



**CHILDREN'S  
CANCER  
FOUNDATION**

**2021 Year in Review**



**Celebrating 30 Years Funding  
Excellence and Love**

# The Foundation by numbers

**29** years in operation

**\$60,557,000**  
Project spend

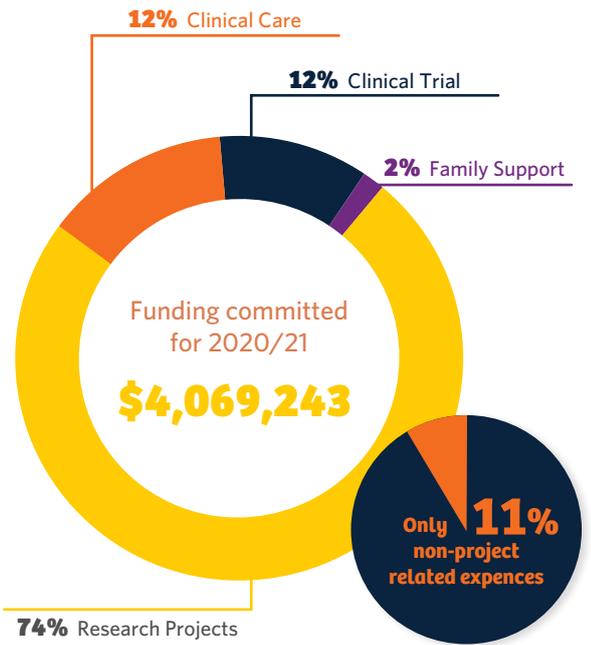
**\$23,060,000**  
Raised from Million Dollar Lunch since inception

**Number of staff**  
1 Full Time  
2 Part Time

**4** Directors are parents of children with cancer

**Projects Currently Funded**  
37

**52** Researchers and Allied Health Staff Funded (Full and Part Time)



## Our Purpose

Why we do what we do

- The challenge** of children's cancer is real, and we won't rest until it's gone
- We know better**, kinder treatment is possible and we're making it happen
- Children's cancer** - it shouldn't happen
- We stand united** with researchers, doctors and families, committed to being the change-makers
- Together we are stronger**; together we look to the day when childhood cancer is gone

## Our Values and Behaviours

- Curious** - we always want to find a better way for every childhood cancer challenge
- Collaborative** - we know we cannot do this alone, so we seek to partner with the many who can help
- Accountable** - we strive for the most efficient ways to achieve our ambitions and always provide full disclosure
- Advocate** - we are the voice for those needing a cure, and are focused on their access to the best support possible today and the promise of complete solutions tomorrow
- Belief** - We steadfastly believe that we are making a vital contribution to beat childhood cancer for good and the horizon for success is viable

## Chairman's Message

# A Message from our Chairman

**Despite profound disruption to every aspect of its operations, the last 12 months have seen the Children's Cancer Foundation make enormous progress in its mission to save and improve the lives of children with cancer.**

The Foundation is delighted to announce the formation of the Victorian Paediatric Cancer Consortium, a ground-breaking collaboration which includes the Monash Children's Hospital, Monash University, The Hudson Institute of Medical Research, Royal Children's Hospital, University of Melbourne, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute. The Foundation has procured a \$9.6m grant from the Commonwealth to kickstart this initiative, which represents a pathway to collaborative excellence for research and clinical care of global significance.

The Consortium will be leveraged by another of the Foundation's seminal initiatives. In 2019, the Foundation announced the establishment of the Children's Cancer Foundation Chair at Melbourne University. A global search is underway for an eminent clinician/researcher to occupy that position, with an appointment expected in early 2022. And in the last year our close friends at My Room Children's Cancer Charity have committed to co-fund this initiative with the Foundation to the tune of \$3 million.

That said, the inescapable fact is that the Foundation's revenue during the pandemic has been seriously impaired. At the same time, the demands on the Foundation from families, the children's hospitals and the research community have continued unabated.

However, the directors are proud to advise that the Foundation has honoured and will honour every project commitment during the pandemic and will do likewise in 2022.

We have been able to this in a large part due to the generosity of our supporters over so many years, particularly those who attend and donate to The Million Dollar Lunch. The cancellation of this event in 2020 and 2021 has caused enormous difficulties. But in each of those years our small team has pulled together an online Giving Day which in 2021 raised \$771,320.

It has been extremely moving to observe the generosity of our community expressed through the Giving Day. Not only has it given us a critical boost to our coffers, it has elevated the morale of the Foundation at a time when most charities are in at least some distress.

Likewise, we are grateful to those who have supported us through smaller fundraising initiatives several of which are highlighted in this review. And a special acknowledgement to those whose bequests will be honoured through the work of the Foundation.

With such magnificent support, the Foundation is well placed to fund its future commitments of \$11,515,467 out to 2024.

A special word of thanks to the Cornerstone Partners of The Million Dollar Lunch, Crown Resorts, The Australian Football League, Sportsbet, Virgin Australia and Lexus of Blackburn, as well as The Million Dollar Lunch Committee.

We would be lost without our pro bono service providers and of course Tennis Australia who support our team at Melbourne Park. Likewise to my fellow directors.

To Jeff Darmanin and his small team of Yen Ee Yeoh, Jane Holroyd and the recently departed Kate Cadet, I wish to thank you for your superb efforts in supporting all the Foundation does.

Finally, a special mention to my fellow director and an inspiration to so many, Mary McGowan, who was this year recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia. Bravo Mary!



