



**Impact
2020 - 21**



Women's &
Children's Hospital
Foundation

Together, we brighten lives and support brilliant care for vulnerable women, children and families.

In 2020-21, the Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation community contributed more than \$x million to the Women's and Children's Health Network.

"Your continued support means so much to patients and their families.

I encourage you to celebrate and be inspired by the impact you have made in their lives."

– Jane Scotcher



A message from the CEO

We are so grateful for your continued and valued support. As CEO of the Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation (WCH Foundation), I see firsthand the impact our community makes for families from South Australia, Northern Territory, Broken Hill and the Sunraysia Region of Victoria.

The need for hospitalisation is often stressful and it is our mission to support families when they are at their most vulnerable. Our impact reaches every corner of the Hospital and into the community, with key focus areas this year including support of adolescent and maternal mental health, the first 1000 days of life, culturally diverse healthcare, initiatives to get children out of hospital sooner and supporting their transition. Our family support funding has also been vital due to the added financial duress experienced by families due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In July 2020, we marked the Lakinyeri Beach House's first birthday. With over 300 guests staying at the Beach House since its opening, it has proved to be the perfect sanctuary for families who face significant challenges every day. It is their opportunity to relax and spend treasured time together creating memories to last a lifetime.

In September, our community came together to celebrate 10 years of our Arts in Health program. For the past decade, the program has created an interactive and vibrant hospital environment that has improved the health and wellbeing of patients, their families and Hospital staff, impacting over 83,000 patients every year and delivering a range of activities from visual art



exhibitions to literature and music programs, to assisted therapy using play, art and animals.

We continue to invest over \$1.5 million each year in South Australia's best and brightest medical researchers to drive better health outcomes for children and enable the Women's and Children's Hospital to retain leaders in specialised paediatric and maternal medicine.

I am delighted to share this year's Impact Report with you. As you will see, your continued support means so much to patients and their families. I encourage you to celebrate and be inspired by the impact you have made in their lives.

On behalf of everyone at the WCH Foundation, thank you for your invaluable generosity.

Jane Scotcher

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

Brightening lives, supporting brilliant care

July 2020

Each year, the WCH Foundation invests over \$1.5 million in South Australia's best and brightest medical researchers, helping the Women's and Children's Hospital to be at the forefront of specialised paediatric and maternal medicine.

Ten research grants were awarded this year to support PhD, Post-Doctoral and Fellowship research positions, as well as various specific research and project grants. We work closely with the Women's and Children's Health Network to enable research findings to translate into better outcomes for our patients.



September 2020

We celebrated 10 years of our Arts in Health program with pARTy week!

During this week, the Hospital community celebrated with a wide variety of South Australian visual artists and musicians who shared their incredible talents. Patients, their families, and staff experienced amazing interactive art activities while enjoying music, making pARTy week a week to remember.

August 2020

Cops for Kids, a charity run by a dedicated group of current and former South Australia Police (SAPOL) employees reached an amazing fundraising milestone of \$128,000 raised for the WCH Foundation. This included a donation of \$13,000 this year that purchased equipment for our Laklinyeri Beach House.

Our fundraisers in the community are an integral part of the WCH Foundation and the money they raise for equipment like this allows children with complex care needs to enjoy a family holiday, something they are often otherwise unable to do.

October 2020



November 2020

Thanks to the support of five corporate supporters; The Loft by SA Lotteries, Sodexo, Curing Homesickness, Coles, and the SA Power Networks Employee Foundation, the Women's and Children's Hospital Home Equipment Centre relocated to a refurbished and larger premise.

The Centre's new location, at the entrance to the Samuel Way Building, is more convenient for families to access and parking is now also within metres.

December 2020

It was always imagined that our Laklinyeri Beach House would welcome families with children in palliative care or with complex medical needs, and this year it became a special space where bereaved families could continue to grieve and heal.

The Self family stayed at the Beach House over Christmas which was the first time they had spent quality time together after their youngest son Felix passed away.

"The House is so much more than just walls, windows, beds and toys – it's a place of memories, peace and joy," Rebecca said. "It is soul-renewing."



Over the past 10 years, our Arts in Health program has brightened the lives of thousands of children in the Hospital.

This vital program helps to relieve suffering, anxiety, and depression and improve hospital patients' recovery. It focuses on encouraging creativity, providing moments of calm in a busy health environment, and easing the distress of patients and their families.

Artwork and activities serve as a distraction from the pain and discomfort that young patients endure, and contribute positively to the emotional, social and psychological health and wellbeing of patients, their families and Hospital staff.



