

40 Years Strong

[IMPACT REPORT]




RBWH
Foundation

40
YEARS
STRONG



Glen Bennett spent twenty-four days in a coma and a total of six months in hospital after a horror truck crash left him with two amputated legs and burns to 70 per cent of his body. Today, he credits RBWH teams with giving him a second chance at life.

“I was actually born in this hospital, and thankfully I didn’t die in this hospital. Their skill and expertise in helping patients, like me, has been helped enormously by research funded by the RBWH Foundation.”



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Our Purpose:

Saving lives through the extraordinary power of giving



Our Mission:

Together, we advance patient care and life-saving research



Our Impact:

We create opportunities to connect givers to great causes

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.



Since inception, the RBWH Foundation has existed to elevate exceptional health services and medical research. Originally established to support Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH); the Foundation now also proudly partners with the Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS), Redcliffe Hospital and prestigious Herston research institutes and centres.



RBWH visitor Beryl Montgomerie, Wally The King Lewis and visitor Colleen Toon



Paralympian Curtis McGrath, Her Excellency Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland and Board Chair Kristin Devitt



Associate Professor Joel Dulhunty and Professor Joan Webster



CEO Simone Garske with Qld Symphony Orchestra members

Celebrating 40 years of keeping healthcare strong

For the RBWH Foundation, 2025 will be remembered as a year of celebration—the year we marked a significant milestone in medical and health philanthropy: our 40th anniversary.

Since 1985, legions of donors and supporters have fuelled our progress, united in the pursuit of lifesaving breakthroughs, enhanced patient wellbeing and a healthier future for all. Your support has built the RBWH Foundation of today — a source of hope and healing, where research thrives and innovation blooms.

For donor Heather Hallam, the Foundation has always been a beacon of hope, shining brightly for rural communities in their time of need. For 37 years strong, Heather has donated to the Foundation, counting herself lucky to be a supporter, rather than a recipient, of ground-breaking medical care.

“I left Aramac when I was 15, but that has stuck with me - the Royal supported the West, so I support the Royal. My donations are a drop in the bucket, but every dollar counts... don't underestimate the importance of that.”

Heather Hallam, RBWH Foundation donor

Heather's story is just one of the exceptional tales captured in our 40 Years Strong Impact Report, a tribute to four decades of medical and health innovation funded by the extraordinary power of giving and powered by some of Australia's brightest medical minds.

- Learn about the research pioneers who dared to question the status quo of healthcare, feel inspired by a new generation of clinician research and discover the project leaders who are redefining patient outcomes.
- Applaud our community of supporters and donors who, over the past forty years, have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us in gratitude for exceptional healthcare and service.

In a healthcare landscape shaped by a growing population, shifting demographics and evolving community expectations, the role you play has never been more vital.

Chronic diseases affect nearly half of Australians. Cancer remains the leading cause of premature death, followed by cardiovascular diseases. The number of people experiencing neurological and mental health conditions is rising and preventable illness continues to place significant pressure on our healthcare system. Yet, amidst these challenges, we find strength in the unwavering generosity of you, our community.

Since 1985, you have invested more than \$84 million in patient care innovation and life-saving research, helping us to break down barriers and make the impossible possible. We are profoundly grateful to our community, partners and team for their dedication and passion, which ensures the RBWH Foundation remains both a catalyst and a guiding light for progress in Australia's healthcare system.



Celebrating 40 years!



612 ABC Radio Brisbane presenter Kat Feeney with RBWH Foundation inaugural Artist in Residence author Nick Earls

Simone Garske
Chief Executive Officer



Kristin Devitt
Board Chair

\$84
million

distributed in
the **40 years**
since inception

Distributed
in the **past year**

\$3.9
million



Research grants
\$2,151,822



Hospital programs
\$763,592



Wellbeing for hospital staff
\$130,000



Patient care initiatives
\$832,918



FLASHBACK

2010: ADF partners with RBWH

Ensuring access to highly-skilled, high-readiness medical specialists is a challenge for any defence force – one which RBWH partnered with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to solve.

Having experimented with several models over the years, the ADF signed a memorandum of understanding in 2010, agreeing to embed a military surgical team within RBWH. For three months of every year, members of that team would be available for deployment anywhere in the world.

While creating a ‘responsive and agile’ resource with specialist health support capability for the ADF, this relationship has also enabled RBWH trauma teams to draw on, and evolve, the best of military medicine.

CURTIS McGRATH

Celebrating 40 years and four gold medals

When four-time Paralympic gold medallist and former RBWH patient Curtis McGrath made a hero’s return to the hospital which helped save his life, it was more than a homecoming - it was a powerful testament to the profound impact of medical innovation.

Launching the RBWH Foundation’s 40th-anniversary celebrations, Curtis’ story is one of tenacity and determination, but also of the life-changing, life-saving power of giving.

A former Australian Army combat engineer, Curtis lost both legs in Afghanistan when, on a routine patrol in 2012, an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated beneath him.

“In the aftermath of the explosion, I remember thinking my squadron was being affected by the trauma as well,” said Curtis. “I said, guys, I’ll be fine: I’ll just go to the Paralympics.”

And go he did, but not without months of surgery and rehabilitation.

“Without the care I received, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

RBWH Trauma Surgeon Dr Michael Rudd, who was a Royal Australian Air Force Reservist, operated on Curtis in Afghanistan. At RBWH, his medical team led by Surgeon Dr Daryl Wall treated him for the potentially fatal fungal infection, mucormycosis, which at the time was killing 30% of US soldiers with similar wounds. It was then up to RBWH Plastic Surgeon Dr Shireen Senewiratne to operate on Curtis’ legs.

As the Foundation celebrates 40 Years Strong - 40 years of research, ground-breaking medical advancements and innovative patient care initiatives - Curtis’ remarkable recovery highlights the real-world impact of giving to medical research and patient care innovation.

His is an epic tale of resilience, but also of science, expertise and community generosity. By supporting the RBWH Foundation, donors are ensuring that more lives can be saved, more recoveries can be celebrated, and more futures can be rewritten—just like Curtis’.



Curtis holding three of his Paralympic gold medals

Left: Curtis McGrath OAM, para-canoeist and former combat engineer with the Australian Army

Top right: Curtis recovering at RBWH



LONGEST DONOR

Thirty-seven years of giving back to ‘the Royal’

Heather Hallam was an inpatient at the Royal Women’s just once – having her tonsils removed as a child – but 37 years after making her first donation to the RBWH Foundation, she remains as dedicated a supporter as ever.

“When I started off donating in 1988, I couldn’t give much because, to be honest, I didn’t have much, but I wanted to help,” said Heather.

“I come from out west, and any time anyone from our community had a major problem they were flown to the Royal. I left Aramac when I was 15, but that has stuck with me - the Royal supported the West, so I support the Royal.”

While Heather counts herself lucky to be a supporter, rather than a recipient, of RBWH’s clinical expertise, its impact has still been felt close to home.

“Over the years, the teams there have cared for my sister who had cancer, another sister who had tumours on the brain, and my nephew who lost an eye. Each of them had really big problems, but the care they received was marvellous.”

As a decades-long giver, with no plans to stop, Heather is matter of fact about her generosity. In her eyes, donating to the RBWH Foundation is nothing short of an investment.

“One day in your life, no matter who you are, you’re going to need a hospital, and the Royal is a fantastic institution.”

“My donations are a drop in the bucket, but every dollar counts. If you can give two dollars, it’s two dollars that helps - don’t underestimate the importance of that.”



FLASHBACK

Over the past four decades, Queenslanders have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with RBWH teams working hard to deliver the best possible patient care. From fitness challenges to Christmas light displays, cookbooks to gala balls, the ingenuity and commitment of fundraisers, and generosity of donors, is critical to the RBWH Foundation’s success. Just as important, however, are the dedicated monthly givers, whose quiet support, often sustained over decades, underpins the Foundation’s ability to deliver real, long-term impact for patients and their families.



To learn more about supporting the RBWH Foundation, please scan the QR scan.



Scan to read or listen along as Nick narrates these 40 Strong Stories about resilience, generosity, ingenuity and the RBWH Foundation.



