



**CHILDREN'S
CANCER
FOUNDATION**

Annual Report
2017/18

Message from our Chairman

At **The Million Dollar Lunch** this year I introduced those in attendance to a girl named Stella.

Stella is five, though she might be 15. She could live in Toorak, or perhaps Tarneit. She's an only child, or one of thirteen. She might be a stranger, but she could be your niece.

What Stella doesn't know, what no-one knows, is that in her body a series of genetic mutations has caused a tumour to form.

Soon, she'll feel unwell. There'll be X-rays and scans and biopsies. She'll be diagnosed with cancer. She will have surgery. Perhaps an amputation. Maybe radiation.

Her parents will be told that some, perhaps most, maybe even all, children with this disease die.

She will commence the standard course of chemotherapy. There may be a clinical trial as an alternative. Then again, there may not.

In 2017, the Foundation committed \$1.3 million to fund the first stage of a landmark research project, the Hudson-Monash Paediatric Precision Medicine Program (read more on page 2), involving a handful of children.

A sample is taken from a child's tumour and used to cultivate mini-tumours by the hundreds, each a replica of the original. Each replica is exposed to >2,000 drugs to see how it reacts. In this way, doctors identify the best drug for the child without any risk to the child.

The results from this project have been promising and there is tremendous potential to transform outcomes for children with cancer who might even be named Stella.

In 2019, the Foundation anticipates funding stage 2, giving another 50 children access to this revolutionary technology so that, in due course, it becomes routine.



Jeremy Smith
Chairman

“The Hudson-Monash Paediatric Precision Medicine Program has tremendous potential to transform outcomes for children with cancer.”

Message from our Chief Executive

In 2017/18, the Children's Cancer Foundation is proud to have distributed more than \$2.4 million to 25 projects supporting Australian children with cancer.

In addition, together with our charity partners we have committed more than \$8.6 million to 29 projects through to 2024. This includes \$1.3 million for a series of neuroblastoma clinical trials for children across Australia and linked translational studies for high-risk neuroblastoma.

While our focus is on building paediatric cancer research capacity and investing in clinical trials, we also continue to fund essential in-hospital and family support programs, such as the Beaded Journey program, art and music therapy and family counselling.

Other achievements this year include:

- Raised \$2.52 million at **The Million Dollar Lunch** 2018, breaking all records, with event costs absorbing just 5%, resulting in a net return of \$2.4 million;
- Launched the Children's Cancer Foundation Research Laboratory at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research, where the Foundation is funding a major program of clinical research;
- Awarded the inaugural Children's Cancer Foundation Clinical Research Fellowship valued at \$1.37 million to Dr Seong Lin Khaw, leveraging \$629,000 of Foundation funding against \$741,000 contributed by the Victorian Cancer Agency and Murdoch Children's Research Institute;
- Supported the national Zero Childhood Cancer program by funding patient RNA sequencing across all participating sites and a national clinical trial coordinator;
- Launched a PhD Scholars program, co-funded with the Hudson Institute of Medical Research, with the first of three candidates, Claire Shi, commencing in June 2018.

On behalf of the Children's Cancer Foundation, thank you for your support in 2017/18.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aileen Boyd-Squires".

Aileen Boyd-Squires
Chief Executive

“ We are proud to have increased our funding distribution to hospitals, research institutes and families by 98% this year, to \$2.4 million. ”

New Program Revolutionises Cancer Treatment

In September 2017, the Children's Cancer Foundation awarded a \$1.3 million grant to the Hudson-Monash Paediatric Precision Medicine Program – a two-year program, based in the Children's Cancer Foundation Research Laboratory at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research.

The program focuses on significantly improving treatment for children diagnosed with brain cancers and solid tumours, ensuring they benefit from major advances already being made in precision medicine for adult cancers.

Scientists established a living collection of paediatric brain tumours and solid cancers – including lab-grown mini-tumours (organoids) – using tumour biopsies taken when children are diagnosed at Monash Children's Hospital and The Royal Children's Hospital. Less than one year into the program and already over 100 individual samples have been collected from 30 patients, from which organoids have been successfully established.

Cancer organoids are fast becoming a preferred model with which to most accurately replicate the original patient tumour. Specialised genetic screening is applied to the organoids to identify key genetic mutations in tumours. The organoids are then bombarded with >2,000 drugs to identify which compounds the organoids are sensitive to.

Combining information from each patient's genetic mutations, their drug sensitivity and resistance, and their clinical data allows clinicians to make treatment decisions specific to each child 4-5 weeks (rather than months) after diagnosis.

