

ANNUAL



REPORT

2019

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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

The Children's Cancer Foundation is committed to saving the lives and reducing the suffering of children with cancer. It strives to do so by funding projects in clinical research, clinical trials, clinical care and family support.

The Foundation is currently funding 31 projects, a commitment of more than \$15.9m which extends to 2024.

Large and small, these projects are all important because they deliver two things; excellence and love.

Excellence comes in the form of our investment in clinical research. In this annual report, we shine a light on two significant projects; Phase Two of the Hudson Paediatric Precision Medicine Program and the Foundation's commitment to fund the establishment of a perpetual Children's Cancer Foundation Chair in Childhood Cancer at the University of Melbourne. These initiatives will ensure that our children receive treatment which reflects world's best clinical practice.

Love is to be seen in our commitment to clinical care initiatives such as art and music therapy, which preserve the psychological well-being of children, and family support in the form of counselling and in-hospital support staff.

The Foundation does not employ staff to deliver these projects. Rather, it partners with hospitals and research institutes, funding their work and ensuring that each project is delivered to the highest standard. In this way, the Foundation:

- makes every stay in hospital more bearable;
- ensures that carers and families get the best possible support;
- makes access to trial drugs more achievable;
- ensures Australia can retain the best clinical oncology staff; and
- drives research to help unlock the mysteries of childhood cancer.

The Foundation, with the support and commitment of our pro bono suppliers, generous donors, volunteers, honorary directors, committee members and hard-working staff, have once again achieved outstanding results this financial year.

The Foundation's commitment to those who support our endeavours is to allocate funds received in the most effective and efficient way. This year, consistent with last year, I can report that 83% of the funds spent by the Foundation went to project funding.

We are extremely proud of the work the Foundation has undertaken this year, but we are driven to do more.

We hope you will join us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Smith".

Jeremy Smith

Chairman



Project Funding Update

Hudson Monash Paediatric Precision Medicine Program

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

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

Funding: Additional \$4.968 million committed for Phase 2 of the program, which the Foundation has been funding since 2017.

Outcome: The second phase of Australia's first paediatric living organoid and functional genomic program that uses individual patient's tumour cells to identify new targeted therapies, expands patient recruitment to 150 children, enables cutting-edge molecular analyses for each child's tumour, and establishes a paediatric cancer molecular tumour board to translate findings into clinical application.



"Our program aims to develop and bring genomics-based medicine to the Victorian paediatric cancer population. Utilising cutting-edge genomic technologies combined with sophisticated patient-derived clinical models, we anticipate that this program will lead to substantial improvement in clinical outcomes and quality of life (limiting side-effects) for paediatric solid tumour patients in Victoria, Australia and beyond".

Associate Professor Ron Firestein

Head of the Cancer Centre at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research and Head of Research for the Paediatric Cancer Precision Medicine Program.

"Everyone's genetically different. This is why precision medicine is so important. It enables us to look at these differences in detail rather than providing a shotgun approach of one therapy for every child."

Dr Duncan Crombie

Children's Cancer Foundation Senior Organoid Specialist for the Paediatric Precision Medicine Program at the Centre for Cancer Research, Hudson Institute of Medical Research.



"The process of screening cancer compounds against each patient tumor sample sped up enormously by using the automated, robot system which is funded by the Children's Cancer Foundation. It's a huge advance."

Dr Dhanya Sooraj

Children's Cancer Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Postdoctoral Scientist, Cancer Genetics and Functional Genomics



Endowed Chair in Childhood Cancer at University of Melbourne

Project Focus: Childhood and adolescent cancers

Institute: University of Melbourne

Funding: \$6 million for a perpetual funding of the endowed chair, matched by \$6 million from funding partners Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Royal Children's Hospital and Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Outcome: The Chair, a leading international clinician-scientist, will provide academic leadership in personalised clinical care and research in paediatric cancer and provide support and mentorship to facilitate growth and leading edge research insights into routine clinical practice for children in Victoria and beyond.

The Chair will play a key leadership role in collaborative research directed towards improving clinical care of children with cancer both nationally and internationally.