Our health heroes through the eyes of a best-selling author

In one of the most exciting projects to mark the Foundation's 40th year, much-loved and best-selling Brisbane author Nick Earls has been appointed Artist in Residence, taking us behind the scenes of our fascinating medical institutes and centres to uncover 40 compelling stories from the heart of health care.

The resulting collection, 'Lady Lamington's Trowel & other short stories', is an extraordinary showcase of resilience, generosity and ingenuity.

Nick spent several months capturing the passion and dedication of medical staff, researchers, patients and donors from RBWH; the Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS) and Redcliffe Hospital: all who have been touched by the extraordinary power of giving to research and patient care.

Throughout 2025, this fascinating collection has been unveiled weekly, capturing the imagination of fans, new and old, far and wide. In a major coup for the RBWH Foundation, Nick has narrated each chapter.

Exactly 40 years ago, as a young medical student, Nick trained at Royal Brisbane before discovering his heart lay with words, not wards. His background was invaluable for this groundbreaking project.

"I did several terms at Royal Brisbane as a med student in the 80s, failing to deliver a baby during my 24-hr shift on Labour Ward (apparently I have a magical power to switch off labour)," said Nick.

"I was also a totally superfluous 3rd assistant on an appendicectomy on a 19-year-old from Caboolture (my first time in surgery), instantly getting tickets on myself (since I was now a surgeon), then turning up the next day for 'post-op follow-up' and being stopped by staff on my way in and asked if I was her boyfriend."

Nick has since written 28 books including best-selling novels Zigzag Street, Bachelor Kisses and Perfect Skin, and the award-winning novella series Wisdom Tree. Two of his books have been adapted into feature films and five into stage plays.



A gallery of heroes launches an inspirational epic

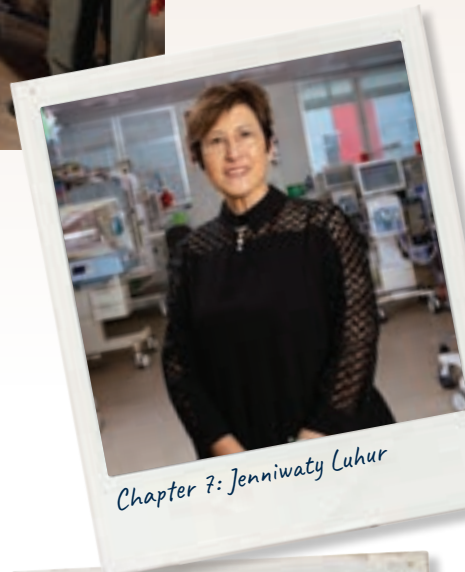
'Lady Lamington's Trowel and other short stories' was launched in early 2025 at the historic Herston Edith Cavell building, before an intimate reception of Foundation supporters.

Radio Presenter Kat Feeney, representing our wonderful media partner 612 ABC Brisbane, hosted a heartwarming and insightful discussion panel with Nick Earls and a selection of our 40 Strong Stories subjects: RBWH Director of Research Services Associate Professor Joel Dulhunty, RBWH Physiotherapy Assistant Reece Crawford and STARS Executive Director Dale Dally-Watkins.

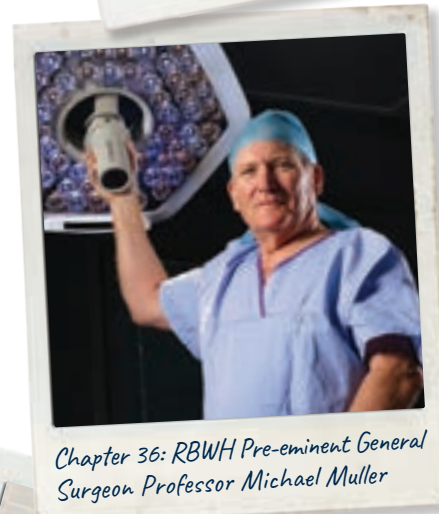
A gallery of portraits by Olivia Cameron Photography also featured on the evening, providing a sneak preview of the fascinating stories being unveiled throughout 2025.

The portraits were later displayed on the RBWH Ground Floor walkway between the central Ned Hanlon and Joyce Twedell buildings.

It is not too late to enjoy 40 Strong Stories, head to rbwhfoundation.com.au or scan the QR code to subscribe to the weekly Nick's News email so you never miss an episode.



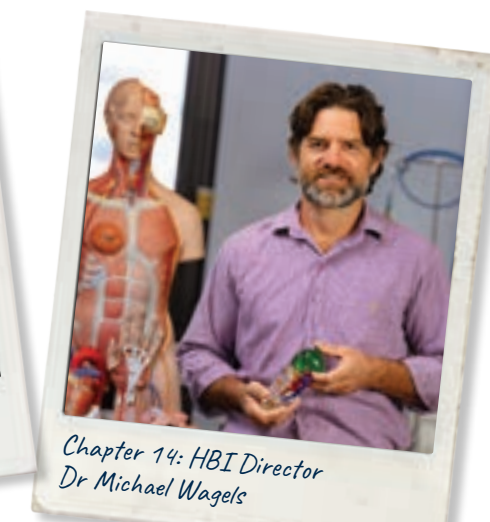
Chapter 7: Jenniwaty Luhur



Chapter 36: RBWH Pre-eminent General Surgeon Professor Michael Muller



Chapter 30: RBWH patient Marie Burrows



Chapter 14: HBI Director Dr Michael Wagels



Chapter 40: Nursing Museum Honorary Curator Joy Wilson

Health equity that defies barriers to care

For the RBWH Foundation, success has long meant disrupting embedded health inequities. With a patient catchment that encompasses Northern New South Wales, Northern Territory and Pacific rim, our support of targeted research, pilot programs and specialist services empowers medical and health teams to close the treatment gap and have an even greater impact on people and families.

Queensland, Northern New South Wales, Northern Territory and Pacific Rim:

- CAR T cell cancer therapy outreach to Townsville
- Queensland’s only public specialised adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancer centre
- Regional and remote virtual care/ telehealth in Allied Health and medical specialties
- Regional and remote surgical training incorporating 3D-printed anatomical models

National and international:

- 3D scanning, modelling and printing of medical devices, bones, cartilage and human tissue
- Australia’s only onsite manufacturing and delivery of CAR T cell cancer therapy
- World-first breast reconstruction surgery using 3D scaffold
- International leader in antibiotic dosing in intensive care
- Access to national and international clinical trials
- Military medicine research transferring knowledge from hospital to battlefield

Neonatal retrieval service

From Operation First Chance in 1994, funding a \$90,000 retrieval capsule, to the purchase of a custom-built NeoRESQ van in 2020, Foundation support has helped premature and sick babies from even the most rural and remote locations access specialist neonatal care.

Care for our elderly

Having long supported research to tackle nutrition and wellbeing issues experienced by older people, the Foundation is proud to fund resources and coordinate volunteers for the landmark EAT WALK ENGAGE™ program at RBWH. Now rolled out across 52 wards in Queensland public hospitals, the program aims to prevent delirium and promote faster recovery.

Prevention of risk-related trauma (P.A.R.T.Y.)

With traumatic injury the leading cause of death under the age of 45, the Foundation-administered P.A.R.T.Y. Program gives young people an immersive hospital-based insight into the devastating reality of alcohol and risk related injury and death. Piloted at RBWH, the program is now available across the state.

