

RBWH FOUNDATION

ADVANCING PATIENT CARE AND
LIFE-SAVING RESEARCH



RBWH
Foundation

THE
Extraordinary
POWER OF GIVING



 FAMILY SUPPORT
IN ICU

 A CANCER PATIENT'S
GRATITUDE

 CLOSING THE GAP
IN HEALTH EQUALITY

MESSAGES OF GRATITUDE

 *With heartfelt thanks for the wonderful angels at the RBWH. I can walk again.*
Halina

 *RBWH does amazing research as well as looking after tiny babies and people with dreadful burns, that's why I'm raising it for the Royal!*
Laurie

 *It's in my view, from many personal experiences; the safest, most caring and world class health care we are so fortunate to have access to.*
Anthony

 *Thank you to the RBWH Foundation who continually encourage, support and inspire us (frontline healthcare workers) to deliver the best healthcare services to those in need.*
Ingrid

 *I'm not a person that has a lot of money but I really wanted to contribute something.*
Ashleigh XX

 *Doctors and nurses at RBWH have saved my life twice in 10 years. Thank you!*
Alan

 *For the outstanding nursing and medical care that enabled my Lucy girl to survive and thrive her premature birth.*
Karla

 *Thanking the retired nurses who return to service as volunteers.*
Kristin

 *Thank you RBWH for all the care you've given to me and my family members. It's been a second home at times.*
Stephanie

 *My donation is just a small indication of the immense gratitude that I feel towards the RBWH and I hope that my donation can assist in providing life-saving care for others like me.*
William

 *Due to the continual care and cheerful attitude of RBWH staff, I am now clear of cancer. I am now 91-years-old and very thankful.*
Keith

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The RBWH Foundation would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our services are located. We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the State.



THERE IS NO GREATER GENEROSITY THAN THAT WHICH SAVES A LIFE

As the charity supporting RBWH, patient care and life-saving research, RBWH Foundation exists to connect those who wish to give with the most potent opportunities to make a difference, now and in the future.

Our connection with Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) inspires us. Queensland's largest hospital has a global reputation for excellence and world-leading discoveries that result in innovations and improvements in patient care. As the Foundation for RBWH we work closely with RBWH health workers, affectionately known as Team Royal, to achieve the goals of providing the very best patient outcomes, and to be at the forefront of better health care for everyone.

We provide support to help RBWH go above and beyond for patients and families, and partner with STARS, Redcliffe Hospital, and significant institutes in the Herston Health Precinct to support their fundraising goals.

This strong relationship with RBWH and leading research institutes creates opportunities for donors to channel their

passion, commitment and legacy into what matters most to them. From showing support for our health workers, to donations that give brilliant young minds the start in research that can lead to significant discoveries and improved patient outcomes. The RBWH Foundation team works closely with individuals, families, and organisations to connect with causes that truly make a difference.

Those who support RBWH Foundation do so with the assurance that donations are directed to the purpose for which they were intended. Our annual donor impact report bears witness to world-class achievements and the most inspiring stories of human tenacity and triumph.

It is our gift to serve as the RBWH Foundation, supporting patient care and saving lives, through the extraordinary power of giving.

OUR PURPOSE

Saving lives through the extraordinary power of giving.

OUR MISSION

Together, we advance life-saving research and patient care.

OUR IMPACT

We create opportunities to connect givers to great causes.



SUSAN BUCKLEY | RBWH FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR

Together, we advance life-saving research and patient care

“

It is our people who make the RBWH Foundation strong, and that includes you - our committed donors.

”

It is with great honour that I present the 2021 Donor Impact Report in one of my first roles as Chair of the RBWH Foundation Board.

On behalf of all Board members and staff, I would firstly like to pay tribute to outgoing Board Chair, Leona Murphy, for her professionalism, enormous contribution, and guidance over the past five years.

Leona's passion for the health care sector and her commitment to ensuring the RBWH Foundation delivers on its long-term goals has been inspirational. Fortunately for the RBWH Foundation, Leona will remain on as a valued Board Member and play an instrumental role in the establishment of the new RBWH Intensive Care Unit (ICU) patient-family program, WeCU.

It is our people who make the RBWH Foundation strong and that includes you - our committed donors and corporate supporters who allow the RBWH Foundation to be aspirational, responsive and effective.

Just as crucial to the RBWH Foundation are our many and varied fundraisers who independently raise awareness and funding

for RBWH. Often these activities are led by intense personal connections and immense gratitude to the hospital's skilled and dedicated healthcare professionals.

An extremely moving example is the Leary family of the Sunshine Coast, whose 19-year-old daughter, Alexa, was critically injured in a cycling accident in July. The experience of parents Russell and Belinda, and that of other families with loved ones in ICU, has helped inspire a new support program featured on page 8.

It is by working together and giving together that the RBWH Foundation, in partnership with our loyal community, can continue to fund these types of innovations in patient care, as well as support ground-breaking medical research.

Once again, thank you for your encouragement and support. There is no greater generosity than that which saves a life.

Susan Buckley
RBWH Foundation Board Chair



SIMONE GARSKE | RBWH FOUNDATION CEO

Thank you to the extraordinary philanthropic community of RBWH donors

“

I feel enormous pride and gratitude to our philanthropic community which shares our purpose of saving lives through the extraordinary power of giving.

”

I am delighted to congratulate Susan Buckley on her appointment as the RBWH Foundation Board Chair. Susan has been an invaluable member of our Board for the past three years, most recently as Investment Committee Chair.

Despite the impact of COVID-19 over the past 12 months, there is much for RBWH Foundation to celebrate. This year, we have undertaken significant planning and engagement to reaffirm our purpose and commitment to the RBWH and support of patient care and life-saving research. Donors who support these programs make a difference to our patients and their families now and into the future.

The Coronavirus Action Fund has continued to assist the global search for effective treatments of COVID-19 through partnership in the Australasian COVID-19 Trial (ASCOT). The Fund has also been pivotal in establishing a new Herston Infectious Diseases Institute, creating a legacy for generations to come.

The RBWH Foundation's milestone \$5-million investment in the healthcare revolution,

led by personalised 3D bioprinting, was realised with the opening of the Herston Biofabrication Institute in early 2021.

Your generosity is also helping 'Close the Gap' in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality through our contribution to an Australian first, the First Peoples Health and Research Alliance.

RBWH Burns and Trauma care received a significant corporate gift which has funded new Research Fellowships and innovative research projects at the Herston Biofabrication Institute and Queensland Skin Culture Centre.

This has all been made possible by you. I feel enormous pride and gratitude to our philanthropic community which shares our purpose of saving lives through the extraordinary power of giving.

The RBWH Foundation hopes you enjoy reading more about the impact you have made on health care in Queensland, Australia, and indeed, the world.

Simone Garske
RBWH Foundation CEO

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY IN 2021

\$4,042,530



Clinician Research



Herston Infectious Diseases Institute



First Peoples Research Alliance



Medical Equipment



25,000 Volunteer Hours



Coronavirus Action Fund



RFPB NeoRESQ Vehicle



Patient Care Initiatives



Community Education

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO ICU PATIENTS AND FAMILIES DURING THE FIGHT OF THEIR LIFE

“

RBWH does extraordinary work for patients and everyone that the RBWH Foundation has spoken to - patients and patient families - cannot speak highly enough of the clinical staff, social workers and nursing staff.

”

Leona Murphy
RBWH Foundation Board Member,
WeCU Program Patron



A parent's first instinct when their child is injured is to wrap them tight with love and reassurance. When Alexa Leary was critically injured and rushed to the RBWH Intensive Care Unit (ICU), her traumatised family responded by throwing their arms around the entire unit.

The Leary's enormous empathy, combined with the experience of other ICU patient-families, has helped craft WeCU, a joint project between RBWH and the Foundation which will provide an all-encompassing support program for patient-families in ICU.

In late 2021, planning for a two-year WeCU pilot program began in consultation with hospital administration, clinicians, nurses, social workers, patients and patient-families.

“What patient-families say they do need, is guidance through this very difficult stage of treatment, focusing on emotional, physical and financial support,” said Leona Murphy, RBWH Foundation Board Member and WeCU Program Patron.

The pilot will focus on the following three key areas:

COMFORT:

The family waiting area outside of the ICU will be refurbished, creating a warmer and more inviting space.

CARE:

An RBWH ICU Concierge Service will become the families' 'go-to' for advice, information, and to source accommodation, parking, food and other support.

SUPPORT:

A two-way, technology-based solution will be set up to improve communication between families and medical personnel. With an iPad at each ICU bed, families can connect with patients via FaceTime.

The Foundation has committed establishment funding of \$1m over the next two years.

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MOVEFORLEX: THE EXTRAORDINARY POWER OF LOVE

In July 2021, junior national triathlete champion Alexa ‘Lex’ Leary was on a routine training ride when she clipped a teammate’s wheel and was thrown at high speed with catastrophic results. She suffered severe brain injuries and her life changed in a moment.



Lex was airlifted to Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH) where she underwent emergency surgery with some of the State’s leading neurosurgeons. Lex would remain in a coma in ICU for a fortnight while her parents, Russell and Belinda, kept constant vigil.