**Jeremy Smith**  
Chairman



# An overview of our people



**Jeremy Smith, Father of Linus**

Barrister: Commercial, property, employment and estate litigation  
Special Responsibility: Chairman



**Jeff Darmanin, Father of Will**

Executive Director, Children's Cancer Foundation  
Special Responsibility: Executive Director



**Tracey Danaher, Mother of Zac**

Professor, Monash Business School  
Special Responsibility: Project Funding



**Peter Crinis**

Chief Executive Officer for Crown Sydney & Crown Hotels  
Special Responsibility: The Million Dollar Lunch Committee



**Nat Lippiatt**

Former Director, Three's a Crowd (3AC) brand agency  
Special Responsibility: Branding and Communications



**Maurizio Marocci, Cancer Survivor**

Director, University Food Group and Chair, My Room  
Special Responsibility: My Room Children's Cancer Charity Liaison



**Kevin Martin**

Chartered Accountant, Chairman Bombora Advice, Non  
Executive Director Agrocel Industries and Ryco  
Special Responsibility: Finance and Audit; Secretary



**Mary McGowan**

Former Community Liaison Officer, Children's Cancer Centre,  
Paediatric Oncology, Royal Children's Hospital  
Special Responsibility: Parent Engagement



**James Roche**

Executive Director, Roche Holdings and Director, Australian  
Davos Connection  
Special Responsibility: The Million Dollar Lunch Committee

# Scientific Advisory Committee



**Prof. Doug Hilton, AO**

Title: Director, Walter & Eliza Hall Institute



**Prof. David M. Ashley**

Title: Director, The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke University, North Carolina



**Prof. Stephen Jane**

Title: Dean, Sub faculty of Translational Medicine and Public Health, Monash University



**Prof. Sarah-Jane Dawson**

Title: Professor, Sir Peter MacCallum Department of Oncology, University of Melbourne



**Prof. Nicole La Gruta**

Title: ARC Future Fellow and Professor, Monash University



**Dr. Kate Johnson**

Title: Chair of the Children's Cancer Centre Parent's Advisory Group at the Royal Children's Hospital; Mother of a Child Diagnosed with Cancer



## A Message from Tracey

We have remained focused throughout the pandemic, on funding ground-breaking initiatives aimed at 'moving the needle'...

Covid-19 has changed the way we live our lives – we have experienced lockdowns, home schooling, working-from-home, closed businesses, mask wearing, and limitations on our movement.

As many people struggled with the impact of health directives on their physical, social, mental and financial well-being, some families also faced the cruel reality of their child being diagnosed with cancer.

As the media reported daily Covid-19 case numbers and mortalities, what was not reported was that over 1000 children in Australia were diagnosed with cancer in the past year. Many more were on active treatment, or living with the late effects of survivorship.

**And every week of the pandemic 3 children died from cancer.**

The speed at which effective Covid-19 vaccines were developed represents a triumph of science and medicine. A demonstration of what can be achieved when urgency, deep resources, and brilliant minds collide.

I cannot help but wonder what might be accomplished if the same variables were to intersect for childhood cancer – we already have the motivation and brilliant minds.

At the Children's Cancer Foundation we have remained focused, throughout the pandemic, on funding ground-breaking initiatives aimed at 'moving the needle' on childhood cancer. As a parent of a child who fought and ultimately lost their life to cancer, I truly believe that we can and are making a difference.

**Tracey Danaher**

Director and Mother of Zac, Nick and Ava



**A Lunch like No Other**

# Bistro Guillaume hosts a 10th Birthday Lunch with Purpose

Acclaimed chef Guillaume Brahimi is no stranger to the Children's Cancer Foundation, supporting us as the chef behind many of the wonderful menus of the Million Dollar Lunch since 2015.

With 2021 marking the 10th anniversary of his much-loved bistro along the Crown Melbourne Riverwalk, Guillaume and his talented team decided to kick-off the celebrations by hosting a lunch for 10 very deserving families touched by childhood cancer in May\*.

The families were treated to an afternoon of magic with some of Guillaume's most famous dishes from the last 10 years, alongside family friendly entertainment including a balloon artist, mime and live music duo that had the kids up and dancing!

In addition to hosting a delicious lunch, Guillaume dedicated this milestone to raise and donate \$40,000 to support the families and children affected by childhood cancer.

\*The lunch was held on 11 May 2021, before circuit-breaker restrictions were reintroduced in Victoria.

**"Many charities were unable to host their major fundraising events throughout 2020 and 2021, which meant donations plummeted, while need only increased. The Children's Cancer Foundation is just one of these charities. Having worked with this organisation for many years, I wanted to dedicate my milestone to raising some much-needed funds and helping them recover some of what has been lost throughout this period,"** - Chef Guillaume Brahimi



## Staff we fund

# Funding Excellence and Love

In a year when we are all reminded that science matters and that healthcare workers are true heroes, the Foundation is once again proud to have been able to fund and support these services with our charity partners. Below are some of the talented and committed men and women, the brilliant minds that support children's cancer research and care.



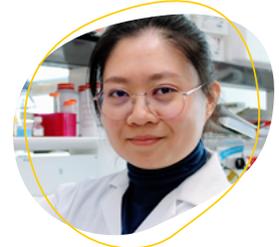
**Alexandra Lederman**  
Art Therapist, RCH



