

Year in Review 2023

Together, we look to the day that children's cancer is gone.

Children's Cancer Foundation

The Children's Cancer Foundation is a dedicated team working with like-minded individuals and organisations to fund world-class clinical research and clinical care, and quality family support programs.

Our Values

CURIOUS

We always want to fund 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 visible

Our impact at a glance

\$69,133,000
raised since inception

\$25,887,000
raised from The Million Dollar Lunch since inception



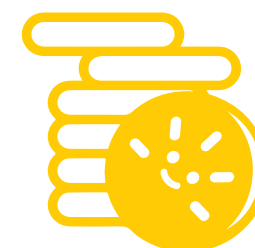
\$4.053M
impact funding on projects this year



16
currently funded projects



23
funded hospital and research staff



\$45M commitment to research

(\$10m from Children's Cancer Foundation and \$35m from Victorian State government, to continue research, clinical trials and workforce development)

Number of staff

3 Full-time

1 Part-time

1 Volunteer

Chairman's address

In 2023, the Foundation continues to fund many of the services which it funded back in 2008, when I was appointed to the committee of the Foundation's predecessor, the Children's Cancer Centre Foundation Inc. However, it also does so much more. The major difference is in the area of clinical research.

We are particularly proud of the Victorian Paediatric Cancer Consortium (**VPCC**), the research entity created by the Foundation in 2021.

This year, the Victorian state budget confirmed a grant of \$35.0m for Stage 2 of the VPCC, conditional upon the Foundation contributing a further \$10.0m. Raising those funds is the challenge in 2024!

Some highlights among many other achievements in 2023:

- VPCC's creation of the Childhood Cancer Model Atlas, a unique open-source resource to cancer researchers globally;
- Creation of the Foundation's scholarship and support program for paediatric cancer nurses, in recognition of their central (and often under-appreciated) role;
- Expansion of our counselling service to assist families across the country;
- Expansion of paediatric psychology services at the Queensland Children's Hospital.



Of course, these achievements are only possible due to the generosity of our donors and supporters. Foremost among them are the members of The Million Dollar Lunch committee and the event's key supporters, Crown, the AFL, Lexus of Blackburn and Tennis Australia.

I would like to recognise several board members in particular. This year, **Kevin Martin** retired after 25 years service to the Foundation and its predecessors. He has been an outstanding champion for our cause. We welcomed **Jaala Pulford** and **Rianna Ponting** as directors, and I am delighted that Jaala will replace me as Chair of the Foundation. I am no less delighted that **Peter Crinis** and Rianna will replace me as Co-chairs of The Million Dollar Lunch committee.

Special mentions also to **Gillon McLachlan** and **Sean Taylor**, who step down after making outstanding contributions, Gillon as Patron and Sean as The Million Dollar Lunch committee member.

In closing, I would like to record that, outside the confines of my family, leading the Foundation has been the greatest honour of my life, and I would like to thank everyone who has made it so.

In particular, profound thanks to **Doug Rathbone** for inviting me to join the Foundation all those years ago, the extraordinary **James Roche**, for his friendship and unfailingly wise counsel, **Jeff Darmanin** for his relentless pursuit of a better way and **Mary McGowan** for being Mary!

And finally, to **Marita, Lulu, Linus** and **Ignatius**. For everything.

Jeremy Smith
Chairman



Thank you and farewell to Jeremy Smith

Following 15 years of service to the Children's Cancer Foundation and its previous entities, Jeremy Smith announced that he will step down from his position as Chairman at the end of 2023.

Under Jeremy's stewardship the Children's Cancer Foundation has become one of the most successful childhood cancer fundraising and advocacy charities in Australia, securing more than \$76 million. This remarkable achievement made possible by fundraising over \$32 million and securing \$9.6 million in Federal Government Funding and a further \$35 million in Victorian State Government Funding.

During Jeremy's time as Chair the Children's Cancer Foundation has successfully delivered much needed funding to childhood cancer clinical research, clinical trials, clinical care and family support.

His leadership has guided the following:

- Investment in talent through fellowships and PhD positions at a number of hospitals and research institutes.

- Funding vital clinical care activities including family and resource co-ordinators, art therapists, music therapies, and child psychologists at children's cancer hospitals across Australia.
- Development and funding of a national family support counselling program.
- Committing to the establishment of a perpetual Children's Cancer Foundation and My Room Chair in Childhood Cancer at The University of Melbourne.
- Bringing eight leading research institutes together to form the Victorian Paediatric Cancer Consortium.

Jeremy has been an exceptional custodian of the Foundation, his passion and energy for the fight against childhood cancer has positively impacted so many children and their families. I am honoured to follow in Jeremy's footsteps as Chair and look forward to continuing his great work as we strive for a world free of childhood cancer.

Incoming Chair
Hon. Jaala Pulford



The biggest ever investment in childhood cancer research in Victoria

The Victorian Paediatric Cancer Consortium (VPCC) was created by the Children's Cancer Foundation in 2021. It brings together some of Victoria's leading researchers, academic and clinical organisations – all working to make things better for children and adolescents with cancer through world-class medical research and innovation.

Prior to the establishment of the VPCC, the Victorian paediatric cancer research landscape was fragmented across research institutes and hospitals, impacting development in the field of paediatric cancer. This, and a historic under investment into children's cancer research in Victoria, has resulted in minimal advancements in treatment for childhood cancer over many years.