Despite their personal anguish and turmoil, the couple could see a need that fell outside the excellent medical

and patient care being provided. It was a need felt by families, rather than patients alone.

They were struck by the despair of patients and loved ones separated by distance, the confusion of families navigating a strange new medical world and language, and the financial and emotional distress sourcing accommodation and basic needs.

Within weeks of Alexa arriving at RBWH, the Learys partnered with the RBWH Foundation to launch the inspirational fundraising campaign, **MoveForLex.com**.

In November 2021, the first \$50,000 raised by MoveForLex.com was donated to the RBWH Neurosurgery ward for additional equipment. Focus has now turned to raising funds for WeCU.

WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH AND PATIENT CARE BY THE NUMBERS



RBWH has over **500** clinical researchers...



and partnerships with **14** universities and **3** TAFE providers.

OVER THE PAST YEAR AT THE RBWH...



Almost **700** research projects were underway



1,100,000 episodes of health care were provided



Over **220** RBWH clinical research trials were conducted



More than **200,000** cancer care treatments, consultations, and admissions occurred



Almost **90,000** people presented to RBWH Emergency and Trauma



27,000 surgeries were performed



Close to **900** studies were published by RBWH clinical researchers



1 in 11 Queensland babies were delivered.



THANK YOU TO OUR PATRON

It is an incredible honour to have the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young PSM, announced as Vice-Regal Patron of the RBWH Foundation. Her Excellency is well acquainted with Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital having served as Queensland's Chief Health Officer from 2005 to 2021.

Earlier in 2021, former Governor, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, generously hosted an afternoon reception at Government House in support of the RBWH Foundation's 35th anniversary.

RBWH IMPACT ACROSS AUSTRALIA AND THE WORLD



RBWH's research impact and collaborations are global.

RBWH staff provide COVID-19 support and expertise to neighbouring countries, respond to natural disasters, deploy as military reservists and train some of the world's upcoming researchers.

QUEENSLAND, NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AND PACIFIC RIM

- Queensland's only CAR-T Cell Cancer program
- Queensland's only public specialised adolescent and young adult cancer centre
- State's largest neuroradiology service
- Access to national and international clinical trials
- Provides 1 in 10 Queensland patient services
- 3D scanning, 3D modelling and 3D printing of medical devices, bone, cartilage and human tissue
- Medical retrievals
- Regional and remote virtual care/ telehealth services
- Regional and remote GP and health care worker education
- State-wide high-school 'Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma In Youth' (P.A.R.T.Y.) program
- Disaster response

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

- Breakthrough medical discoveries
- Natural disaster response
- COVID-19 research collaborations (India, New Zealand, Nepal)
- Staff secondment for COVID-19 expertise (PNG)
- Defence reservist deployment (Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan)
- Fellowship programs (applicants from United Kingdom, Ireland, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, USA)
- Health worker education and training
- University and TAFE partnerships
- Medical and clinical research collaborations



Reinhard and Irene are incredibly grateful for the fantastic care and support Reinhard received from Prof. Lizbeth Kenny AO and her team during his cancer treatment and are very pleased to support her research into head and neck cancers.

Reinhard and Irene



DAVID ROSENGREN | RBWH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Your Support Advances Patient Care and Life-Saving Research

“RBWH will never stop looking for ways to improve the care we provide to our patients, and the experience they have with us.”

On behalf of the 8,000 health workers at Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH), as well as the hundreds of clinical and medical researchers across RBWH and the Herston Health Precinct, thank you for your unwavering commitment to the RBWH Foundation to advance patient care and life-saving research.

In 2021, COVID-19 continued to present many challenges for our entire community, but your generosity proved there is still much to celebrate and be grateful for.

Your support enables RBWH to go above and beyond with our patient care, community education, and research efforts. It also reminds us that you, our community, acknowledge and appreciate our commitment every day to provide better health for all.

In 2021, COVID-19 escalated and dominated national health efforts, and I am proud of the role RBWH played to protect and care for our community through our Fever Clinics, vaccination centres, and care of COVID-19 patients, both in-hospital and at home through Virtual Wards.

RBWH will never stop looking for ways to improve the care we provide to our patients and the experience they have with us.

Knowing that we have your support through the RBWH Foundation makes all the difference. Once again, thank you for showing our health workers, researchers, patients, their families and our community, the extraordinary power of giving.

David Rosengren
RBWH Executive Director

RBWH RESEARCH GROUPS AND DEPARTMENTS

As the largest teaching hospital in the Southern Hemisphere, Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH) plays a vital role in the future of health care. The RBWH Foundation is proud of the depth and breadth of Hospital services offered, and as the Hospital’s leading philanthropic funding partner is committed to providing critical and strategic funds for world-class research and patient care initiatives.



RESEARCH SERVICES



CRITICAL CARE AND CLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES



ALLIED HEALTH



MEDICAL IMAGING – CLINICAL SUPPORT



CANCER CARE SERVICES



SURGICAL AND PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



WOMEN’S AND NEWBORN SERVICES



INTERNAL MEDICINE SERVICES



TOGETHER WE ADVANCE LIFE-SAVING RESEARCH

“

Research in all its forms - discovery, innovation, translation, implementation, and evaluation - is the engine room of a healthy and vibrant health service and is woven into the fabric of what we do.

”

Professor Dan Chambers
Executive Director Research,
Metro North Health

Since 1985, the RBWH Foundation has championed and fostered world-leading medical and clinician research and innovation at the Herston Health Precinct (HHP). Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the RBWH Foundation has been able to invest more than \$3-million into life-saving research again in 2021. These funds have helped launch research careers, enabled experienced researchers to add to their growing body of knowledge around disease and illness, and provided Fellowships across many areas of RBWH. We thank our valued supporters for entrusting us to distribute funding where it is most needed.



**TOTAL DONOR
RESEARCH
INVESTMENT**

\$3,211,248

Through the Extraordinary Power of Giving, our donors have enabled the RBWH Foundation to support the following potentially life-saving research initiatives, including:



- 11** COVID-19 projects
- 2** Meningococcal Projects
- 4** External grants

Herston Infectious Diseases Institute



- 30** Clinician-led projects
- 6** Fellowships
- 3** Collaborations

Medical research, with international impact, cannot occur in isolation. It often requires decades of commitment and perseverance, and flourishes in collaboration with like-minded scientists.

The RBWH Foundation is privileged to work with the following prestigious healthcare facilities and research institutes:

STARS (Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service)

STARS is a new 182-bed public specialist rehabilitation and surgical service which delivers acute long-stay specialist geriatric and rehabilitation care, and elective short-stay surgery services.

Herston Biofabrication Institute (HBI)

Herston Biofabrication Institute (HBI) is the first institute of its kind, advancing knowledge and technology in 3D scanning, 3D modelling and 3D printing of medical devices, bone, cartilage and human tissue.

Herston Infectious Diseases Institute

The Herston Infectious Diseases Institute is a collaboration of clinician-researchers focussing on translational research, innovative clinical practice and outstanding clinical education to optimise the outcomes for patients with infectious diseases.

Jamieson Trauma Institute

The Jamieson Trauma Institute has revolutionised how trauma services are delivered, bringing together a unique and integrated group of services including military medicine, intensive care, burns and rehabilitation.

First Peoples Health and Research Alliance

The First Peoples Health and Research Alliance is the first of its kind in Australia and was established to accelerate Queensland’s commitment to achieving Closing the

Gap deadlines. The Alliance leads world class research and evaluation, alongside a focus on building research capabilities and capacity.

Perinatal Research Centre

The Perinatal Research Centre is committed to improving perinatal health through world class biomedical and clinical research, and aims to translate research advances into clinical practice and better health outcomes for mothers and babies.

Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute (CBCI)

The Institute combines excellent research, best clinical care, education and training to ensure breast cancer management is equitable and accessible for all, that treatment is at world best standards and delivered by highly trained and committed professionals in state of the art facilities.

Genomic Institute

The Genomic Institute brings together exceptional research, clinical care, and education to accelerate the translation of genomics research into healthcare.

Burns Trauma and Critical Care Research Centre

The Burns, Trauma and Critical Care Research Centre conducts research to advance treatment and care for burns and critically ill or injured patients through world-class, evidence-based, clinical practice.

FIRST PEOPLES HEALTH AND RESEARCH ALLIANCE: CLOSING THE GAP

The First Peoples Health and Research Alliance is a first for Australia and was established in mid-2021 with RBWH Foundation research support, to accelerate Queensland’s commitment to achieving Closing the Gap deadlines.

‘Closing the Gap’ is a national framework developed in 2008 to achieve equality in health and life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within a generation. The framework is underpinned by the belief that when people have a genuine say in the design and delivery of policies, programs and services that affect them, better life outcomes are achieved.

“The Alliance will lead world class research, evaluation and knowledge translation pursuits, alongside a focus on building research capabilities and capacity within the health care system,” said Sherry Holzapfel, Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

“Public support and donations are integral to ensure programs such as the Research Alliance for Urban Goori

Health can flourish, and we are extremely grateful to the RBWH Foundation for supporting this initiative.”

The Alliance will also contribute to evidence to inform urban-based health systems reforms, nationally and internationally.