Q&A with John Prins, Head of the Melbourne Medical School and Professor of Medicine at The University of Melbourne



What is the role of the Chair?

A Chair is the University's highest academic honour, created to promote leadership and scholarship in key areas across the institute. The outstanding individual will bring with them an exceptional track record of research achievement, clinical care delivery and experience in building collaborative, cross-disciplinary teams.

Embedded within the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC), the largest aggregation of cancer research and treatment in Australia, the Chair will have access to a network of globally renowned clinician scientists who facilitate the two-way process of translating scientific findings into clinical applications. Within the VCCC alliance, the Chair will lead the Children's Cancer Stream, providing strategic guidance to the entire Precinct and influencing the development of children's cancer services in Victoria and Australia.

World leading research programs are shaped by their people, and this vision will ensure that the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct is ideally positioned to attract and keep the best and brightest teachers, researchers and physicians right here in Melbourne.

How will the endowed Chair revolutionise childhood cancer clinical research in Australia?

The 'Chair in Children's Cancer' will transform childhood cancer clinical research and care in Australia. Trained in both science and medicine, the Chair will lead the development of the Children's Cancer program and bridge the gap between research and patient care within the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct.

A Professorial Chair embedded within the precinct would position Melbourne as the global centre for children's cancer research and clinical care and would ensure that every Australian child has access to the world's best childhood cancer treatments.

The implementation of such a program will see children with cancer diagnosed sooner, receive innovative targeted therapies faster, gain access to more clinical trials and ultimately lead happier, healthier lives.

The Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Melbourne. Image Source: Courtesy of University of Melbourne.

Project funding update

Project Funding Distributed in 2018/19

In 2018/19, the Children's Cancer Foundation distributed \$3,517,899 across 31 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 86% of our project funding towards clinical research and clinical trials.

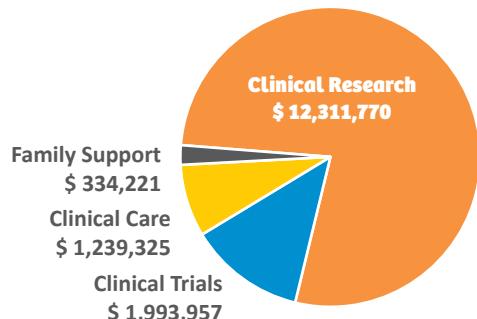


Clinical Research	Supporting innovative, outcome-driven research and building research capacity in Australia	\$ 2,748,334	78%
Clinical Trials	Facilitating new, more effective cancer treatments by increasing the number of trials available for children	\$ 276,816	8%
Clinical Care	Enhancing the level of clinical care, and helping children cope with pain and psychological issues	\$ 373,500	11%
Family Support	Providing resources and hospital-based staff to help parent and children navigate the overwhelming world of treatment	\$ 119,249	3%
Total			\$ 3,517,899

See next page for breakdown of projects funded in detail.

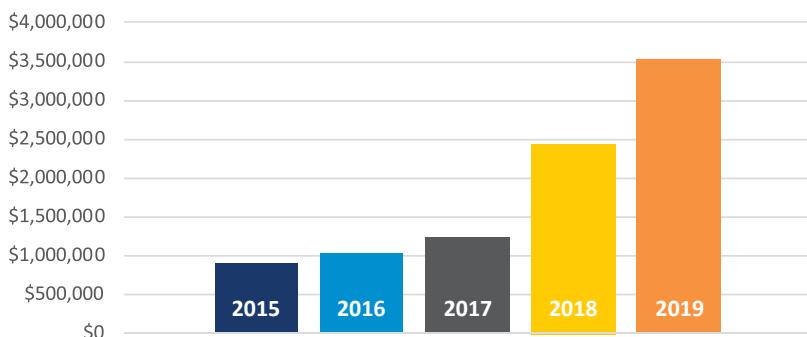
Project Funding Commitments from 2019/20 to 2023/24 (As at 30 June 2019)

