



**Impact
2022 - 23**



**Women's &
Children's Hospital
Foundation**

A message from the CEO

Thank you for being part of a community who helps improve the health and wellbeing of women, children, and families under the care of the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH) and its associated Health Network.

This year we launched the Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation (WCH Foundation) Bloom Research Program, which will see an incredible \$10 million investment over five years into health and medical research to help create healthier South Australian mums, babies, and children. With a 100% increase in research investment, and a targeted approach to investing in areas of most need within paediatric and maternal health, we believe we can make a big impact for little people and their mums.

Thanks to the support of our community, some of the most vulnerable babies in South Australia will now have access to coordinated care thanks to the new million-dollar Cocoon Program, a dedicated clinic to ensure these babies can get the best start possible in life.

We continue to fund vital equipment and services, reduce anxiety and stress through our Arts in Health Program and provide a safety net through our Family Support Programs.

Our purpose-built and medically equipped Laklinyeri Beach House remains the perfect sanctuary for families who face significant



challenges. This year, over 40 families were able to stay at the house and create precious holiday memories that might otherwise be out of reach.

As CEO of the WCH Foundation, I'm incredibly proud that we continue to positively impact the health and wellbeing of women and children in South Australia, the Northern Territory, and surrounding regions.

Together, we have contributed over \$2.5 million this financial year and I am delighted to have this opportunity to show you the impact of your generosity. Please know that our Hospital's patients and their families are so grateful for the difference you are making in their lives.

On behalf of everyone, thank you for your support.

Jane Scotcher | Chief Executive Officer

Medical Equipment & Services



The WCH admits approximately 500 patients to PICU each year. Survivors of critical illness in PICU are reported to have long-term physical, psychological and quality-of-life impairments, referred to as Post Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS).

We purchased A MOTomed Layson supine cycle – a piece of equipment to help patients at risk of PICS that provides a safe and feasible way to participate in physical activity earlier. The equipment reduces the prevalence of ICU-acquired weakness and improves the mental health and wellbeing of patients.

We purchased a \$58,000 portable anaesthesia system that administers general anaesthesia to paediatric patients of all ages and can be used in multiple areas of the WCH such as in the Michael Rice Centre for Haematology and Oncology, the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and the operating theatres.

The machine allows treatments to be done in the comfort and familiarity of the clinic or ward space they are used to, rather than the patient needing to be taken to the operating theatres, which reduces the stress that can be experienced by young patients.



Provided **vital equipment & services** to over **130,000 patients** who relied on the Hospital.



Over **\$2.5 million invested** thanks to our community. **Scan to learn more.**

We celebrated the launch of our new 30-metre window mural, *Mirdilyyanthi*, presented by our Arts in Health Program in partnership with the Art Gallery of South Australia and the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN).

This mural is an extension of the Tarnanthi 2021 festival exhibition of the same name. Five Aboriginal artists created pieces that were an expression of their inner-self and an act of love for their Aboriginality and country. Elements from these works have now been transformed into the mural, enriching the environment with the shadows it casts into the corridor.



2-year-old Marcus is under the care of the Paediatric Palliative Care Service at the WCH. His family were invited to stay at our Lakinyeri Beach House – a medically equipped holiday home in Victor Harbor for children in palliative care or with complex care needs, as well as bereaved families.

Thanks to the size and layout of the Beach House, families often invite their friends and relatives to stay. Marcus' parents, siblings, aunty, uncle, cousins, grandparents and great-grandfather all enjoyed the Beach House with him and said it was a pleasure to enjoy new experiences with him with such ease.



For patients with eating disorders, undergoing treatment can cause high levels of distress. During their hospital admission, they are supervised to eat and are monitored for an hour after meals.

To offer some distraction during this hour, patients are invited to take part in a knitting program where they are loaned knitting kits and provided projects to work on tailored to their skill level. Patients can develop new ways to manage their anxiety and develop another tool in managing their eating disorder, or other mental health issues, into the future.

12-year-old Charlie has congenital muscular dystrophy, scoliosis and hip dysplasia. For many children like Charlie who use wheelchairs for mobility, finding a place to stay for a family holiday that meets their needs can be challenging.

Charlie, his parents, and his grandmother stayed at our Lakinyeri Beach House. His parents, Jodie and Steven, say, "We loved the house and found all of the facilities so easy, useful and accessible for Charlie in his electric wheelchair. Having all of the equipment options available on-site is so convenient."



Supported adolescent patients being treated for eating disorders through **65 mindfulness knitting sessions.**



41 families created precious memories at our Lakinyeri Beach House.

Family Support Programs

A child's diagnosis or hospitalisation can often be unexpected and place an incredible amount of pressure on families, with parents needing to reduce, or resign from, their means of income, to be available through their child's time of need.

We work in collaboration with the WCH Social Work Service to identify families experiencing hardship due to the impact of their child's illness. The Programs assist families with items such as emergency transport, accommodation, groceries, utility bills and maintenance of medical equipment to use at home.

Cocoon Program



Some of the most vulnerable babies in South Australia now have access to coordinated care thanks to our new million-dollar Cocoon Program. This is a dedicated clinic for babies under 12 months who are both medically vulnerable and in foster care, or at risk of entering foster care.