The long-term vision for the Alliance is to become the Australian equivalent of the United States’ Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI), which is leading the way in research and data for urban American Indian and Alaska Native communities.





THE EXTRAORDINARY FUTURE OF PERSONALISED HEALTH

The RBWH Foundation Provides \$5 Million To Support 3D Medical Printing, Scanning And Modelling Research.

“
We’re looking at everything from 3D printed implants for defects to 3D bioprinting for skin regeneration...”

”

Dr Michael Wagels
HBI Clinical Director

Biofabrication is a new medical frontier pioneering personalised medicine through 3D printing, scanning and modelling of medical devices, bone, cartilage and tissue.

In February 2021, the RBWH Foundation played a significant role in this health revolution with a historical \$5-million-dollar contribution to the Herston Biofabrication Institute (HBI).

HBI Clinical Director Dr Michael Wagels said the new facility would allow for greater and more advanced patient care.

“We’re looking at everything from 3D printed implants for defects to 3D bioprinting for skin regeneration as an alternative to donor skin in burns patients,” Dr Wagels said.

The state-of-the-art facility is the only one of its kind in Australia, with a focus on key areas including orthopaedics, burns and skin, vascular, urology, cancer care, craniofacial, and anaesthesia and intensive care.

The contribution is the largest in the RBWH Foundation’s history and was made possible only by the incredible and ongoing generosity of private individuals, corporations and the public, through campaigns such as RBWH Giving Day.

There are over 30 projects underway across seven key clinical streams, which means researchers and clinicians can combine efforts under one roof to advance results for Queensland patients.

WAYS TO DONATE



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CORONAVIRUS ACTION FUND: HELPING WIN THE GLOBAL RACE AGAINST COVID-19

“

Australia would be behind the eight ball if it wasn't for the Coronavirus Action Fund.

”

Professor David Paterson
RBWH Consultant
Infectious Diseases
Physician

As the COVID-19 pandemic enters a third year, and variants such as Omicron continue to emerge, identification of effective treatments remains critical.

Thanks to the generosity of you, our donors, the RBWH Foundation Coronavirus Action Fund continues to help fund the global search for treatments and patient care protocols through the Australasian COVID-19 (ASCOT) Trial.

More than 1500 patients have been recruited from 42 hospitals across Australia, New Zealand, India and Nepal.

“We need to be developing new therapies against COVID, testing what really works, what doesn't work, the best way to prevent COVID and the best way to prevent long-COVID,” said Professor David Paterson, a Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Consultant Infectious Diseases Physician.

It is expected that ASCOT reporting will make a substantial contribution to existing global knowledge and datasets.

One of the key findings has been ruling out convalescent plasma, which is manufactured from the blood of recovered patients, as an effective therapy.

“It's important for us to know when a therapy doesn't work, because there's nothing worse than giving patients false hope at the expense of a lot of other people's time,” explained Prof. Paterson.

The next focus will be prevention of blood clots.

“I'd like to thank everybody who has contributed to the Coronavirus Action Fund, because we know that without this amazing support researchers and doctors like myself just couldn't get the results that we really need.”

Your support of the Coronavirus Action Fund is helping fund these ongoing COVID-19 research projects:

- The impact of life-support equipment on COVID-19 drugs
- Long-term COVID-19 side-effects
- The impact of telehealth/virtual care on Heart Failure and Pulmonary Rehabilitation patient care
- Face time and virtual visiting of patients in ICU
- Changes in gestational diabetes testing
- Impacts on maternal depression and related disorders
- A new fast, low-cost COVID-19 test
- RBWH Emergency Operations Centre's response to COVID-19: barriers and enablers
- RBWH Specialist Outpatient Services virtual care evaluation.



HERSTON INFECTIOUS DISEASES INSTITUTE: AN EXTRAORDINARY LEGACY TO PROTECT FUTURE GENERATIONS

The most significant outcome of the Coronavirus Action Fund has been establishment of the Herston Infectious Diseases Institute in early 2021. The Institute is a collaboration of clinician-researchers focussing on translational research, innovative clinical practice, and outstanding clinical education to optimise the outcomes for patients with infectious diseases.

“The Institute builds on 155 years of world-class infectious diseases research at the Herston Health Precinct and Brisbane more broadly,” said RBWH Foundation CEO Simone Garske.

“The link between the disfiguring virus Elephantiasis and mosquitoes was discovered here in 1876, and the discovery of Q Fever in the 1930s, which was an infection spread to humans by animals, is also closely linked to RBWH.”

Institute expertise includes prevention of infection, rapid diagnosis, clinical trials - both optimising currently available antibiotics and introducing new agents, ensuring accurate antibiotic dosing and developing a comprehensive understanding of the transmission and impact of infectious diseases in Queensland.

“The RBWH Foundation acknowledges the considerable contribution and generosity of our supporters, Keith and Glenda Drake, in ensuring the Institute became a reality,” said Ms Garske.

Impact has already been significant:

- Three Drake Infectious Diseases Medical Research Fellows and a Pharmacy Research Fellow
- Early Career Researcher Enabling Grants
- Establishment of key themes in Vascular Access and Device Related Infections.



STAFF WELLBEING: A COVID-19 PRIORITY

Meet Liz Crowe, the RBWH Wellbeing Officer, proudly funded by the Coronavirus Action Fund. Liz Crowe is an Advanced Clinical Social Worker experienced in counselling and debriefing of medical staff.

Supporting healthcare worker wellbeing has been a priority of the Fund since inception. What began as free coffee and meals, when the pandemic began, has expanded to this new position.

“The wellbeing of healthcare professionals (HCPs) is essential to ensure excellence in patient care,” said Ms Crowe.

The position has several areas of focus:

- Provision of emergency and acute one-on-one counselling and therapy

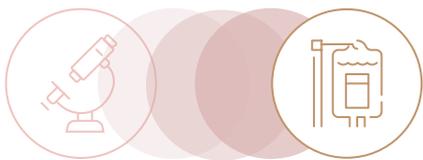
- Executive Coaching to develop skills and provide support to leaders of all levels across the organisation
- Debriefing after events of acute trauma
- Education and skill development on wellbeing topics through workshops, lectures, and podcasts
- Monthly ‘Compassionate Conversations’ with nursing staff from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to discuss the impact of grief and difficult cases.



SAVING LIVES THROUGH INSPIRED CANCER RESEARCH

A diagnosis of cancer can be extremely overwhelming, but latest five-year survival rates should provide comfort to Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Cancer Care patients and their families. National statistics show an increase from 51% in 1988 to 70% in 2017*, a reflection of the dedication and commitment of researchers, including those at RBWH.

RBWH Cancer Care Service is the largest unit in Queensland, home to the largest Bone Marrow Transplant program in Australia and offering the only public Adolescent and Young Adult cancer centre.



KEY TO SUCCESS IS THE INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH INTO DAILY CLINICAL CARE

"As a clinician working within a thriving research culture, you are always thinking about what other opportunities you can offer individual patients if they don't respond as expected," said RBWH Executive Director of RBWH Cancer Care Services, Associate Professor Glen Kennedy.

RBWH MILESTONES



International accreditation for the **Bone Marrow Transplant Unit**



First Australian hospital to offer **TomoTherapy treatment** for pinpoint accuracy in radiation therapy



Telehealth Clinics for regional patients via videoconferencing



Sony You Can Centre, Queensland's only **public adolescent and young adult cancer centre**.

RBWH CANCER CARE CLINICAL TRIALS

70

Medical
Oncology

33

Radiation
Oncology

48

Haematology/Bone
Marrow Transplant

One of the best methods of building a research culture, said A/Prof Kennedy, was through support of investigator-led local research as offered by the RBWH Foundation-funded research project grants and fellowships.

“Not only do we improve the knowledge, experience, understanding of our local team; we build on the research to obtain more funding. Our non-research team gains broader understanding of research and trials, and we also attract different patient groups because of the work we’re doing.”

RBWH national impact includes:

- One of only three adult services in Australia – and the only one in Queensland - offering CAR-T cell therapy (a gene modified cellular therapy) to patients with blood cancers
- Treatment in medical oncology, haematology, haemophilia and radiation oncology

- Members of the Division are lead or senior authors on papers in top international journals including Blood, Leukemia, and Nature Communications and contributed to papers in internationally renowned journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, Nature, Immunity, Journal of Clinical Oncology, Blood, Lancet Oncology and many others.

World-standard care is provided to patients who arrive from all over Queensland, Northern New South Wales, Northern Territory and parts of the Pacific Rim.

*<https://www.canceraustralia.gov.au/impacted-cancer/what-cancer/cancer-australia-statistics>

ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG ADULTS

About three Queenslanders aged 15 to 24 years old are diagnosed with cancer every week, with around 140 of those being treated at the RBWH each year. In 2019, in partnership with the Sony Foundation, the hospital opened the **Sony You Can Centre**, a dedicated space to provide youth aged 15-25 with a social haven away from hospital wards, where they can relax with friends and family. The centre features a range of facilities including indoor and outdoor lounge areas, study nooks and a yoga studio.



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BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT: A SURVIVOR'S GRATITUDE

“

I have cheated death a few times before so doing good things for others has been our normal way of life.