Clinical Research	\$ 12,311,770	77 %
Clinical Trials	\$ 1,993,957	13 %
Clinical Care	\$ 1,239,325	8 %
Family Support	\$ 334,221	2 %
	\$ 15,879,273	



Project Funding Distribution Year-on-Year Growth

2015	\$ 885,719
2016	\$ 1,037,720
2017	\$ 1,231,735
2018	\$ 2,438,044
2019	\$ 3,517,899



The Foundation funded the following projects in 2018/19. **Total Project Funding \$3,517,899**

Funding Pillar	Project	Locations	
Clinical Research	Chair of Paediatric Oncology	University of Melbourne	\$ 1,500,000
Clinical Research	Hudson Monash Paediatric Precision Medicine Program - Phase 1	Hudson Institute of Medical Research Monash Children's Hospital	\$ 399,329
Clinical Research	Victorian Cancer Agency Clinical Research Fellowship	Murdoch Children's Research Institute Royal Children's Hospital	\$ 255,000
Clinical Research	Modelling childhood leukemias using human pluripotent stem cells	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	\$ 162,777
Clinical Research	My Room Clinical Research Fellowship ¹	Murdoch Children's Research Institute Royal Children's Hospital	\$ 147,682
Clinical Care	My Room Oncology Social Worker ¹	Royal Children's Hospital	\$ 112,529
Clinical Trial	National Clinical Trials Coordinator	Sydney Children's Hospital	\$ 105,393
Clinical Care	Art Therapists	Royal Children's Hospital	\$ 95,113
Clinical Trials	Clinical Trial Manager	Monash Children's Hospital	\$ 91,376
Family Support	Family Resource Coordinator ²	Royal Children's Hospital	\$ 86,146
Clinical Care	Music Therapists	Royal Children's Hospital Monash Children's Hospital	\$ 80,021
Clinical Research	Head of Molecular Diagnostics (0.4 EFT)	Murdoch Children's Research Institute Royal Children's Hospital	\$ 66,720
Clinical Trials	Early Phase Clinical Trial Coordinator	Murdoch Children's Research Institute Royal Children's Hospital	\$ 54,510
Clinical Care	Dietitian ¹	Monash Children's Hospital	\$ 42,991
Clinical Research	Optimising Relapse Prediction in High Risk Neuroblastoma	University of New South Wales	\$ 41,324
Clinical Care	Physiotherapy ¹	Monash Children's Hospital	\$ 38,803
Clinical Research	Clinical implementation of transcriptome sequencing for precision medicine	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	\$ 38,798
Clinical Research	Genomics of brain and solid tumours of childhood	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	\$ 34,045
Clinical Research	PhD Scholars Program	Hudson Institute of Medical Research Monash Children's Hospital	\$ 33,131
Clinical Research	My Room Clinical Research Fellowship ¹	Monash Children's Hospital Monash University Hudson Institute of Medical Research	\$ 32,722
Clinical Research	International Collaborations in Paediatric Cancer Research	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	\$ 21,500
Family Support	Family and Community Resource Officer	Monash Children's Hospital	\$ 19,202
Clinical Research	Clinical research fellowship aggressive brain tumours ³	Monash Children's Hospital Hudson Institute of Medical Research	\$ 15,306
Clinical Trials	SIOPEN Neuroblastoma clinical trial ⁴	Nine hospitals across Australia and New Zealand	\$ 13,255
Clinical Trials	Neuro-oncology Research Coordinator	Royal Children's Hospital	\$ 12,282
Family Support	Family Counselling ⁵	Royal Children's Hospital Monash Children's Hospital Sydney Children's Hospital	\$ 11,244
Clinical Care	The Beaded Journey	Royal Children's Hospital Monash Children's Hospital	\$ 4,043
Family Support	Family Gym Membership	Royal Children's Hospital	\$ 1,660
Family Support	Family Connect	Royal Children's Hospital	\$ 997
Total project funding			\$ 3,517,899

Funded by our charity partners: ¹ My Room, ² Portland House Foundation, ³ Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation, ⁴ Steven Walter Children's Cancer Foundation, ⁵ Pratt Foundation. 6 projects have been consolidated within this table.