The VPCC however, has created a paediatric cancer ecosystem, unifying the paediatric cancer research and clinical community to leverage existing capabilities and improve outcomes for children and their families.

Recognising the importance of maintaining a skilled and dedicated team of researchers focused on paediatric cancer, the VPCC is committed to nurturing local talent and attracting the most brilliant minds from both Australia and internationally.

Earlier this year the VPCC received a \$35 million boost in funding as part of the Victorian 2023-24 state budget. This will be matched by an additional \$10 million from the Children's Cancer Foundation to form a robust investment package of \$45 million and ensure the VPCC's work is firmly supported and poised for success.

The \$45 million will be rolled out over the next five years and directed towards discovery research, clinical trials, survivorship research programs, enhanced biobanking resources, and dedicated childhood cancer physician and research training and grants.

Looking ahead, phase two of the VPCC aims to:

- Develop and advance new and more precise treatments for childhood cancer.
- Accelerate the participation of children with cancer in clinical trials in Victoria.
- Improve survivorship and long-term health for children undergoing cancer treatment.
- Leverage the diverse expertise of Victorian researchers and clinicians to catalyse the translation of paediatric cancer research from bench to bedside.



“Now, thanks to the VPCC, the best minds in Victoria's medical research community have a new platform through which to share and benefit from each other's knowledge.

Our findings will enable other researchers in the childhood cancer community to accelerate their own research and discoveries,

Many survivors of childhood cancer are left with debilitating long-term side effects of their treatments. We need to do better.

- Dr Jason Cain

The combined \$45 million will be directed towards:

- The next generation paediatric cancer therapies research program
- Providing safer therapies for children with cancer ('pharmacogenomics and radiogenomics research program')
- The survivorship of childhood cancer program
- The bioresource research platform
- Paediatric cancer physician researcher training
- Paediatric cancer clinical trials management and support
- Innovation grants for junior and mid-career paediatric cancer researchers
- Management, coordination, and governance of the VPCC

We know research with scale and leverage is critical and together with the VPCC's researchers, doctors and families of kids with cancer we are set to take on children's cancer and accelerate groundbreaking childhood cancer research.



THANKS TO YOU

A new Paediatric Scholarship and Support Program for paediatric cancer nurses

Nurses play a vital role in caring for children and families during their most challenging times. We know the difference nurses make, and earlier this year committed to funding a new Paediatric Scholarship and Support Program for paediatric cancer nurses.

The online course, [Essential Research Skills for Clinical Nurses](#), is offered within the VCCC Alliance Nurse-led Research Hub and assists clinical nurses to establish or strengthen essential research skills.

In the first year, the Foundation will fund up to 67 paediatric oncology nurses in Australia and

New Zealand to undertake the course and provide support to implement and promote aspects of the Nurse-led Research Hub.

With nurses forming the largest part of the healthcare industry, this investment will help strengthen the paediatric cancer nursing workforce and assist with skill development to deliver evidence-informed care and ultimately real benefits for young patients and their families.



Nurse-Led
Research Hub

A global resource for paediatric cancer researchers

In March we celebrated and shared the announcement of the **Childhood Cancer Model Atlas (CCMA)**. The work of the **Victorian Paediatric Cancer Consortium (VPCC) Next Generation Precision Medicine program team**, the CCMA is the world's largest collection of high-risk paediatric cancer cell lines and provides a unique, open-source facility to cancer researchers globally.

Located at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne, this incredible resource was developed through active collaborations between 35 cancer research institutes, universities and academic medical centres, both nationally and internationally.

The Foundation invested more than \$7 million and supported the development of this revolutionary program for over seven years.

The CCMA is an extremely important development that will support all childhood cancer researchers who study the disease and how it develops – ultimately helping to identify new therapies and treatments for cancers that affect children.

“ Having models (samples) of various childhood cancers is the only way that we can study the disease and understand how it develops, what makes it grow and ultimately what treatments can be used to fight it off and hopefully cure it.

- Dr Claire Sun, Victorian Cancer Agency Early Career Research Fellow



Life can change in a minute.
And it can happen to anyone.



Cancer kills more
Australian children
than any other
disease.

In 40 years,
only 12 drugs

have been approved for childhood cancer treatment.

In the same period,
over 500 drugs were approved for adults.



1,000

children and adolescents
are diagnosed with
cancer each year

150

diagnosed will not survive

Of the **850** that do survive,
over 550 will be left with

long term chronic side effects due to
the high toxicity of treatment such as:



Amputation



Brain Damage



Learning Difficulties



**10% risk of developing
treatment related cancers**

We need to do better.

Jade's story

“What we’ve been through I don’t think any other family should have to go through.”

- Maria, Jade’s mum

Jade loved music and she loved to dance. She was into art and craft and left a trail of glitter as she went. Jade was part way through pre-primary and had a beautiful group of friends.

She was only five when she started waking up early in the morning with headaches and intermittent vomiting.

Doctors initially suggested to Jade’s parents, Maria and Lee, that they get Jade’s eyes tested. When the results came back indicating everything was fine, doctors recommended a precautionary MRI for Jade at the local radiology centre.