”

For the past two years, Doolandella couple Nguyen Dang and wife Diamond Tran have hosted a very special celebration called the Thank You Queensland Health party.

It's a celebration of life and the guests of honour include Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Cancer Care staff. The couple use the celebration to present their annual donation to the RBWH Foundation for cancer research, acutely aware how it helped saved Nguyen's life.

"I have cheated death a few times before so doing good things for others has been our normal way of life," explained Nguyen.

Three years ago, a routine blood test by Nguyen Dang's GP had delivered a bombshell. He was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML), a type of cancer that affects the blood and bone marrow. Without treatment, he was weeks from death.

Chemotherapy at his local hospital failed to halt the cancer so Nguyen was referred to the RBWH Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) unit – the largest in Australia.

"Our children all live in the US but came to visit me while I was in the hospital," said Nguyen.

"They mainly wanted to say goodbye for the last time - I did not expect to make it through the process."

In July 2019, Nguyen underwent his bone marrow transplant which relies on sourcing a matching donor. Twelve months later, he received long-awaited news that the transplant had been successful. Nguyen is now in remission but has blood tests and check-ups at RBWH every two months.

Each donation to the RBWH Foundation includes an auspicious recognition of Nguyen's life-saving transplant. The first donation was \$10,177, the second was \$5,177. The figure of \$177 represents the date of Nguyen's transplant, the 17th of July.



CIVILIAN TRAUMA RESEARCH HELPING SAVE LIVES ON THE BATTLEFIELD

“When we’re standing by someone’s bedside in the hospital, and we’re doing something that we didn’t do last year... we look back at the donations that people have given to Foundations like the RBWH Foundation and know where that’s all started.”

”
Prof. Michael Reade,
 ADF Chair of Military
 Surgery and Medicine
 RBWH Senior Staff
 Specialist Intensivist

When the Australian Defence Force (ADF) is deployed internationally on peacekeeping, defensive, or natural disaster missions; the Medical Corps takes with it expertise in trauma research, care and resuscitation honed in the operating theatres and wards of Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH).

RBWH Foundation donors have played a key role, providing seed funding for this Defence-related research since 2013, soon after the first Australian Defence Force (ADF) Chair of Military Surgery and Medicine, Professor Michael Reade, was appointed and based at RBWH.

In his dual role as a RBWH Senior Staff Specialist Intensivist, Professor Reade leads a research program of medicine and surgery, which incorporates civilian trauma care into ADF practice.

“We know that the lessons that we’ve learned in the civilian trauma system in Queensland, translate just as well to military medicine,” said Prof. Reade.

Prof. Reade’s research focuses on two main questions: how to stop people bleeding excessively after major trauma such as civilian car accidents or battlefield gunfire; and how to better deliver trauma care.

Although aspects of the research span national and international sites at a cost of millions of dollars, Prof. Reade says many projects begin with RBWH Foundation funding.

Foundation grants, he says, allow junior researchers to develop a track record in their field and enable experienced researchers to validate new research questions.

“It helps us get some preliminary data to then go to the National Health Medical Research Council (NHMRC) or the Medical Research Futures Fund with a credible question.

“We can leverage that early information into a plausible research proposal.”

The generosity of donors to medical research, he said, was appreciated by all researchers on many different levels.

“Most importantly, when we’re standing by someone’s bedside in the hospital, and we’re doing something that we didn’t do last year, on the basis of the research that we’ve published or our colleagues have published, we look back at the donations that people have given to Foundations like the RBWH Foundation and know where that’s all started.”



A FAMILY'S GRIEF CREATES A LEGACY OF GIVING

“

It's incredible to think that we've actually impacted so many people's lives...

”

Destiny Hornerly

A decade-plus commitment to the RBWH Foundation by Central Queensland's Hornerly family has been recognised at the 2021 Queensland Community Foundation (QCF) Philanthropist of the Year Awards.

In 2008, beloved son and brother, and doting father-of-five, Lachlan Hornerly, lost his hard-fought battle against cancer. The Hornerly family's grief was matched only by their empathy and soon after the 4ULOC appeal was established.

Since then, \$324,000 has been raised for RBWH Cancer Care patient services, equipment and furnishings.

Until COVID-19 restrictions, the annual fundraising highlight was a Moranbah family concert. The Hornerlys also donate \$25 an hour from the hire of their two 4ULOC water trucks.

"4ULOC is really important, especially for Lachy's children," explained Que Hornerly,

Lachlan's brother. "He was a family man, and his legacy will grow from there."

Accompanying Que was niece Destiny, one of Lachlan's five children.

"It's incredible to think that we've actually impacted so many people's lives," said Destiny.

Inspired by her father's care at RBWH, Destiny is now studying nursing.

"Nurses make a big difference in the patient's life, they are always there, 100% of the time," said Destiny.

"I want to help wherever I can and make a difference as well."



We've always felt that we should give back to the community and we've certainly done that throughout our lives. Philanthropy has given us a more structured way of doing it and making sure that we're going to support those charities and good works that will have a real difference in the community.

Dr Frank Pyefinch and Mrs Lorraine Pyefinch



CREATING YOUR OWN EXTRAORDINARY LEGACY

Leaving a gift in your will is one of the most extraordinary ways you can ensure your values of supporting life-saving medical research and patient care carry on for future generations.

The RBWH Foundation is honoured to have been left bequests by many valued former patients, staff and community members. A gift can range from a sum of money, to shares, a property and more. These generous gifts have helped the RBWH Foundation support the highest level of patient care and life-saving research.

GIFT OF GRATITUDE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

A legacy estate of eight properties, gifted to the RBWH Foundation, has been auctioned to support advancements in health research and care.

The properties were bequeathed to the RBWH Foundation by an elderly couple, who didn't have children, and wanted to leave a legacy that would support medical research for generations to come. The amazing gesture has the potential to save lives, both locally and internationally.

"The RBWH Foundation is incredibly grateful to this wonderful couple who donated the properties in their will," said RBWH Foundation CEO, Simone Garske.

"While the couple remain publicly anonymous, from my understanding, they made the generous decision



because they had received such exceptional care at the hospital and wanted to do something extraordinary for others," she said.

The RBWH Foundation is also exceptionally grateful to Place Estate Agents for generously donating their commission.

Pictured above: (L-R) Place New Farm Lead Agent Alex Rutherford, RBWH Foundation CEO Simone Garske, RBWH Foundation Board Chair Susan Buckley, Place Estate Agents Managing Director Sarah Hackett.



LEARN MORE ABOUT LEAVING
A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

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THE EXTRAORDINARY WORLD OF NEUROLOGY RESEARCH

“

This novel approach has the potential to change the current trial and error approach to get the right medication for patients.

”

Associate Professor
Lata Vadlamudi
RBWH Neurologist

Neurology is a fascinating area of science, delving into the complex world of the nervous system - the brain, blood vessels, muscles and nerves.

As the nervous system ultimately controls the body, diagnosing disorders of the body often means diagnosing disorders of the nervous system. Not to be confused with neurosurgery, the study of neurology doesn't encompass surgery.

When the RBWH Foundation was established in 1985, its first major fundraising project was to help establish a Clinical Research Centre. 'Research into Ageing', specifically Alzheimer's Diseases, was a key focus. RBWH Department of

Neurology now focuses on four areas of patient care and research:

- Motor Neurone Disease and neurodegeneration
- Stroke and brain injury
- Epilepsy
- Movement disorders and dementia.

RBWH Neurology also offers the only Huntington's Disease and Friedreich's Ataxia services in Queensland.

| EPILEPSY

Over one million people in Australia will develop epilepsy during their lifetime. About a third will never achieve effective seizure control, either through surgery or medication.

The RBWH Comprehensive Epilepsy Program team views research as a key priority for improving the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy and collaborate with key local and national research groups to optimise patient outcomes.

A recent RBWH Foundation grant is enabling researchers, led at RBWH by Associate Professor Lata Vadlamudi, to create 3D cortical brain organoids, dubbed 'mini brains', from a patient's stem cells. The

lentil-sized organoids have the same genetic make-up as a developing human brain. The aim is to use a patient's organoids to screen a variety of approved anti-seizure medications, eliminating what traditionally is a protracted and risky 'trial and error' process.

"This novel approach has the potential to change the current trial and error approach to get the right medication for patients more quickly," said Associate Professor Lata Vadlamudi.

"This current medication odyssey imposes an enormous burden on patients and their families, due to the lack of seizure control and associated side-effects."

MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) is one of the most devastating and mysterious medical conditions, which progressively destroys all muscles in the body but does not affect senses, intellect and memory. There is currently no cause, treatment or cure.

In 2002, the RBWH Foundation awarded its very first MND grant to then Dr Rob Henderson. Two decades later, Associate Professor Henderson has expanded his team and with the assistance of the RBWH Foundation, has raised more than \$3 million dollars through fundraising, donations, clinical trials and research grants. Involvement in national and international clinical trials has expanded significantly with current involvement in at least six major clinical trials.

“COVID has presented challenges and opportunities, but it is fair to say that RBWH MND research has continued to grow and we are in a strong position to “put our hand up” to stop MND,” said A/Prof. Henderson.