Financials

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June

	2019	2018
Current Assets	\$4,610,869	\$5,248,265
Non-Current Assets	\$2,968	\$1,645
Total Assets	\$4,613,837	\$5,249,910
Current Liabilities	\$559,970	\$768,265
Non-Current Liabilities	\$1,211	\$18,937
Total Liabilities	\$561,181	\$787,202
Equity*	\$4,052,656	\$4,462,708

* 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 \$15,783,589 has been committed for the period 2019 – 2024

Revenue

	2019	2018
The Million Dollar Lunch	\$2,516,900	\$2,134,948
Donations/Fundraising	\$486,283	\$713,735
Charity Partners	\$499,995	\$539,560
Bequest	\$174,684	\$149,720
Other	\$140,808	\$109,019
Total Revenue	\$3,818,670	\$3,646,982

Expenses

	2019	2018
Project Funding to support children with cancer	\$3,517,899	\$2,438,044
Administration costs	\$541,602	\$484,360
The Million Dollar Lunch	\$118,978	\$128,345
Fundraising	\$47,236	\$65,593
Other	\$3,007	\$1,965
Total Expenses	\$4,228,722	\$3,118,307
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$410,052)	\$528,675

The Million Dollar Lunch 2018

Revenue (gross)	\$2,516,900
Expense	\$118,978
Revenue (net)	\$2,397,922

**Net Return
95%**

Our complete financial statements and Director's report are available at www.childrenscancerfoundation.com.au/about-us/our-integrity



Project Funding Update

Family Counselling Support

Project Focus: In-hospital family support

Institute: The Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital

Funding: \$429,000 over 5 years until 2022, together with \$40,000 from funding partner The Pratt Foundation.

Outcome: Recent research has confirmed both the unmet demand and benefit of psychological support to help families through cancer diagnosis and treatment. The committed funding provided financial relief for 32 referred families giving them access to face-to-face counselling with a psychologist for children with cancer, their parents or siblings.

Having a child diagnosed with cancer affects the dynamics of every family differently. What is common however, is that the normality of family life changes. And it changes for a long time.

The Children's Cancer Foundation's Family Counselling Program helps families begin adapting to their new normal.

Launched in 2017, the Family Counselling service provides professional support to families of children on and off cancer treatment. The program enhances services provided by the treating hospitals, and has become particularly relevant to many families as they leave the support and security of hospital life, and transition back to finding support in their own community.

This service operates in conjunction with a Medicare funded Mental Health Plan where the patient, the parents or siblings can access the support of qualified psychologists in their local area. The Children's Cancer Foundation will fund the Medicare gap. This approach allows families to speak to their own general practitioner and get a referral to a suitable professional in their locality.

The service that commenced as a Victorian-based initiate, has been subsequently been made available to the families of any child or their family being treated for cancer in Australia.

"CCF have been instrumental in providing young people and their siblings the opportunity to access psychological support in their community with a practitioner of their choice or recommendation specific to meet their needs. Removing the financial barrier to access such service has been life changing for some of the young people I work with."

- Tanya Hotchkin

Clinical Nurse Consultant Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer, Children's Cancer Centre, The Royal Children's Hospital



Impact Story

Measuring the impact of childhood cancer, one bead at a time

Until David's 3rd birthday, he was a happy, healthy toddler. The only sign that something wasn't right was that he wanted to be carried everywhere. His parents, Kate and Steve Johnson were told it was probably his shoes, maybe a virus. The family's vigilant GP sent them to the Royal Children's Hospital where, after a series of blood tests they were told David had a 90:10 probability of cancer.

Steve couldn't believe that his son could be at 10% risk of cancer. The haematologist gently corrected him, confirming the chance wasn't 10%, it was 90%. A bone marrow aspirate confirmed the diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL). Chemotherapy began immediately.

"The hardest part of treatment was seeing David look at us with an expression that said, "I don't know why you're letting people do this to me, I can't trust you anymore." It was then, and I as remember it now, utterly heartbreaking." - Kate

Seven months later, when he reached maintenance phase of treatment, his parents felt like they were coming out of a war.

