagnostic technology for patients suffering from lung disease.




The new Canon Genesis CT scanner

# COVID-19 RESPONSE

Crisis demands agility and compassion. St Vincent's Hospitals response to COVID-19 is a reflection of this and our commitment to the mission of the Sisters of Charity to care for everyone in our community when they need us the most. It is also a testament to your commitment and generosity. With your help, we raised more than $2.7 million to ensure that projects where government funding is not accessible could be immediately enabled.

Some of our proudest achievements during this time of need have been supported by Ian Malouf and our family of donors, including:

- One of the first Hospitals in Sydney to take COVID-19 testing to the community, opening a Pop-Up Clinic and drive-through testing at Bondi, one of our earliest affected communities, then at Rushcutters Bay to address emerging testing needs
- Establishing a 24/7 Virtual Care Clinic to support COVID-19 positive patients in self isolation and needing medical support when isolating at home
- Training our nurses and doctors to respond to the complex ventilation and airway needs of COVID-19 patients and opening a dedicated ward
- Offering our award winning, evidence-based virtual mental health service *This Way Up* at no cost for all those requiring mental health support
- Establishing a COVID-19 homeless health support service to protect the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable in our community
- Installing thermal temperature screening cameras at Hospital public entrances to protect patients and staff

The Foundation's support during this time has been vital, activating $2.7 million of funding and grants in support of both the Public and Private Hospitals at Darlinghurst. A special St Vincent's Curran Foundation Endowment grant contributed to the early set-up of the 24/7 COVID-19 Virtual Care Clinic.

The Endowment was established to ensure a discretionary source of income in perpetuity to support St Vincent's Hospitals. This special grant is therefore very much in line with the vision of our founders Paul and Elizabeth Curran and our loyal Endowment donors.

It is with thanks to our Endowment donors over the last 36 years, and the support of countless other donors, that the Foundation is in the position to provide this level of funding at this time.

St Vincent's remains committed to responding rapidly to any COVID-19 outbreaks within our community and ensure the ongoing provision of high quality, safe care for our patients.

St Vincent's COVID-19 testing pop up clinic in Rushcutters Bay

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE NURSE AND MIDWIFE IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

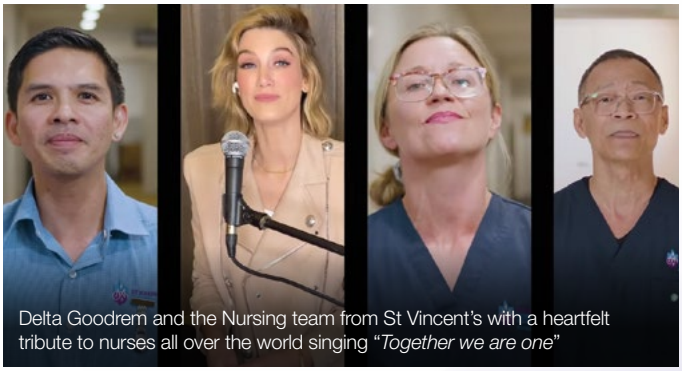
The COVID-19 response has demonstrated how our nurses really are at the forefront of our health system, managing complex health care needs, adopting new technologies and advancing new models of care. They are also our communicators and companions in a Pandemic and our advocates for holistic person-centred care.

As part of our celebration of 2020 – The International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, we held a special online tribute to celebrate the warmth, professionalism and skills of the St Vincent's nursing team. Hospital Ambassador Delta Goodrem joined our nurses singing her song, "*Together we are one*" in honour of nurses around Australia and the world. You can watch our special video on the St Vincent's Curran Foundation YouTube channel.

Across the world, 12 May is celebrated as International Nurses day however we are thankful for our nurses every day of the year. We need your help to continue to support these incredible men and women on the frontline and give them the recognition, investment and influence needed to build our world-class health service into the future.

Our goal is to equip our nurses with the clinical and leadership skills to respond to the ever-changing and increasing complex care needs of our population. This includes clinical scholarships, nurse leadership programs to transition our best and brightest into strategic roles across our health service, and nurse-led research and change management to drive positive modifications in how we treat patients across our health care system.

We are grateful to all our donors for supporting the St Vincent's Nurse Education Fund, with special mention of the Jarry Family for establishing the Jarry Program for Nurse Education in perpetuity. Your support helps us empower the next generation of nurses to be the leaders, practitioners and advocates in your health for you and your family. You can support our Nurses by donating online or completing the form on page 7.



Delta Goodrem and the Nursing team from St Vincent's with a heartfelt tribute to nurses all over the world singing "*Together we are one*"

# HEALING HOPE AND HUMANITY AT ST VINCENT'S

The Healing, Hope and Humanity Fund at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney continues the Mission and Values of the Sisters of Charity by providing funds to care for those in need, regardless of circumstance.