During the MRI, Maria knew something was wrong when, halfway through, she was asked if Jade had ever had a cannula before. They needed to inject contrast through the cannula during the scan.

“My mind was just ticking over, why, what are they doing?” Maria questioned.

When the MRI was over, four people were waiting at the door, including a nurse who took Jade away, and then took Maria to a separate room and told her that they’d found a large mass in Jade’s brain.

“It was pure disbelief. I was asked if I had anyone with me, which I didn’t. And was then told that we were to go straight to Perth Children’s Hospital because it was at risk of rupturing,” Maria explained.



At the hospital, doctors took Maria and Lee into a room and showed them images of the seven-centimetre mass in Jade’s brain. They couldn’t comprehend how large it was and that Jade hadn’t shown any other significant symptoms.

Doctors had found the mass in Jade’s brain on a Friday and by the following Monday, she was having craniotomy surgery. Jade underwent six-hours of surgery, where thankfully, they were able to remove the whole tumour. Her family had been told that Jade’s speech and mobility may be impaired post operation, so they were grateful to hear Jade’s little voice utter the words “Mummy I’m thirsty”, when they walked into the ICU.

The operation left Jade with a major scar, which upset her to look at, so her family covered mirrors and did all sorts of things so she wouldn’t have to see it.

Jade was able to go home and spend Easter with her family, however she soon developed an infection and had to go back for further surgery. In the next surgery, part of Jade’s skull was removed, and from then on, she needed to wear a helmet - it was specially made, so it was soft on the inside to protect her brain, and hard on the outside.

Not long after, Maria and Lee received the devastating news, Jade’s tumour results had come back, and it was ATRT.

“It’s a rare and aggressive form of brain cancer, and there’s not a lot of hope for children with ATRT.”

From then on, Jade and Maria lived on the ward full-time and Jade underwent multiple rounds of chemotherapy.

“The toxicity of the chemotherapy that is used to treat ATRT is horrendous. One of the drugs meant we were unable to have skin-to-skin contact. It was that toxic. I had to bath her every six hours.”

“It’s so hard when you can’t hug your own child.”

Following Jade’s chemotherapy, she had to undergo radiation therapy. Her oncologist had listed proton and photon therapy as options in Jade’s treatment protocol.

Jade’s parent’s and her oncologist’s preference was proton therapy, in the hope that it would result in fewer side effects for Jade post-treatment. However, proton therapy wasn’t available in Australia, so they had to travel to America.

It took four flights to get to Jacksonville USA, throughout which Jade had to wear her helmet - she had no skull covering her brain in one section, and if anything was to fall on her head it would have been fatal.

“The whole scenario of just getting her to the proton treatment was just horrendous. The journey was so long, she was so weak and so frail from her chemotherapy.”

When they arrived, the family met with the team treating Jade. Doctors explained to Maria and Lee that Jade would need a mask on her head during treatment, and that the mask would be screwed to the table so that Jade didn’t move.

Each day, for 28 days, Jade was given anaesthetic so she could remain completely still and undergo proton treatment.



“I think we were just on autopilot. Every day was the same, get up, go to treatment, come back. She would be exhausted. She didn’t want to talk to anybody, see anyone, do anything.”

Following weeks of proton treatment Jade and her parents returned to Australia, where Jade had one final surgery, to insert an acrylic plate in replacement of where her skull was. It had to be acrylic so that Jade could continue her MRIs.

“What we’ve been through I don’t think any other family should have to go through. Childhood cancer is, it’s just, it’s horrible.”

“We need less gruelling treatment for children with cancer. Some of these treatments that they’re enduring, the drugs they’re using are over 40, 50 years old”, Maria.



Support for families

In addition to funding world class research, the Foundation continues to provide a wide range of practical supports and resources to assist families in navigating their unique challenges.

We understand the importance of mental and emotional well-being, which is why we fund in-hospital programs like music and art therapy, Paediatric Psychologist and Social Worker roles, as well as counselling sessions for all families impacted by childhood cancer across the country.

Professional Counselling for families

Facing the painful reality of a childhood cancer diagnosis, treatment and the road ahead is both overwhelming and daunting.

The demands of cancer treatment are many, and families may need a little extra help to deal with their feelings, regardless of where they are at on their cancer treatment journey.

The Foundation provides support to Australian families by funding professional counselling, including family therapy, psychotherapy, art, music and play therapy - to help family members process difficult emotions.

A centralised hub of resources

The [Children's Cancer Family Support Alliance website](#) connects families with childhood cancer charities and service providers, offering a centralized hub for support services. By listing various charities and services available to families impacted by cancer, the site ensures that patients and their families are aware of the resources available to them.

The Alliance is a group of independent organisations united in their mission to support families throughout their cancer journey.



Helping children and their families navigate the trauma of diagnosis

The Oncology Service at the Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) provides paediatric oncology care to patients aged 0-18 years and sees close to 250 new patients each year.

A common issue encountered by these children is procedural anxiety, which can have long-lasting effects on the child's mental health and overall functioning. In such cases, psychology plays a crucial role in providing support and intervention.

To assist in meeting the demand for cancer patient care, The Children's Cancer Foundation funds a Paediatric Psychologist, as part of the Oncology Service at the Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH). Psychologists with specialised training are equipped to help children and their families navigate the trauma of diagnosis, treatment and subsequent adjustments to their lifestyle.