**Assoc Prof Andrew Moore**  
Chief Investigator National  
MyeChild01 Clinical Trial,  
QCH



**Bree Boucher Alexander**  
Paediatric Medical and  
Oncology Nurse, MCH



**Claire Shi**  
HIMR PhD Scholar, MU



**Claudia Toro**  
My Room Peter McGrath  
Clinical Research Fellow,  
MCRI



**Dr Claire Sun**  
CCF Bioinformatician,  
Hudson



**Dr Daniel Gough**  
Chief Investigator, Hudson



**Assoc Prof David Ziegler**  
Chief Investigator  
National Clinical Trial, SCH



**Dhanya Sooraj**  
ALCCRF Senior Organoid  
Specialist, Hudson



**Dilru Habarakada**  
ALCCRF Senior Biobank  
Specialist, Hudson



**Elisabeth McNulty**  
Social Worker, RCH



**Erin Dalrymple**  
Paediatric Medical and  
Oncology Nurse, MCH



**Pouyda Faridi**  
Researcher, MU



**Herah Hansji**  
Neuro-oncology Research  
Co-ordinator, MCH



**Irina Arzhintar**  
Lead Clinical Trial  
Co-ordinator, MCH



**Dr Jason Cain**  
Chief Investigator, Hudson



**Jacqui McGovern**  
Research Fellow, QU



**Jessica Buck**  
Researcher, UWA



**Kristin Mellet**  
Dietitian, MCH



**Ma'ayan Geffen**  
Program Manager, Hudson



**Matilda Dawson**  
Art Therapist, RCH



**Melina Roberts**  
Music Therapist, RCH



**Melissa Loi**  
CCF Technical Sequencing  
Specialist, Hudson



**Merridy Justice**  
Family Resource  
Coordinator, RCH



**Naama Neeman**  
CCF Admin Director, Hudson



**Dr Nataliya Zhukova**  
My Room Clinical  
Research Fellowship, MCH



**Dr Paul Daniels**  
CCF Post-Doctoral Research  
Fellow, Hudson



**Dr Paul Wood**  
Paediatric Oncologist,  
Hudson



**Dr Peter Downie**  
Head of Clinical Enterprises,  
Hudson



**Priscilla Pek**  
Music Therapist, MCH



**Assoc Prof Ron Firestein**  
Head of Research and  
Chief Investigator, Hudson



**Dr Sara Khan**  
ALCCRF Research  
Fellowship, Hudson



**Sarah Parackal**  
HIMR PhD Scholar, MU



**Seong Lin Khaw**  
CCF Research Fellow, MCRI



**Toby Trahair**  
Senior Researcher, UNSW



**Victoria Jackson**  
Paediatric Oncology  
Physiotherapist, MCH

**Hudson** - Hudson Institute of Medical Research    **MCH** - Monash Children's Hospital    **MCRI** - Murdoch Children's Research Institute  
**MU** - Monash University    **QCH** - Queensland Children's Hospital    **QU** - Queensland University of Technology    **RCH** - Royal Children's Hospital  
**SCH** - Sydney Children's Hospital    **UNSW** - University of New South Wales    **UWA** - University of Western Australia

# Where your donations go

The Children's Cancer Foundation together with its funding partners has committed **\$11,515,467 across 37 projects from 2021 through to 2024**. Funding includes salaries for hospital and research staff, laboratory consumables and family resources.



## My Room Clinical Research Fellowship program

**Institute:** The Royal Children's Hospital and Murdoch Children's Research Institute

**Recipient 1:** Dr Stacie Wang, Matthew Rathbone My Room Clinical Research Fellowship

**Recipient 2:** Dr Claudia Toro, Peter McGrath My Room Clinical Research Fellowship

**Funding Partner:** My Room Children's Cancer Charity

**Funding:** \$495,331 over 3 years

**Overview:** This program is an investment in training the next generation of oncologists in translational research skills. Two fellowships will be funded under this program.



## Researching Paediatric Brainstem Glioma

**Institute:** University of Western Australia

**Recipient:** Dr Jessica Buck

**Funding Partner:** My Room Children's Cancer Charity

**Funding:** \$49,838 over 1 year (CoFounded)

**Overview:** DIPG is a fatal brain cancer that affects children. This project investigates a new combination of treatments targeting the immune system in the brain to treat DIPG.



## PhD Scholars Program

**Focus:** All childhood cancers

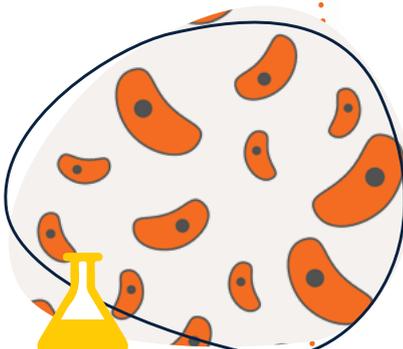
**Institute:** Hudson Institute of Medical Research

**Recipient:** PhD Scholar #1 Claire Shi, PhD Scholar #2 Sarah Parackal

**Funding Partner:** Hudson Institute of Medical Research

**Funding:** \$318,106 over 5 years

**Overview:** Funding for three PhD students in paediatric precision medicine. The key aims are to develop a doctoral training program focused on key research themes of precision medicine, and to strengthen cross-institutional collaborations (local, national, and international).



## Translational Studies Leveraging the SIOPEN Neuroblastoma Clinical Trial

**Focus:** Neuroblastoma

**Institute:** University of New South Wales

**Funding:** \$671,270 over 3 years

**Overview:** This study aims to understand relapse, improve residual disease detection and develop pre-clinical testing models to identify better therapies for high-risk neuroblastoma patients.



## Children's Cancer Foundation and My Room Chair in Childhood Cancer

**Institute:** University of Melbourne

**Philanthropic Funding:** \$3 million from Children's Cancer Foundation with \$3 million matched from My Room for perpetual funding of the endowed chair, further matched by \$6 million from institutional partners

**Institutional Partners:** Victoria Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Royal Children's Hospital, Murdoch Children's Research Institute

**Overview:** Establishing Victoria's first perpetually endowed chair, to be based at the Victoria Comprehensive Cancer Centre. The Chair, a leading international clinician-scientist, will play a key leadership role in collaborative research directed towards improving clinical care and research in paediatric cancer both nationally and internationally.



## Researching novel targets for paediatric tumour immunology

**Institute:** Monash University

**Recipient:** Dr Pouya Faridi

**Funding Partner:** My Room Children's Cancer Charity

**Funding:** \$66,655 over 2 year (CoFounded)

**Overview:** Immunotherapy has brought hope for the treatment of incurable cancers. This project utilises new technologies to discover and validate novel targets.



## My Room Clinical Research Training Fellowship

**Institute:** Monash Children's Hospital and Hudson Institute of Medical Research

**Recipient:** Dr Nataliya Zhukova

**Funding Partner:** My Room Children's Cancer Charity

**Funding:** \$375,000 over 3 years

**Overview:** This program is an investment in training the next generation of oncologists in translational research skills.



## Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation Clinical Research Fellowship

**Focus:** Brain cancers: Medulloblastoma and Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma

**Institute:** Hudson Institute of Medical Research, with Monash Children's Hospital and Monash University

**Recipient:** Dr Sara Khan

**Funding Partner:** Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation

**Funding:** \$525,000 over 4 years

**Overview:** Key outcomes will be the development of a rapid and cost-effective clinical tool to determine the medulloblastoma molecular subtype; new DIPG gene targets for potential therapeutic intervention; and preclinical validation of potential pharmacological epigenetic modifiers of DIPG.