Critical care support at home

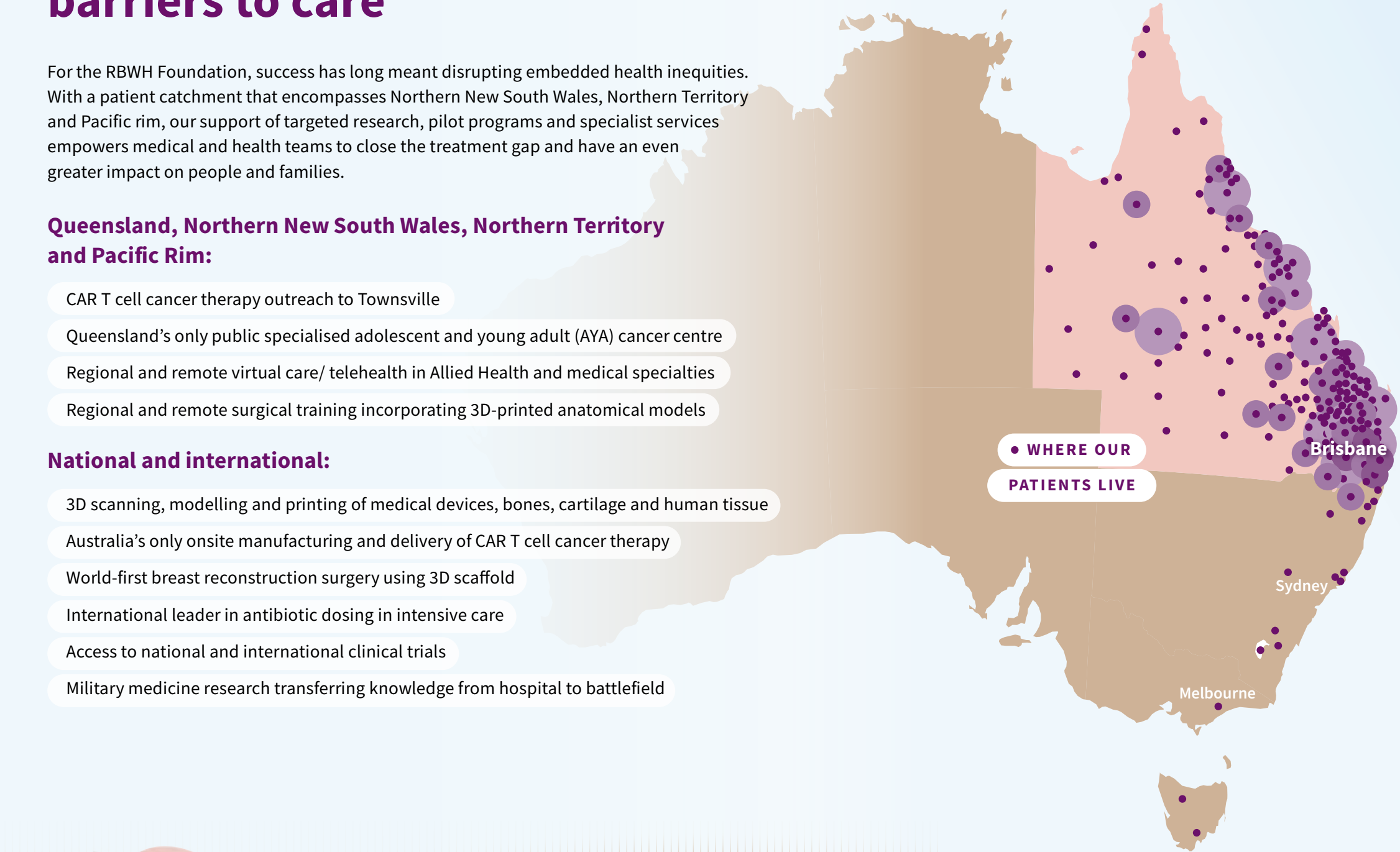
Peer-to-peer outreach can provide invaluable connection and support, wherever patients live. With Foundation support, the RBWH burns unit became the first in Australia and New Zealand to offer SOAR (Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery). It also funds a Post ICU Patient and Family Support Group to provide ongoing access to expert advice and a compassionate space to share the ups and downs of recovery.

Kinder cancer care

Determined to find better, kinder treatments for gynaecological cancers, Professor Andreas Obermair said that Foundation funding kick-started research ideas that have signalled a turning point for his specialisation. Addressing decades of disparity, Professor Obermair and his team are committed to raising awareness of endometrial, ovarian, cervical, vulval and vaginal cancers, finding causes and better alternatives to often-debilitating treatment options.

Embrace of families

The WeCU Family Care program, the first for an Australian ICU, supports families and next-of-kin by helping source accommodation and access to the Patient Travel subsidy. Through donors like you, the Foundation funded renovation of the ICU waiting room and reception area, essential item packs and development of a 24-hour communications portal to a patient’s medical team.



1989: Campaign to halt the devastation of Hepatitis B
With the expansion of Queensland’s Hepatitis B vaccination program, the Foundation launched a public awareness campaign to challenge misinformation and highlight the severe health impacts of this ‘silent’ infection.

FLASHBACK



The IHLS offers personal and family support



Patient Bob Lawton with Indigenous Health Liaison Officer Emma Galea



In 2019, the Indigenous Health Liaison Service joined the Royal.

Closing the healthcare gap, together

When Rockhampton grandfather Bob Lawton woke with a headache in March 2025, he had no idea that within hours he would be rushed into surgery for an aneurysm in Brisbane: the crisis of his medical emergency amplified because he faced it alone.

When partner Cindy did join Bob, her trauma included finding accommodation they could afford.

Now, an RBWH Foundation grant is enabling the Indigenous Hospital Liaison Service to ‘wrap a blanket around’ patients and their loved ones who struggle with the cost of attending hospital.

“Financial barriers are one of the main contributing factors as to why our mob don’t come to their appointments. The grant has allowed us to care for people in a practical way - removing that stress,” said RBWH Indigenous Hospital Liaison Service (IHLS) team leader, Pat Kennedy.

“Sometimes people arrive in an emergency with literally nothing or are discharged with no way of getting home – no money for food and no local support networks. This grant enables us to provide patient care that goes beyond clinical care.”

Today, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women have a life expectancy more than 8 years shorter than the non-Indigenous population. That gap increases to more than 12 years for Indigenous people in remote areas.



If you would like to donate to more life-changing projects like this, please visit rbwhfoundation.com.au or scan the QR code.

Recognising that RBWH faces significant challenges in providing healthcare services to First Nations patients, the Foundation is playing its part in Closing the Gap by listening, learning, collaborating, and working in partnership with Indigenous stakeholders.

For the IHLS team, the \$20,000 grant eases transport challenges, accommodation costs, and provides emergency food and toiletries. While the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme covers some expenses, Pat said it’s often not enough.

“If someone is travelling from an isolated region and is already in hardship, there’s a financial gap they mightn’t be able to cover themselves. From their perspective, there’s no option but to miss out on treatment.”

Cindy is now secure in nearby accommodation, grateful for the Foundation community which helped her during this time of need. The Indigenous Hospital Liaison Service said it is the type of service they’ve always dreamed of.

“Having money available means we can mention that upfront, which spares people any feeling of shame over having to ask,” said Pat.

“Sometimes all we’re giving is \$13 or \$30 – it can be as little as that, but it might mean someone gets the treatment they need or bringing people with them for much needed support.”

FLASHBACK

1998: Supporting Indigenous communities to prevent SIDS

By supporting a range of initiatives, from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) studies in the 1990s, to welcoming beds for newborns, and research into improving patient models of care, the Foundation remains committed to improving health equity for First Nations Peoples.





Associate Professor Cliff Pollard AM

The trauma pioneers who advocated for a safer society

In our 40th year, the RBWH Foundation proudly pays homage to the Herston trauma and critical care research pioneers who not only led innovation in patient treatment but also passionately advocated for policy change that created a safer society.

The Foundation's community of supporters has walked beside them, supporting their determination and commitment.

Among these unassuming trauma heroes is Associate Professor Cliff Pollard AM, who dedicated his thirty-year career to caring for and designing services for trauma patients. In the 1990s, after repeatedly treating children with bicycle-related traumatic head injuries, he successfully lobbied for mandatory helmets, protecting future generations.

In 2017, as inaugural Director of the Jamieson Trauma Institute (JTI), he led statewide trauma prevention strategy, supporting systems design and optimising clinical management.

The RBWH Foundation is a proud JTI philanthropic partner – helping open doors to cutting-edge research that directly improves patient care.

Since 2023, the Foundation has funded the Cliff Pollard Award for health practitioners to continue his pioneering work. Recipients have been recognised for their remarkable contributions across areas including prosthetics research and the use of virtual reality to explore responses to mass casualty events.

RBWH patient Alexa Leary,
following a cycling accident

QUT Principal Research Fellow Associate Professor Susanna Cramb and JTI Chair of Trauma Surveillance and Data Analytics Professor Kirsten Vallmuur



Fostering a new wave of change makers

Partnership is critical to the work of JTI. From project funding to accessing and linking data, the institute brings key stakeholders together to deliver statewide solutions to both embedded and emerging health care challenges.