Essential support for patients and their families

The number of new diagnosis and complexity of patient cases at the Children's Cancer Centre in the Royal Children's Hospital has steadily risen and as a result the demand for Social Work services has also increased.

To ensure support is available to families, the Foundation funds a Social Worker exclusively within the Children's Cancer Centre. They work closely with medical, nursing and allied health staff in various settings to deliver the best outcomes for the patient and family, while also working in collaboration with other service providers, both within the hospital and the wider community.

The power of music

Singing, song writing, playing instruments, music relaxation and creating playlists are just some of the many methods and techniques music therapists at Monash Children's Hospital use to assist patients in coping with their treatment.

The Music Therapy Program is offered to young patients at Monash Children's Hospital, including those receiving cancer care, to support them through their treatment. Through the medium of music, patients develop positive coping-related behaviours which reduces anxiety.

The Music Therapy Program has been particularly beneficial within the inpatient environment, paediatric intensive care unit and within the day treatment clinic, supporting patients either pre, during or after invasive procedures.

The Million Dollar Lunch 2023

Another record breaking year for The Million Dollar Lunch.

The Million Dollar Lunch community gathered on Friday, 4 August at The Palladium at Crown, for what was the 17th annual The Million Dollar Lunch.

This year's event reached new heights, raising \$2.9 million to support children and families impacted by cancer.

The Wonderland themed Lunch was a sight to behold, with Crown and its brilliant suppliers, partners and employees delivering the magic in spades. Guests were welcomed into an Alice in Wonderland inspired Atrium - complete with story book entry doors, leading to a Queen of Hearts pre-function area and onto the most opulent Mad Hatters Tea Party.

Fox Footy's Sarah Jones returned as host, alongside the Seven Network's Hamish McLachlan and they were joined by 600 guests, which included several high-profile personalities and heads of Australian industry, all of whom graciously embraced the Foundation's cause.

Chairman of the Children's Cancer Foundation, Jeremy Smith, paid tribute to the incredible generosity of the event's cornerstone partners Crown Resorts, Australian Football League, Sportsbet and Lexus of Blackburn, with a special mention to the Children's Cancer Foundations inaugural Patron, Gillon McLachlan.

"It is no coincidence that the period since Gills appointment in 2014 has been the most ambitious and productive in the history of the Foundation. Gill will shortly cease as Patron but will forever remain a dear friend of the Foundation," said Jeremy.

Guest speaker, 23-year-old cancer survivor Taylah Miranda, bravely shared her personal childhood cancer experience and survivorship journey, which was met with a standing ovation from the room.

"I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to share my story and give a piece of me to everyone in the room. The love, generosity, kindness and support I received was like no other," Taylah said.

And in what was a notable highlight of the day, guests were thrilled when Taylah was announced winner of the Lexus UX 200 Luxury car - the result of a VERY kindly donated raffle ticket!

Auctioneers John Bongiorno and Nicholas Brooks from Marshall White graciously volunteered their time to assist with the live Auction. An impressive lineup of items, which included tickets to the sold-out Taylor Swift concert and a VIP Wimbledon experience, ensured the bidding was highly competitive.

While much-loved Aussie vocal duo Vika & Linda performed 'Never Let Me Go' and 'When Will You Fall For Me', and up and coming Melbourne based modern soul artist WILSN wowed guests with her powerful contemporary take on soul music.

The Million Dollar Lunch Committee and the Children's Cancer Foundation team are excited as they look towards The Million Dollar Lunch 2024!

Thank you to The Million Dollar Lunch Committee Members

Gillon McLachlan
Jeremy Smith
Peter Crinis
Enda Cunningham
Jude Donnelly
Christopher Gilbert
Thomas Mort

Ann Peacock
Rianna Ponting
James Roche
Kylie Rogers
Andrew Ryan
Sean Taylor

We can't do this without you

Special thanks to our Event Partners



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



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



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



Lexus of Blackburn supports The Million Dollar Lunch by donating a luxury vehicle to the premium raffle.



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



Thank you to all our incredible volunteers who helped make the event the success that is was!

80 Amazing Volunteers supported The Million Dollar Lunch



The Million Dollar Lunch impact pledge acknowledgements

The Million Dollar Lunch brings a community of leaders together who each show their generous support for the Children's Cancer Foundation, this year raising a collective \$887,500 from pledges alone.

The continued support from these individuals, families, organisations and some anonymous donors, makes this spectacular event what it is.

Thank you again from everyone at the Children's Cancer Foundation.
You help us make a difference.



Crown Resorts Foundation



The Highland Foundation
(Sharon Landy, Joan and Rick Smith)



Joanna and Tamas Szabo



Ponting Foundation
(Rianna and Ricky Ponting)



The Booth Family



Grill'd Healthy Burgers
(Sophie and Simon Crowe)



Joseph Chou and Suzanne Ho
Family



The Pratt Foundation



Forbes Global Properties
(Michael Gibson)



Marshall White



Jellis Craig

Project funding

The Children's Cancer Foundation together with its partners has funded **16 projects in the 2022/2023 year**. Funding includes salaries for hospital and research staff, laboratory consumables and family resources.

Hudson Monash Paediatric Precision Medicine Program - Phase II

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

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

Recipient: 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.