MEND-MND: Dr Shyuan Ngo and Dr Frederik Steyn

The RBWH Foundation funding is supporting an exciting and novel project, MEND (Metabolic Exploration in Neurodegenerative Disease). In MND, the irreversible degeneration of neurones in the central nervous system



leads to progressive paralysis and eventually, death. MEND is using mouse and human-derived models of MND to understand the mechanistic nature of MND and to conduct preclinical testing of potential therapeutic compounds.

Above: MND patient John Hanley and RBWH Senior Neurologist A/Prof. Rob Henderson

STROKE



RBWH is one of the few hospitals in Queensland with a dedicated acute stroke facility, treating around 500 patients a year.

Nearly 25% of all strokes affect those under 54 yrs of age, a figure that has doubled since 2012. As the incidence of stroke increases, so too does the prevalence of those living with disability from stroke.

RBWH research, often funded by the RBWH Foundation, has made important advances in assessment and treatment.

“Witnessing a stroke occur is dramatic and devastating, but in some cases quick action can reverse the stroke and all of its effects,” said Associate Professor Andrew Wong, RBWH Director of Neurology and Stroke.

“This is why the RBWH Stroke team have been investigating emergency treatment of stroke in collaboration with our QAS colleagues.

“Well designed stroke care pathways conducted by highly trained staff can identify which people with stroke can benefit from emergency treatments, and how to get them to the right hospital as quickly as possible so those treatments can be given.”

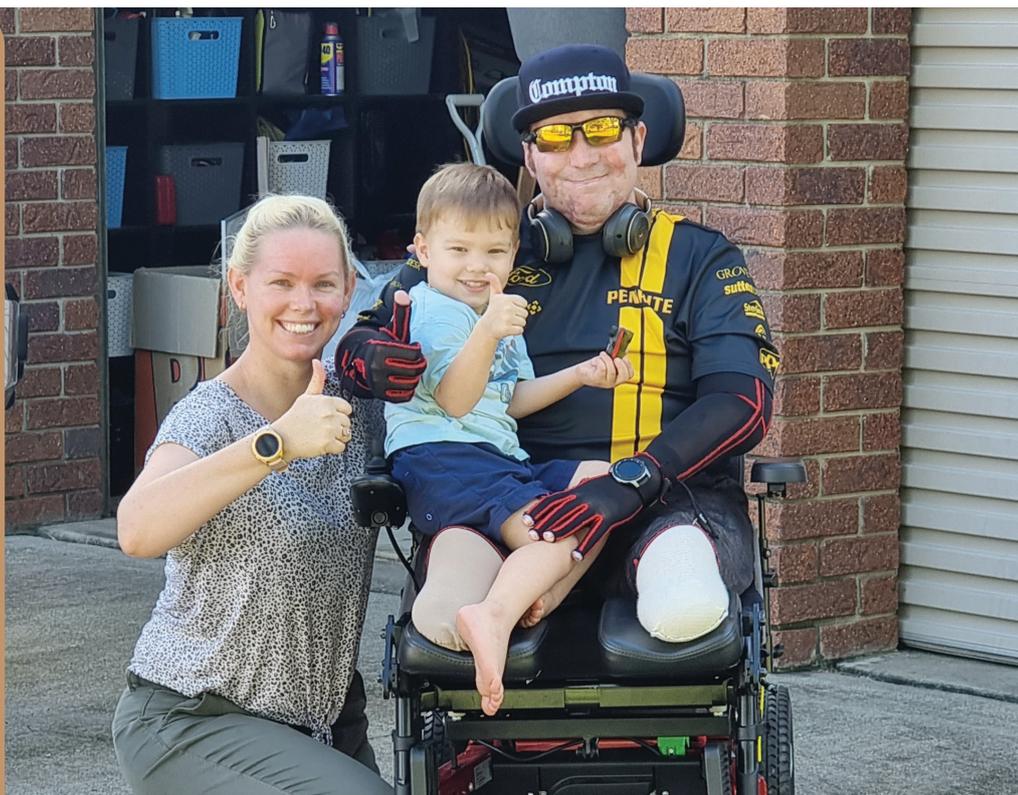
Recent research projects include:

- Emergency treatments to minimise stroke damage; use of MRI technology to identify stroke locations in the brain; medications to reopen blocked arteries
- Rehabilitation to maximise patient recovery, prevent long-term disability and aid return to the community
- Initiatives to reduce the risk of recurrence.

With one person suffering a stroke every 19 minutes in Australia, and the prediction that by 2050 this will increase to one person every 10 minutes, there is an urgent need for research funding.

BURNS AND TRAUMA

Burns, trauma and critical care is an area of research and patient care proudly supported by the RBWH Foundation since it helped open the Queensland Skin Bank at RBWH in 2001.



The night of 5 August, 2020 began like many others for long-distance truck driver, Glen Bennett, as he headed north to Cairns on his regular freight run from Brisbane.

Five hours into the drive, just south of Miriam Vale, a thick blanket of heavy fog set in and a series of coincidences, ahead of Glen, were about to have horrific consequences.

With visibility reduced, another semi-trailer swerved to miss a pulled-over caravan and headed straight into the path of a third semi. Following behind, Glen was unaware of the danger and plowed directly into a highway pile-up.

The collision was catastrophic. Glen's fully-loaded B-Double exploded into flames. Driven by thoughts of wife Roni and baby son, Hugo, Glen managed to escape but not before sustaining burns to 70% of his body. He was airlifted to Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH), where he would remain for six months, the first 24 days in a coma. When he finally woke, Glen had lost both his legs.

A RBWH multi-disciplinary team of trauma, intensive care and burns experts worked together to mend Glen's shattered body. He almost lost an arm, underwent 19 operations, numerous skin grafts and intense physical rehabilitation.

Glen's recovery is remarkable and although far from over, the outlook is positive. Glen's 'new normal' has him back behind the wheel of the family car and

learning to walk in prosthetic legs. They are small steps which owe much to the expertise of RBWH trauma and burns experts.

As Queensland's major quaternary and tertiary referral teaching hospital, RBWH can offer patients like Glen highly complex specialist care and equipment not widely available in other hospitals, including access to national and international clinical trials.

Burns, trauma and critical care is an area of research and patient care proudly supported by the RBWH Foundation since it helped open the Queensland Skin Bank at RBWH in 2001. The Skin Bank allowed the state's medical scientists, for the first time, to store and culture grafts for burn patients.

RBWH research in the area expanded further following the 2002 Bali bombings, in which then Royal Brisbane Hospital played a major role treating patients.

In 2021, skin culture and regeneration entered a new era with the opening of Herston Biofabrication Institute (HBI) where research is now underway into 3D bioprinting of skin. (Story page 15).



PROFESSOR STUART PEGG ADULT BURNS CENTRE



Severe burns impact the lives of thousands of Australians each year. The RBWH Professor Stuart Pegg Adult Burns Centre is Australia's foremost and busiest burns unit and has one of the best survival rates in the world with a mortality rate of just two per cent.

Of around 600 burns admissions per year, most require surgery. Outpatient numbers sit between 3000-3500 consultations per year. RBWH also provides 24/7 specialist burns advice through its tele-medicine burns referral service.

The Centre also plays a pivotal role in regional disasters such as New Zealand's 2019 White Island volcanic eruption and the 2021 mining explosion in Moranbah, Central Queensland, which critically injured five miners. They survived and continue to be cared for by RBWH.

JAMIESON TRAUMA INSTITUTE

In a state as vast as Queensland, trauma care poses mighty challenges. It is reassuring to know that the Jamieson Trauma Institute (JTI) at RBWH is striving to improve trauma prevention, care, costs and outcomes for every Queenslanders.

JTI launched three years ago in collaboration with several major research institutes to deliver the best possible care to people suffering traumatic injuries, whether treated at RBWH or other trauma centres.

Current JTI projects include:

- Alcohol-related injury prevention for regional and remote young people
- Data surveillance and emerging injury patterns
- Trauma Educational Program for nurses and doctors in rural, remote and regional centres
- Clinical guidelines for major incidents and mass casualty events
- Virtual Trauma Resuscitation Room training tool to improve patient outcomes.

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**RBWH
Foundation**

PARTNERSHIPS OF HOPE AND HEALING

The RBWH Foundation greatly values and proudly acknowledges our Partnerships of Hope and Healing with industry stakeholders.

Corporate partnerships provide many benefits to the RBWH Foundation and RBWH from pro-bono legal services to funding for vital burns and trauma research. These extraordinary corporate partners enable RBWH to go above and beyond in the provision of patient care and life-saving research.

RACQ

For more than a century, RACQ has been assisting Queenslanders in need. The RBWH Foundation values RACQ's support and generosity which has provided the Foundation temporary office space while our heritage Herston Health Precinct building undergoes critical restoration works.



HOPGOODGANIM LAWYERS

Since 2020, HopgoodGanim Lawyers has supported RBWH Foundation through periods of great change as they have grown and matured in their approach to corporate governance, legal risk and strategic decision making.

HP PPS AUSTRALIA

Never has the need for reliable and high-performance technology been greater than during the COVID-19 pandemic. Equipment provided by HP PPS Australia ensured the RBWH Foundation staff remained online and connected, even while working remotely from home.