## Children's Cancer Foundation Clinical Research Fellowship

**Focus:** Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

**Institute:** Murdoch Children's Research Institute and The Royal Children's Hospital

**Recipient:** Dr Seong Lin Khaw

**Funding Partner:** Victorian Cancer Agency

**Funding:** \$1,029,000 over 4 years (2017-21), plus \$341,100 from Murdoch Children's.

**Overview:** Research project to improve the effectiveness of treatment in children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. The key outcome from this research project is to translate biological data to improve treatment precision and effectiveness, particularly with the use of newly developed drugs.

# Your generous support delivers impact



## Hudson Monash Paediatric Precision Medicine Program - Phase 2

**Focus:** Brain cancer, central nervous system tumours and Wilm's tumour

**Institute:** Hudson Institute of Medical Research and Monash Children's Hospital

**Recipient:** A/Prof. Ron Firestein

**Funding:** \$4,967,221 over 2 years

**Overview:** The program utilises living organoids developed from individual patient's tumour cells to conduct functional genomic analysis to identify new therapeutic treatments and to repurpose existing treatments.



## Decoding the Dark Matter of the High-Risk Paediatric Cancer Genome

**Institute:** University of New South Wales

**Recipient:** Dr Mark Crowley

**Funding Partner:** My Room Children's Cancer Charity

**Funding:** \$200,000 over 5 year

**Overview:** High-Risk Paediatric Cancers have dismal survival rates, this research looks to explain current poor outcomes and propose innovative ways to study these in the largest study of patients with these cancers to date.



## Clinical Trials Manager

**Focus:** All childhood cancers

**Institute:** Monash Children's Hospital

**Recipient:** Irina Arzhintar

**Funding:** \$380,507 over 5 years

**Overview:** Salary funding for a Clinical Trials Manager to lead the clinical trials unit. The key outcome is to increase the portfolio of trials open, and the number of children enrolled in clinical trials accessing new treatments and innovative drugs.



## National Clinical Trials Co-Ordinator associated with Zero Cancer Program

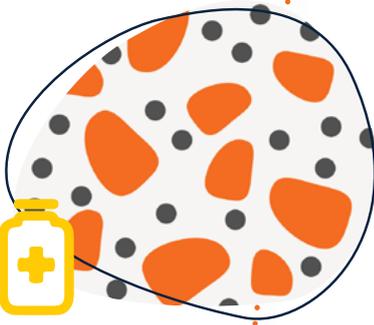
**Focus:** All childhood cancers

**Institute:** Sydney Children's Hospital

**Recipient:** A/Prof. David Ziegler

**Funding:** \$316,218 over 3 years

**Overview:** The key outcome is feasibility of precision medicine in a clinical setting, outcomes of patients treated and test a novel technology that may allow safe and effective stem cell transplant from a patient's parent.



## Acute Myeloid Leukaemia National Clinical Trial (Myechild01)

**Focus:** Acute Myeloid Leukaemia

**Institute:** Led by Dr Andrew Moore, Queensland Children's Hospital, Brisbane; with nine participating hospitals in Australia and New Zealand

**Funding Partner:** My Room Children's Cancer Charity

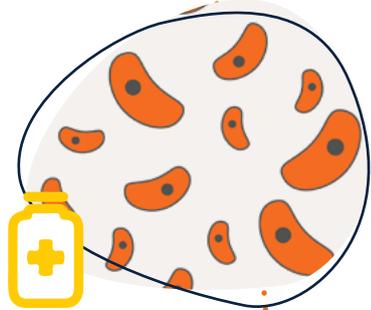
**Funding:** \$1,055,245 over 5 years

**Overview:** This trial provides access to a new drug currently unavailable to Australian children, even on compassionate grounds. The key outcome is to determine which of the current treatments combined with the new drug will provide the best chance of survival.



### International Collaborations in Paediatric Cancer Research

**Institute:** Hudson Institute of Medical Research  
**Funding:** \$49,500 over 3 years. Renewal – funded since 2018  
**Overview:** The aim is to advance the Hudson Monash Paediatric Precision Medicine Program (Project 219) by developing and strengthening collaboration with international experts in paediatric precision medicine.



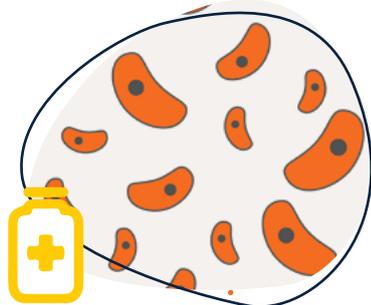
### SIOPEX Neuroblastoma Clinical Trials

**Focus:** Neuroblastoma  
**Institute:** Sydney Children's Hospital  
**Recipient:** A/Prof. Toby Trahair  
**Funding Partner:** Steven Walter Children's Cancer Foundation  
**Funding:** \$530,965  
**Overview:** The SIOPEX LINES trial is for children with less aggressive tumours and incorporates refined tumour analysis and staging techniques to more easily identify biologically favourable tumours and unfavourable tumours.



### Neuro-oncology Research Coordinator

**Focus:** Clinical trials for solid and brain cancer patients  
**Institute:** The Royal Children's Hospital  
**Funding Partner:** Marcus Rosin Special Named Fund  
**Funding:** \$312,217 over 3 years  
**Overview:** The key outcomes are to increase clinical trial enrolment of children under treatment for cancer and to ensure that every child has access to the same pathway to timely and accurate treatment, improved drug access and novel therapies.



### Nurse and Allied Health Staff Professional Development

**Focus:** Oncology Staff Development  
**Institute:** The Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital  
**Funding:** \$50,000 per year  
**Overview:** This funding is designed to assist the professional development of registered nurses and allied health and psycho social health professionals directly involved in the care of children with cancer.