SIOPEN Neuroblastoma Clinical Trials

Focus: Neuroblastoma

Institute: ANZCHOG (Australian & New Zealand Children's Haematology/Oncology Group)

Recipient: A/Prof. Toby Trahair

Funding: \$530,965

Overview: The SIOPEN 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.

Funded by or in conjunction with:



STEVEN WALTER

CHILDREN'S CANCER FOUNDATION

PhD Scholars Development Program

Focus: All childhood cancers

Institute: Monash University

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

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).

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.

My Room Comfort First Clinician

Focus: Psychosocial care

Institute: The Royal Children's Hospital

Funding: \$79,950 over 12 months

Overview: Salary funding for a clinician working in the procedural support program that aims to reduce the pain, anxiety and distress associated with medical procedures in patients undergoing cancer treatments.

Funded by or in conjunction with:



On ward Oncology Social Worker

Focus: In-hospital family support

Institute: The Royal Children's Hospital

Funding: \$100,000 interim funding

Overview: Interim salary funding for a Social Worker to support families with children undergoing treatment within the Children's Cancer Centre.

Funded by or in conjunction with:



On ward Occupational Therapist

Focus: Psychosocial Care

Institute: Queensland Children's Hospital

Funding: \$90,000

Overview: Salary funding for a clinician working in the paediatric cancer setting to provide targeted and specialised procedural care to children and families undergoing treatment for cancer.

Funded by or in conjunction with:



Project funding

Victorian Paediatric Cancer Consortium Initiatives

Focus: All childhood cancers

Institute: Multi Institutional

Overview: The aim is to advance the Victorian Paediatric Cancer Consortium by developing and strengthening collaboration within and outside the consortium.

On ward 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 centre and outpatient settings. Music therapy aims to provide positive coping-related behaviours and reduce anxiety for patients and their families during procedures.

On ward Physiotherapy Service

Focus: In-hospital patient care

Institute: Monash Children's Hospital

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.

Funded by or in conjunction with:



On ward Dietitian

Focus: In-hospital patient care

Institute: Monash Children's Hospital

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.

Funded by or in conjunction with:



On ward Child Psychological Services

Institute: Queensland Children's Hospital

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.

Family Counselling Reimbursement Service

Project: Family Counselling Reimbursement Service

Focus: Family support, both in hospital and post treatment

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

Funding: \$16,000 annually

Overview: Funding for counselling with a Psychosocial practitioner for children with cancer, their parents or siblings.

Lillies for Hope Beaded Journey

Focus: In-hospital patient support

Institute: The Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Children's Hospital and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Funding: \$5,000 annually

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.

Funded by or in conjunction with:



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 and Community Resource Officer

Focus: In-hospital family support

Institute: Monash Children's Hospital

Recipient: Jessica Kelly

Funding: \$41,483 over 3 years.

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.

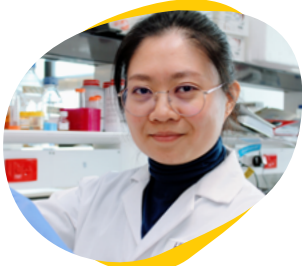


Research and care staff funded by the Foundation

Working hand in hand with our charity partners, the Foundation is once again delighted to have had the opportunity to support the brilliant minds who tirelessly contribute to the advancement of children’s cancer research and compassionate care.



Alexandra Lederman
Art Therapist, RCH



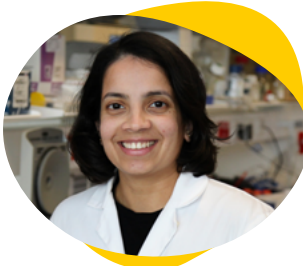
Claire Shi
HIMR PhD Scholar, MU



Dr Claire Sun
VCA Early Career Research Fellow, Hudson



Dr Daniel Gough
Chief Investigator, Hudson



Dhanya Sooraj
CCF Senior Organoid Specialist, Hudson



Dilru Habarakada
Senior Biobank Specialist, Hudson



Elisabeth McNulty
Social Worker, RCH



Herah Hansji
Neuro-oncology Research Co-ordinator, MCH



Irina Arzhintar
Lead Clinical Trial Co-ordinator, MCH



Dr Jason Cain
Chief Investigator, Hudson



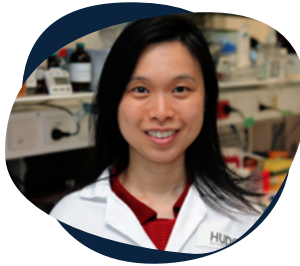
Ma'ayan Geffen
Program Manager, Hudson



Matilda Dawson
Art Therapist, RCH



Melina Roberts
Music Therapist, RCH



Melissa Loi
CCF Technical Sequencing Specialist, Hudson



Merridy Justice
Family Resource Coordinator, RCH



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



Prof Ron Firestein
Head of Research and Chief Investigator, Hudson



Sarah Parackal
HIMR PhD Scholar, MU



Seong Lin Khaw
CCF Research Fellow, MCRI



Toby Trahair
Senior Researcher, UNSW



A visit to THE LUME Melbourne

The Foundation launched a partnership with THE LUME Melbourne in June, to provide families, whose children have been impacted by cancer, the opportunity for a free memorable experience.

The initiative was launched just prior to the opening of THE LUME Melbourne's latest exhibition Connection, the most expansive tapestry of First Peoples' art ever assembled.