ANGLO AMERICAN PLC

In late 2020, the RBWH Foundation received its largest ever corporate philanthropic gift of \$1-million from miner Anglo American. A guiding principle of the partnership is for outcomes to also benefit people living in rural and remote areas, and for research outcomes to be shared internationally.

CEO of Anglo American's Metallurgical Coal business, Tyler Mitchelson, said the donation had been made out of respect and appreciation for the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

"We are very fortunate to have such a world class facility in Queensland, and our hope is that the donation will make a meaningful contribution to improving outcomes for all burns and trauma patients, through clinical research, innovation and ongoing patient support," Mr Mitchelson said.

The donation has been invested into:

- RBWH clinical-based Research Fellowships in the areas of pain management and treatments, physical activity, clinical care improvement, Australasian Burns Critical Care Registry, hand burn injury, and Burns Telehealth
- Herston Biofabrication Institute research to produce a novel agent to stop bleeding. Blood loss is a major cause of morbidity both following trauma and during the surgical debridement of burns
- Upgrades of the Queensland Skin Culture Centre to increase the clinical labs capability to manufacture skin for burns patients
- Appointment of a psychologist to establish a burn peer support program based on the Phoenix Society (USA), Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery (SOAR) program.



AMPOL

The Ampol Lytton Refinery is a longstanding supporter of the RBWH Foundation, donating consistently over the past five years to medical and clinical burns research.

Each year, charities are chosen by Ampol employees and funds are donated based on incident free days, during planned turnaround and inspection events.



RBWH GIVING DAY DONORS FUND A VIRTUAL REALITY TOOL FOR COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

“

The RBWH Foundation is committed to supporting RBWH health professionals to develop new and innovative solutions to everyday clinical questions.

”

Simone Garske
RBWH Foundation CEO

New technology, usually associated with the video game industry, is being used by Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital (RBWH) speech pathology researchers to help people with communication disorders practice skills and build confidence.

The RBWH Foundation funded research project, led by Advanced Speech Pathologist and Metro North Clinician Research Fellow, Dr Clare Burns, is developing a virtual reality (VR) scenario to assist clients practice every day social interactions in a clinical setting.

“VR technology allows the client to be immersed in an everyday environment such as a busy café or supermarket and practice their communication in a personally relevant, yet safe place,” said Dr Burns.

“The benefit of this collaborative VR application is that both speech pathologist and client can immerse themselves in the same environment and practice a range of communication strategies together with the clinician offering prompts and assistance as needed.”

Seed funding for the project was provided by RBWH Giving Day, the major annual fundraising event of the RBWH Foundation. Further funding is now needed to trial it with a wider range of client groups.

Ms Simone Garske, RBWH Foundation CEO, said “Research is not always conducted in a laboratory, it also evolves in clinical practice.

“The RBWH Foundation is committed to supporting RBWH health professionals to develop new and innovative solutions to everyday clinical questions.”

The VR tool was developed in partnership with Dr Atiyeh Vaezipour and team from The University of Queensland’s RECOVER Injury Research Centre.



MORE THAN MATERNITY: THE EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT OF WOMEN'S AND NEWBORN SERVICES

“

It takes time and patience to establish a vibrant research culture. It also takes resilience, particularly in the face of challenges of the kind we have all confronted in the last year.

”

Associate Professor
Karin Lust
RBWH Women's and
Newborn Services
Director

While maternity and obstetrics care have long been the cornerstone of Women's and Newborn Services (WNS), its dedicated team has also established RBWH as a premier centre for neonatology, obstetric medicine, gynaecology and gynaecological oncology.

WNS Director Associate Professor Karin Lust said research lay at the heart of the Service's success and was embedded into every aspect of WNS from clinical patient care to international collaborations on disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

“Clinical staff from all disciplines in WNS undertake research and share their outcomes which are presented locally, nationally and internationally,” said A/Prof. Lust.

“These outcomes not only improve patient outcomes within Queensland, but also impact national and global practice.”

An appetite for research has recently seen WNS involved in seven maternity clinical trials, 16 neonatal clinical trials, one gynaecology clinical trial and five Gynaecology Oncology clinical trials.

The RBWH Foundation has championed WNS life-changing research and patient care since it was founded in 1985. Support is provided through research grants, purchase of new technologies and patient care projects such as facility upgrades and renovations, and educational videos.

Early-career research grants, awarded annually by the RBWH Foundation, were particularly coveted and WNS has been successful in

securing a number of these as well as Metro North and NHMRC research grants.

“Many grants are awarded to clinicians based on their previous research experience so if you're not an experienced researcher, it's difficult to get your foot in the door,” said A/Prof. Lust.

“That's where early career research grants play a crucial role and we have a number of excellent researchers who are working towards or have completed their PhDs in our Department. Many commenced their research through the RBWH Foundation research grants.”

Professor Leonie Callaway, Director of Research WNS, who received one of her first RBWH Foundation grants in 2004 was named finalist in the 2020 Metro North Hospital and Health Service (MNHHS) Researcher of the Year Awards.

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

RBWH Women's and Newborns Services is involved in a number of national and international collaborations and research trials including Women's Healthcare Australasia, Australia and New Zealand

Stillbirth Alliance, University of Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer, Registry of Pregnancy and Cardiac Disease, Endometriosis research, Perinatal Research Centre, and the Australia and New Zealand Neonatal Network.

These alliances share research data which accelerates analysis and outcomes. Breakthroughs and discoveries are shared among collaboration members, leading to more rapid change and improvement in patient treatment and care.

RBWH FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANTS

Women's and Newborns Services was awarded three of the Foundation's COVID-19 research grants commencing in 2021, as well as three early career and experienced researcher project grants.

GESTATIONAL DIABETES TESTING

Temporary changes to the national screening and diagnosis of gestational diabetes during COVID-19 restrictions, as developed by RBWH, may result in new Australian guidelines.

A formal evaluation of the changes was one of the first projects funded by the RBWH Foundation Coronavirus Action Fund.

About 15 per cent of pregnant Australians are diagnosed with gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) each year, and more than 300,000 oral glucose tests performed.

If adopted nationally, potentially 19 out of 20 women would undergo a one-off fasting blood test instead of a three-hour oral glucose tolerance test, saving time and reducing testing costs.



"We hope our review will confirm that outcomes for mothers and babies is as good as sending all pregnant woman for an oral glucose tolerance test," said RBWH Senior Dietitian and Research Fellow, Dr Susan de Jersey.

"These changes could save time for women and clinicians, as well as reduce costs associated with unnecessary testing."

ROYAL FAMILIES: A CONNECTION FOR LIFE

Some hospital experiences are so intensely emotional, especially involving the care of premature babies, that a connection to RBWH remains for many years. Such is the bond for Deception Bay's Saccassan family. Michael and Vanessa's twin sons were born 12 years ago, almost three months early at 29 weeks gestation.

Nicholas was able to go home within two months, but sadly Thomas passed away after six months of intensive treatment. Each year, the family pays tribute to NICU by fundraising for the Department through their Christmas lights display and so far have raised more than \$5000.



NEORETURN: HOW DONORS SUPPORT OUR TINIEST BABIES RETURN HOME

NeoRESQ is a dedicated neonatal retrieval service for Southern and Central Queensland and Northern NSW, which has operated as part of RBWH for the last six years. All premature and unwell babies who require transfer to a higher level facility after birth are cared for by NeoRESQ's dedicated staff.

In 2020, NeoRESQ were privileged to launch a new service, NeoReturn, to help transfer babies back to their home hospitals once they are well enough. The Running for Premature Babies NeoRESQ vehicle, which is proudly supported by the RBWH Foundation,

celebrated its first birthday on World Prematurity Day, 18 November 2021.

The anniversary of Running for Premature Babies NeoRESQ vehicle was marked with a celebration at RBWH. Guest of honour was baby Hamish, who was also celebrating his first birthday on the same day. Hamish had been transported by both NeoRESQ and NeoReturn in his first weeks of life.

In its first twelve months, the vehicle safely transported more than 360 babies to hospitals closer to home after lifesaving treatment in NICU.

EARLY PSYCHOSIS IN FOCUS: A MISSION FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

“

Despite how serious psychosis can be, young people can return to meaningful and purposeful lives.

”

Professor James Scott
RBWH Early Psychosis
Service Director



In a suburban Brisbane park, a relaxing afternoon unfolds: a group of young people playing bocce, sharing snacks and trading jokes.

This is no casual get-together, however. It's the Good Thinking Group from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Early Psychosis Service (EPS) and this activity is designed to encourage social interaction and engagement among young people impacted by mental illness.

Every year, one in five people aged between 15 and 25 will experience depression or anxiety, or will be so distressed as to engage in self-harming or suicidal behaviours. Of them, about 240 young people, aged 18-25, will be admitted to RBWH EPS.

Psychosis is one of the most serious mental illnesses treated. It's a debilitating mental health condition characterised by a disconnection from reality. Symptoms include delusions, hallucinations, incoherence and agitation.

"Yet for as much as we do, we can and want to do more if only we had the resources," explained EPS Director Professor James Scott.

