Leukaemia Foundation®

19/20

Annual Report

Leukaemia Foundation

Chairman message

The *State of the Nation: Blood Cancer in Australia* report identified the challenges and opportunities influencing survival and quality of life for Australians living with blood cancer. Armed with this information and with the support of the Federal Government, the Leukaemia Foundation established Australia's first Blood Cancer Taskforce, uniting Australia's leading expert haematologists, researchers, patients and members of the blood cancer community for a common goal – to make sure zero lives are lost to blood cancer by 2035. I am proud to be the co-chair of the Taskforce.

The Blood Cancer Taskforce has worked tirelessly towards developing Australia's first National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer ('National Action Plan'), an evidence-based blueprint to tackle the key issues facing people affected by blood cancer, today and into the future. Alongside the Federal Government, we launched the National Action Plan in September. You can read the Federal Health Minister's media release **here** and learn more at **leukaemia.org.au/national-action-plan**.

People living with blood cancer have faced even greater challenges this year during the global COVID-19 pandemic. At the height of the pandemic in Australia, blood cancer patients accessing treatment had all non-critical specialist treatments deferred in response to COVID-19. This, combined with people adhering to government restrictions and delaying appointments with their GPs, means that we anticipate there will be an increase in diagnoses and an increase in the demand for our support services over the coming year.

The Board is grateful to all of our people, who ensured our accommodation and support services were safe for patients, and who changed the way we work to deliver our services remotely.

Now more than ever, the path to conquering blood cancer requires us to work together and ensure 100% access to the right information, the best treatments, the latest trials, tests and diagnostic tools; and the best supportive care to help people not just to survive - but also to live well.

Dr Carrie Hillyard AM FTSE FAICD
Chairman of the Board
Leukaemia Foundation of Australia

CEO message

Every day, 47 Australian men, women and children will learn they have blood cancer, and sadly 15 people will lose their life to the disease each day.

We know that by 2035 these figures are projected to more than double, with close to 100 people a day diagnosed, and more than 40 people expected to die every day. These are staggering numbers, and while Australians continue to be diagnosed or lose their life to blood cancer, the Leukaemia Foundation will not stop.

Last September, we commissioned a comprehensive and evidence-based *State of the Nation: Blood Cancer in Australia* report to identify the challenges and opportunities influencing survival and quality of life for Australians living with blood cancer. The first-of-its-kind report is unique in talking about blood cancers collectively rather than as individual diseases. It outlined a plan to drive down both the personal and economic toll blood cancer will have on our country.

This report and our work over the last four years have come together to inform our Access Strategy to help unite the blood cancer community in pursuit of a shared goal - zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

We will give every Australian with blood cancer access to:

- trusted information and education to empower informed choices
- best practice treatment and the latest trials, tests and diagnostic tools
- essential supportive care to improve quality of life.

For over 45 years, the Leukaemia Foundation has supported and advocated for people living with blood cancer in Australia. Now we're looking forward to leading a new era of change for the Australian blood cancer community by partnering with industry, government, medical professionals, partners and generous Australians to realise the goal of zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

Alexandra Struthers
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Leukaemia Foundation of Australia

Our Access Strategy

Armed with over 45 years of experience and the evidence-based *State of the Nation: Blood Cancer in Australia* report, we're leading a new era of change for the Australian blood cancer community. We're concentrating our time, talents and resources in three critical areas to help unite the blood cancer community in pursuit of a shared goal - zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

We want to make sure every Australian with blood cancer gets access to:

- trusted **information** and education to empower informed choices
- best-practice **treatment** and the latest trials, tests and diagnostic tools
- essential supportive **care** to improve quality of life.

It's what we call our access strategy.

Inform

Treat

Care

A cutting-edge cellular therapy, made possible by breakthrough research, has given seven-year-old Hunter and his family hope for a brighter future.

Inform

People living with blood cancer should have equitable access to trusted information and education to empower informed choices.

We know that access to trusted information and education not only impacts on a person's ability to survive but to live well.

As the leading source of free blood cancer information, education and support for people living with blood cancer in Australia, we're here every step of the way to help navigate the road ahead and assist people in making informed decisions about treatment and care. These choices will potentially have significant long-term health and financial implications for themselves and their families.

This year we have provided:

- **19,000** people access to 24/7 help and information via a dedicated COVID-19 hub
- **203 support groups** attended by 1,835 people living with blood cancer in total, or 1,020 individuals
- Nine dedicated disease-specific Facebook groups moderated by our Blood Cancer Support Coordinators. These channels alone reached nearly **4,000 people** living with blood cancer
- A dedicated blood cancer information channel on YouTube with over 100 subscribers.