“This approach is revolutionising cancer treatment, as it's like running a clinical trial for each patient.”

New therapeutic options for childhood cancer have already been identified, including one exciting discovery that has shown that an existing therapy used for melanomas and other tumours could be repurposed for a rare childhood cancer.



Associate Professor Ron Firestein & Dr Jason Cain
Lead researchers of the program

“Every child's tumour is genetically unique and responds to cancer treatment in different ways,” said Associate Professor Ron Firestein, lead researcher and Head of Hudson Institute's Centre for Cancer Research.

“Knowledge of the genetic variability of paediatric tumours is building at a fast pace, and this program is aimed at translating this information into treatment,” he said.

Through developing effective, targeted treatment options specific to each child, the program hopes to mitigate the devastating long-term health effects of current treatment options, such as chemotherapy and radiation, and improve long-term survival of childhood cancer patients.

“The Children's Cancer Foundation is proud to fund this innovative program. We hope that one day children and adolescents with cancer across Australia will ultimately benefit from this research,” said Aileen Boyd-Squires, Chief Executive of the Children's Cancer Foundation.

Project Funding

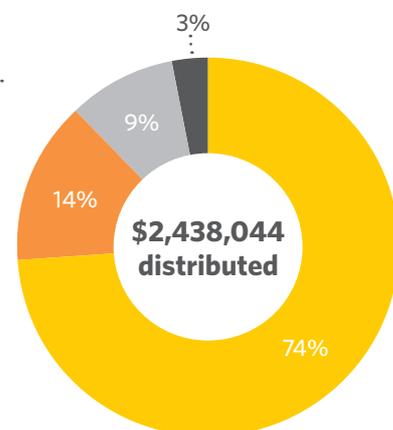
In 2017/18, the Children's Cancer Foundation distributed **\$2,438,044** across **25 projects** in clinical research, clinical care, clinical trials and family support.

Our priority is investing in paediatric cancer research that will significantly improve the outcomes of children with cancer.

We are proud to have directed more than **88%** of our project funding towards clinical research and clinical trials.

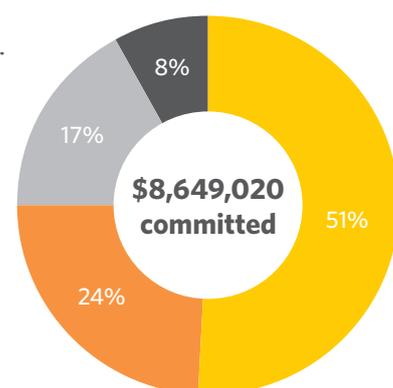
Project Funding Distributed in 2017/18

● Clinical Research - Supporting innovative, outcome-driven research and building research capacity in Australia	\$1,799,937
● Clinical Trials - Facilitating new, more effective cancer treatments by increasing the number of trials available for children	\$338,908
● Clinical Care - Enhancing the level of clinical care, and helping children cope with pain and psychological issues	\$215,078
● Family Support - Providing resources and hospital-based staff to help parents and children navigate the overwhelming world of treatment	\$84,121
	\$2,438,044

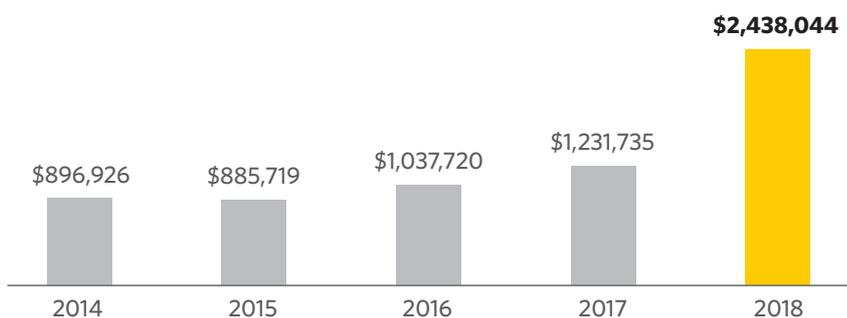


Project Funding Commitments from 2018/19 to 2023/24

● Clinical Research	\$4,426,605
● Clinical Trials	\$2,047,196
● Clinical Care	\$1,502,030
● Family Support	\$673,189
	\$8,649,020



Project Funding Distributions Year-on-Year Growth



A Creative Little Mind

Last year, six-year-old Caleb was diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoma, a type of blood cancer.