"It is so important when going through a cancer diagnosis to know your child is receiving world-class treatment. We know firsthand the importance of finding more targeted treatments with fewer side effects and how desperately underfunded this is." - Kate

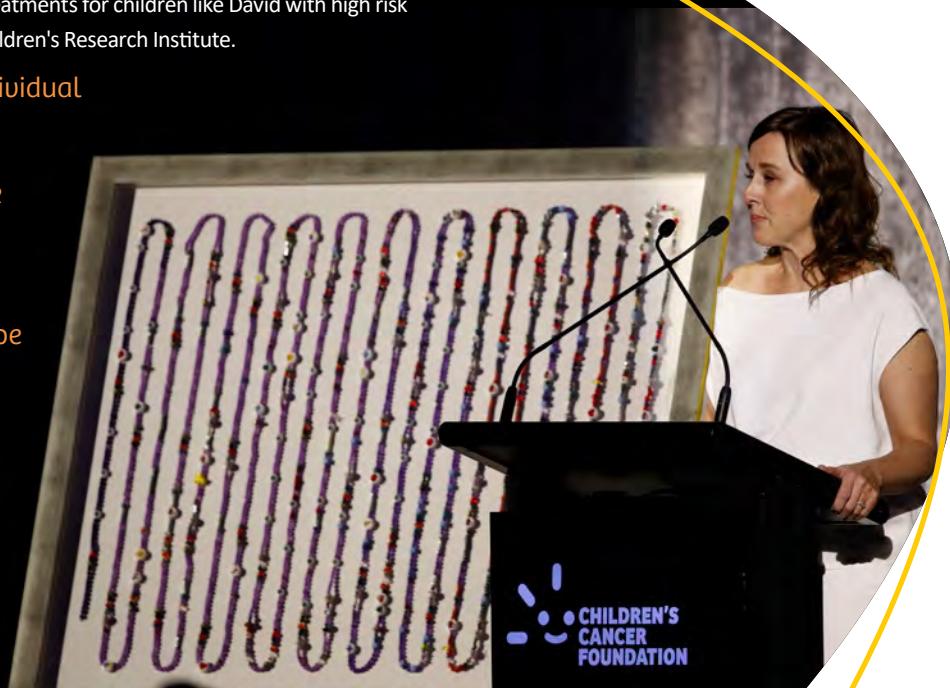
The family began a beaded journey funded by the Children's Cancer Foundation, which documented every procedure and milestone through treatment. Today, David's beaded journey is over 20 metres long. It tells the story of 3.5 years of active treatment their brave little warrior undertook including 34 general anaesthetics, 19 hospital admissions, 2 neurosurgeries, 27 emergency admissions, 26 lumbar punctures, 117 finger pricks, 54 cannulas, 38 MRIs, CT scans, x-rays, his port accessed 58 times and close to 1,000 doses of chemotherapy. All before he was seven years old.



Dr Seong Lin Khaw, clinician researcher and paediatric oncologist, was awarded the inaugural Children's Cancer Foundation Clinical Research Fellowship in 2017 – a \$1.37 million research support package over 4 years. Dr Khaw is investigating new treatments for children like David with high risk Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) at Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

"Through my Fellowship, I work with individual patient leukaemias in the laboratory to develop more precise and effective treatment for children with very high risk ALL, particularly with the use of newly developed, targeted drugs, such as ivenetoclax. We are hoping to understand mechanisms by which Ph+ ALL can escape standard therapy, as well as the role of novel therapies such as BH3-mimetics like ivenetoclax in improving outcomes."

– Dr Seong Lin Khaw



Funded Staff Story

Not the usual type of bank manager

Caroline Drinkwater is a bank manager – but not in the traditional way.

Caroline is a Biobank Specialist funded by the Children's Cancer Foundation as part of the Hudson Monash Paediatric Precision Medicine (HMPPM) Program.

"A biobank is a place where biological samples are stored so that they can be used for research, now and in the future," she explains.