With complimentary entry, families can step away from their troubles, if only for a moment, to explore this special space together.

Close to two hundred families have already taken up the opportunity to enjoy a sensory adventure into art.



“ The LUME experience was very relaxing. To be able to sit on the floor with my older girl and watch our younger two become one with the art! I found it very peaceful in there.

– Family feedback.



AFL gathers around children's cancer

A festival of football took over South Australia in April, when footy history was created with all 18 clubs in the one state at the one time.

The Children's Cancer Foundation were delighted to be the official charity partner for the inaugural AFL Gather Round, with funds raised going towards supporting families and children who will be treated at the Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy and Research being built in Adelaide.

As Gather Round kicked off, our Patron Gillon McLachlan, AFL CEO, took a closer look at the site that will house Australia's first Proton Therapy Unit. He was joined by the Ouwen's family, who previously had to travel to the USA, so that 6-year old Van Ouwens could receive proton therapy treatment for a cancer that had metastasized on his lungs.



Partnering with the AFL since 2014, we are grateful for their ongoing support and the many opportunities that were provided to families throughout Gather Round.



Melbourne Town Hall lit up yellow

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Key landmarks across the country were lit in yellow on Tuesday, 12th September, to put a spotlight on childhood cancer.

The Story Bridge in Brisbane, as well as Melbourne's MCG, Town Hall, Crown Towers, Rod Laver Arena and many other iconic sites were a glow for the Children's Cancer Foundation, in support of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Childhood cancer survivor, Taylah and her family, took to the sky in a helicopter with thanks to

Microflite, to see Melbourne shining a light on children's cancer.

Channel Seven Melbourne, ABC Radio and 3AW helped to spread awareness, while the Herald Sun created and shared a short video of Taylah's flight for Tik Tok and Instagram.

Our community showed their support during September for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month by raising awareness and funds in many unique and wonderful ways.



Taylah and her siblings

Our Wonderful Supporters

We are grateful to all our fundraisers who have supported us throughout the year. Here are just a few highlights.

VICETA WANG Annual Charity Fundraiser

Vibrant sunflowers filled the room at the VICETA WANG Annual Charity Fundraiser, which was held in August at the picturesque, Leonda By the Yarra. On what started as a chilly Melbourne morning, the sun was soon shining through the Ballroom windows where guests came together and raised over \$85,000 for children impacted by cancer.

Leading Australian fashion label VICETA WANG, generously gives back to the community each year by hosting an annual fundraiser and the Children's Cancer Foundation were honoured to be the chosen charity partner for this year's event.

The team from the Children's Cancer Foundation were there to lend a helping hand and were delighted to have the opportunity to meet and talk with guests and thank them for the generosity.



Giving Love Gala Dinner

It was in early April, when friend of the Foundation Kim, called on her network, community and local businesses to come together for her Giving Love Gala Dinner in support of the Children's Cancer Foundation.

Through tickets sales, sponsors, auction and a raffle, the Giving Love Gala Dinner which was held in Melbourne, raised a staggering \$27,509 for children and families impacted by cancer. We thank Kim and her kind-hearted volunteers and guests who made it all happen.



Banksia Beach State School

A group of amazing teachers from Banksia Beach State School in Queensland cut and coloured their hair in October to raise funds for the Children's Cancer Foundation, in support of some of their students who have previously undergone or are currently undergoing treatment for cancer.

They rallied their whole school and their community spirit shone brightly, as everyone came together to help raise \$11,370.



The Foundation receives support from a wide range of companies who each contributing in unique and meaningful ways.



The Tennis Australia team provide our Foundation with pro bono office space, along with all the office essentials – so we can spend more time and funds on making a difference for children and families impacted by cancer. Craig Tiley, CEO of Tennis Australia, and his team also support The Million Dollar Lunch by providing their time, volunteers, and significant auction prizes.



Team members from Apple graciously volunteered at this year's The Million Dollar Lunch, while the company also kindly provided all the iPads that were used throughout the event.

MacKenzie Family Foundation

For the past three years the MacKenzie Family have been steadfast supporters of the Foundation, having now generously donated over \$225,000. Their commitment to improving the lives of children with cancer is both inspiring and commendable.

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. Through the unwavering support of their community, the Fund has successfully raised over \$342,000 and is edging ever closer to their ultimate goal of \$350,000.

Pallet Logistics

For nearly a decade the team at Pallet Logistics has consistently demonstrated their support for the Foundation. Driven by their genuine desire to uplift those in need, their generous donations have now reached an impressive \$159,000.

Pokémon World Australia

Pokémon World Australia brings daily fun to their online community through selling, buying and trading Pokémon Cards. To date their passionate community have raised over \$34,500 to support the fight against childhood cancer.

Ruby-Rose Rainbow Foundation

The Ruby-Rose Rainbow Fund is dedicated to the memory of Ruby-Rose Ford who passed away at the age of nearly 3 years old on 12 December 2015 from Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML). She is the beautiful daughter of Shane and Rachael and little sister to Jesse and Allie.

The Ruby-Rose Rainbow Fund has now raised over \$120,000 which will go towards funding clinical research for childhood leukaemia.