EPS client 'Josh' believes early intervention would have saved him years of despair.

"I didn't understand when I was younger that I was suffering from mental illness,

I just thought I had anger issues," Josh said.

Today in the park, Josh is fast with the wisecracks but 18 months ago it was a vastly different, and grim, story.

"I declined at quite a rapid pace, my delusions came in rapid succession, and I felt like I wasn't in control of my own body anymore," said Josh.

In the eighteen months since Josh was admitted to EPS, his life has changed dramatically.

"They gave me medication, which actually really helps. I wouldn't be able to sit here and have a full conversation with you without it."

Josh is now planning to go back to the classroom, hoping to study either a Diploma of Community Services or Diploma of Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health.

"Four out of five young people who come through EPS are eventually able to go back to being treated by their GPs," said Prof. Scott.

"They are being helped back into work, into education, into positive and fulfilling lives. Instead of ending up on the streets, they are going home. Families are being kept together."

EARLY PSYCHOSIS SUPPORT NEEDS



Group Program Support

\$5000



Financial Training Program

\$25,000



Ultra-High-Risk Clinical Team

\$300,000

ADVANCING RESEARCH, TOGETHER

CLINICIAN-LED RESEARCH INTO PATIENT CARE AND TREATMENT INNOVATION.

Early Career Research Projects:

ALLIED HEALTH

DR MICHELLE COTTRELL: Physiotherapy

Addressing safety and comprehensiveness concerns for neurological examination via telehealth in patients with low back pain.

DR PETER WINDOW: Physiotherapy

What is it about virtual reality which is helping people with back pain conquer their fear of movement?

CANCER CARE SERVICES

A/PROF. BENJAMIN CHUA:

Radiation, Oncology, Cancer Care Services

The use of non-invasive biomarkers in a type of brain cancer called glioblastoma.

DR ANDREA S. HENDEN:

Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation

Faecal Microbial Transplantation for Graft-Versus-Host Disease (GVHD). GVHD is a serious and potentially life-threatening condition in which the donor cells attack the recipient's healthy cells, causing a range of medical problems.

INTERNAL MEDICINE SERVICES

DR PEDRO HENRIQUE FRANCA GOIS:

Kidney Health Service

Improving the patient experience of kidney biopsy: A randomised control trial evaluating video-assisted consent versus standard consent for percutaneous ultrasound-guided kidney biopsy.

DR KIRSTEN HEPBURN: Renal

Desmopressin Acetate (DDAVP: antidiuretic and antihemorrhagic drug) to prevent post-Biopsy Bleeding in percutaneous kidney biopsy: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.

WOMEN'S AND NEWBORN SERVICES

DEANNE AUGUST: Grantley Stable Neonatal Unit

What lies beneath: accurate measurement and sequelae (a condition which is the consequence of a previous disease or injury) of neonatal mechanical skin injuries.

SURGICAL AND PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES

DR LIAM COULTHARD: Neurosurgery

Investigating the role of complement and peripheral leukocytes (white blood cells) in aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage (bleeding in the space that surrounds the brain).

A/PROF. DAVID FIELDING: Thoracic Medicine

How best to guide Metastatic Lung Cancer treatment.

DR MATTHEW ROBERTS: Urology

Staging of aggressive prostate cancer "invisible" to PSMA-PET: The FDG-PET (a procedure to detect metabolically active malignant lesions) for INvisible Disease (FIND) Trial.

DR SARJU VASANI: Otolaryngology

Using a patient's saliva to diagnose oral cancer and precancerous lesions of the mouth.

MEDICAL SERVICES

DR TARA McCURDIE: Quality, Innovation and Patient Safety Service

Use of a novel 3D printed model for training novices in central venous catheter insertion: Preliminary validation and efficacy as a training tool.

CRITICAL CARE AND CLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

ELLYSE McCORMICK:

Emergency and Trauma Centre

Helping our healers: health and performance of Emergency Department staff.

WAYS TO DONATE



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CLINICIAN-LED RESEARCH INTO PATIENT CARE AND TREATMENT INNOVATION

Experienced Researcher Projects:

CRITICAL CARE AND CLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

PROF. JEFFREY LIPMAN: Intensive Care Medicine

New antibiotic dosing guidelines to counter medication loss caused by the circuitry of the life support machine, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) and/or during renal replacement therapy (RRT).

MEDICAL IMAGING

PROF. KATIE McMAHON:

Herston Imaging Research Facility

Improving reliability and validity of presurgical language mapping to optimise therapeutic intervention, by providing insights on the best type of therapy.

INTERNAL MEDICINE SERVICES

A/PROF. JOHN ATHERTON: Cardiology

An Investigation of the relationship between mouth bacteria and heart failure.

DR NADEEKA DISSANAYAKA: Neurology

Repurposing the anti-epileptic drug, Levetiracetam, to improve memory impairment in Parkinson's disease patients before they develop dementia. The aim is to expand research to an international multi-site phase II trial.

DR KRISTYAN GUPPY-COLES: Cardiology

Investigation of the long-term immunity provided by the COVID-19 vaccines.

PROF. ALISON MUDGE: Internal Medicine and Aged Care

A study into the recovery outcome of frail patients following rehabilitation.

PROF. DAVID REUTENS: Neurology

Using naturalistic stimuli, such as watching a movie, to map the language centre of a patient's brain before epilepsy surgery so as to reduce the risk of post-operative language deficits.

DR FREDERIK STEYN: Neurology

On-the-spot testing of blood samples to establish new biomarkers for disease progression in patients with MND.

WOMEN'S AND NEWBORN SERVICES

PROF. PAUL COLDITZ: Neonatology

Identifying priority targets for effective blood volume management in preterm infants.

PROF. SAILESH KUMAR: Maternal and Fetal Medicine

Reducing emergency caesarean birth for fetal distress in women with small or poorly grown infants using Sildenafil Citrate.

SURGICAL AND PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES

PROF. ANDERS CERVIN: Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery

Microbiome (the microorganisms that live inside the body and the gut, such as bacteria, archaea, fungi, protists and viruses) therapy of chronic purulent sinusitis.

DR CRAIG WINTER: Neurosurgery

Investigation into the correlation between intra-aneurysmal computational fluid dynamics and thin-walled regions (TWR's) in brain aneurysms.

DR ANDREW SOUNESS / DR ANGELA TOGNOLINI: Anaesthesia & Perioperative Medicine

Research Into continuous non-invasive haemoglobin monitoring with a Pulse Co-Oximetry device in patients undergoing pelvic exenteration surgery. Pelvic exenteration is a radical surgical procedure to remove all pelvic organs in the treatment of pelvic malignancy. Regular and frequent monitoring of haemoglobin (Hb) concentration is essential due to the potential for massive haemorrhage.

A/PROF. JOHN YAXLEY: Urology

A prospective clinical evaluation of prostate biopsy under local anaesthetic to optimise health care resources.

ALLIED HEALTH

ANNE DERUITER: Social Work

The RBWH Preadmission Social Work Model of Care identifies patients who would benefit from social work support prior to coming into hospital for elective surgery. This current project expands on the model by using Telehealth to deliver social work services in the Preadmission clinic. An anticipated outcome for patients will be improved access to social work services and support.

MENTAL HEALTH

PROF. JAMES SCOTT: Mental Health Service

A trial to determine the clinical dose and mechanism of action of sodium benzoate in people with schizophrenia, who are not responding to usual treatments.

ADVANCING RESEARCH, TOGETHER

CLINICIAN-LED RESEARCH INTO PATIENT CARE AND TREATMENT INNOVATION

MENINGOCOCCAL GRANTS

PROF. DAVID PATERSON: Infectious Diseases

Improving diagnosis, management and prevention of invasive meningococcal disease.

DR JULIAN WILLIAMS: RBWH Emergency and Trauma Centre (ETC)

Improving patient outcomes: Evaluation of novel, rapid SNP-based PCR assays, InfectID-meningitis and InfectID-meningitis AMR, in adult and paediatric clinical samples.

EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS

NORVA DHALIA: Eurobact II Study

Provide new insights on the management of critically ill patients with severe infections and difficult to treat pathogens.

PROF. ATHERTON (Heart Foundation): Vanguard Grant

Feasibility and Diagnostic Accuracy of Novel Echocardiographic Approaches to allow Screening and Monitoring for Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction by Novice Healthcare Staff.

Ear Nose & Throat Research (ENT Technologies)

Investigation of probiotic treatment of chronic Rhinosinusitis.

A/PROF. ED HEFFERNAN (NHMRC): Mental Health

A/Prof Ed Heffernan is passionate about enhancing the health and human rights of people living with mental illness who intersect with the criminal justice and mental health systems.

DR ANDREW KASSIANOS (NHMRC): Renal Health

Investigation of the biology of immune cells in chronic kidney disease to inform more accurate diagnoses and improved treatments for patients.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

DR TERESA BROWN: Allied Health/Nutrition and Dietetics

A Feasibility study to investigate taste changes post-treatment in patients with head & neck cancer and their association with genes and dietary behaviour.

