



Leukaemia  
Foundation  
VISION TO CURE  
MISSION TO CARE



# ANNUAL REPORT

*2018-19*



# Providing a home full of heart

The Nield family were overwhelmed by the kind and thoughtful care provided by the Leukaemia Foundation while seven-year-old Rocco battled Hodgkin lymphoma (HL).

*Our son Rocco's 6th birthday we will never forget. My husband Joel and I sat stunned watching him in his hospital bed. Just the day before they put a port under his skin so they could easily administer the chemotherapy drugs, he was still sore from this. 'Chemotherapy for your 6th birthday' I thought to myself. The hospital staff came into his room and sang him 'Happy Birthday'. It all seemed so surreal. I knew this was a day we would always reflect on." – Emma Nield, Rocco's Mum.*

A farming and fishing fanatic, life for Rocco on the Nield's family farm was a-buzz with the best days spent out on the wheat header helping Dad.

Always full of energy and never showing any signs of being unwell, the family were rocked by Rocco's first HL diagnosis three years ago.

A lump on his throat started growing rapidly and Rocco was diagnosed with HL in the following weeks.

The growth was able to be removed completely and life went on for the family with Rocco being closely monitored.

Devastatingly, late last year the cancer returned with the family having to leave their home so Rocco could receive life-saving treatment in a capital city.

"We were told we would need to be in Adelaide, six hours drive from our home, for four months while Rocco had chemotherapy," said Emma, Rocco's Mum.

Emma wasn't having much luck finding a suitable place to stay when she came across the Leukaemia Foundation online, offering accommodation for families going through blood cancer.

They were provided with a three-bedroom unit perfect for the family, with younger sisters, Capri, 5, and Maisie, 2, in tow.

"We were provided with such a beautiful unit just a short 10-minute drive from the hospital, making life so much easier," said Emma.

The Nields were able to return home just before Christmas 2018, with the family recently receiving the news that Rocco is cancer-free and in remission.

"Rocco is doing really well now, free of his cancer and back at school," said Emma. "He will continue to have checkups every three months in Adelaide."

"We will be forever grateful for the amazing support and real friendship we were shown in the Bridgestone Australia Leukaemia Foundation Village – we couldn't have made it through without it."

This care and support was made possible by all the generous donors and supporters of the Leukaemia Foundation throughout the financial year.

Read the Nield family's full story at [www.leukaemia.org.au/providing-a-home-full-of-heart/](http://www.leukaemia.org.au/providing-a-home-full-of-heart/)







## Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Board, I am proud to present our 2018/2019 Annual Report.

The Leukaemia Foundation was established to increase survival, improve outcomes and increase quality of life for people living with a blood cancer and their families. With the generosity of our supporters and dedication of our people, we continue to strive to reach our goal of **zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035**.

Our supporters make a difference in the lives of the 110,000 Australian men, women and children living with blood cancer, their families, and carers as they continue to receive the support they need to conquer their diagnosis.

This year, as with every year, our work was based on the understanding that every person living with blood cancer should have equal access to treatment, support and opportunities to help them live their best lives possible.

Every year more than 15,000 Australians are diagnosed with a blood cancer such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma, and our recent analysis through the **State of the Nation: Blood Cancer in Australia Report** shows the number will increase to around 36,000 people by 2035 if we do nothing.

Blood cancers, as a group, are amongst the most prevalent and deadly cancers affecting Australians today, and they are also expensive to treat. We need to change this.

Our goal is to reach zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035. To achieve this, we need to ensure all Australians, regardless of where they live, have access to the best possible information, treatment and care.

Thanks to our supporters, together we are creating change. Their support is the driving force behind providing practical support like accommodation, transport and emotional support, but also helping fund ground-breaking blood cancer research that leads us closer to better treatment, and ultimately a cure.

We are passionate about attacking every blood cancer, from every direction, in every way we can. A mission underpinned by the goal of zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

Beverley Mirolo, OAM Chair of the Board, Leukaemia Foundation



## Message from the CEO

In 2018, over 15,000 Australians were diagnosed with a blood cancer.

Last year, we spoke of our new strategic goal. Our strategy was informed by the rights and needs of what people living with blood cancer and other stakeholders have told us they want. The Leukaemia Foundation has always focused on access, and our current strategy is no different; equity of access to the latest and most appropriate treatment, access to treatment, access to information, and access to clinical trials, diagnostics and tests. This strategy will place us on a path to **zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035**. This year, the journey to our bold new goal has truly begun.

We are putting the Leukaemia Foundation in a position of authority by commissioning the **State of the Nation: Blood Cancer in Australia** the first report of its kind on blood cancer. The Report is a significant milestone in the history of the Leukaemia Foundation, that tells us that blood cancer is a major priority for the Australian community. Up to 7,500 people lose their life every year making blood cancer one of the biggest causes of cancer death that impacts young and old in every region in Australia.