"My role as a Biobank Specialist at Hudson Institute of Medical Research involves collecting solid tumour and brain tumour samples from the Monash Children's Hospital operating theatre, and taking them to be snap frozen and cryopreserved in the Institute's biobank lab."

"A biobank specialist is the go-between the researchers and clinicians to provide excess tumour and blood samples from cancer patients for clinical and translational research."

Adapting to a new era of research

Since the late 1990s biobanks have become an important resource in medical research, supporting many types of contemporary research like genomics and personalised medicine.

Samples in biobanks, and the data derived from those samples, can often be used by multiple researchers for cross-purpose research studies.

As a Biobank Specialist, Caroline says her work is always busy and varied.

"As a new and emerging role, my work can be process-driven and data heavy one day, then flexible and strategic the next, accommodating for unexpected surgeries at the hospital," she says.

"My role at Hudson Institute includes the coordination of all Monash Children's Hospital samples, so I work with oncologists, nurses, pathologists and surgeons.

"I also hand-deliver samples to pathologists and oncologists, am the go-to liaison for our medical collaborators, and also input and maintain comprehensive datasets."

Courtesy of Hudson Institute for exclusive use



Caroline Drinkwater, Children's Cancer Foundation Biobank Specialist. Courtesy of Hudson Institute for exclusive use.

Knowledge sharing for advancement of treatments

A big part of Caroline's role is to work with other researchers both nationally and internationally to build expertise, share resources and disseminate results that will advance the field of precision medicine for paediatric cancer patients.

"At state level I coordinate samples requested from other facilities like the Murdoch Children's Research Institute," she says.

"Nationally, I collaborate with ANZCHOG Biobanking Network, an organisation that promotes the biobanking of childhood and adolescent cancer samples in Australia and New Zealand.

"And globally Hudson Institute is the first Australian-based institution included in the Children's Brain Tumour Tissue Consortium, based in the U.S."

Caroline says these partnerships are all geared towards sharing and accelerating global research into childhood cancers.

"It is important for people connected and interested in our cause to understand it takes a village to care for a child with cancer.

"Our researchers and clinicians are on the cusp of changing the way we treat children with cancer. We are an essential piece of the puzzle and the program is uniting the many pieces of the puzzle."

Caroline Drinkwater

Supporter acknowledgement



Thank you to the many individuals, organisations, communities, volunteers and families who supported us in 2018/19 including:

1. Trent Barker: "It's time to chop the mop" Fundraising campaign
2. Steve Hissey, Absolute Health and Performance: "Lift for the Kids - Training for Change 2018" Campaign
3. Sarayi Dancers: "Sarayi Dance Annual Charity Show 2018" Fundraiser
4. St Nicholas Philanthropic society of Protv: "St Nicholas Philanthropic society of Protv's Charity Gala Ball"
5. C Property QLD supporting CCF: "C Property QLD supporting Children's Cancer Foundation" Fundraiser
6. Helping handbags: "Helping Hand Bag" donation campaign
7. Andre & Kylie Ash: "Hair Dare Day 2018" challenge

We give special thanks to the memory of those supporters whose personal and generous decision to honour the Foundation with a gift in their Will, create a lasting-legacy for childhood cancer and treatment.

- Estate of Barbara Lois Edwards
- Estate of Herbert Frederick James Wright
- Estate of Reza Alizadeh
- Estate of Lance William Pearce

Also, the families who have set up a Special Named Fund to contribute and make a difference while their child is in treatment, in recognition of the support they received from the Foundation during treatment, in celebration of successful treatment or in honour of their child.

- Marisa and Fabian Rosin, The Marcus Rosin Fund
- Rachel Ford and Shane McGuiness, Ruby-Rose Rainbow Fund
- Sarah and Liam Fish, Lillies for Hope

A bright 12 months ahead

We look forward to working together with our Patron, Ambassador, Directors and many generous pro bono partners across the next financial year.



Gillon McLachlan, Patron
AFL Chief Executive



Kate Langbrook, 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



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



BLACKBURN



Charity Partners



Pro Bono Partners





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