



Impact 2019-20



Women's &
Children's Hospital
Foundation

Together, we create a better future that **positively impacts the health and wellbeing of women, children and their families.**

In 2019-20 the Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation community contributed more than **\$2.9 million** to the Women's and Children's Hospital.

“All of our families are so very grateful for the outstanding support they receive because of your generosity.”

– Jane Scotcher



A message from the CEO

Thank you for being part of an incredible community who has helped us continue our support of the Women's and Children's Hospital.

The uncertain times faced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic highlight the benefit of individuals working together to make a difference, and the importance of our health, the health of our loved ones and having access to excellent healthcare.

As the CEO of the Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation (WCH Foundation) I am proud to say those values are at the very heart of our community and I witness them in action every day.

Our community, made up of generous and inspirational individuals and organisations, has a long and proud tradition of working together for the common vision of ensuring the very best healthcare and support for women, children, and their families. That history and impact was recognised this year when His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC Governor of South Australia was announced as Patron of the Foundation.

We started the year celebrating the opening of the 'Laklinyeri' Beach House – a significant milestone in the Foundation's history.

Thanks to your generosity the WCH Foundation responded quickly to the Hospital's priority needs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



WCH Foundation former Chair Nicholas Begakis AO, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC Governor of South Australia and WCH Foundation CEO Jane Scotcher at the opening of the 'Laklinyeri' Beach House.

In the lead up to the pandemic great impact was made in the funding of life-saving equipment, paediatric and maternal medical research, Hospital facility upgrades and incredible support programs including Arts in Health.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many families whose children have been cared for at the Hospital. For some their stays have been brief and for others the Hospital has become their home for many months. All of our families are so very grateful for the outstanding support they receive because of your generosity.

In the following pages I invite you to celebrate the impact you have helped to create.

On behalf of everyone at the WCH Foundation, thank you for your incredible continued support.

Jane Scotcher

Chief Executive Officer
Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation

Together, we create greater good

July 2019

The WCH Foundation 'Laklinyeri' Beach House, South Australia's first purpose-built holiday home for children with complex medical needs and their families, was officially opened.

More than 100 people have now stayed at the extraordinary home on the Fleurieu Peninsula with their time at the Beach House providing the chance to relax and create treasured memories. Their stays are fully-funded by generous donations and gifts in wills to the WCH Foundation.

August 2019

Each year tens of thousands of dollars are committed to our Family Support Fund, providing short-term financial support to families who have sick children and are experiencing financial crisis.

Working in collaboration with the Hospital's social work team more than 60 families have been supported through the Fund over the past year.

September 2019

Therapy dogs visit the Hospital twice a week to assist with patients' rehab as part of Animal Assisted Therapy, a wonderful collaboration with the Hospital's Paediatric Rehabilitation Department.

Patients who engage with therapy dogs experience a reduction in stress and anxiety, gain physiological and social benefits, and improve their communication and social interaction to help them recover sooner.

A patient enjoys her rehab session outside with therapy dog Harper.



The Knight family at the Beach House.

At the start of 2020, the Knight family holidayed at the Beach House. Sue and John's daughter Verity is cared for by the Hospital's complex care team.

"When it was shared with us that the WCH Foundation designed and created the Beach House for families like ours we were so humbled and honoured to be supported and acknowledged in this way," Sue said.

"When we arrived at the Beach House we felt an immediate sense of calm and tranquillity. Every part of the House has been thoughtfully designed and built with love and empathy.

"To have the opportunity to spend time with our boys, Henry and Jonas, and for my mum to have time with Verity has created a unique opportunity to make memories that sustain us on this journey and enable us to feel like a regular family – something I know families like ours don't take for granted."



October 2019

Art provides an outlet for children to explore their emotions and help communicate their thoughts and feelings.

The Paediatric Palliative Care Siblings Program involves a two-day Art Therapy session, held in April and October, for children aged seven to 12 whose siblings have a life-limiting illness or have died.

Through the Program and by engaging in Art Therapy processes, siblings can explore, understand and unpack their feelings. Art provides an outlet for the children to explore their emotions and help communicate thoughts and feelings, which are sometimes difficult to talk about.

The Program encourages siblings to have fun, connect with others in similar situations and develop coping strategies to support difficult and somewhat unpredictable circumstances.