He had been sick for a few weeks, unable to shake a cough. Anne and Anthony, Caleb's parents, took him to the hospital and were told he just had a cold. But Caleb didn't get better, so they returned to the hospital. This time the doctors noticed a lump on his neck and requested a chest X-ray.



Six-year-old Caleb
Caleb's cancer diagnosis has not stopped his creative mind

"Obviously, they knew more than we did, that something was going on. The X-ray showed that Caleb had a big mass on his chest," Anne said.

Caleb immediately began his three-year treatment plan at Monash Children's Hospital, which would include nine months of intensive chemotherapy.

The family of six from Gippsland, Victoria, found it challenging to adjust to Caleb's varied treatment schedule.

"During the first 9 months, Caleb's schedule changed every 8 weeks - he might be in hospital for a week, then home for a week, other times he might need to be in hospital every second day," Anne said. "Now Caleb only needs to visit the hospital once every four weeks, which is a welcome break."

The first few weeks when Caleb was in the intensive care unit (ICU) were especially difficult.

"Our children really missed him and us a lot, as we were both with Caleb at the hospital," Anne said.

Anne is grateful for her family, who have cared for her three other children full-time while Caleb was in the ICU. The "balancing act" has become easier since Anthony was able to take time off work, allowing for one parent to be in the hospital and the other at home.

"Caleb has handled the treatment incredibly well and copes better than we do. He seems to adapt to whatever's going on and accept where he is and what he's doing at that time," she said.

But of course, Caleb misses playing with his sisters and brother and being outside, which he loves.

"Caleb's diagnosis hasn't stopped his creative little mind, as there are many wonderful distractions in the hospital which help him during his treatment," Anne said.

“He loves music therapy (funded by the Children's Cancer Foundation) – it helps him to look forward to hospital visits – Anne

Caleb is also creating his own Beaded Journey, a therapeutic program funded by the Foundation, whereby a bead is placed on a string for every procedure or treatment milestone.

“The Beaded Journey is fantastic. Because Caleb's so young, he won't remember most of it when he's older... the Beaded Journey will help him remember exactly what he's been through – Anne

Caleb is now six months into maintenance. While this still includes daily chemotherapy, he is able to take it at home and in much smaller, consistent doses.

"Caleb has returned to school full time and now that we're all together at home, most of the time, life feels a lot more normal," Anne said.

"I hope one day, Caleb will look back and realise how resilient and strong he was during this time, and how far he has come," she said.

Projects Funded in 2017/18

The Royal Children's Hospital

Clinical Care	Art Therapists (1.4 EFT)	\$118,550
Family Support	Family Resource Coordinator (0.87 EFT)	\$70,501
Family Support	The Beaded Journey	\$5,339
Family Support	Family Connect	\$2,704
Family Support	Family Counselling (The Pratt Foundation 100%)	\$5,732
Clinical Care	Music Therapist (0.6 EFT)	\$54,832
		\$257,658

Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Clinical Research	Head of Molecular Diagnostics (0.4 EFT) (Steven Walter Children's Cancer Foundation 100%)	\$120,000
Clinical Research	Sydney Children's Hospital-Royal Children's Hospital research partnership (0.5 EFT) (Steven Walter Children's Cancer Foundation 100%)	\$71,095
Clinical Research	Genomics of brain and solid tumours of childhood (1.0 EFT)	\$134,062
Clinical Research	Clinical implementation of transcriptome sequencing for precision medicine (1.5 EFT)	\$155,193
Clinical Research	Modelling childhood leukaemia using human pluripotent stem cells (1.0 EFT)	\$156,251
Clinical Research	My Room Clinical Research Fellowship (My Room 100%)	\$23,570
Clinical Research	Children's Cancer Foundation Clinical Research Fellowship (Victorian Cancer Agency \$100,000)	\$264,000
		\$924,171

Monash Children's Hospital

Clinical Care	Music Therapist (1.0 EFT)	\$18,573
Clinical Care	Dietician (0.4 EFT)	\$15,496
Clinical Trials	Clinical Trial Manager (1.0 EFT)	\$76,352
Family Support	Family Counselling	\$5,182
Family Support	The Beaded Journey	\$2,288
		\$117,891

Hudson Institute of Medical Research/Monash University

Clinical Trials	Bright Light Therapy Clinical Trial	\$3,606
Clinical Research	Hudson Monash Paediatric Precision Medicine Program	\$718,324
Clinical Research	International Collaborations in Paediatric Cancer Research	\$11,600
Clinical Research	PhD Scholars Program	\$2,066
Clinical Research	ALCCRF Clinical Research Fellowship (1.0 EFT) (Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation 100%)	\$143,777
		\$879,373

Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology/Oncology Group

Clinical Trials	National MyeChild 01 Clinical Trial (My Room 100%)	\$175,495
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Sydney Children's Hospital

Clinical Trials	National Clinical Trials Coordinator for Zero Childhood Cancer	\$83,456
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Total Project Funding **\$2,438,044**

Targeted Treatment for Childhood Brain Cancers

Research funded by the Children's Cancer Foundation over the past two years has greatly increased understanding of the genetic changes that cause childhood brain cancers.