One such project, jointly funded by the RBWH Foundation and RACQ, uses data from hospitals including Townsville, the Gold Coast and Brisbane to drive reform around the use of private and hired e-scooters.

"Patient interviews have enabled us to gain insights into different patterns and trends to allow us to better target safety initiatives," said JTI Chair of Trauma Surveillance and Data Analytics Professor Kirsten Vallmuur.

With e-scooter trauma just one 'hotspot' of trauma, epidemiologist and biostatistician, Associate Professor Susanna Cramb, said data linking has the potential to transform health provision across Queensland.

"Without evidence, we can't make good decisions. But if we can give clinicians and decision makers the ability to quickly drill down to the exact information they need, we're in a great position to build understanding and support change."

Together, Associate Professor Cramb, Jamieson Trauma Institute (JTI) colleagues and project partners, with funding support from the Motor Accident Insurance Commission, have created an Injury Atlas for the whole of Queensland.

The Injury Atlas aggregates and links ambulance, aeromedical retrieval, emergency department, hospital, compensation schemes and deaths data to better understand the patient journey and outcomes across the state.

"By bringing all of that together, we can pinpoint trauma clusters to inform the work of people trying to prevent serious accidents, enable decision makers to see how far people are travelling to access treatment and the resulting outcome, and give clinicians insights into the interventions that are working best."



2005: Professor Jeff Lipman and James Hall

2003 Professor Jeff Lipman, early grants

FLASHBACK

2002: Donors step up for Bali survivors

The life-altering injuries sustained by survivors of the Bali bombings revealed a pressing need for specialist research. A Foundation appeal raised more than \$40,000 for the hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Burns Unit and Queensland Skin Bank.

Sepsis patients reap the rewards of Foundation seed funding

From an initial 60-patient study at RBWH, Professor Jeff Lipman and team have transformed global standards of care for management of sepsis - a major cause of mortality worldwide.

The culmination of a program of work over 20 years that began with small studies focusing on dosing, some funded by the RBWH Foundation, to large clinical trials with multinational collaborators, their research has been instrumental in changing antibiotic prescribing habits worldwide for critically ill patients.

Involving over 7,200 patients across 104 intensive care units (ICU) in seven countries the findings of the BLING (Beta-Lactam Infusion Group) III study was one of the largest ever antibiotic randomised clinical trials.

For Professor Lipman, heading up RBWH's Department of Intensive Care Medicine for 23 years, in a country he says boasts "the best intensive care system in the world", provided a unique opportunity to drive change for critically ill patients.

"We needed to look at what makes drug use different in intensive care, compared with ward use and outpatient use, where the body isn't experiencing the inflammatory response of a major event, be it severe infection, large surgery, burns or trauma in general. Essentially, you're dealing with different physiology."

"Your body has a blunderbuss response to being sick, sending out blood with lots of white cells and various other things in there," said Professor Lipman. "Once you have that hyperdynamic circulation, you'll also have augmented renal clearance which means drug metabolism and excretion is totally different. The antibiotic is going to have less of an effect and, because the bugs are clever - cleverer than us - they'll become resistant."

That insight, he said, has been the driving force behind his 30-year clinical role and the groundbreaking research made possible by the generosity of RBWH Foundation donors.



Pictured top: RBWH patient Juliette McAleer



If you would like to donate to more life-changing projects like this, please visit rbwhfoundation.com.au or scan the QR code.



Associate Professor Jayesh Dhanani



‘Next level’ innovation for burns trauma

An RBWH Foundation funded trial could hold the key to alleviating pain for burns patients, with inhaled sedation branded a ‘game-changer’.

For Associate Professor Jayesh Dhanani, witnessing the impact of “excruciatingly painful and distressing” dressing changes on patients and staff inspired him to seek a better alternative to traditional pain management techniques.

“Inhalation allows the sedative to slowly leach into blood circulation, achieving a good peak level after about five minutes and lasting throughout the dressing change,” said Professor Dhanani.

“Every patient we invited to participate in the trial agreed without hesitation,” Dr Dhanani said. “That told us, very clearly, that we need a new intervention. If you were satisfied with how your pain was being managed, you wouldn’t tend to expose yourself to a new therapy with an unknown outcome.

“We observed some significant benefits. Patients were calmer and more able to tolerate pain, which also improved the speed of the process. In one case, staff were amazed to have a patient singing their way through a dressing change.”



RBWH Burns patient wearing compression garment



RBWH Patient, Karen Harman

Better, easier treatments

Karen Harman experienced third degree, full thickness burns to 23 per cent of her body after she was doused in fuel by someone attempting to reignite a backyard firepit. With her Achilles tendon exposed on both ankles and needing extensive skin grafts, Karen said dressing changes were “traumatic”.

“You’re looking at these awful wounds and with each dressing you know you’re going to be torn to pieces all over again, as they remove all the bits of dead skin that can prevent healing and cause infection,” said Karen.

The introduction of inhaled medication, she said had a huge impact.

“I honestly wish I’d had access to it earlier. Even the process of focusing on my breathing helped distract me from the emotional distress,” she said.

“You’re thinking about using the equipment properly and inhaling and exhaling deeply rather than staring at what they’re doing.

“The value of this research is, in my mind, just next level. And research is the only way to move things forward - for clinicians to test and trial and find better alternatives. It’s how we get better, easier treatments, which is what we all want and need.”

FLASHBACK

1992: Relieving the burden of chronic pain

Severe burns impact the lives of thousands of Australians each year. Devastating in terms of pain, rehabilitation, recovery, scarring and disability, they can also cause significant psychological and social challenges. From its earliest days, thanks to the generosity of donors, the Foundation has thrown its support behind the work of not only the Tess Cramond Pain and Research Centre and the Professor Stuart Pegg Adult Burns Centre but individual clinicians driving change in their respective fields.





(L-R) Dr Frank Pyefinch, Mrs Lorraine Pyefinch and daughter Emily Sullivan

When ‘giving back’ is the foundation for progress

For Dr Frank Pyefinch and former Bundaberg Mayor Lorraine Pyefinch, the decision to establish a charitable trust is the natural consequence of a world view that says, ‘when we have enough, why wouldn’t we share?’ And share they do, to help RBWH clinicians and researchers deliver real impact for their fellow Queenslanders.

Emily Sullivan, the couple’s daughter and director of the family’s Trust, said that seeing unusual projects yield significant impact for individual patients is particularly special.

“By working closely with the Foundation, we get an insight into the wide spectrum of work being done to improve patient care right across the hospital. Like the groundbreaking use of a 3D printer to create bespoke, body safe mesh implants for breast cancer patients. Or a physiotherapist using virtual reality (VR) as part of a rehabilitation strategy,” said Emily.

“For some people, programs of work like that might seem far-fetched or futuristic, but we see their potential, as well as the many other ways that particular technology could be harnessed.”

The decision to lend their support, Emily said, rests on the potential they see for innovation.

“Our goal is lasting impact, so we take a really considered approach, backing not only ‘big ticket’ programs of work, but also looking at how we can remove barriers to progress where there’s an opportunity, even at a micro level, to rapidly improve outcomes for individual patients.”

“For some people, programs of work like that might seem far-fetched or futuristic, but we see their potential, as well as the many other ways that particular technology could be harnessed.”



If you would like to fundraise to advance patient care innovation and life-changing research, please visit rbwhfoundation.com.au or scan the QR code.



Left: Chris Moody receiving her regular infusion.

Right: CEO Simone Garske accepts patient Chris Moody’s 40 Years Strong artwork

UNIQUE ARTWORK TO RAISE VITAL FUNDS

Creative generosity

For Brisbane-based designer and artist Christine Moody, there was only one way to celebrate the RBWH Foundation’s landmark 40th anniversary, and that was with a one-off artwork capturing the breadth of expertise the charity supports.

This visual map of hospitals, specialist services and research institutes, which took countless hours to research, sketch and paint, holds special meaning for Chris.

“Back in 2019 I just felt off. I was nauseous, sweating and having trouble walking,” Chris said. “The crunch came one Saturday morning when I literally couldn’t move my legs or my arms.”