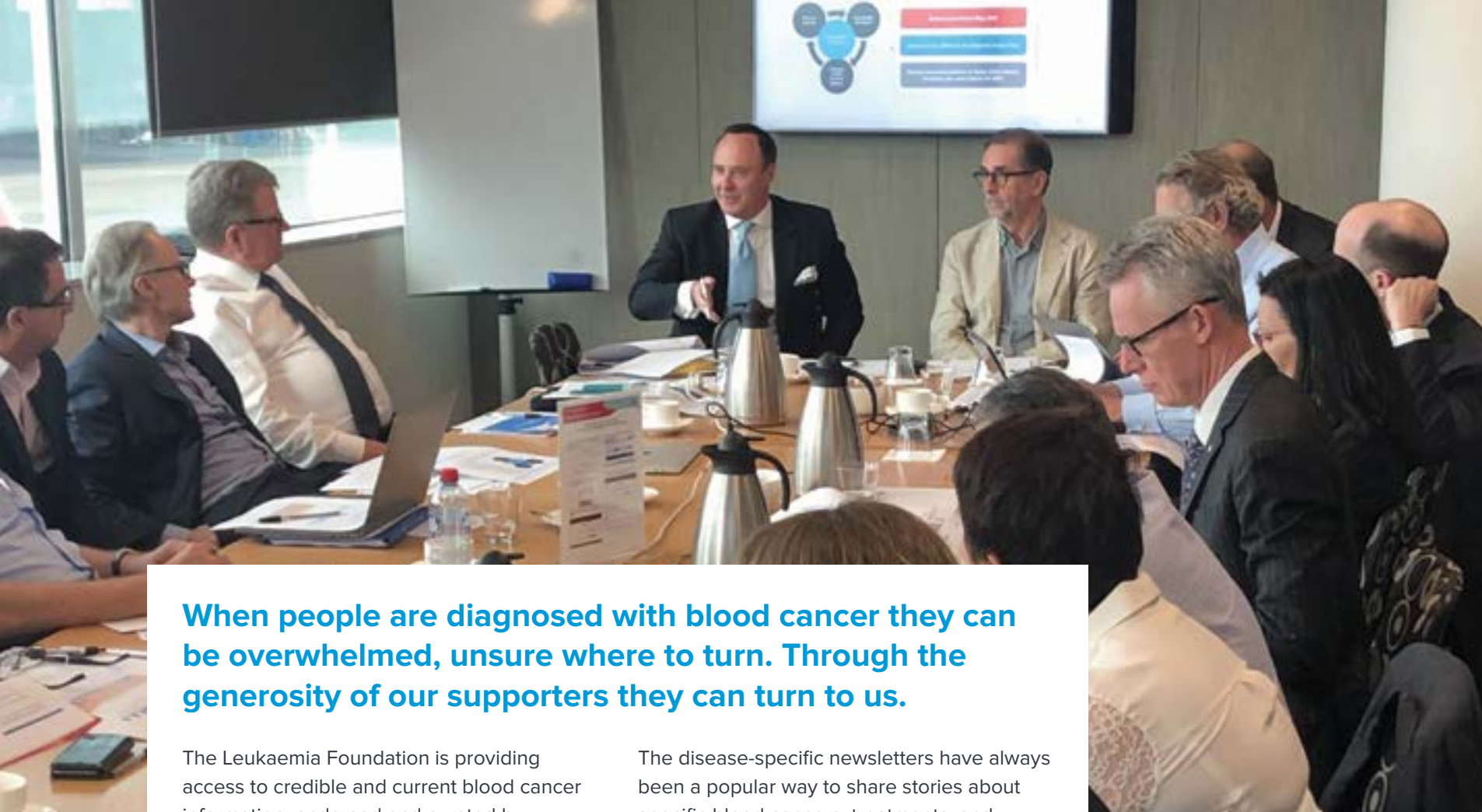
In the lead up to publishing this report in September, we worked closely with the Federal Government to establish a **Blood Cancer Taskforce** to address the rural divide which sees 40% of people living with blood cancer reside outside of metro areas.

We are saving and changing the lives of people with blood cancer to ensure access, no matter where they live in Australia, is the same. We have continued to deliver innovative services to people living with blood cancer including adjustments to many of our national programs such as transport, financial assistance and funding for access to clinical trials for rural and regional people living with blood cancer.

We are uniting our voices with those that support our cause to take a stand against blood cancer. Together, we are bold enough to believe in our goal. We are continually humbled by the generous support for people living with blood cancer. We will continue to help our people, our members, and our volunteers learn, develop, and contribute every day to make our goal a reality.

Over the last year, we have found even more ways to work effectively and efficiently to ensure that we make the most of our time, talents and our resources. Now more than ever, we need to stand shoulder to shoulder and demand action to ensure 100% access to the right information, the best treatments and services, and the latest trials, tests and diagnostic tools to all Australians not just to survive – but also live well.

Bill Petch CEO, Leukaemia Foundation



**When people are diagnosed with blood cancer they can be overwhelmed, unsure where to turn. Through the generosity of our supporters they can turn to us.**

The Leukaemia Foundation is providing access to credible and current blood cancer information, endorsed and curated by experts. This year, we focused on health literacy; empowering people living with blood cancer to navigate the health system and play an active role in their cancer journey.

With continued support, our voice will be trusted, talking loudly and clearly about blood cancer across Australia.

### **Transforming the delivery of information**

We are changing the way people living with blood cancer receive information and education material from the Leukaemia Foundation.

The disease-specific newsletters have always been a popular way to share stories about specific blood cancers, treatments, and research with people living with blood cancer and with our generous supporters.

To ensure we were meeting the needs of people living with blood cancer, we undertook a project looking at these newsletters, to ensure their management and delivery is sustainable and makes the best use of our resources.

From these insights, we have begun to design and test a new way of delivering this information to people living with blood cancer including new types of information requested by our readers.

## **Providing access to credible and current information**

**In October 2018, we received confirmation that our application for Health on the Net (HON) Certification was successful.**

Health on the Net (HON) Certification means the information we provide on our website is created or approved by trained and qualified professionals to support the relationship between a person and their doctor/health professional.

People living with blood cancer can rely on and use the information we provide to have informed discussions with the health care team about their disease, treatment options, and quality of life.

### **Advocating for health care reform**

In April, the Leukaemia Foundation welcomed a commitment from the Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt to establish a Blood Cancer Taskforce and to develop Australia's first National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer.

Co-chaired by Bill Petch (CEO, Leukaemia Foundation) and Professor John Seymour (Director of Cancer Medicine, Clinical Research and Haematology, Peter MacCallum Centre), the Taskforce unites Australia's leading haematologists, researchers, patients and members of the blood cancer ecosystem for the first time. Their role is to provide a blueprint to help tackle the key issues facing the blood cancer community today and into the future.