Board Members



Hon. Jaala Pulford
Mother of Sinéad
Chairperson and Non-Executive Director
Special Responsibility: Chairman



Tracey Danaher
Mother of Zac
Professor, Monash Business School
Special Responsibility: Project Funding



Maurizio Marcocci
Cancer Survivor
Director, University Food Group and Chair, My Room
Special Responsibility: My Room Liaison



Vivienne Petroff
Executive Director, Flagstaff Partners
Special Responsibility: Finance



Rianna Ponting
Founder, Ponting Foundation
Special Responsibility: The Million Dollar Lunch Committee



Jeff Darmanin
Father of Will
Non-Executive Director, Children's Cancer Foundation
Special Responsibility: VPCC and Project Funding



Peter Crinis
Chief Commercial Officer, Helloworld Travel and Managing Director, Anchor Consultancy Co.
Special Responsibility: The Million Dollar Lunch Committee



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



Sarah Wyse
Independent Advisor and Founder, Wyse Women
Special Responsibility: Media and Communications

An update on our Members

Foundation Member Jeff Darmanin commits to implementing the Victorian Paediatric Consortium

In late March 2023, Jeff Darmanin stood down as the Children's Cancer Foundation's honorary Executive Director, a position which he has held for the past three years.

The Foundation is grateful to Jeff for his service and pleased that he has committed to another three years as a Non-Executive Director. Jeff will assist the Foundation to implement its pledge with the Victorian Government to the Victorian Paediatric Cancer Consortium over the next few years.

Jeff's contribution as honorary Executive Director has been extraordinary, his leadership, strategic planning and execution assisted the Foundation to navigate the difficulties of the past few years and emerge stronger and more cohesive than ever.

Thank You Jeff.



Foundation Member Kevin Martin retires

After more than 25 years of selfless service, esteemed Children's Cancer Foundation Director, Kevin Martin, has retired.

Kevin was appointed one of the inaugural directors of the Kids Cancer Foundation, back in 1998. The Kids Cancer Foundation, which then became the Children's Cancer Centre Foundation, amongst its many achievements funded the refurbishment of the cancer unit at the Royal Children's Hospital in the early 2000s.

In 2005 Kevin joined the board of KOALA (Kids Oncology and Leukaemia Action) Foundation, which originated from Monash Children's Hospital and focused on supporting families through the challenging journey of childhood cancer.

As a director of both charities, Kevin played a seminal role in bringing the Children's Cancer Centre Foundation and KOALA Foundation together, to create what we now know as the Children's Cancer Foundation. The merger was a milestone event in the Foundation's history.

Thank You Kevin.



Rianna Ponting joins the Board

The Foundation are thrilled to welcome Rianna Ponting to the Board this year.

Rianna is passionate about helping young Australians and their families, through their cancer journey and has dedicated more than twenty years of her life to the cause. Her original involvement was as an ambassador to the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia where she was able to generate significant funding to support the CCIA's research work.

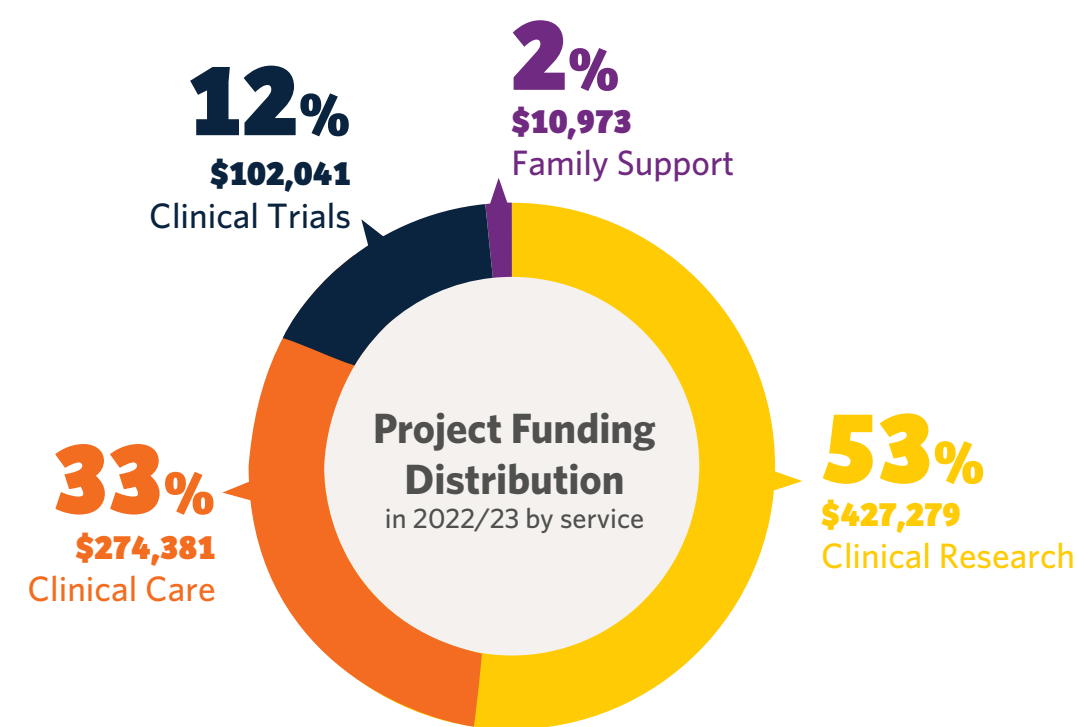
In 2008, Rianna alongside her husband Ricky formed the Ponting Foundation and have worked with many childhood cancer charities to make a significant difference to families nationwide. Rianna personally and the Ponting Foundation have been passionate supporters of the Children's Cancer Foundation and she joined the Million Dollar Lunch Committee in 2018.