DR ANGELA BYRNES: Allied Health/Nutrition and Dietetics

Using co-design to improve patient acceptability and enhance sustainability of practice change implementing early post-operative diet upgrade in colorectal surgical patients.

DR MONICA NG: Internal Medicine

Developing a screening tool for personalising treatment in renal patients.

Radionuclide Therapy Research

Radiochemistry capacity to manufacture LuPSMA to support RBWH participation in two large randomised controlled trials to benefit patients with metastatic prostate cancer.

DR YATIKA JIVAN: Haematology/Bone Marrow Transplant Fellowship

Analysis of the use of PET imaging with a novel inflammation-targeting radioligand to diagnose acute gastrointestinal Graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) in acutely unwell patients following allogeneic bone marrow transplant.

DR MARIO ZOTTI: Complex Spinal Fellowship

Training in and exposure to revision spine surgery, complex spine deformities, trauma and emergency conditions (infection/tumour) and pain neuromodulation by RBWH senior spinal surgeons

WAYS TO DONATE



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info@rbwhfoundation.com.au

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RAISE IT FOR RBWH

The RBWH Foundation had 640-thousand reasons to celebrate after RBWH Giving Day in June 2021 smashed its fundraising goal of \$500,000.

RBWH Giving Day is an annual event which provides a chance for Queenslanders to show the depth of their gratitude and generosity to our healthcare heroes, through the support of life-changing research and patient care.

From superstar pop musicians to a cross-Departmental tug of war, RBWH was abuzz from early morning. The hospital was showcased on Channel Seven's national breakfast program, Sunrise, with weatherman Sam Mac kickstarting the appeal again in 2021.

SAVE THE DATE

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE



RBWH GIVING DAY

WEDNESDAY
15 JUNE 2022

rbwhgivingday.com.au

Donors were the true stars of the day, from those who donated handfuls of coins to others with cheques for thousands of dollars. Each came with a story of gratitude, and the stories were priceless.

RBWH SAVED REECE'S LIFE, SO HE NOW GIVES BACK TO SAVE OTHERS

When it comes to fundraising, few individuals are more committed – or tireless – than former patient, Reece Crawford.

In 2014, RBWH saved Reece's life after he sustained severe head injuries in a serious motor scooter accident. RBWH staff also inspired Reece to embark on a career change and he now works as an Assistant Physiotherapist at RBWH.

During recovery, Reece developed a passion for running and in 2021, staged 'Run 21 for the Royal', an incremental marathon starting with one kilometre on the first day and ending with a half-marathon of 21.1 kilometres on Day 21. Reece was able to raise a staggering \$21,000.

Scan code above to find out more.





THE EXTRAORDINARY POWER OF A FRIENDLY SMILE

In a hospital the size of RBWH, the sight of a warm, friendly smile on arrival, the offer of directions to an appointment, or a complimentary cup of tea, can make all the difference to patients and their loved ones.

Our dedicated RBWH Foundation Volunteer Compassion Crew provide all of those services and more, every week day of the year, except when COVID-19 restricts visitor numbers.

In 2021, this dedicated and committed team still managed to accrue an impressive 25,000 hours, across many areas of the hospital including:

- Herston Alcohol & Drug Service group sessions
- Concierge at the RBWH Main Entrance
- Justice of the Peace at RBWH and STARS
- Meet and Greet Service in the RBWH Patient Drop-off Zone
- Patient Companion in RBWH Heart Support Service, Renal Unit, Medical Imaging and Transit Lounge
- Patient Laundry Services
- Patient Support for the Eat Walk Engage program
- Visitor Companion in RBWH ICU
- Ward Companion in 9 RBWH wards and 2 STARS' wards
- Wayfinding at RBWH and STARS.

The Compassion Crew are the Foundation's ambassadors inside the hospital and demonstrate, every day, the extraordinary power of giving. They give their time, expertise and talent to our patients and we are very appreciative.

University of Queensland student, Phoebe Taylor, signed up a year ago to gain insight into a hospital environment. The Exercise Nutrition Science student hopes to eventually move into dietetics.

"I want to become a dietitian, so getting a bit of experience with the hospital and how it works will give me some insight into my future career," said Phoebe.

"It is an honour to represent and be part of the RBWH Foundation. I can see firsthand how much donors and the Foundation are enhancing the patient experience. I am so proud to give my time to this mission."

WAYS TO VOLUNTEER



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compassioncrew@rbwhfoundation.com.au

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GIVING TOGETHER FUNDS LIFE-CHANGING PATIENT CARE AND HEALTH RESEARCH AT REDCLIFFE HOSPITAL

It is said that Redcliffe Hospital is the heart of the Peninsula, and over the past 12 months, the Raise it for Redcliffe Hospital fundraising collaboration has certainly proven that statement.

In the twelve months since inception, response from patients and staff - past and present - as well as the broader community, has exceeded expectations. More than \$200,000 has been raised and is already making an impact to patient care and life-changing health research.



The impressive tally was a wonderful indication of the Moreton Bay region's engagement and trust of Redcliffe Hospital and its dedicated health care workforce.

Many organisations were pivotal to Giving Day's success, including community radio station 99.7 Bridge FM which broadcast the day's activities; Lewis Land Group, owner of The Komo and The Belvedere Hotels, which donated a staggering \$50,000 to be used to match public donations; and the substantial community support provided by BallyCara, GKS Law, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Dominos and Dolphin News.

REDCLIFFE RESEARCH GIVING CIRCLE

There is no greater recommendation for a local hospital than the support of its local medical fraternity. The support of Moreton Bay hospital and community practitioners for the newly founded Redcliffe Hospital Research Giving Circle was instrumental in reaching Giving Day's fundraising goal. Founded by former Director of Surgery at Redcliffe Hospital, Associate Professor Cliff Pollard AM, the Giving Circle played a leading role in raising just over \$26,000 for a senior nurse researcher position.

In 2022, this incredible generosity will help fund:

- A new Senior Nursing Researcher to advance evidence-based patient care
- Urology research at Redcliffe Hospital to help men with prostate cancer
- Initiate the 'Bring a touch of home' project for the Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Units
- Establish a much-needed Maternity Bereavement Room, a private space for women and families experiencing loss or special care needs
- Wishlist Grants for most needed patient and staff care programs.

'Raise it for Redcliffe' was established in late 2020 as a partnership between the RBWH Foundation and Redcliffe Hospital.

RAISE IT FOR REDCLIFFE HOSPITAL

The first ever Redcliffe Hospital Giving Day was held on Wednesday 13 October 2021. Thanks to the incredible support of local business, community groups, staff and the public, more than \$170,000 was raised to support health research and innovative patient care programs.



RIDING FOR REDCLIFFE: A MARATHON WITH MEANING

A driving force behind 'Raise it for Redcliffe Hospital' fundraising has been Redcliffe Hospital Director of Research and Medical Education, Dr Joel Dulhunty. An avid cyclist, Dr Dulhunty held two major fundraising events during 2021.

In April, Dr Dulhunty and wife Naoni set the pace when they rode 2500 km from Cairns to Brisbane to raise funds for a proposed Senior Nurse Researcher position. Dr Dulhunty then followed up with an ambitious 500km Penny Farthing fundraising marathon for Giving Day. His efforts personally helped generate more than \$23,000 and leveraged a further \$103,000 to secure the inaugural three-year Senior Nursing Researcher position.

'RAISE IT' TO BRING A TOUCH OF HOME TO REDCLIFFE HOSPITAL

Among the first priorities of 'Raise it for Redcliffe Hospital' will be refurbishment of the Rehabilitation and Palliative Care Units. Both provide outstanding patient care but aspire to create a more family and child-friendly experience for visitors.



Mango Hill grandmother Eleanor spent more than six months in Redcliffe Hospital after she contracted the debilitating Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), a virus which attacked her immune system and caused paralysis.

"All I could do was move my head. I couldn't talk or even drink water," said Eleanor.

Eleanor spent the first four months in the Intensive Care Unit followed by another two and a half in Rehabilitation.

"Redcliffe Hospital was my 'home' for more than six months. I have nothing but praise for all the staff, from the cleaners to the top doctors. They were there for not only me, but my husband and family."

Raise it for Redcliffe Hospital will help patients like Eleanor feel they truly are in a second home, not a hospital.

RAISE IT LIKE REDDY FUN AND FITNESS

Fundraising is proving to be a great way to get fit on the Peninsula! For two years 'running', REDDY Fun and Fitness has held a fun run to promote health and wellbeing and raise funds for Raise it for Redcliffe Hospital.

It was first held following cancellation of the Gold Coast marathon. Redcliffe Hospital staff members and Peninsula locals Rhonda Neal and Brooke Starkey-Luke decided to donate their Gold Coast entry fees to Redcliffe Hospital and hold their own run to raise even more. The first year saw 60 starters and raised \$4,700. In 2021, Reddy Fun and Fitness increased its tally to an impressive \$13,624 with more than 180 participants.



RBWH Foundation

Advancing patient care
and life-saving research

CONTACT DETAILS

RBWH Foundation

Phone 1300 363 786

Email info@rbwhfoundation.com.au

POST

PO Box 94

Royal Brisbane Hospital
Queensland 4029

rbwhfoundation.com.au



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