The formation of the Taskforce and development of the Plan by June 2020 will mark a major milestone for the blood cancer community and set the national agenda around blood cancer for many years to come.

You can view a full list of Taskforce members at [www.leukaemia.org.au/about-us/mylifecounts/bctaskforce](http://www.leukaemia.org.au/about-us/mylifecounts/bctaskforce)

# **BEING THE AUTHORITY**



# Providing access to promising new drugs

**We are providing access to promising new drugs, currently being tested abroad, through a funding program that will help blood cancer patients.**

We have partnered with the nation's leading blood cancer clinical trial group – the Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group (ALLG) – to establish the Trials Enabling Program. This program allows Australian patients to take part in internationally-led trials without leaving the country.

The clinical trials will deliver new therapeutic drugs to patients years ahead of the expected availability on the Australian market. Participation in a clinical trial means patients are getting access to the latest ground-breaking research. Previously, only 1 in 5 Australians diagnosed with blood cancer were able to access a clinical trial.

Each day, 41 Australians are diagnosed with a blood cancer such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma. While there has been remarkable progress in the development of new treatments over the past decades, up to 7,500 people in Australia are expected to lose their life to blood cancer or related blood disorders this year.

In 2018/2019, we are supporting two clinical trials under the Trials Enabling Program. The first, is for Hodgkin lymphoma led by Professor Mark Hertsberg, and a non-Hodgkin lymphoma trial led in Australia by Professor Judith Trotman.



## A clinical trial saved Loga's life

**Nine-year-old Loga struggled to battle her leukaemia after several unsuccessful chemotherapy treatments.**

Loga's last resort was an experimental CAR-T cell trial, which she travelled all the way to the US to access. This trial involved taking Loga's T-cells from her blood and genetically modifying them in the lab to give them the ability to attack any cancer cell that expressed a certain protein on its surface. This treatment was very effective and finally put Loga into remission.

The CAR-T cell treatment is experimental and there is still a long way to go with establishing this as a front-line treatment for everyone. This isn't a silver bullet as Loga's cancer would eventually find a way to beat this treatment as well. She has now undergone a bone marrow transplant to give her the best chance to beat her blood cancer.

It will take several months for her to recover and get back to her normal self, but she has returned to school, and the family all remain positive.

*"Without this personalised approach to care – Loga would not be with us. It is so important that we continue to invest and develop research into this emerging treatment to ensure every child diagnosed gets the same chance as my daughter." said Pari, Loga's dad.*

# SAVING AND CHANGING

# LIVES

**We have created a lasting impact through innovative services, research and collaboration, transforming the future, so everyone has equal access to the highest quality treatments and care.**

Our supporters have enabled us to provide people living with blood cancer with innovative services and support when they need it most. This year, we've created personalised support assisting people in navigating their disease and the health system through the provision of support, resources and interventions, and provided hope through life-saving cutting-edge genetic testing.

This ensures people living with blood cancer get whatever they need, wherever they live.

### Creating a lasting impact

Our supporters have helped people living with blood cancer access and connect to the services and support they need when they need them.

After a long and complicated journey to diagnosis, Bronwyn Bisley from Tatura in Victoria started chemo in nearby Shepparton. Later, she chose to continue her treatment in Melbourne.

Bronwyn said she "wouldn't have managed at all" if she hadn't had accommodation, transport and emotional support from the Leukaemia Foundation.

*She had "the most wonderful experience" with the team of transport volunteers who drove her to Melbourne and back home to Tatura.*

*"I can't tell you how much I looked forward to those trips. Often, I was on my own with the driver, and we would just talk flat out.*

"I really valued that. It made me feel like a human," said Bronwyn.

"It felt special to have this connection with someone I didn't know."

Read Bronwyn's full story at [www.leukaemia.org.au/bronwyn-advocated-for-when-and-where-she-was-treated](http://www.leukaemia.org.au/bronwyn-advocated-for-when-and-where-she-was-treated)



**47 trained Leukaemia Foundation health professionals supporting 7,929 people living with blood cancer around australia**

**29,937 trips by volunteer drivers, taking people to and from treatment**

**Practical assistance to manage family and financial matters including 1094 instances of financial support valued at \$192,110**

**986 unique families were provided a home-away-from-home in the last financial year, some families staying twice or even three times.**

### Nights of accommodation provided:

**NSW**  
8,732

**QLD**  
27,211

**ACT**  
153

**NT**  
859

**SA**  
3,264

**TAS**  
1,701

**VIC**  
6,349

**WA**  
2,778

**OTHER INC. TORRES STRAIT**  
1,691

**Accommodation provision across 172 units nationally to keep families together during treatment totalling 52,738 nights of accommodation**



**Emotional support and assistance accessed 23,282 times by individuals and families living with blood cancer**

**Disease focused newsletters providing trusted information to over 31,000 people with blood cancer and health professionals each year**

**Support groups for people to share experiences and learn about their blood cancer. Over 370 groups run annually**





# Driving personalised support

**We have created a lasting impact through innovative services that address the unmet needs of people living with blood cancer.**

Cancer Concierge is a tailored and personalised program which assists people to navigate their disease and the health system through the provision of support, resources and interventions. The pilot was aimed at people diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) and ran for six months.

In May 2014, Patricia Stevenson was diagnosed with CLL.

Patricia said it “was a godsend” that she happened upon an advertisement for the pilot program for Cancer Concierge.

Topics explored with the participants included physical and emotional well-being; caring for the carer; being connected (with their healthcare team as well as the Leukaemia Foundation and their peers); nutrition and diet, relationships; their financial well-being; and their on-going need for support.