Rianna has continued to expand her involvement with the Foundation, and we are grateful to have her as our newest Board Member.

Welcome Rianna.



Financial Overview



Concise Profit and Loss Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
The Million Dollar Lunch	\$2,827,369	\$779,169
Donations/Fundraising	\$603,628	\$569,470
Charity Partner Donations	\$50,000	\$1,392,464
Bequests	\$568,893	\$217,120
Other	\$110,706	\$6,468
Total Revenue	\$4,160,596	\$2,964,691
Project funding expenses to support children with cancer	(\$813,673)	(\$3,562,093)
Administration, management and other expenses	(\$662,908)	(\$371,263)
Depreciation	(\$1,636)	(\$608)
Finance costs	(\$2,553)	(\$3,009)
Total Expenses	(\$1,480,770)	(\$3,936,973)
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax	\$2,679,826	(\$972,282)
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$2,679,826	(\$972,282)

The Million Dollar Lunch	August 2022	August 2021*
Revenue (Gross)	\$2,827,369	\$779,169
Expense **	(\$25,835)	(\$14,438)
Revenue (Net)	\$2,801,534	\$764,731
Net Return on Event	99.1%	98.1%

* 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.

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,831,942	\$4,792,083
Financial asset - term deposit	\$3,000,000	-
Trade and other receivables	\$353,910	\$452,880
Total Current Assets	\$7,185,852	\$5,244,963
Property, plant and equipment	\$3,603	\$794
Total Non Current Assets	\$3,603	\$794
Total Assets	\$7,189,455	\$5,245,757
Trade and other payables	\$25,109	\$865,028
Deferred revenue	\$2,694,500	\$2,611,000
Employee provisions	\$28,254	\$10,404
Total Current Liabilities	\$2,747,863	\$3,486,432
Employee provisions	\$4,704	\$2,263
Total Non Current Liabilities	\$4,704	\$2,263
Total Liabilities	\$2,752,567	\$3,488,695
NET ASSETS	\$4,436,888	\$1,757,062
Retained earnings	\$4,436,888	\$1,757,062
TOTAL EQUITY	\$4,436,888	\$1,757,062

* The Foundation has contractual agreements with hospitals and research institutes for multi year project funding. A total of \$4.78m has been committed for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2026.

The Foundation funded the following projects in 2022/23

In 2022/23 the Children’s Cancer Foundation spent over \$813,000 supporting the following projects delivered by our partners in the fight against childhood cancer. In addition, the Children’s Cancer Foundation has played a leadership role in the mobilisation of \$3.2m through the Victorian Paediatric Cancer Consortium to be spent on childhood cancer research. **Collectively in 2022/23, the Children's Cancer Foundation's impact on project funding is \$4,053,000.**

Name	Location	Funding Pillar	
Hudson Monash Paediatric Precision Medicine Program - Phase II	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	Clinical Research	\$407,520
SIOPEX Neuroblastoma Clinical Trials ³	ANZCHOG	Clinical Trial	\$102,041
On Ward Oncology Social Worker ²	Royal Children’s Hospital	Clinical Care	\$100,000
On ward Occupational Therapist ¹	Queensland Children’s Hospital	Clinical Care	\$90,000
My Room Comfort First Clinician	Royal Children’s Hospital	Clinical Care	\$31,624
PhD Scholars Development Program	Monash University	Clinical Research	\$16,959
On ward Child Psychologist Services	Queensland Children’s Hospital	Clinical Care	\$16,781
On ward Music Therapist	Monash Children’s Hospital	Clinical Care	\$14,668
On ward Physiotherapy Service ¹	Monash Children’s Hospital	Clinical Care	\$12,180
Family Counselling Financial Reimbursements	National	Family Support	\$6,665
On ward Dietitian ¹	Monash Children’s Hospital	Clinical Care	\$5,988
Lillies for Hope Beaded Journey ⁴	Victoria Wide	Clinical Care	\$3,140
Family and Community Resource Liason Officer	Monash Children’s Hospital	Family Support	\$2,508
Victorian Paediatric Cancer Consortium Initiatives	Multi Institutional	Clinical Research	\$1,800
Family Gym Memberships	Royal Children’s Hospital	Family Support	\$1,800
Children’s Cancer Family Support Alliance Website Build	Victoria Wide	Family Support	In Kind
Total Project Funding			\$813,673

Funded in partnership : ¹ My Room ²Portland House Foundation ³Steven Walter Children’s Cancer Foundation
⁴Lillies for Hope Special Named Fund

In the past 12 months, projects funded by My Room were transitioned back to My Room Children’s Cancer Charity Limited for their management and oversight.

Our complete financial statements and Director’s report are available at childrenscancerfoundation.com.au/financial-reports



Children's Cancer Foundation

Locked Bag 6060, Richmond
VIC 3121

(03) 7001 1450

hello@childrenscancerfoundation.com.au

www.childrenscancerfoundation.com.au