The research team led by Dr Dong Ahn Khuong Quang and Associate Professor Paul Ekert from Murdoch Children's Research Institute is combining several techniques, including RNA sequencing, to identify genetic changes that occur in brain cancers.

These techniques allow researchers to map the entire genome of a patient's cancer in one go, identifying the genetic changes that are likely to trigger cancer and investigating the factors that cause these changes.

The project focused on paediatric brain tumours, the second most common childhood cancer.

"Every tumour is a little bit different: they all have very specific and unique profiles," said Dr Khuong Quang.

Through detailed analysis of individual tumours, researchers can explore new and targeted treatments with the hope of treating and curing each patient individually.

"I am more and more convinced that - especially for the tumours that are highly aggressive - we have to understand that chemotherapy and radiation won't be enough," said Dr Khuong Quang.

"We know how to treat and to cure some patients with brain tumours, but when young children undergo radiation therapy it can affect their development and have long-term side effects."

Currently, the techniques are being applied to individual cases from The Royal Children's Hospital.

According to Dr Khuong Quang and A/Prof. Ekert, research projects like this will be the impetus to make genomic analysis available to all children with cancer who can benefit.

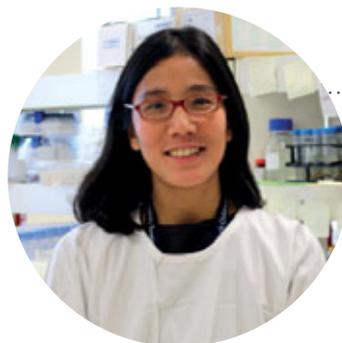
From the advances in knowledge about specific tumours already made in the study, Dr Khuong Quang and A/Prof. Ekert have discovered changes in tumours that have allowed the clinicians to investigate targeted treatment.

Dr Khuong Quang said when they identify an abnormality that they think is driving the cancer growth, they are able to take it back to the lab and test it against different drugs to try to identify which possible therapies may work.

“The ultimate goal of genomic analysis is to provide feedback in real-time to directly benefit the management of a child's treatment plan.”

"The more targeted treatment we can develop through RNA sequencing, the more we will minimise the side effects," Dr Khuong Quang said.

Through the project, researchers also hope to develop a frontline blood test that can be used to screen the genetic nature and profile of a tumour before any major surgery or biopsy. This simple test could potentially prevent young patients being exposed unnecessarily to treatments that may have lifelong consequences.



Dr Khuong Quang

A trained oncologist and lead investigator of the project

Financials

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 July 2018

	2018	2017
Current assets	\$5,248,265	\$4,731,013
Non-current assets	\$1,645	\$0
Total assets	\$5,249,910	\$4,731,013
Current liabilities	\$768,265	\$796,980
Non-current liabilities	\$18,937	\$0
Total liabilities	\$787,202	\$796,980
Equity*	\$4,462,708	\$3,934,033

*The Foundation has contractual agreements with hospitals and research institutes for multi-year project funding. These commitments are made subject to the availability of sufficient funds. A total of \$8,649,020 has been committed for the period 2018 to 2024.

The Million Dollar Lunch 2017

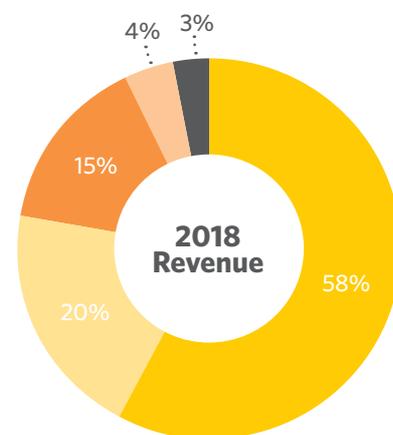
Revenue (gross)	\$2,134,948
Expenses*	\$128,345
Revenue (net)	\$2,006,603

*All event costs are donated, other than \$38,500 for a contractor, a notional allocation for time spent by our staff on the event, and miscellaneous costs.