*“Connecting with the Leukaemia Foundation is massive; it’s like having a safety net,” said Patricia.*

Security is what she gained most from the Cancer Concierge program “to know you’ve got someone at the end of the phone who has a good idea of what you’re going through”.

The program is being evaluated to see if this way of assessing people’s needs and providing targeted interventions in other disease groups could potentially shape the delivery of Leukaemia Foundation support services moving forward.

We would like to thank Janssen and Gandel Philanthropy for their support of the Cancer Concierge trial program and making this pilot possible.

Read Patricia’s full story at [www.leukaemia.org.au/going-through-treatment-has-taken-the-worry-out-of-watch-and-wait-for-patricia](http://www.leukaemia.org.au/going-through-treatment-has-taken-the-worry-out-of-watch-and-wait-for-patricia)

## The Leukaemia Foundation National Blood Cancer Conference 2018

**The Leukaemia Foundation National Blood Cancer Conference was held in September 2018. The conference brought leaders in blood cancer research, treatment, and well-being together to share their knowledge and expertise in a national conference designed for people living with blood cancer.**

The 2018 conference saw a change in format to previous years, consolidating past state-based events into one national conference in Melbourne. Speakers at the conference were recorded during their presentations, and that video and audio content was shared on our website. This ensured the highest calibre of speaker and most relevant research was available to all.

We would like to thank Tour de Cure, Celgene, Amgen, Pfizer, Novartis, AbbVie and For Benefit Medicines for their support of the Blood Cancer Conference in 2018.



# Joining forces with world-leading blood cancer organisations

The Leukaemia Foundation has partnered with the US-based Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) and the Snowdome Foundation to fund four blood cancer research projects led by Australian researchers through the Translational Research Program.

The Translational Research Program funds new and innovative research that shows high promise for translating basic biomedical knowledge to clinical application.

This is a great example of three leading organisations coming together to support the most innovative blood cancer research with the potential not only to improve treatment and outcomes for Australian patients, but for people living with blood cancer around the world.



Image 1: Professor Ricky Johnstone at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne is harnessing the power of epigenetic regulators to make the blood cancer cells of Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma patients more sensitive to killing by chemotherapy.



Image 2: Dr Steven Nutt, at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne, is developing a small molecule to Interferon Regulatory Factor 4 (IRF4) as a therapy for multiple myeloma patients.



Image 3: Dr Charles Mullighan, at St Judes Children's Research Hospital in Memphis USA, is harnessing a new type of therapeutic called a PROTAC which will be tested in combination with existing therapies in treating high risk ALL patients.



**Research investment**  
**\$1.75M**  
**25 projects**  
**7 states/territories**  
**\$50M since 2002**



Dr Ashwin Unnikrishnan, at the University of NSW in Sydney, is investigating what happens to MDS cells when treated to determine new treatment options for MDS patients.

## Support has further enabled:

1. Strategic partnerships with research centres across Australia and globally by working together, these centres are accelerating breakthroughs that would not be possible through a fragmented research approach. We are partnering with:

- Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG)
- The Snowdome Foundation
- Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand (HSANZ)
- Cancer Australia
- The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of USA (LLS).

2. From early phase research through to clinical trials:

- Four Strategic Ecosystem Research Partnerships' projects with researchers who share our vision and whose research aligns with our research priorities.
- Four Translational Research Program projects focusing on vital blood cancer research programs across myeloma, lymphoma and leukaemia.
- Three PhDs for medical and science graduates to pursue a research career

in blood cancer by combining resources and working in partnership with HSANZ. The Leukaemia Foundation thanks the Bill Long Charitable Trust, managed by Equity Trustees, and Bridgestone Australia for their contribution to the program.

- Five Cancer Australia Projects Nurturing 'early career' medical researchers to discovering better and safer blood cancer treatments keeping the most promising and exciting talent in Australia. This year, these projects are all led by early career women researchers.

3. We are supporting the Centre for Blood Transplant and Cell Therapy (CBTCT) to develop a world class, multi-centre approach to design and deliver improved therapies to treat blood cancers and both prevent and treat the debilitating and deadly graft vs host disease.



# UNITING AGAINST BLOOD CANCER

**Our supporters' loyalty and generosity have lit the way for even more Australian families. The impact their kindness creates will help more people add their voice to the cause.**

Through our generous supporters, along with our sponsors and business partners, we're standing shoulder to shoulder against blood cancer to create positive change. With so much to be achieved and many ways to support those with blood cancer – now and in the future – we will be united against blood cancer.

## Our biggest fundraising events

### Light the Night 2018 Highest Fundraisers



**White** = Marlise Jones - Brisbane Light the Night - \$12,786



**Gold** = Danny Poljak - Cronulla Light the Night - \$12,153



**Blue** = Julieanne Pham - Wollongong - \$5,774



**Host** = Georges River - NSW - \$25,645

### U.G.L.Y. Bartender of the Year Highest Fundraiser 2018

Carina Leagues Club - Katherine Ward - \$35,360 - QLD



### Aussie Muscle Car Run 2018

60 muscle cars, 120 participants, and support crew of 20 raised \$551,046 over seven days.

### World's Greatest Shave 2019 Highest Fundraisers



**Top Individual**  
Abby Coleman - QLD  
\$72,092



**Top School Team**  
Guildford Grammar School - WA - \$93,785



**Top Workplace Team**  
Bunnings Warehouse - National - \$54,360



**Top Family & Friends Team**  
The Elite Incredibles - NSW - \$43,962

## Community Partners

In 2018-2019, our Community Partnerships brought our supporters together with the wider community to dance, stomp, walk and run across some iconic Australian venues and beyond to the Great Wall of China. Together, they raised community awareness for people facing a blood cancer diagnosis and vital funds, so that the Leukaemia Foundation can continue its path to zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035. Thanks to our partners:

- » Cancer No Bueno
- » Stadium Stomp – King Performance
- » Sustainable Salons.