Chris’ GP could have referred her to a private hospital, as she has private health, but he directed her specifically to RBWH.

“He said the great thing about the Royal is that you’ve got specialists that talk to each other; you get the expertise of many minds on your case,” she said.

“I saw everyone from infectious diseases to rheumatology – and they pinpointed it.”

Chris was diagnosed with rare inflammatory autoimmune disorder dermatomyositis. She now attends RBWH for six-weekly infusions of immunosuppressive drugs - and will do so for the rest of her life.

“Some people may only live about five years after diagnosis, but it could be 10 years, could be 20 years, and I feel like the doctors are on the same journey with me.

“You can’t get better than the specialists I’ve got. It’s the best hospital and I don’t think people always realise that.”

Christine Moody’s commemorative artwork will be auctioned at the RBWH Foundation’s Ruby Gala Ball on 30 August 2025 at Brisbane City Hall.



RBWH patient
Penny Flynn



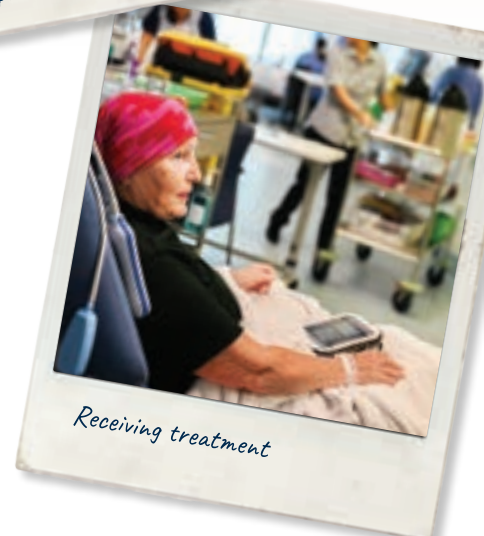
RBWH Bone Marrow Transplant laboratory



Acting Director of Nursing and
Midwifery Research Nicole
Gavin with Registered Nurse
Annabel Yunker



Bone Marrow Transplant
patient Thai Dang



Receiving treatment

Re-engineering cancer care

For four decades, the RBWH Foundation has proudly supported work to improve cancer survival rates, including cutting-edge cellular therapy and research into leukaemia, liver, colorectal, gynaecological and prostate cancers.

Now, with RBWH the only centre in Queensland accredited for collection and administration of CAR T - a new generation of treatment that genetically reprograms a patient's own immune cells to recognise and destroy cancer cells - the generosity of donors will be crucial to transforming outcomes for the 1 in 2 Australians diagnosed with cancer.

With support from individual donors, as well as organisations like audit, tax and advisory firm BDO Australia, RBWH teams can continue their work to make CAR T cells more effective, accessible and financially sustainable.

Brisbane Office Managing Partner, Steven Sorbello, said that BDO rallied behind the cause in memory of cherished team member, Penny Flynn.

"Penny was vibrant, passionate and a much-loved member of our team at BDO. Her passing deeply affected us all and we were determined to do something to honour her memory," Steven said.

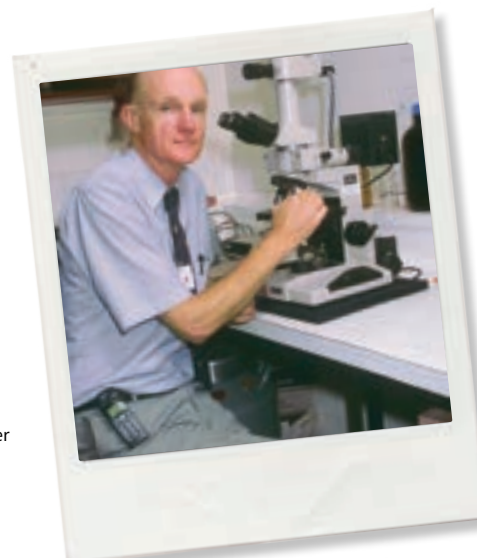
While Penny sadly passed away in 2020 from Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, a type of cancer that affects the blood and bone marrow, she leaves behind an incredible legacy.

With BDO's help, RBWH Cancer Care Services can invest in research to create a wider range of CAR T cell products, able to attack different types of cancers.

With ongoing funding support, CAR T could expand from specific blood cancers to also target brain cancer, breast cancer and other solid cancers.



If you would like to donate to more life-changing projects like this, please visit rbwhfoundation.com.au or scan the QR code.



Prostate Cancer researcher
Professor Frank Gardiner

Nurturing cancer research from the bedside

"Nurses and midwives are natural innovators," said nurse researcher Dr Nicole Gavin.

"They're constantly collecting data and driving change but, because they're not putting their learning into a publication, they don't consider it 'research'".

Dr Gavin joined RBWH as a nurse in the Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. Today she's Acting Director of Nursing and Midwifery Research - a journey that began with a 2014 RBWH Foundation Postgraduate Scholarship.

"The scholarship gave me the opportunity to be able to step away from the workplace and study. Without it, that wouldn't have been possible," said Dr Gavin.

Describing how she now helps "grow researchers from the ground up", Dr Gavin said a big part of her role is building understanding of what research is and making it feel accessible and achievable.

"So often people are frightened - they think it's something only medical or allied health colleagues do. But nurses and midwives are at the bedside 24 hours a day; they really understand the patient journey," she said.

"While haematologists and oncologists are out there finding new treatments for cancer, nurses focus on supportive care and quality of life. So, for example, when new drugs come through, we're working to understand how our research can wrap around that and support, for example, with side-effects."

Missing out on that expertise, she said, is a significant loss.

"Everybody everywhere needs access to good quality, evidence-based health care, and nurses and midwives have so much to offer. We just need to show them how."

STARS Rehabilitation
Physiotherapist Team leader
Brooke Wadsworth with
volunteer Annie Bradfield



STARS Physiotherapist Brooke
Wadsworth with STARS Occupational
Therapist Tara Courtney.

A change of clothes to help rebuild

When patients are admitted in crisis, are experiencing hardship or don't have people in their life who can collect their personal belongings, RBWH Foundation funding for items like underwear, toiletries, clothes and shoes, can provide comfort and help restore dignity.

For Brooke Wadsworth, physiotherapist at the Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS), clothing for rehabilitation is about more than practicality – it's about mindset. But, she says, not everyone has money to spare for new clothes in the event of an unplanned hospital stay.

"In hospital, patients often wear a hospital gown but we need to shift their mindset towards driving their own recovery and setting their own goals," said Brooke.

"An RBWH Foundation grant has allowed us to not only establish a rehab-friendly patient wardrobe but also work with adaptive clothing manufacturers who can cater for patients with significant traumatic injuries or amputations."

As the team collaborate with clothing charities to make this important initiative self-sustaining, they're following a path forged by RBWH's Sexual Assault Unit.

Former Foundation Board member Laura Perkins recalls the unit's first request for support, back in 2011, and the Foundation's willingness to help.

"During the process of evidence collection, patients might need to hand over the clothing they were wearing. That's an incredibly vulnerable position to be in," Laura said.

"Sexual assault can rob a person of any sense of control. Giving patients the ability to choose new clothing was a small but meaningful gesture."

In recent years, Zonta Brisbane Sunrise have taken up the mantle, providing the Sexual Assault Unit with practical and compassionate care packages for their patients.

Thanks to the extraordinary power of giving, the RBWH Foundation is making the world a kinder place, one garment at a time.



Scan to watch
and learn

(L-R) STARS dietitian researcher
Hannah Olufson and Co-design
team member Bridget Noble



Digesting nutrition education in a digital era

A new series of nutrition education videos, funded by the RBWH Foundation, is transforming the way people in hospitals across the state learn about eating 'well'.

The project was led by STARS dietitian researcher Hannah Olufson, in collaboration with a co-design team comprising dietitians, researchers, previous hospital patients or their carers from across Queensland.

"When discussing the translation of my PhD research into practice, consumers felt really strongly that although hospitals have adequate written information, it was often left at a patient's bedside or lost among other forms patients receive during their hospital journey," said Hannah Olufson.

"They recommended videos that patients could rewatch or share with their friends and family members."