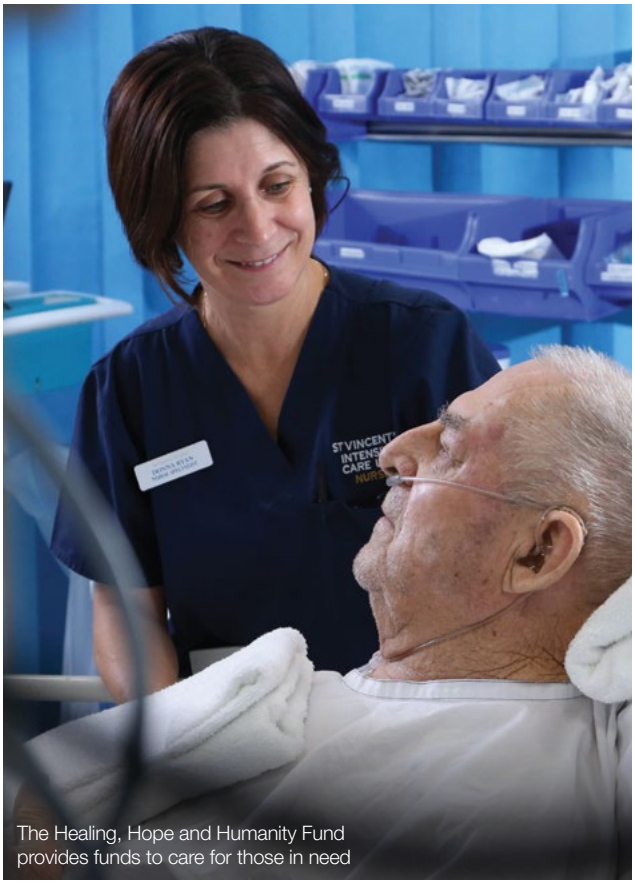
The Fund provides health services to care for patients who cannot afford vital medical treatment as well as those from developing countries who cannot access first-class care in their own country. A recent gift of $170,000 was received to fund the St Vincent's dental service for marginalised patients, caring for the most vulnerable in our community who urgently require dental treatment as part of their acute healthcare needs.

The Fund was also recently used to care for a Sister from the Pacific Islands who needed immediate clinical care, hospitalisation and rehabilitation including speech and mobility therapy.

Currently we have an urgent need to fund more than $150,000 in costs of a bone marrow transplant for an overseas worker without Medicare who is unable to return home for treatment.

The Healing, Hope and Humanity Fund is made possible thanks to gifts in Wills and other donations from wonderful supporters that embrace the commitment made by our founding Sisters.

Your support of the Hope, Healing and Humanity Fund will help our doctors continue to care for people in need. You can donate online at supportstvincents.com.au, fill in the form attached or contact the Foundation team on 02 8382 1680.



The Healing, Hope and Humanity Fund provides funds to care for those in need

# GIVE A LITTLE, CHANGE A LOT, OFFICEWORKS SUPPORTS ST VINCENT'S NURSING STAFF

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney was recently selected to be the charity recipient of the Officeworks "Round Up to Make a Difference" campaign, which ran from mid-June to early July.

"Round Up to Make a Difference" is an annual initiative that forms part of Officeworks commitment to helping make a positive difference in the communities they serve.

During the campaign period we were lucky enough to have 12 Officeworks stores across Sydney work with their customers and raise much needed funds for St Vincent's Hospital.

Together, the 12 stores raised more than $64,000 for St Vincent's. The stores included: Alexandria, Bondi Junction, Chatswood, City – Clarence Street, City – Hunter Street, City – Pitt Street, Dee Why, Glebe, Mona Vale, Mosman, North Sydney and West Ryde.

Funds raised will support nurse education and nurse-led research at St Vincent's. Research conducted at St Vincent's has led to changes in clinical practices on a global scale and will provide education opportunities that nurture the next generation of nursing leaders.

We are immensely grateful to the stores that took part, their dedicated staff and customers for supporting St Vincent's this year and we look forward to continuing our partnership in the future.

The Officeworks team gets behind St Vincent's Nursing staff in their latest "Round Up to Make a Difference" campaign

# YOUR HOSPITAL OF THE FUTURE AWAITS

August marked an exciting milestone in the redevelopment of St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sydney. Early in the month developers, Buildcorp, handed over the final rooms, representing the completion of Stage Two of the hospitals Master Redevelopment.

Final touches are being made to the rooms and following approval by the NSW Ministry of Health they will be open and ready to use.

This exciting news means we not only have 310 beds, but each of these is part of a single room facility, nearly three quarters of which have been built and opened in the last 24 months. This is an amazing achievement and is only possible thanks to the long standing support of our amazing community of donors. Without your generosity and determination, none of this would have been possible.

There are still some final projects to be undertaken before we can celebrate the full completion of our major redevelopment however we have recently seen the steel gantry surrounding the hospital for the last five years finally be removed.

Among the remaining works is the reinstation of the Susan Wakil AO Healing Garden at the Hospital entrance, to honour a founding member of the St Vincent's Private Hospital Ladies Committee, and her husband Isaac Wakil AO, a generous supporter and friend over many years.

Thank you to those who have contributed to ***Your Hospital of the Future*** over the past 5 years, the official opening is estimated to be early February 2021.