*We look forward to partnering with more great events and volunteers in 2019-2020 such as Pont 3 and the Blackmore's Sydney Running Festival, Tour de Cure and LifeRide, Dry July and Spartan. For more information on how to get involved visit [leukaemia.org.au](http://leukaemia.org.au).*

## City2Surf Gorillas

The Stanley-Jones family are a City2Surf institution having been involved in the running festival since 1986. Dressed as gorillas, brothers Paul and Rob, along with Paul's son, Harry, lined up on a cold and windy Sunday, bananas in hand, and began their 33rd consecutive appearance at the race this year.

They raise funds each year for the Leukaemia Foundation as Charity Superstars in memory of their beloved father who passed away from blood cancer a few years ago. He was the instigator of their running journey after exposing them to fun runs as children. Paul first threw the suit on at the age of 16 and now runs the race with his son, Harry.

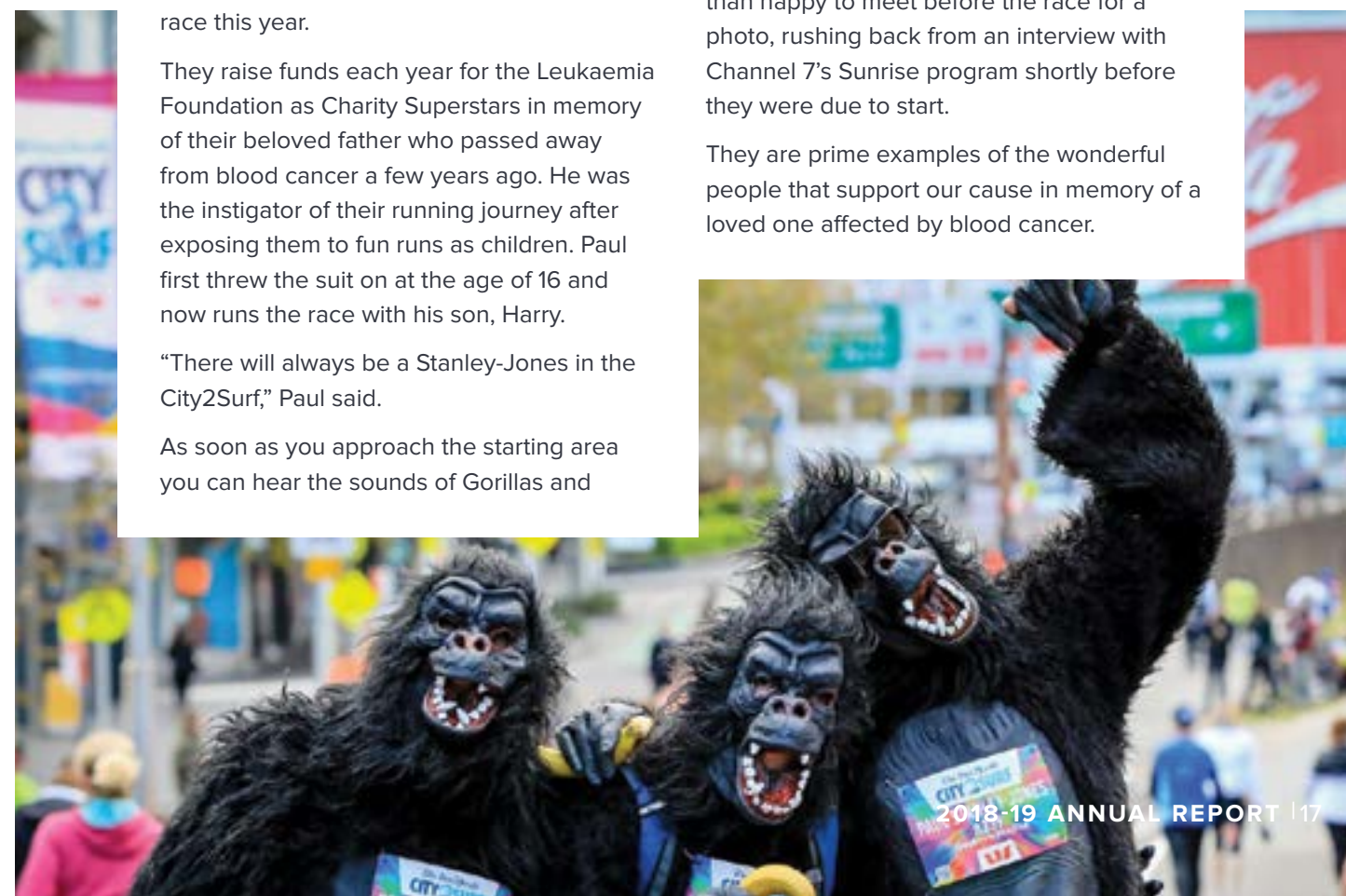
"There will always be a Stanley-Jones in the City2Surf," Paul said.

As soon as you approach the starting area you can hear the sounds of Gorillas and

quickly see them jumping around and photobombing other groups or posing with other runners for frequently requested selfies.

They are deeply invested with the event and the Leukaemia Foundation, and were more than happy to meet before the race for a photo, rushing back from an interview with Channel 7's Sunrise program shortly before they were due to start.

They are prime examples of the wonderful people that support our cause in memory of a loved one affected by blood cancer.