### Oncology Social Worker

**Focus:** In-hospital family support  
**Institute:** The Royal Children's Hospital  
**Funding Partner:** My Room Children's Cancer Charity  
**Funding:** \$396,154 over 3 years. Renewal – funded since 1998  
**Overview:** Salary funding for a Social Worker to support families with children undergoing treatment within the Children's Cancer Centre.



### Physiotherapy Service

**Focus:** In-hospital patient care  
**Institute:** Monash Children's Hospital  
**Funding Partner:** My Room Children's Cancer Charity  
**Funding:** \$147,355 over 3 years  
**Overview:** Salary funding for two physiotherapists to initiate, implement and evaluate a dedicated physiotherapy service to provide high quality assessment and intervention to all children and adolescents at diagnosis and throughout treatment.

# Funding for families and children with cancer



## Child Psychological Services

**Institute:** Queensland Children's Hospital

**Funding Partner:** Children's Hospital Foundation

**Funding:** \$67,124 over 2 years, matched by the Queensland Children's Hospital Foundation

**Overview:** Interim salary funding for a Child Psychologist to assist in meeting the demand for cancer patient care. This investment will ensure the mental health clinician can deliver clinical support and seamless continuity of care for patients and families facing the difficult journey of a cancer diagnosis.



## Art Therapist

**Focus:** In-hospital patient care

**Institute:** The Royal Children's Hospital

**Recipients:** Alexandra Lederman and Tilly Dawson

**Funding:** \$721,745 over 5 years. Renewal - funded since 2010

**Overview:** Salary funding to provide art therapy services enabling children under treatment for cancer to process their emotions such as anxiety, depression, hopes and fears through art. Through non-verbal and safe individual and group sessions, children can use creative avenues while socialising with other children sharing similar cancer experiences.



## Music Therapist

**Focus:** In-hospital patient care

**Institute:** The Royal Children's Hospital

**Recipient:** Melina Roberts

**Funding:** \$197,500 over 3 years. Renewal - funded since 2007

**Overview:** Salary funding for a Music Therapist to provide clinical music therapy services to children under treatment. Music therapy improves children's psychological adjustment to cancer treatment and promotes positive coping skills.



## Music Therapist

**Focus:** In-hospital patient care

**Institute:** Monash Children's Hospital

**Funding:** \$119,839 over 5 years (2018-23). Renewal - funded since 2009

**Overview:** Salary funding for a Music Therapist to provide clinical musical therapy across the inpatient, day cancer and outpatient settings. Music Therapy aims to provide positive coping-related behaviours and reduce anxiety for patients and their families during procedures.



## Dietitian

**Focus:** In-hospital patient care

**Institute:** Monash Children's Hospital

**Funding Partner:** My Room Children's Cancer Charity

**Funding:** \$137,526 over 3 years. Supplement of 0.4 EFT to the 0.3 EFT funded 2010-17 and now embedded in hospital budget.

**Overview:** Salary funding for a Dietitian to provide intensive nutritional support, which is associated with improved survival rates and treatment tolerance. This ensures children have access to a full-time nutritional service to optimise their health during cancer treatment.



### Interim Child Psychological Services

**Institute:** Royal Children's Hospital  
**Funding Partner:** The Portland House Foundation  
**Funding:** \$43,143 over 1 year  
**Overview:** Interim salary funding to assist in meeting the increased mental health demands of children diagnosed with cancer during these uncertain times.



### Family Counselling Service

**Project:** Family Counselling Service  
**Focus:** In-hospital family support  
**Institute:** The Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital  
**Funding:** \$429,000 over 5 years.  
**Overview:** Funding for face-to-face counselling with a psychologist for children with cancer, their parents or siblings.



### The Beaded Journey

**Focus:** In-hospital patient support  
**Institute:** The Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Children's Hospital and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre  
**Funding Partner:** Lillies for Hope Special Named Fund  
**Funding:** \$79,900 over 5 years. Renewal - funded since 2008  
**Overview:** The Beaded Journey gives children the opportunity to tell their personal cancer story by marking key medical and non-medical events throughout their treatment with a special bead.



### Family Gym Memberships

**Focus:** In-hospital family support  
**Institute:** The Royal Children's Hospital  
**Funding Partner:** Inside Out Performance  
**Overview:** The key outcome is to support parents in improving their wellbeing while based at the hospital for prolonged periods caring for their children.



### Family Resource Coordinator

**Focus:** In-hospital family support  
**Institute:** The Royal Children's Hospital  
**Recipient:** Merridy Justice  
**Funding Partner:** The Portland House Foundation  
**Funding:** \$273,397 over 3 years. Renewal - funded since 2006  
**Overview:** The Family Resource Coordinator facilitates discussion between staff and families, and provides day-to-day support services through play, social activities and respite.



### Family and Community Resource Officer

**Focus:** In-hospital family support  
**Institute:** Monash Children's Hospital  
**Recipient:** Jessica Kelly  
**Funding:** \$41,483 over 3 years. Supplement of 0.2 EFT to 0.4 EFT funded 2007-17 and now embedded in hospital budget.  
**Overview:** The Family and Community Resource Officer facilitates discussion between staff and families, and provides day-to-day support services through play, recreation, social activities and respite.

## Project Highlight

# Children's Cancer Foundation and My Room Chair in Childhood Cancer

After being constrained by the global preoccupation with Covid-19 and the resultant impacts the parties to this exciting initiative regrouped in mid 2021 to set a course for realising the aspiration of this initiative.

The Children's Cancer Foundation and My Room Chair in Childhood Cancer will play a significant role in eliminating children's cancer on a national and international scale, by ensuring new research outcomes are translated into patient treatments.

This exclusive, Australian-first position will bring the advances and expertise in adult cancer and new genomic innovations to the field of childhood cancer for the next decade and beyond.

This investment of \$12,000,000, will provide a lifetime of hope for Australian Children. The investment is funded by the Children's Cancer Foundation (\$3,000,000), My Room Children's Cancer Charity (\$3,000,000) to be matched by the participating learning, clinical and research partners identified below. This is to create a perpetual position that will be unrivalled in its dedicated focus to advancing childhood cancer research and clinical treatment until it is eradicated.