Co-design team member Bridget Noble became involved after her husband John suffered a stroke and experienced aphasia, a language disorder that affects the ability to speak and understand what others say.

"It gave us purpose and gave us an opportunity to work with people to inspire them, because if you build something for aphasia, you build something for all cultures as it provides information slowly and simply," said Bridget.

Testing revealed that most patients (60%) who piloted the videos learnt something new, while 27% reported that the videos reinforced their existing knowledge.

The series is also being rolled out across the state, through the Queensland Health Nutrition Education Materials Online (NEMO) website.

"A lot of funding bodies only fund research, whereas we wanted to translate research into practice through these videos, not necessarily create evidence," said Hannah.

The team also developed a practical co-design roadmap to assist other healthcare teams create high-quality, person-centred education materials in the future.



“It gave us so much comfort knowing that family, friends and work colleagues cared enough about Michael to donate.”

Susan Underhill



RBWH Foundation Philanthropy and Development Director Nadeyn Barbieri with Susan Underhill

IN MEMORIAM

Research legacy honours beloved father and husband

Before Michael Underhill passed away from squamous cell carcinoma of the mouth, he and wife Susan decided they would request donations to the RBWH Foundation, in lieu of flowers at his funeral. In doing so, the family raised a remarkable \$11,000.

“Michael wanted to make sure the donation went towards meaningful research and anything to simplify the diagnosis process,” said Susan.

After his passing, Susan collaborated with Michael’s Radiation Oncologist, Professor Liz Kenny, to find the right project for their generous in memoriam donation. They chose a saliva screening test for early detection of mouth and throat cancers.

The aptly named SPIT trial aims to detect biomolecules and tumour cells in saliva, aiding diagnosis without the invasive mouth biopsies Michael endured, and which Susan recalls were as painful and debilitating as a subsequent surgery.

“It was difficult for him to eat and recover, so anything that could prevent others going through that would be a bonus as the forward journey is challenging,” said Susan.

“We’ll forever be grateful for the care and treatment he received at RBWH, where the medical team did everything they could.”



For information about creating an In Memoriam tribute, please visit rbwhfoundation.com.au or scan the QR code.



Above: (L-R) HGL Managing Director Clement Sham, Joint Office Manager Caitlyn Ramak, Head of Personal Injury Christina Zhong and Support Team Leader Jaali Bywater



GIFTS OF GRATITUDE



Harnessing the power of community

Giving comes in many forms and, for corporate partner Honest Grace Legal (HGL), making a difference means making sure frontline staff feel appreciated.

Since last year, teams from the Brisbane law firm have visited RBWH and STARS on three occasions to show their gratitude for the contribution of hard-working hospital staff.

Sponsoring an array of goodies, including over 600 coffees, biscuits and gift packs, HGL staff took the time to distribute them, in person, to the incredible individuals who dedicate themselves to helping others.

Christina Zhong, Head of Personal Injury at HGL, stressed the importance of acknowledging those working tirelessly to deliver better outcomes for Queenslanders – the people providing care daily and driving change where it’s needed.

“At HGL, we believe in the power of community and the impact we can make when we come together,” Christina said.

“Whether through volunteer work, partnerships, or simply showing up to support those who need it most, we are committed to making a positive difference.”



RBWH Nurse Kimberley Herbst with patient

Pioneering progress in women's health

Throughout the Foundation's history, women's health has been a significant area of focus – due in no small part to the early support and advocacy of Queensland philanthropist, Dr Betty Byrne Henderson AM.

During 1999, and in recognition of Dr Byrne Henderson's commitment to women's health issues, empowering women to make informed decisions about their own bodies and healthcare, the RBWH Foundation launched the Centre for Women and Ageing, named in her honour.

The centre's goal was to improve the quality of later life for women. Its world-first, five year Longitudinal assessment of Ageing in Women (LAW) study, led by Professor Soo Keat Khoo, collected wide-ranging data from hundreds of 40 to 80-year-old women, with the goal of identifying risk factors and the evidence needed to successfully prevent and treat health problems.

The Foundation's generous Asian community also raised significant financial support for the LAW study, raising funds through a 5-year pledged donation plan, a Women's Health Club membership and renowned RBWH Foundation Butterfly Balls.

For teams, then and now, who research and push the boundaries in areas such as perinatal care and the treatment of female-specific cancers, donor support remains essential to closing the women's health gap.



FLASHBACK

2021: From patient to Paralympian - the legend of Lex Leary

As triathlete Alexa Leary clung to life following a cycling accident, her family could never have imagined a few short years later she would swim her way to three Olympic medals while raising life-changing sums for RBWH patients.



"At a clinical level, we must recognise not only the biological realities of weight gain but also the rates of body image disturbance, body hatred and disordered eating among Australian women."

Professor Leonie Callaway

Tackling weight stigma in clinical care

Professor Leonie Callaway, one of the most-cited scientists in the world and winner of the 2022 Women's Health Australasia Medal of Distinction for her contribution to improving the health of women and babies, has her sights set on one particular goal - making clinical care more compassionate for larger bodied women.

"Weight stigma or discriminating on the basis of body size and shape is the last form of discrimination that appears to be acceptable in healthcare," said Professor Callaway.

Now developing an RBWH Foundation funded program to reduce the health stigma suffered by pregnant women with larger bodies, Professor Callaway - Director of Research for RBWH Women's and Newborn Services - said that 'fat shaming' only leads to women avoiding or disengaging from healthcare.

"There is compelling evidence that weight stigma is associated with reluctance to seek health care; it is possible that many of the poor health outcomes experienced by larger bodied women are explained by weight stigma and discrimination, rather than body size."

As she continues to explore the intersection between emotional wellbeing, major life events, adverse childhood experiences, lifestyle factors and illness, Professor Callaway said that ongoing, co-designed consumer research will be critical to improving care for women engaging with health services.

"Instead of endlessly focusing on Body Mass Index (BMI) and your body shape and size, let's talk about things like are you eating enough vegetables, do you go for a walk a few times a week, are you sleeping properly, are your relationships supportive and safe? One of the markers of good health that we don't talk about enough is social connection - all of the literature suggests that would be a far more useful approach."





HBI delivers emergency neurotrauma training to the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland

The future of medicine is here

With the rapidly expanding capabilities of 3D biofabrication and regenerative medicine technology, science fiction is fast becoming clinical reality.

At HBI, teams are already printing personalised medical devices like stents and vascular grafts, patient-matched anatomical models for complex surgical planning and trialling bioresorbable scaffolds for breast reconstruction.

With living joint replacements and regenerated organs in their sights, the generosity of donors will play a key role in enabling HBI's visionary collaborators to continue pushing the boundaries of possibility.

3D printing builds trauma skills for rural communities

With distance and time often critical to patient outcomes, RBWH neurosurgeons have partnered with Herston Biofabrication Institute (HBI) to create a simulated emergency neurotrauma workshop for rural doctors who urgently need to relieve pressure on a patient's brain.

Together with their PhD students, the team created a 3D-printed skull that not only looks real but replicates cranial bone density for an accurate surgical experience.

"When you have an intracranial bleed and the patient is experiencing damaging pressure on the brain, they're at a turning point and need rapid intervention," said Dr Patrick Pearce, Consultant Neurosurgeon.

"This workshop is about building skills and confidence among rural and remote general surgeons and other clinical staff to perform a potentially life-saving procedure."

"We use the same surgical drills that we have in theatre, so it allows clinicians to get used to the equipment and how it handles, and also experience how the instruments interact with bone and tissue."

While skill development is an essential component, Dr Pearce said that decisions on whether to operate are made in consultation with specialist neurosurgical teams who provide telehealth support throughout the procedure.

"We're now in the process of developing models that have interactive hematoma components, replicated from a scan, so teams can see the dispersal of blood and understand how to plan a surgery. That would allow them to understand where drilling holes would be enough to drain the blood and when a craniotomy is necessary, which means removing a section of the skull."

HBI Biomedical designer Roozbeh Fakhr



3D printed training model

FLASHBACK

2020: A new frontier for medicine

The RBWH Foundation makes a milestone \$5-million commitment to Herston Biofabrication Institute (HBI) - the first research institute of its kind. Combining engineering and medical expertise, the institute is at the cutting edge of research and advances in 3D scanning, 3D modelling and 3D printing of medical devices, bone, cartilage and human tissue.