November 2019

The Golden Angels, one of the WCH Foundation's most dedicated community fundraising groups, held their fourth High Tea raising a staggering \$186,314.

The funds established the Golden Angels Palliative Care Support Fund to financially help children and their families being cared for by the Hospital's palliative care service. Each year the service cares for about 40 children and their families. In its first eight months the Fund assisted more than 20 families.

December 2019

Our corporate partners The Lott, Coles, SA Power Networks Employee Foundation and Sodexo generously donated to redevelop the Hospital's Home Equipment Centre.



Thousands of families utilise the Home Equipment Centre each year.

The Home Equipment Centre is accessed by more than 1,200 patients and their families each year.

The equipment available includes oxygen concentrators, portable breathing machines and consumables – feeding tubes, syringes and dressings. Having access to loan or to buy medical equipment through the Centre means patients can go home sooner and live their lives outside the walls of the Hospital.

The redevelopment will see the size of the Centre increased and the location moved for greater accessibility for families.

Together, we create greater good

January 2020

The Oncology School Visit Program creates greater connections between cancer patients' kindergartens or schools and the Hospital.

From January and throughout the school year more than 40 patients and their families are involved in the Program.

March 2020

Wayfinders were installed at the three main entrances of the Hospital. The digital touchscreen machines help patients and their families navigate their way around the Hospital.

February 2020

The wall mural 'Animals went in by A-Z' designed by South Australian artist Anna Cherkasova was a key project in launching the celebrations for our Arts in Health program's 10th year.

Anna spent 30 hours drawing the illustration, featuring 65 animals, onto a wall at the Hospital. Once she was finished the community was invited to bring the mural to life with colour.

Patients, their families and staff spent many hours colouring-in animals and foliage, giving them a short break from hospital life that can be stressful and difficult.



Patients and their families have enjoyed being part of the mural's evolution.



School Liaison Nurse Rob Ellinger.

When a child is diagnosed with cancer navigating how their education will continue can become difficult for the patient, their family, and educators. Staff from the oncology ward and Hospital School collaborate to run the Oncology School Visit Program with support from the WCH Foundation.

"Children who are diagnosed with cancer are possibly missing out on a lot of school, as well as experiencing disengagement with education and peers. Research shows there are less desirable educational outcomes for kids who have gone through oncology treatment. By having this Program in place, we are trying to minimise this," the Program's School Liaison Nurse Rob Ellinger said.

"Through the Program we want to connect with schools, so teachers know how to support students when they return to school and are also educated on their medical treatment plan. By making them feel more supported, it in turn means they can support our patients better."

Our response to COVID-19

May 2020

One-hundred and fifty emergency overnight packs complete with toiletries, slippers and activity books for adults and children were delivered to patients' caregivers in response to the Hospital's COVID-19 infection prevention measures, which saw the closure of its gift shops and restrictions on visitor numbers.

April 2020

Funding was provided to a group of South Australian researchers to begin vital COVID-19 research with one aspect of the study looking exclusively at the effect of the virus in pregnant women and children.

The research contributes to informing the local, national and global response efforts, including the creation of a vaccine.

June 2020

Equipment was funded for children who have conditions where their immune systems are compromised and require immunoglobulin infusions to remain healthy.

The availability of the eight Niki T34 Syringe Pumps enables patients to receive their infusion therapy at home instead of being admitted to Hospital for their monthly IV immunoglobulin infusions, a treatment that takes up to four hours; a great outcome during COVID-19 and one that will continue after the pandemic.



Immunologist Professor Simon Barry (pictured far left) is researching the effect of COVID-19 in children and pregnant women.

Immunologist Professor Simon Barry, the lead of the paediatric, pregnancy and immunoprofiling arms of the study, said the COVID-19 research would help determine why there was such a broad range of symptoms experienced from coronavirus.

"We joined a campaign with many labs around the world to understand what happens in the immune system of patients with COVID-19," Prof Barry said.

"Using samples from positive COVID-19 patients we can measure some of the very specialised immune cells in the blood.

"It's really important to study children with coronavirus. Children may reveal special things about immunity. We want to understand why some children experience symptoms and others don't, as we can use this information to help predict who is going to get seriously unwell so they can potentially be treated sooner."

**Thank you for your
ongoing generosity
and support.**

To learn more about
the impact of your
donations visit
wchfoundation.org.au



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