# Thank you

**Blood cancer puts an incredible emotional and financial strain on families in our communities. With contributions from Trusts and Foundations, Major Business Partners and Government grant funders, the Leukaemia Foundation is able to continue providing support and services to the 110,000 Australians living with blood cancer.**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <i>ALH</i>  | <i>For Benefit Medicines</i>                | <i>Nelumbo Trust Fund</i>                       |
| <i>Bert and Vera Thiess Foundation</i>                        | <i>Frederiks Foundation</i>                 | <i>Novartis</i>                                 |
| <i>Bill Long Charitable Trust, managed by Equity Trustees</i> | <i>Gandel Philanthropy</i>                  | <i>Perpetual Trustees</i>                       |
| <i>Bridgestone Australia</i>                                  | <i>Holden</i>                               | <i>Pfizer</i>                                   |
| <i>Brydens Lawyers</i>  | <i>Hoshizaki Lancer</i>                     | <i>Philips Lighting</i>                         |
| <i>Carcione Foundation</i>                                    | <i>Janssen</i>                              | <i>Romaldi Constructions</i>                    |
| <i>Celgene</i>  | <i>John James Foundation</i>                | <i>Stan Perron Charitable Foundation</i>        |
| <i>Charities Aid Foundation</i>                               | <i>Kirsten Charity Trust</i>                | <i>The Alfred &amp; Jean Dickson Foundation</i> |
| <i>ClubGRANTS NSW</i>   | <i>KOJO</i>                                 | <i>The Cory Charitable Foundation</i>           |
| <i>Dry July Foundation</i>                                    | <i>Laz Family Trust</i>                     | <i>Toll Group</i>                               |
| <i>Energy Queensland</i>                                      | <i>Lee Family Trust</i>                     | <i>Tony Fini Foundation</i>                     |
|   | <i>Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation</i> |   |

We would also like to acknowledge and extend our gratitude to the extraordinarily generous people who left a gift in Will\* to the Leukaemia Foundation. There is no greater legacy than a gift that keeps on giving. To all those who prefer to stay anonymous, we also say thank you.

- |                          |                                  |                          |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Carol Madden</i>      | <i>Frederick Slater</i>          | <i>Patrick Quilty AM</i> |
| <i>Carole Weston</i>     | <i>John Baker</i>                | <i>Rosemary Reynolds</i> |
| <i>Davina Sickerdick</i> | <i>Joy Marks</i>                 | <i>Sylvia Murphy</i>     |
| <i>Delia Howard</i>      | <i>Neddy and Carmelina Saaty</i> | <i>Vida Newbon</i>       |
| <i>Delphine Kent</i>     | <i>Noel Petterd</i>              | <i>Yvette Hawley</i>     |

We would also like to extend our gratitude to generous individuals, bequestors and all those who prefer to remain anonymous.

\*gift in Will financially received during 2018/19.

## Ensuring support in the future

**After losing his father to blood cancer at just 63 years old, leaving a gift in his Will to the Leukaemia Foundation was an easy decision for Peter Hall.**

“Being retired myself and able to enjoy hobbies like bushwalking is a stark reminder that my dad didn’t get to retire and enjoy his life after work,” Peter said.

*“Even though my regular earnings have come to an end, I still wanted to support the causes that are close to my heart.”*

“After earning money all your life, it suddenly stops in retirement and people are often concerned about making their funds last. Leaving a gift in your Will is a great way to support the causes that are important to you without eating into your retirement funds.

“Because I lost Dad to acute myeloid leukaemia, leaving money to the Leukaemia Foundation meant I could help other patients and their families beat blood cancers.”

Despite having a Will for many years, Peter said a presentation from the public trustee at his former workplace prompted him to update it, a process which he said was very easy and free of charge.

Many people like Peter choose to give in this way to make a real difference without impacting their lifestyle now.

This year, more than \$6 million was received from 79 caring supporters who had the vision to include a gift in their Will to the Leukaemia Foundation. These gifts provided personalised professional care and practical support services free of charge, including education, transport, counselling and home-

away-from-home accommodation near treatment centres and contributed to medical research to improve treatments and find a cure for blood cancer.

A further 41 wonderful supporters confirmed that they’ve honoured the Leukaemia Foundation with a gift in their Will, helping to lay the foundation of care and research well into the future.

You can help us achieve a future free from blood cancer by including a gift in your Will. It is a simple process that will make a real difference to the lives of people affected by cancer.

If you would like more information about leaving a gift in your Will, please visit [www.leukaemia.org.au/get-involved/gift-in-will](http://www.leukaemia.org.au/get-involved/gift-in-will).







## Investing in the next generation of researchers

### Cor Frederiks' generous gift is helping support the next generation of Australian blood cancer researchers.

Cor Frederiks (1927 – 2017) was a businessman, scholar, author, investor, art collector and company director with a busy accounting practice in suburban Brisbane.

Cor was a strong, giving man with an altruistic heart. He believed in giving back to the community and the power of education.

Cor lost his wife of 15 years, Pauline, to blood cancer in 1970 at just 33 years old – leaving him to raise five young children between the ages of three and 14 years old.

In 2006, he established the Frederiks Foundation, and when he passed away in 2017 his six children came together to honour his lifelong ethos to give generously.

The family has dedicated \$530,000 to the Leukaemia Foundation's Research Endowment to support PhD Scholarships in support of Australia's brightest blood cancer minds.

Leukaemia Foundation CEO, Bill Petch, said the gift is an extraordinary investment in the future of blood cancer research in Australia:

***"This support will give early-career researchers the encouragement, resources and networks to generate new ideas and approaches for tackling blood cancer."***

"These scholarships are an important part of our National Research Program and will be delivered in partnership with HSA NZ, the peak body for haematology researchers and medical professionals."

## Giving to a worthy cause

### The Leukaemia Foundation Transport Service takes more than the financial burden off people living with blood cancer.

Susan Laurance started as a volunteer driver in the service five years ago.

"I wasn't working and wanted to give my time to a worthy cause," she said.

"In my time as a driver, I've had lots of conversations with some really brave people about how overwhelming it feels after a blood cancer diagnosis; to have to manage even the simplest things like how to get to and from hospital."

Susan's passengers tell her there's a lot to like about the Leukaemia Foundation transport service.