Together with the Children's Cancer Foundation and My Room, the Chair will:

- provide academic leadership as a professor at the University of Melbourne
- provide clinical leadership as a clinician at the Royal Children's Hospital
- leverage the world class achievements in adult cancer of Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre for children with cancer
- cultivate an international profile, which attracts both talent and funding
- develop a new childhood cancer research strategy - the 'Children's Cancer Program' - to be adopted and implemented by all funding partners and,
- build an expert research team, able to establish links and collaboration across Melbourne, Australia and globally.

The University of Melbourne is now recruiting for this visionary and galvanising leader. Trained in both research and medicine, the Chair will connect world-class research and patient care, overseeing game-changing collaborations with the five funding partners.

The participating institutional partners including some of the leading learning, clinical and research institutions not just with in Australia but globally.

### Participating Partners



## Project Highlight

# The Victoria Paediatric Cancer Consortium (VPCC)

## The Children's Cancer Foundation Vision for Building Critical Mass and Collaboration in Children's Cancer Research in Victoria

The Foundation is seeking to catalyse a new approach to childhood cancer research in Victoria. Our belief is that Victoria, with a population of over 6.6 million and birth-rate in excess of 80,000 per annum merits a holistic vision for childhood cancer research and care.

The current state of Victoria's children's cancer research is not optimal with the level of research being too low and the activities not always aligned. The pathways for the next generation of brilliant minds also needs support. We believe it can be better.

The Foundation's vision for Victoria is to create an integrated and collaborative children's cancer research consortium within Victoria that has critical mass and will act as a focus for national and international collaborations. The goal being to ensure research-informed, evidenced-based continuous improvement in care of paediatric patients and their families in Victoria.

**This consortium would become a focus for education, research and clinical care and a magnet for the brightest minds in Australia and internationally.**

In 2021 the Foundation obtained support from the Federal Government for this initiative. A grant was announced by the Federal Minister for Health utilising the resources of the Medical Research Futures Fund (MRFF) Emerging Priorities and Consumer Driven Research Initiative. This grant allocated \$9.6 million to a scope of work, across multiple institutions, which we hope will be the catalyst for the formation of an ongoing Victorian Paediatric Cancer Consortium (VPCC).

The initial program of work for the VPCC from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024 includes the following elements

### Discovery Research Programs:

- Theme 1: Next Generation Precision Oncology (Flagship Program)
- Theme 2: Tumour Microenvironment (TME) & Immunotherapy
- Theme 3: Epigenomics & Differentiation Therapy

### Clinical Innovation Programs:

- Theme 1: Pharmaco- and radio-genomics (Flagship Program)
- Theme 2: Patient Survivorship
- Theme 3: Risk Stratification - Sarcoma

These areas of focus were determined based on

- areas of urgent need in paediatric cancer;
- greatest innovation and international impact;
- sustainability and potential to attract future investment;
- feasibility of clinical translation; and
- ability to leverage existing and complementary strengths at partner Institutes to achieve greatest impact.

This work was determined after actively engaged with other national research activities to avoid any duplication and ensure these bodies of work were complementary. It is hoped that this initial scope of work and collaboration will create on going momentum and resources for paediatric research in Victoria.

**Check out their website to learn more**

[www.vicpcc.org.au](http://www.vicpcc.org.au)

*Look out for the logo!*



Thank You to our Supporters

# Million Dollar Lunch Giving Day

## Event Partners



The AFL supports the Children's Cancer Foundation and The Million Dollar Lunch through event management and production, and assisting with prize procurement.



Crown Resorts generously supports The Million Dollar Lunch by absorbing all venue and catering costs, and assisting with prize procurement.



Virgin Australia generously supports the Million Dollar Lunch by providing flights for our grand auction and premium raffle items.



Lexus of Blackburn supports The Million Dollar Lunch by donating a luxury vehicle to the premium raffle and contributing to an auction item experience.



SportsBet supports the Children's Cancer Foundation through the ongoing sponsorship of The Million Dollar Lunch.



The Portland House Foundation supports The Million Dollar Lunch through ongoing project sponsorship.

## Pro Bono Supporters



Legal Advice



Graphic Design

**Dr Strangelove Organisation**

Website Consulting Services



SEO and Google AdWords



Audit Services



Tennis Australia and the Children's Cancer Foundation teamed up for another year. Tennis Australia supports the Foundation with pro bono office accommodation along with all the workplace essentials so our team can spend more time, and funds on what really matter.

## The Million Dollar Lunch Giving Day

# Another year of amazing virtual initiative for children with cancer

**“Surviving Cancer is not enough. Our children need to thrive”.**

The Foundation, like many of us, has learnt to be nimble in a pandemic environment. Moving from a fully sold out physical Million Dollar Luncheon to a reschedule date, a cancellation, and finally a virtual giving day.

Through the year, we had done our share of moaning about the difficulties, inconveniences and frustrations. But was just as quick to remember the children and families we serve and the lost children we honour.

**We had to just get on with it, and so we did on 7th October 2021. Where in just over 12 hours we raised \$771,320.**

Our support came from many quarters – many of those planning to attend the Million Dollar Lunch kindly donated their table purchase price, corporate partners dealing with their own challenges did what they could, past attendees, regular donors, friends, family, parents and children from all walks of life. Some were touched by cancer but many were not.

We extend the biggest thanks to each and everyone who generously donated to the Giving Day to assist children with cancer.

Our Virtual Giving Day hero Stella bravely shared the story of her battle with cancer and the legacy challenges she and her family now face.

Her story shed some light on the need for more research on the unacceptable side effects of being treated for childhood cancer. It reminds us of the devastating facts:

- Around 1,000 children and adolescents will be diagnosed with cancer in Australia;
- 150 of these will not survive their cancer
- Of the 850 survivors over 550 will have some form of long term health issues from their treatment.

Stella’s story reminds us of the need to focus our research efforts on not just improving survival but on:

- identifying individual children’s predisposition to longer term issues and utilising “less likely” alternative treatments; and
- identification of kinder treatments.