RBWH patient Adam Freeman

The difference between life and death

When the most mundane cough, cold or skin injury can spiral into a life-threatening infection, the ability to identify and treat bacteria faster could mean the difference between life and death.

That's certainly the case for Adam Freeman, who lives with a rare immune system disorder which leaves him vulnerable to recurrent and devastating infections.

"I always treated my health as an absolute priority. I was always really fit - I'd be the butt of people's jokes because of the way I eat and how controlled everything was. Then these things come along that are completely out of your control," Adam said.

Diagnosed with chronic granulomatous disease after a lifetime of lingering illness, topped by a series of highly unusual infections in his 20s, Adam discovered that defects in his white blood cells left him unable to fight off certain bacteria and fungi.

"Genetic testing for bacteria is extremely exciting. If you boil it down, it could save my life," he said.

"The fact that there's people who just have your back - that are in there fighting for years without you even knowing - that's really humbling."

As someone who lives with the lifelong impacts of infections in his lungs, skin, brain and heart, Adam knows that time is of the essence.

"For someone like me, having that rapid diagnosis is critical, not only for potentially getting you the right medication - which can be life-saving - but also because you could get it a lot sooner. Whenever you have these major infections, you inevitably get left with some deficits and some damage.

"So not only could these tests get people better quicker, but they could also spare them a whole lot of health problems they'd otherwise have to live with for another 40 years."

A test that saves time, so clinicians can save lives

The 'Right First Time' whole genome sequencing project, led by Associate Professor Krispin Hajkowitz, could accelerate treatment and reduce unnecessary antibiotic use in intensive care.

Donors, like you, have made this revolutionary trial possible. It will put an ultra-fast genetic test, capable of diagnosing serious viral, bacterial and fungal infections within eight hours, through its paces. The goal, said Associate Professor Hajkowitz, is to give clinical teams a much speedier diagnosis in the face of critical illness.

"When faced with a severe infection, minutes save lives. Yet for more than a century, infection diagnosis has been left to traditional microscopy and culture, a process that can take three to five days," said Associate Professor Hajkowitz.

"This study will trial the use of a groundbreaking ultra-rapid whole genome sequencing (nGS) platform that has already been proven to be effective in pilot studies. From waiting days for results, we could be looking at less than eight hours - that would have a monumental impact for patients in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at RBWH and across the world."



If you would like to donate to more life-changing projects like this, please visit rbwhfoundation.com.au or scan the QR code.



Associate Professor Krispin Hajkowitz

FLASHBACK

2021: Global backing for Coronavirus Action Fund

Launched in March 2020, this international campaign raised almost \$5.8 million to invest in RBWH's contribution to COVID-19 research, from clinical trials to understanding the impacts on staff mental health.



Decades of care for Queensland's most vulnerable babies

Each year in Australia, more than 15,000 babies are born at significant risk of poor neonatal outcomes and life-long disabilities. Improving their survival rates, care and long-term outcomes has been at the heart of the Foundation's mission for the four decades since its inaugural 'Appeal for Life'.

From funding research into pregnancy and birth complications, to providing specialist equipment for the neonatal unit, the generosity of donors has enabled expert teams to save, and transform, lives.

Associate Professor David Cartwright (pictured right), RBWH's former Director of Neonatology and now Staff Specialist, has cared for some of Queensland's tiniest babies since the mid-1970s.

"When I first started, a baby being born at 28 weeks was considered a serious problem. Now we regard 28 weeks as a bit of a breeze," said Associate Professor Cartwright.

"Back then, people were doing their best, but the knowledge and equipment didn't exist to do much more than give a bit of oxygen, antibiotics and gentle care. Nobody had the skills for anything else."

Today, Queensland's most vulnerable infants are reaping the rewards of decades of advances, made possible by teams from the Perinatal Research Centre and the extraordinary power of giving.

In pioneering the development of cutting-edge brain investigation technologies, researchers have enabled the early identification of babies at high risk of neurodevelopmental disability, can determine, in real-time, whether brain rescue therapies are effective or not, and are continuously testing novel therapies to improve brain oxygen delivery and aid in brain repair and development.

While nine out of 10 'extremely premature' babies born at 26 weeks' gestation now survive, Associate Professor Cartwright remains vigilant for opportunities to improve care for the most vulnerable infants and their anxious, overwhelmed families.

"I don't think most people out in the community have the vaguest idea of what goes on in here. When someone lands in intensive care with a 26-week baby, it's a completely different world that they didn't know existed."

"It's a long, drawn-out process. But, thanks to decades of research, innovation and investment, a process that's delivering better and better outcomes."



Top: The early days of NeoRESQ

Middle: The 1997 Globe Trotter cot

Bottom: Nursery, 1982



Co-designing better support for new mums

In 2024, the Breastfeeding Project set out to understand why exclusive breastfeeding rates on discharge at Redcliffe Hospital were lower than at other public maternity facilities across Queensland.

With breastmilk containing essential components to protect and build babies' immature immune systems and meet their nutritional needs, improving support for breastfeeding would have clear benefits for both local mums and babies.

This unique research project was funded by donations to Raise it for Redcliffe Hospital. The project, co-designed and implemented with two clinicians and a consumer, has not only demonstrated the value of listening to women's lived experiences but, importantly, will inform the hospital's strategy moving forward.

"Sue, a consumer, was an equal and integral part of the research team. Her abundance of lived experience enabled her to really connect with the mums who participated in the study, so they felt empowered to speak honestly about their recent breastfeeding experiences," said clinician Terri Curcio.

"The goal for all maternity facilities is to achieve and maintain at least a 75% exclusive breastfeeding or breastmilk-feeding rate at discharge."

"What we found is that many women felt they weren't prepared for breastfeeding," said Project co-lead Kat Ross. "They certainly weren't emotionally prepared for it to be more challenging than they expected."

With those gaps identified, the team see potential for real progress.

"Through better information, preparation and setting of realistic expectations, we can ensure new mums are equipped to navigate common breastfeeding issues," said Terri.

"We'll also be looking to improve midwifery knowledge and skills to support women to achieve their goals."

For Terri and Kat, the crucial next step is a quality improvement project implementing and evaluating the key recommendations from the study.

Top: The 2024 Raise it for Redcliffe Giving Day

Bottom: mother Kritiva Nepal, father Ayush Pudasaini with baby Aariv Pudasaini

TO DATE

\$1

million raised

60+

hospital projects funded

THIS YEAR

6

Wishlist Grants to help patients of all ages across the hospital

5

Special Grants to help children and families

1

Wellbeing Grant to support nurses, doctors and other hospital staff

3

Rehabilitation & Stroke Unit projects officially opened

1

Research Grant for up to 12 research internships

FLASHBACK

2021: Converting a penny to a million

Pennyfarthing enthusiast Associate Professor Joel Dulhunty, then Redcliffe Hospital Director of Research and Medical Education, helped launch the Raise it for Redcliffe Hospital initiative with a 500km fundraising marathon. By 2024, Raise it for Redcliffe had raised \$1 million for health research, staff wellbeing programs and patient care innovation.



Grant Changemakers

The RBWH Foundation’s grants program supports extraordinary opportunities for projects that improve patient care and life-saving research at RBWH, STARS and prestigious Herston research institutes and centres.

We are grateful to the philanthropic individuals, families and organisations who partner with us to make our grant rounds possible.

RESEARCH



Dr Karen Davies
HeIDI and STARS

Digital Evaluation and Implementation of the Medication Administration Evaluation and Feedback Tool (MAEFT) at STARS.

Through observation of nurses’ use of the electronic medication system, we seek to improve safety and provide feedback on best practice at STARS.



Associate Professor Krispin Hajkowicz
HeIDI and RBWH

Right First Time – Ultra-Rapid Infection Diagnosis for Critically Ill Patients in RBWH ICU.

Testing a new ultra-fast genetic testing to diagnose the source of infections within 8 hours, accelerating treatment and reducing unnecessary antibiotic use in our Intensive Care Unit patient.



Dr Emma Seed
Women’s and Newborn Services, RBWH

OptiMising induction of labour care. Low-dose, oral misoprostol versus standard care [OptiMise]: A feasibility study.