Every year more than 1,200 families like the Bocks rely on equipment from the Home Equipment Centre to enable their children to be cared for at home rather than in the Hospital.

Amelia Bock (pictured left) was diagnosed with an extremely rare chromosome disorder after being rushed to the Women's and Children's Hospital at birth. Equipment Amelia has required from the Centre includes oxygen tubes, replacement buttons for her feeding tube, extension tubes, syringes, IV sponges and adhesive remover wipes.

"This equipment means she can stay healthy and meet her milestones, and we can manage Amelia's condition at home instead of being in hospital, which means less admissions for us, so that's fantastic," her mum, Amanda, said.

Brightening lives, supporting brilliant care

January 2021

Registered Music Therapist, Maybelle Swaney, provided Music Therapy to the tiniest babies and their families in the Hospital nurseries.

Maybelle partners with parents to provide a positive sensory stimulus for their babies and promote bonding experiences. This includes supporting families to create songs and lullabies, play music and sing to their babies.

There is evidence that this helps to encourage attachment, support recovery and improve growth and development for babies in hospital.

March 2021

Delta Therapy Dogs were reintroduced into the Hospital as part of our Collaborative Animal Assisted Therapy (C-AAT) program with the Paediatric Rehabilitation Department.

Delta Therapy Dogs help patients to reduce their stress and anxiety, gain physiological and social benefits and improve their communication and social interaction to aid their recovery.

WCH Occupational Therapist, Mel Mason, said, "The C-AAT Program has a significant impact on our ability as therapists to deliver rehabilitation to children."



May 2021

We provided funding for the development and improvement of culturally appropriate educational resources for Indigenous children diagnosed with cancer and their families, a support group for women from the Aboriginal Family Birthing Program (AFBP) and equipment like smokerlyzer units and breast pumps for the AFBP.

Culturally safe care like this helps parents feel safe to present to, and engage with, the Hospital which benefits the health of themselves and their children.

February 2021

CAR-T researchers' cure for childhood cancer became one step closer to clinical trials. The revolutionary therapy that homes in on and destroys cancer cells could soon be used to tackle hard to treat solid cancers.

The project, backed by the WCH Foundation, was developed by researcher and Chief Medical Scientist, Professor Simon Barry, with Carina Biotech.

Gifts left in Wills are a major source of funding for medical research. Importantly, these funds enable researchers to pursue promising research leads.



April 2021

The WCH Foundation supported the creation of a 'Butterfly Garden' at the Women's Health Services site in Port Adelaide as a healing space for clients who have suffered trauma and violence and for the staff that support them.

Being in nature has been shown to reduce symptoms of stress which in turn rests and calms the nervous system which is often severely impacted by trauma for victims of domestic and family violence.

The garden will be used clinically to take a break from sharing challenging stories, offer a quiet space for therapeutic work, and help prevent vicarious trauma on staff.

June 2021

Having a baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) can be a very distressing time for families. We funded a project that recognises the importance of family-centred care and aims to develop and improve family connections and resilience during nursery stays to facilitate a confident, safe and seamless transition home.

The project includes the placement of a parent representative with shared experiences to support families, the education of staff in infant mental health, as well as vital equipment to monitor the effects of noise on newborn babies.



Special
Care Baby
Unit

Baby Freddy was born 10 weeks premature at the Hospital. He spent one week in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and five weeks in the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU). Freddy's parents, Kara and Haydn, undertook the Music Therapy program as a welcome distraction from hospital life.

"In the first month, I couldn't do much for Freddy. I could express milk and I could hold him for a couple of hours a day. He needed to be in his incubator growing though. So, to be able to focus on something else made it a lot easier," Kara said.

With Maybelle's (pictured left) help, the pair recorded an album of songs and story readings that they still play to Freddy now at home to soothe him to sleep.



The WCH Foundation regularly engages with the staff of the Women's and Children's Health Network to fund their innovative ideas through grant rounds.

Upwards of \$150,000 worth of grants are awarded each March and September to projects, equipment and research that aligns with our mission to support vulnerable families who are cared for by the Hospital, with key focus areas including support for the first 1000 days of life, adolescent and maternal mental health, transitional care, and culturally diverse healthcare.

These grants encourage WCHN staff to consider improvements to their areas, allowing them to continue providing the most brilliant care to families.

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

To learn more about
your impact visit
wchfoundation.org.au



WCH Foundation
Ground Floor
55 King William Road
North Adelaide SA 5006

Phone: 08 8464 7900
Email: hello@wchfoundation.org.au
wchfoundation.org.au

  @wchfoundation