The Foundation has recently been successful in securing some Federal government funding to assist in research to better understand the unacceptable toxicities of the existing treatments but much more needs to be done.



Stella  
Childhood Cancer Survivor  
MDL Giving Day Hero



## Local Fundraising

# Special Named Funds



### Lillies for Hope Special Named Fund

Lilly Fish was diagnosed with a rare childhood cancer of the kidney called Wilm's tumour at just four years of age. After the loss of Lilly at the tender age of just six and a half, the Fish family committed to raise funds for the Children's Cancer Foundation. In 2020 Lillies for Hope committed to sponsor the Beaded Journey program run at the Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Children's Hospital and Peter Mac for many years to come.

### Marcus Rosin Special Named Fund

The Marcus Rosin Fund is dedicated to and in honour of Marcus Rosin - beloved son of Marisa and Fabian, and brother to Mia - who was taken too early from this world in May 2014 from ependymoma, brain cancer. The fund received a boost in 2021 on their way to their \$350,000 target courtesy of a donation of \$25,500 by Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation representing the commission on a house sold in 2021.



## Fundraising Initiative

### Palett Logistics, since March 2013

The team at Pallet Logistics have been regular supporters of the Foundation, making regular monthly donations since 2013. Wanting to simply help others who are less fortunate than themselves, the team have until now donated over \$108,000 to an amazing cause.



### C Property QLD, since May 2017

Four years ago, C Property, a Brisbane based commercial property agent, decided to donate a percentage of commission from every sale and lease transaction to charity. The Foundation was one of a few charities selected. The generous regular donations have accumulated and in 2021 C Property reached their goal of raising \$50,000 for the Children's Cancer Foundation.

### Pokeworld Australia Fundraiser, since Feb 2021

The Foundation's friends come from all walks of life. Pokeworld brings daily fun and joy to their online community through selling, buying and trading Pokemon Cards! Their passion also extends to lightening up kids' lives, especially those fighting against childhood cancer. The Pokeworld community has been actively raising funds for the Foundation and are half way to their target of \$30,000.



## Local Fundraising

From cutting their hair, celebrating their birthday, organising a sporting day and business' giving a portion of their sales - these dedicated events help support the Foundation and it's many funded programs. We are so grateful for all their support!

## Change Champions Tribute



**Adam Bernardi**  
Adam's Big Chop



**Chloe Daskalakis**  
Chloe's cut for cancer



**Chris Challen**  
Chris Challen's Fundraiser



**Myla**  
Myla chops hair for cancer

## In Celebration Tribute



Hannah's First Birthday!



Meera's First Birthday!

## Local Legends Tribute



**Rochedale SHS**  
Tee It Up for  
Childhood Cancer



**DS Sport**  
DS Sports Football  
Fundraising Day

## A Beautiful Memory of Zoe

Zoe's mother Edwina bravely shared her harrowing recent experience as a reminder that much more work needs to be done and to raise fund to clinical research and clinical care for children affected by cancer

"Last year, my daughter Zoe was born with an extremely rare and aggressive form of cancer called Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS). Through her treatments I learnt that although there are around 12 drugs released to treat adult cancer every year, only 8 drugs have been approved to treat childhood cancer since 1978. None of these drugs are targeted for RMS, with this type of cancer often referred to as one of the 'forgotten cancers'. With our limited treatment options, we did everything we could. She went through a leg amputation, chemotherapy and we were preparing to start radiation. Despite her treatment, the cancer spread to her brain and she passed away in January this year, leaving us absolutely heartbroken. We need to support more research into new treatment options for rare childhood cancers."



# Financial Overview

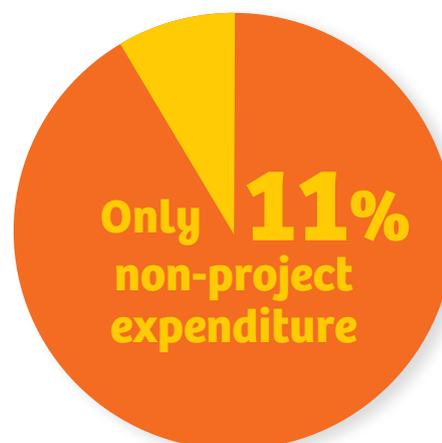
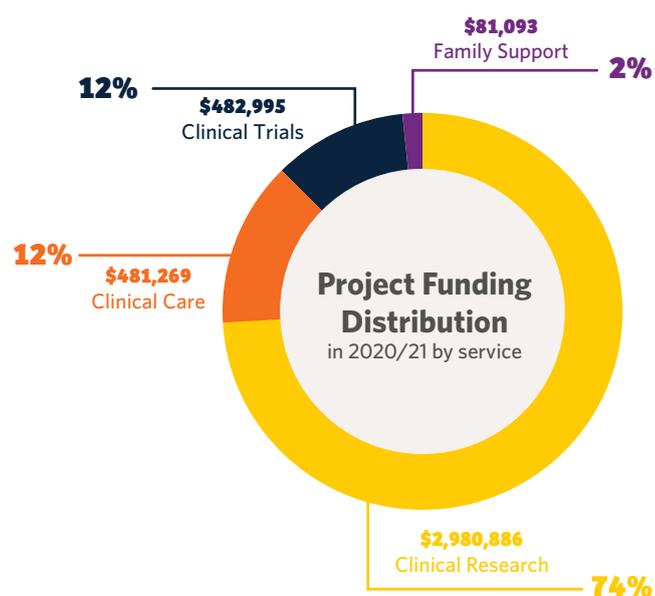
## Concise Profit and Loss Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
The Million Dollar Lunch	\$640,410	\$2,068,325
Donations/Fundraising	\$686,892	\$617,678
Charity Partner Donations	\$1,296,240	\$1,095,962
Bequests	\$212,652	\$312,507
Other	\$21,158	\$77,130
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,857,352</b>	<b>\$4,171,602</b>
Project funding expenses to support children with cancer	(\$4,026,243)	(\$3,134,508)
Administration, management and other expenses	(\$521,721)	(\$655,739)
Depreciation	(\$1,107)	(\$1,190)
Finance costs	(\$3,427)	(\$8,331)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$4,552,498)</b>	<b>(\$3,799,768)</b>
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax	(\$1,695,146)	\$371,834
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$1,695,146)</b>	<b>\$371,834</b>

The Million Dollar Lunch	August 2020*	August 2019
Revenue (Gross)	\$640,410	\$2,068,325
Expense **	\$16,532	\$106,409
<b>Revenue (Net)</b>	<b>\$623,878</b>	<b>\$1,961,916</b>
<b>Net Return on Event</b>	<b>97.4%</b>	<b>94.9%</b>

\* Virtual MDL Giving Day in lieu of physical event due to Covid-19 restrictions

\*\* All event costs are donated, other than a nominal contractor cost and miscellaneous costs.