With rising rates of labour induction and caesarean sections, we’re investigating whether low doses of a new induction drug can improve and make childbirth better and safer for mum and baby.



Gill Noreiks
Women’s and Newborn Services, RBWH

Humidification management options for infants delivered extremely premature: when and why? A randomised controlled trial.

Preterm babies need extra special care, including keeping skin warm and moist through humidification. We will compare three methods of when to cease humidification to determine the best approach to increase care for premature babies.



Associate Professor Helen Healy
Kidney Health Service, RBWH

PROgnostic MicroRNA biomarkers for Acute Kidney Injury progression (PROM-AKI).

Developing a simple urine test to reduce acute kidney injury and predict recovery outcomes in patients with sudden kidney problems.



Dr Michelle Cottrel
Physiotherapy, RBWH

Codesigning multi-disciplinary musculoskeletal care to better match patients’ needs and preferences.

Redesigning non-surgical care to achieve greater outcomes for patients with bone and muscle issues, such as chronic back or knee pain, with the hope of eliminating the need for surgery.



Dr Peter Window
Physiotherapy, RBWH

Cognitive-behavioural therapy-informed virtual reality in persistent low back pain: a feasibility randomised controlled trial.

Testing the effectiveness of a virtual reality program, combined with pain education and mindfulness, to reduce pain and fear of movement.



Dr Niruthikha Mahendran
Physiotherapy, STARS

Delivering fit-for-purpose rehabilitation together: Co-designing and action plan for high quality and accessible rehabilitation services

Targeting over 4200 Australians who access STARS, the project will collaboratively develop and prioritise solutions and ways to improve how rehabilitation is delivered.



Recipients of the 2024 Sir Ian McFarlane Nursing Awards, which recognise excellence in clinical practice and a commitment to providing the best possible care for patients. Each recipient has received \$1,000 to further their clinical practice through course fees, study leave, resource material or research.

Standing (L-R): Outgoing RBWH Foundation Board Chair Susan Buckley, Veronica Percival (Cancer Care Services), Angela (Yi) Jin (Internal Medicine and Emergency Department), Janene Douglas (Grantley Stable Neonatal Unit, Women’s and Newborns Services), RBWH Foundation CEO Simone Garske, Shona Morrison (Queensland Trophoblast Centre).

Seated (L-R): Metro North Health Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Adjunct Professor Alanna Geary, Ellen Kelly (Cancer Care Services), Kirrah Gallaher (Cancer Care Services), Catherine O’Brien (Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre), Madison Exelby (Gynaecology Unit, Women’s and Newborns Services), RBWH Director of Nursing and Midwifery Tracey Daelman.



Hannah McGlashan
Psychology, RBWH

Implementation and Evaluation of the LaTCH Memory Management Group Program at RBWH, Metro North

Implementation and evaluation of an evidence-based memory group intervention within RBWH, supporting older adults following a mild cognitive impairment diagnosis.



Professor Leonie Callaway
Women’s and Newborn Services, RBWH

Consumer co-design of a multi-component intervention to promote weight inclusive maternity care

Co-design and evaluation of a multi-component intervention program informed by education programs to reduce the health stigma suffered by pregnant women with larger bodies.



Dr Craig Winter
Neurosurgery, RBWH

Informed choices: a Software Solution for Brain Aneurysm Treatment Planning

Providing a ‘smart search’ tool that delivers rapid, evidence-based treatment recommendations for brain aneurysm.



Dr Amy Lin
Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, RBWH

Self-administration of non-opioid oral analgesia post-caesarean delivery: a consumer co-designed implementation project

Implementation of a new combination tablet that will reduce the number and frequency of tablets in low-risk post-caesarean patients, allowing for faster and safer recovery.



Dr Anthony Batterbury
Safety and Quality Unit, RBWH

A collaborative decision-making framework for safer patient placement after MET review – The COMFORTER study

Simplification and integration of models into ward care practice for highly complex patients after medical emergency team (MET) review, better calculating safety risk.



Dr Ross Lindell-Innes
Cancer Care Services, RBWH

68GA FAPI PET Assessment of Pulmonary Chronic Graft Versu Host Disease

Evaluation of a novel non-invasive test that can earlier detect a common complication following stem cell transplantation, avoiding risky biopsies and leading to better outcomes for patients and families

PATIENT CARE



Angela O'Malia
Social Work, RBWH

Discharge with Dignity: Supporting the dignity and recovery of patients at the RBWH Emergency Department affected by sexual assault, domestic violence and homelessness through the provision of appropriate clothing.



Brooke Wadsworth
Physiotherapy, STARS

Dignity at STARS clothing program: This program provides STARS patients with suitable day clothes and toiletries to maintain their dignity and enhance rehabilitation participation.



Catherine Ryan
Safety and Quality, RBWH

What Matters to You?: Interdisciplinary teams co-creating personalised goals of care. Training RBWH staff to ask patients 'what matters to you?' and including personalised goals in their care plan to improve patient experiences and quality care.



Karen Lee-Steere
Internal Medicine and Aged Care, RBWH

Patient Centred Therapy Dogs: A Joint RBWH and mental health funding application supported by the RBWH Patient Friendly Working Group. An expansion of the Therapy Dogs Program to benefit over 10,000 patients, caregivers, and staff, across more than 20 wards.



Kate Dickson
Critical Care and Clinical Support, RBWH

Supporting Access to Healthcare for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Patients. Removing financial barriers for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander outpatients to improve their access to necessary healthcare.



Mrs Karen Tonkin
NeoRESQ and WNS, RBWH

NeoBuddy: Providing a soft toy and message card for parents of premature babies transported by the NeoRESQ vehicle, acknowledging the significance of their life's journey.



Dr Merrilyn Banks
Dietetics and Food Services, RBWH

Cooking Up a Storm: Celebrity Chef Training for RBWH Cooks to enhance their culinary skills, improving patient meal quality.



Jemma Blyth
Cancer Care Services, RBWH

Room with a view: Incorporation of visual display 'windows' into the radiation treatment bunkers, increasing the wellbeing and experience in Cancer Care.



Associate Professor Susan de Jersey
Dietetics and Food Services, RBWH

Enhancing experiences of the 'Living Well during Pregnancy' program through digital tools: for pregnant women to receive timely, relevant advice from clinicians about their health goals.



Jennifer Gillies
Dietetics and Food Services, RBWH

Enhancing post-discharge care: RBWH's Food Parcel Project. Improving patient's wellbeing by alleviating the stress of going home after a hospital stay by providing a food parcel, ensuring that individuals receive essential food items and support during this critical period.



Beth Cunningham
Physiotherapy/Neurosciences, RBWH

Space to Move: redesigning therapy service. Improving functionality and visual ambience of the Level 7 gym, co-designing a safer and better physiotherapy space, attending patients from several wards.



RBWH NICU nurses Courtney Davidson and Elise Stanton



A crafty way to make an even bigger difference

Having seen first-hand the impact of Foundation-funded research and equipment, Elise Stanton and Courtney Davidson, clinical nurses in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, are pouring the proceeds of their creativity and entrepreneurialism back into RBWH.

For Elise, who began her polymer clay earring business, Auburn Clay Co, while on maternity leave during the COVID lockdowns, hospital market days are the perfect way to not only make sales, but to make a difference.

"You'll see us set up in the main atrium of RBWH at various times of the year, usually around Easter, Mother's Day, Christmas and Valentine's Day," said Elise.

"Twenty per cent of our profits from those stalls go straight to the RBWH Foundation, as well as the entire proceeds of occasional \$5 special sales.


"Donations to the RBWH Foundation are a huge driver of progress – that funding helps researchers get important work off the ground and enables services like NeoRESQ bring sick and premmie babies from across the state to our team in RBWH for specialist care. It's a win-win."

FLASHBACK

1988: Expo '88 monorail raises vital funds for patients

A defining cultural moment for Brisbane, Expo '88 was also a philanthropic win for patients, with the Royal Women's Hospital Foundation receiving a share of ticket sales from the iconic Monorail.





RBWH Ngarrama
Midwifery Group

Contact RBWH Foundation

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RBWH
Foundation

rbwhfoundation.com.au



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