Babies and their caregivers receive support from a specialised team in one clinic rather than caregivers needing to attend multiple appointments on different days. It is hoped that this approach will improve the overall care experience for families and caregivers by meeting an infant's emotional, physical, and mental health care needs.

Medical Research



Babies born too early or too small have a higher risk of developing neonatal sepsis – an infection with potentially devastating consequences. Ensuring treatments are effective and safe means babies have the best chance to survive and thrive.

Across Australia, there are at least five different dosing guidelines for an antibiotic commonly used to treat this infection. We funded NeoGent, a research project that compared these guidelines and used the best parts of each to suggest changes to those used in SA so that all babies have the best and safest treatment.

When we think of 'research', we often picture a scientist in a lab peering down a microscope – but it can look very different. We funded research that trialled the use of SMS reminders, called 'nudges', to encourage flu vaccinations in children and adolescents with chronic medical conditions.

The Flutext-4U project found that 'nudges' sent to parents helped improve flu vaccination rates in high-risk children and adolescents and is a great example of how research can lead to simple solutions for big problems.

Helped 130 families experiencing financial hardship through our Family Support Programs.



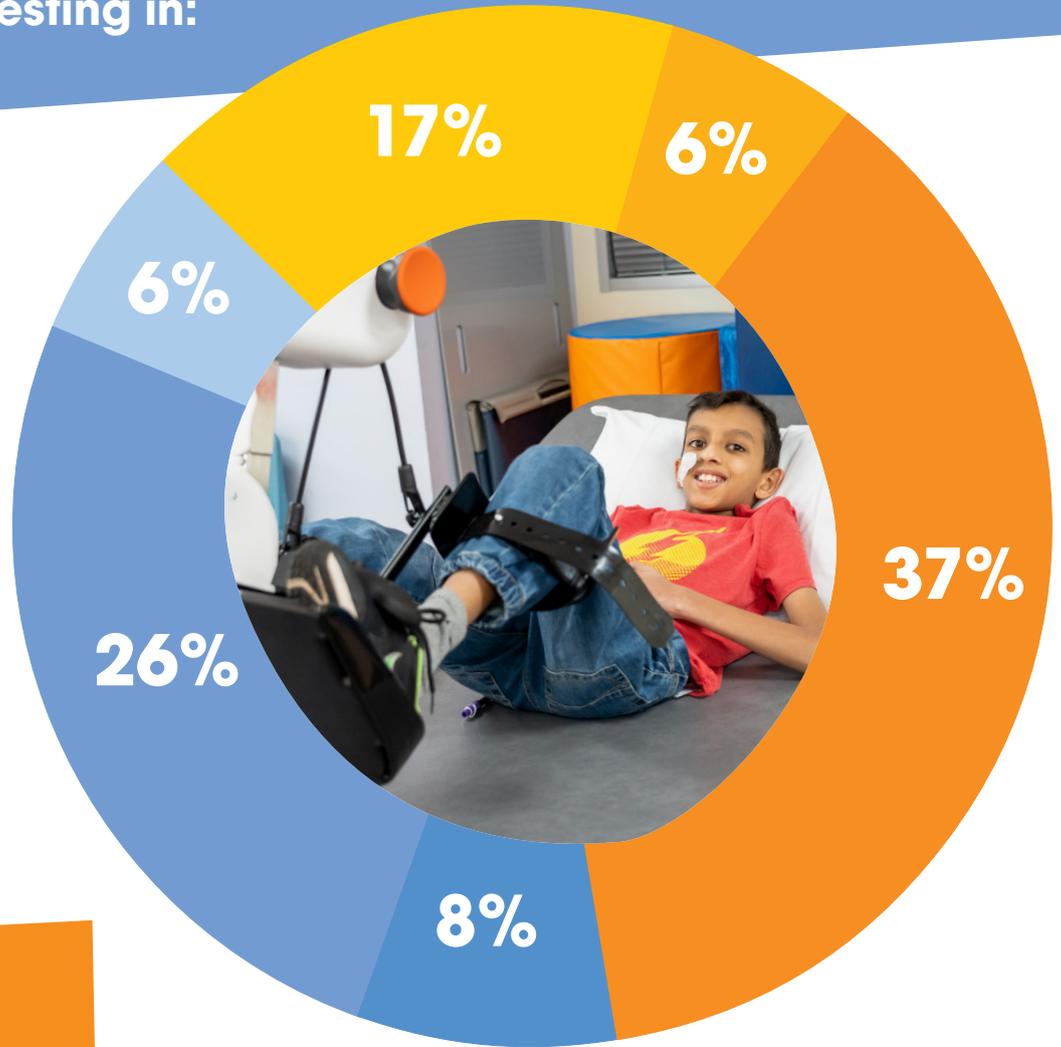
Invested over \$900k in health & medical research in South Australia.



The Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation **improves the health and wellbeing of women, children and families** under the care of the Women's and Children's Hospital and its associated Health Network.

We do this by investing in:

-  **Medical Equipment & Services**
-  **Family Support Programs**
-  **Medical Research**
-  **Lakinyeri Beach House**
-  **Arts in Health Program**
-  **Cocoon Program**



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