We like to keep administration and fundraising costs to a minimum. Our overheads are kept low through the generosity of many pro bono supporters who provide us with office space, IT, print, legal, audit and event management.

## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,841,641	\$5,136,530
Trade and other receivables	\$528,751	\$283,508
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$5,370,392</b>	<b>\$5,420,038</b>
Property, plant and equipment	\$1,397	\$1,777
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,397</b>	<b>\$1,777</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$5,371,789</b>	<b>\$5,421,815</b>
Trade and other payables	\$1,129,179	\$838,655
Deferred revenue	\$1,494,647	\$148,075
Employee provisions	\$14,956	\$9,039
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,638,782</b>	<b>\$995,769</b>
Employee provisions	\$3,666	\$1,556
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$3,666</b>	<b>\$1,556</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,642,448</b>	<b>\$997,325</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,729,341</b>	<b>\$4,424,490</b>
Retained earnings	\$2,729,341	\$4,424,490
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>\$2,729,341</b>	<b>\$4,424,490</b>

\* The Foundation has contractual agreements with hospitals and research institutes for multi year project funding. A total of \$11,515,467 has been committed for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024.

## The Foundation funded the following projects in 2020/21



Name	Location	Funding Pillar	
Hudson Monash Paediatric Precision Medicine - Phase II	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	Clinical Research	\$1,973,240
Acute Myeloid Leukaemia National Clinical Trial <sup>1</sup>	Queensland Children Hospital ANZCHOG	Clinical Trial	\$327,339
CCF Clinical Research Fellowship	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	Clinical Research	\$255,000
Optimising Relapse Prediction in High Risk Neuroblastoma	University of New South Wales	Clinical Research	\$223,756
Art Therapists	The Royal Children's Hospital	Clinical Care	\$133,944
Clinical Research Fellowship <sup>1</sup>	Monash University	Clinical Research	\$115,727
Oncology Social Worker & Patient Amenity Fund <sup>1</sup>	The Royal Children's Hospital	Clinical Care	\$113,059
SIOPEX Neuroblastoma Clinical Trials <sup>4</sup>	ANZCHOG	Clinical Trial	\$103,951
Clinical Research Fellowship <sup>1</sup>	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	Clinical Research	\$96,702
Clinical Research Fellowship <sup>3</sup>	Monash University	Clinical Research	\$89,376
Neuro-oncology Research Co-ordinator <sup>5</sup>	The Royal Children's Hospital	Clinical Research	\$81,958
Physiotherapy Service <sup>1</sup>	Monash Children's Hospital	Clinical Care	\$79,935
Music Therapist	The Royal Children's Hospital	Clinical Care	\$61,775
PhD Scholars Development Program	Monash University	Clinical Research	\$57,477
Family Resource Coordinator <sup>2</sup>	The Royal Children's Hospital	Family Support	\$53,463
Dietitian Service <sup>1</sup>	Monash Children's Hospital	Clinical Care	\$45,211
Translation Studies in Optimising Relapse Prediction in High Risk Neuroblastoma	University of New South Wales	Clinical Research	\$34,650
Research into treatment of Paediatric Brainstem Glioma <sup>1</sup>	University of Western Australia	Clinical Research	\$33,000
Clinical Trial Manager	Monash Children's Hospital	Clinical Trial	\$22,336
Psychology Services <sup>2</sup>	The Royal Children's Hospital	Clinical Care	\$21,572
Music Therapy	Monash Children's Hospital	Clinical Care	\$21,503
National Clinical Trial Co-ordinator associated with Zero Cancer Program	Sydney Children's Hospital	Clinical Trial	\$20,924
Research exploring targets for Paediatric Brain Tumour Immunotherapy <sup>1</sup>	Monash University	Clinical Research	\$20,000
Family and Community Liason Worker	Monash Children's Hospital	Family Support	\$16,165
Early Phase Clinical Trials Study Coordinator	The Royal Children's Hospital	Clinical Trial	\$8,445
The Beaded Journey Program <sup>6</sup>	The Royal Children's Hospital	Family Support	\$6,310
Family Counselling Financial Reimbursement	The Royal Children's Hospital	Family Support	\$5,155
Nurse and Allied Health Staff Professional Development	Monash Children's Hospital	Clinical Care	\$4,271
<b>Total project funding</b>			<b>\$ 4,026,243</b>

**Funded by or in conjunction with our charity partners:** <sup>1</sup> My Room <sup>2</sup> Portland House Foundation <sup>3</sup> Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation <sup>4</sup> Steven Walter Children's Cancer Foundation <sup>5</sup> Marcus Rosin Special Named Fund <sup>6</sup> Lillies for Hope Special Named Fund

Our complete financial statements and Director's report are available at [childrenscancerfoundation.com.au/about-us/our-integrity](http://childrenscancerfoundation.com.au/about-us/our-integrity)



**General Enquiry**

(03) 7001 1450

Private Bag 6060  
Richmond VIC 3121

**[hello@childrencancerfoundation.com.au](mailto:hello@childrencancerfoundation.com.au)**

**[www.childrencancerfoundation.com.au](http://www.childrencancerfoundation.com.au)**

**Executive Director**

**Jeff Darmanin**

[jeff@childrencancerfoundation.com.au](mailto:jeff@childrencancerfoundation.com.au)