# MY GIFT

ST VINCENT'S CURRAN FOUNDATION

## YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT ST VINCENT'S HOSPITALS

To save on postage, you can also donate online at **supportstvincents.com.au** or by **calling 1800 800 595**.

### I WANT TO GIVE A:

One-off gift: $ _____

Or monthly gift: ☐ $30 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $200

Please direct my gift towards:

☐ Area of greatest need at St Vincent's Hospitals

☐ Other, please advise _____

### ABOUT ME

Title _____

First name _____

Surname _____

D.O.B _____

Address _____

_____

_____

Phone (home / work) _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

☐ Please tick this box for more information about leaving a gift to St Vincent's in your Will.

St Vincent's Curran Foundation is privacy compliant. The Foundation's privacy policy can be viewed at supportstvincents.com.au/privacy-policy/

I **do not** wish to receive the following information from the St Vincent's Curran Foundation:

☐ Newsletters and reports ☐ Appeals ☐ Event Invitations

### PAYMENT

My cheque payable to St Vincent's Curran Foundation is enclosed or
I would like to make my donation by:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex

Card number _____

Expiry date _____

Cardholder's name _____

Cardholder's signature _____

### PLEASE RETURN TO

St Vincent's Curran Foundation
Level 3 de Lacy Building, 390 Victoria Street
Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Or email to fundraising@stvincents.com.au

**Thank you for supporting St Vincent's**

Office use only: HL20S

## TOGETHER WE ARE ONE

The Foundation team have been busy coordinating the distribution of the overwhelming donations of in-kind goods and services that have been generously donated to our hard working frontline staff since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. These donations have helped us to keep spirits up and care for our staff wellbeing through a very tough time, and we would like to sincerely thank and recognise all the donors and companies that provided their support.

Acquia
Alex Makes Meals
Allshelter
Avène
Bailey Neate
Bakers Delight Wynyard
Bespoke Boulevard
Care For The Masses
Charles and Christa Billich
China Construction Bank
Chinese Christian Community Service Centre
Chloe Koundouris
Cohab Coffee
Colgate Palmolive Pty Ltd
Darrell Lea
Dominos Pizza
Donesafe
Doughboy Pizza, North Bondi
Feed Our Heros Sydney
First State Super
Fishbowl Bondi
Fleur Montgomery
Fratelli Fresh
H2Coco Pty Ltd
Harvest by Darren Taylor
Harvey Nash
IGA
Joseph Hyde
Jurlique Australia
Kentucky Fried Chicken
Krispy Kreme Australia
Kylie Kwong
Lilly and Bee
Little Bishop
Lindt & Sprüngli Australia
Luv Sum Pty Ltd
Nuzest Australia
Pantry & Larder Pty Ltd
Remedy Drinks
Rescue Recovery
Rockpool Dining Group
Sephora Australia
Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park
Slendier
State Theatre Sydney
Sydney Markets
The Australian Golf Club
The Char & Alethea Gold
The Good Bunch
Three Blue Ducks
Tissot
Tony Tressider
Turbans for Australia
Vittoria Food and Beverage
Vogue Australia
Woolworths Metro

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1

2

3

4

**1.** Amy Mathew, right, finding out she was the grand prize winner for the Accor Healthcare Hero's Competition on Channel 7's Sunrise. Accor also generously donated a complimentary night of luxury accommodation for 2000 staff working at St Vincent's Hospital.

**2.** Australian clothing company, CUE, stepped in to support the hospital by supplying scrubs to our front line workers during the height of the pandemic. CUE also supported The Foundations 'Scrubs for Love' campaign to raise essential funds to purchase PPE. Pictured: Melanie Levi, CEO, CUE Clothing Company with St Vincent's staff. Photo credit Kate Geraghty.

**3.** St Vincent's was overwhelmed by the generosity of IGA, who donated $18,000 worth of groceries during the initial impact of the pandemic.

**4.** Together with Tissot, St Vincent's hosted the 'Time to Say Thank you' Awards for our nurses on International Nurses Day. Pictured here is winner, Niki Mastello, whose dedication and hard work were awarded with a stunning Tissot timepiece.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

We are staying connected in this time through our series of webinars and videos. You can view all of our Inside St Vincent's webinars on-line at supportstvincents.com.au or visit our YouTube channel to see our latest videos.

As we continue to develop our schedule of events, please contact us on email svhs.events@svha.org.au or call 1800 800 595 with any questions.

### THE BACKBONE OF OUR HEALTH: SHOULDERS, HIPS, KNEES AND TOES …ORTHOPAEDICS AND REHABILITATION INNOVATION AT ST VINCENT'S

**15 October 2020**

**Event details will be available on our Facebook page and at supportstvincents.com.au**

### 2020 SUN HERALD CITY2SURF VIRTUAL RACE

**18 October 2020**

**Register for the first ever VIRTUAL City2Surf this year and compete in the world biggest fun run anywhere, anytime on Sunday 18 October while supporting St Vincent's. www.city2surf.com.au**