"They often comment on how simple it is to book – just a phone call is all it takes to schedule and reschedule rides around their appointments," Susan added.

"It takes the stress off financially because hospital parking and taxis are so expensive, and they often are relieved that they do not have to sit on a bus or jump on a train when they know their immune system is no match for other people's germs during treatment."

"Of course, having a friendly face who understands and picks you up on time, every time makes all the difference when you're not feeling yourself."

Dry July is a fundraiser that challenges participants to go alcohol-free for a month and raise funds for people affected by cancer. Through their annual grant program, Dry July Foundation awards funding to projects that directly will directly benefit cancer patients and their families to cancer organisations across Australia.

In 2019, the Leukaemia Foundation was one of the main major beneficiary charities for the second year of a three-year partnership with the Dry July Foundation. And it wasn't just the supporters of Dry July giving to a worthy cause. Over 80 of our Leukaemia Foundation team gave up alcohol and other indulgences for the month of July and raised \$17,810.

The support from the Dry July Foundation and those who took part in by going dry in July, has helped people living with blood cancer by contributing to funding our accommodation facilities across Australia and the National Transport Program over the last two years.





# HELPING OUR PEOPLE



Janica Lewis, a blood cancer survivor (twice over), is one such team member who works tirelessly every day but this year took it one step further – and higher. Janica was our Great Wall of China Ambassador who led a successful team of supporters on the trek and together they raised over \$100K.

**Our people are bold enough to believe in our goal, working tirelessly every day to make it happen.**

Our people care deeply. For many, they have been touched by blood cancer personally or supported family and friends in their journey. We make the most of their passion for life, keeping them safe so they can spend every day making it count.

## Connected across the country

This year, the Leukaemia Foundation Mossman District Branch is celebrating 20 years of wonderful work. The branch evolved from the Leukaemia Lodge Inc. which was formed in 1997. Their aim was “to build and maintain a respite retreat which provided family support and short-term holiday accommodation for people diagnosed with leukaemia after periods of treatment”.

Funds raised by the branch has supported residential accommodation for people living with blood cancer and their families in Brisbane and Townsville, as well as helping local people and their families during a difficult time. Fundraising events have included home sewing fashion parades, afternoon teas, Melbourne Cup functions, fun runs, numerous raffles, carnivals beach day BBQs, and open gardens, to name a few.

Thank you, Mossman Branch, for your wonderful contribution over the last 20 years!

The Leukaemia Foundation is committed more than ever to our branch, member and volunteer networks across the country. A dedicated team has been engaged to drive a new strategy in how we engage, support and work with these important stakeholders. We are looking forward to increasing our reach and interaction in the coming 12 months and hope to celebrate many more long-term anniversaries with existing and new branches in the future.

Thank you to all our branches, members and volunteers for your continued and generous support of people living with blood cancer.

### Welcome our newest branch: Traralgon Branch

This year we also welcomed our newest Leukaemia Foundation branch, Traralgon Branch. As a local group in the Traralgon community, they had been supporting the Leukaemia Foundation for over ten years, after a friend’s son was diagnosed with blood cancer. They’ve hosted nine Light the Night events and are looking forward to many more exciting fundraising events.

Dawn O’Connell, the president of the Traralgon Branch and the Traralgon community have been supporting the Leukaemia Foundation for years, they have made it official to become our newest branch.

*“Our group was supporting the Leukaemia for ten years last year, and we were doing it before then,” said Dawn.*

Welcome to Dawn and the new Traralgon Branch! We’re so grateful for your support and look forward to seeing what exciting events our Branch has in store!





## Working in partnership to achieve more

**We are proud to have the long-term support of Bridgestone Australia as we enter into this new era of achieving our bold goal of zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035. We would not be where we are today without Bridgestone’s unwavering support.**

The cornerstone of this long-term partnership was cemented on the synergies that exist between the visions of each organisation. Bridgestone Corporation’s global vision as articulated by its founder, Shōjirō Ishibashi, is “Serving Society with Superior Quality”, and the vision of the founders of the Leukaemia Foundation is “to provide better outcomes that increase survival and provide a better quality of life for people with a blood cancer and their families”.

Bridgestone’s partnership with the Leukaemia Foundation, spanning more than 33 years, is one of the mainstays of the company’s commitment to corporate social

responsibility.

This mutually-beneficial partnership delivers impact and outcomes to drive greater support and resources to achieve our goal of working together to enhance the way people live with blood cancer.

“We are immensely grateful to Bridgestone for their longstanding support of Australian families living with blood cancer, through the Leukaemia Foundation,” said Mr Bill Petch, CEO - Leukaemia Foundation.

## National Volunteer Week 2019

**National Volunteer Week is an annual event held in May each year. This year, we celebrated the generous contribution of our volunteers and the service they have provided people living with blood cancer.**

Our volunteers mean a great deal to us and we wanted to show our thanks and recognition for their extraordinary efforts by hosting a morning tea in each capital city and some regional towns.

The National Volunteer Week 2019 theme was, “Making a world of difference”.

Our volunteers’ time, care and dedication in supporting people living with blood cancer is very much appreciated and makes a world of difference to many lives.

*“Our family stayed in the ‘Bridgestone Unit’ at the Bridgestone Australia Leukaemia Foundation Village while our seven-year-old son, Rocco, received treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma.*

*“We will always appreciate what the Leukaemia Foundation did for us during this period of our lives. We are also so grateful to the individuals and businesses, like Bridgestone, who donate to the organisation.*

*“We were lucky enough to meet the Bridgestone MD at one of the village BBQs – it was lovely to be able to talk to him directly about the huge impact the organisation has had for our family.*

*“We don’t know what we would’ve done without your kind support and will be forever grateful.”*

**Emma Nield, cover story**



**We are humbled by the generosity of our supporters and are always looking to find better ways to work, always making the most of our time, our talents and our resources to make their gifts go further.**

We will be transparent as we continue to improve how we use their gifts so we can put everything we can into beating blood cancer. And as more people see we're effective and efficient, they'll trust and turn to us.