Net return..... 94%

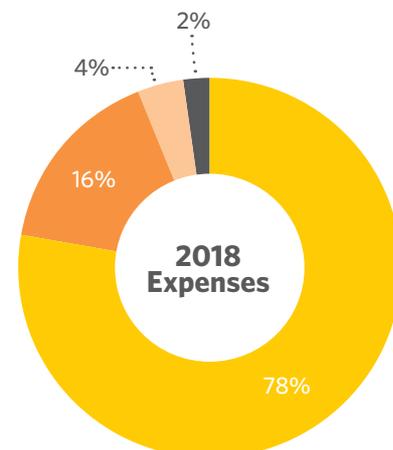
Revenue

	2018	2017
● The Million Dollar Lunch	\$2,134,948	\$1,637,611
● Donations/Fundraising	\$713,735	\$386,282
● Charity Partners	\$539,560	\$447,022
● Bequest	\$149,720	\$9,184
● Other	\$109,019	\$115,865
● Grants	\$0	\$17,219
	\$3,646,982	\$2,613,183



Expenses

	2018	2017
● Project funding to support children with cancer	\$2,438,044	\$1,231,735
● Administration	\$484,360	\$460,034
● The Million Dollar Lunch	\$128,345	\$101,029
● Fundraising	\$65,593	\$30,363
● Other	\$1,965	\$1,924
	\$3,118,307	\$1,825,085
Net surplus	\$528,675	\$788,098



Our Supporters



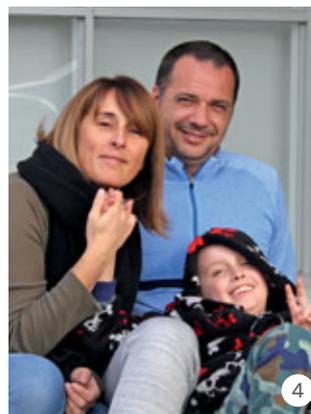
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Thank you to the many individuals, organisations, communities, volunteers and families who supported the Children's Cancer Foundation in 2017/18.

1. Volunteers donated 1,131 hours of their time, including our team of 85 volunteers at **The Million Dollar Lunch**.
2. 63 runners, led by Ambassador Kate Langbroek, participated in Run Melbourne and raised \$60,228.
3. The \$1.37 m Children's Cancer Foundation Clinical Research Fellowship was awarded to Dr Khaw, co-funded with the Victorian Cancer Agency and Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

4. A Splash of Yellow for Marcus Gala Ball honoured the beautiful but short life of Marcus Rosin and raised \$135,800.
5. Tama Australia donated \$5 from every Yellow Trioplus™ hay bale wrap sold to raise awareness of childhood cancer in rural communities, raising \$4,050.
6. 20 cyclists and 10 support crew members rode 520km in the Murray to Moyne cycle relay and raised \$52,000.
7. Grill'd Burger, Flinders Lane and their customers raised \$2,100 via the Local Matters initiative.
8. Artist David Bromley and Dinner by Heston hosted a special Melbourne Food and Wine Festival event and raised \$9,925.

Thank you

Thank you to our Patron, Ambassador, directors and many *pro bono* partners for their generosity and support in 2017/18.



Gillon McLachlan, Patron
AFL Chief Executive



Kate Langbroek, Ambassador
Media Personality and Broadcaster

Board of Directors



Jeremy Smith, Chairman
Barrister and father of Linus, who was successfully treated for rhabdomyosarcoma



Anthony McGinn OAM, Deputy Chairman
30+ years in the media industry and father of Ben, who was successfully treated for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia



Jeff Darmanin, Director
Chartered Accountant and father of William, who died from desmoplastic small round cell tumours at the age of 19



Andrea Diprose, Director
Hospital scientist and mother of Stephen, who lost his battle with leukaemia at the age of 14



Natalie Lippiatt, Director
Strategic branding and digital expert



Maurizio Marcocci, Director
Childhood cancer survivor



Kevin Martin, Director
Chartered Accountant with 37 years' experience



Mary McGowan, Director
40 years in paediatric oncology nursing and community fundraising



James Roche, Director
Executive Director of Roche Holdings

The Million Dollar Lunch Cornerstone Partners



Charity Partners



Ponting foundation



Pro Bono Partners





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The Children's Cancer Foundation is a registered charity
with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

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