# WORKING EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY



## **Community generosity will provide in the future**

**We are grateful for the generous support we receive from the community. As the custodian of these gifts, we aim to ensure funds are managed appropriately for the benefit of people living with blood cancer and their families.**

We carefully budget our funds to manage our expenses and provide our service delivery and support for people living with blood cancer every day of the year.

Part of this strategy requires a large starting cash balance at the beginning of each financial year, as we receive over half of our fundraising income from generous participants and donors through the World's Greatest Shave held each March. This income is mainly received in January to March, and as such, we need to ensure a strong financial position at the start of each financial year (July) to deliver our support and services all year round.

We have a financial reserve set aside to be used in emergencies to protect the operating expenses of the business, so there is no impact on people living with blood cancer and their families.

In addition to our operating and required reserves, there is also a pool of funds that have been set aside for our patient accommodation

facilities in Queensland. These funds were a result of the merge of the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland and the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia in 2016 and are strictly for the support of our 105 accommodation units. Until these funds are fully expended they form part of our investment policy.

We also have a smaller pool of tied funds. These are contributions our supporters have generously donated to fund specific projects—for example, our research projects which extend over several years (e.g. PhD scholarships).

The Leukaemia Foundation is reviewing its investment policy with the focus on investing wisely, safely and conservatively. Excitingly, with the help of our generous supporters, we will be investing in an endowment fund to ensure we can devote future funds to new and innovative research opportunities over the long-term.



## Board Members



(Top from L-R)

Chair – **Carrie Hillyard**, Director – **Beverley Mirola OAM**, Director – **Lucio Di Giallonardo**, Director – **Tony Formica**

(Middle from L-R)

Director – **Associate Professor Maryanne Hargraves**, Director – **Darren Laarhoven**, Director – **Christopher Murray**, Director – **Tim Ridgway**

(Bottom from L-R)

Director – **Robert Yeo**, Director – **Philip Bradley**, Director – **Andrew Soter**

## Executive Leadership Team



(Top from L-R)

CEO – **Bill Petch**, GM, Corporate Services – **Keiran Mylrea**, Acting GM, People Living with Blood Cancer – **Kathryn Huntley**

(Bottom from L-R) GM, Supporters – **Alexandra Struthers**, GM, Brand and Marketing – **Susie Howard**

GM, Blood Cancer Partnerships – **Tim Murphy**

## The Leukaemia Foundation of Australia Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	24,250,322	18,056,039
Trade and other receivables	997,580	816,418
Other assets	1,119,143	426,629
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>26,367,045</b>	<b>19,299,086</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	61,977,933	63,982,489
Intangibles	461	33,468
Capital work in progress	-	103,140
Financial assets	1,466,307	1,406,356
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>63,444,701</b>	<b>65,525,453</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>89,811,746</b>	<b>84,824,539</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	1,694,309	1,682,768
Provisions	1,188,519	1,419,807
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,882,828</b>	<b>3,102,575</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Provisions	606,022	380,901
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>606,022</b>	<b>380,901</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>3,488,850</b>	<b>3,483,476</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>86,322,896</b>	<b>81,341,063</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Surplus	58,502,480	53,529,787
Reserves	27,820,416	27,811,276
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>86,322,896</b>	<b>81,341,063</b>



## The Leukaemia Foundation of Australia Statement of Financial Performance As at 30 June 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Profit and Loss</b>		
Fundraising Revenue	35,511,285	31,055,150
Fundraising Costs	(13,317,721)	(12,189,804)
Net Fundraising Revenue	22,193,564	18,865,346
Other Revenue	4,611,893	4,288,984
Operating costs	(5,022,916)	(5,241,219)
Surplus after Fundraising and operating costs	21,782,541	17,913,111
<b>Fulfillment of mission</b>		
Research Grant Expense	(2,752,746)	(1,426,973)
Patient Support Expense	(14,057,102)	(13,857,796)
<b>Total expenditure on Support Services and Research</b>	<b>(16,809,848)</b>	<b>(15,284,769)</b>
 <b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	 <b>4,972,693</b>	 <b>2,628,342</b>

These summary financial statements have been derived from The Leukaemia Foundation of Australia Limited's Annual Financial Report. The summary financial statement do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements is therefore not a substitute for reading the Annual Financial Report. The Annual Financial Report can be located at [www.leukaemia.org.au/about-us/annual-report](http://www.leukaemia.org.au/about-us/annual-report).

### Give

Your donations mean we can continue to offer free support services to the 110,000 Australians living with blood cancer, including financial and practical assistance, education, counselling and accommodation, and drive some of Australia's vital life-saving cancer research.

### Leave a gift in Will

After taking care of your loved ones, a gift in your Will is a direct and valuable way of helping to create a brighter future for Australians with blood cancer.

### Fundraise

You can get involved in our many fundraising events, big and small, such as World's Greatest Shave or Light the Night or perhaps one of our Team Beat Blood Cancer community events.

### Volunteer

Our wonderful volunteers are a crucial part of our success - getting people to their life-saving treatment, maintaining our accommodation centres or providing administration and event support.

### Partner with us

There are many ways we can work together to help more people living with blood cancer survive. Find out how your organisation can make an impact and share in our achievements.

### Donate your blood or bone marrow

Stem cell transplants and blood donations save lives of many people facing blood cancer. Visit [donateblood.com.au](http://donateblood.com.au) to help.





Leukaemia  
Foundation

VISION TO CURE  
MISSION TO CARE

GPO Box 9954, Brisbane QLD 4001

1800 620 420

[leukaemia.org.au](http://leukaemia.org.au)