Moving to an online model of support

In light of COVID-19 and the suspension of face-to-face support groups, the National Support Group Project (NSGP) Committee worked extremely hard on expediting the development of our Online Support Groups (OSGs). While the online groups will not replace face-to-face support groups, it offers people living with blood cancer, their families and carers another option for support during COVID-19 restrictions. However, more importantly, beyond COVID-19, it will enable the Leukaemia Foundation to have a far greater reach, particularly to those who have been unable to attend face-to-face support groups due to limited access, resources and health restrictions.

The first online support group occurred in April and groups continue to be available for all people living with blood cancer, their families and carers. The groups run for one hour, on different days and times to provide varying options for people to join in.

Putting the human into blood cancer treatment

After being diagnosed with an aggressive blood cancer, Sherma Beasley was one of the many Australians left without access to the supportive care they need.

"I had absolutely no idea what I was in for when I turned up to my first chemotherapy appointment," said the 57-year-old.

"I saw a different doctor nearly every time I was there and wasn't told much about anything."

Feeling isolated and unsure, Sherma wasn't getting the psychosocial, practical, nutritional or financial supportive care she desperately needed – nor did she know how to find it.

Luckily, Sherma was able to call on one of our Blood Cancer Support Coordinators, Jacqui.

"Jacqui has been wonderful through all of this," said Sherma. "She will always have a proper chat, is a great listener and doesn't treat me like just another person to check off the list.

> "She gave me real encouragement and support, telling me what services I could access to make everything easier.

"She fixed up my transport to the hospital, provided food vouchers and made sure I was asking my doctors to sort out the side effects of my treatment."

When we spoke to her Sherma had successfully completed six cycles of chemotherapy and was awaiting further blood tests.

Sherma (left) with Blood Cancer Support Coordinator Jacqui.

Treat

People living with blood cancer should have equitable access to best practice-treatment and the latest trials, tests and diagnostic tools.

Their experience varies depending on where they live, and Australians are dying because of those inconsistencies.

This year, we have continued our investment in innovation for all blood cancers: from advancements in diagnostics and treatments to improving life after blood cancer.

These include:

- Developing new treatments that increase **survival for children** with aggressive, high-risk leukaemia
- Preventing and treating Graft vs Host disease that can occur after a donor bone marrow transplant
- Developing new **cell-based therapies** to fight viral infections in individuals who have received a transplant
- Developing a **new class of drug** to treat myeloma, T and B cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma and acute myeloid and lymphoid leukaemia
- Exploring new combination therapies which increase the effectiveness of current therapies and decrease side effects
- Working to better understand why people relapse after blood cancer treatment
- Improving lives and life expectancy for people living with a chronic blood cancer
- Development and implementation of a clinically accredited **single tube test** that allows for the detection of mutation in 41 clinically relevant genes in MPN, MDS, primary and secondary AML, atypical CML, chronic neutrophilic leukaemia, mastocytosis, CMML, JMML at the same time.

The Leukaemia Foundation also gave support to:

- Development of five outstanding early and mid-career researchers and clinicians through PhD Scholarships in collaboration with the Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand and the Cancer Australia Priority Driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme
- Help accelerate the progression of new therapies, treatments and diagnostics from bench to bedside through four Translational Research Program grants in collaboration with the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Society (USA) and Snowdome Foundation
- Continue to improve access for people living with blood cancer to the latest ground-breaking research and new therapies years ahead of the expected availability on the Australian market by bringing international clinical trials to Australia through our Trials Enabling Program in collaboration with the Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma group
- 15 submissions from pharmaceutical companies for blood cancer treatments to be listed on the PBS. Of these 7 received positive recommendations from the PBAC and 5 new treatments are now available on the PBS, including blinatumomab (ALL), lenalidomide (MM for two different indications), acalabrutinib (CLL/SLL) and pembrolizumab (PMBCL).

Investing in the researchers of tomorrow, today

Dr Liesl Butler, a junior haematologist at Monash University, is just one of the promising young blood cancer researchers supported by the Leukaemia Foundation this year.

Liesl was awarded a 2020 Leukaemia Foundation of Australia PhD Scholarship, through the Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand (HSANZ).

This supports Dr Butler over the next three years to uncover why the group blood disorder, myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN) develop and uncover more effective targeted therapies.

"The MPN blood disorders are a challenging disease group which cause significant health problems and limit life expectancy; new therapies are desperately needed," explains Dr Butler.

Liesl was "thrilled" to discover that she had been offered the PhD scholarship, overcoming what she considers the biggest hurdle for researchers: funding.

> "I feel privileged to have Leukaemia Foundation supporters backing my project – I am incredibly grateful to everyone," said Dr Butler.

"I look forward to what I can achieve over the next three years with the assistance of the scholarship and hope to make significant advances in blood cancer research."

Dr Liesl Butler, a junior haematologist at Monash University, and recipient of the 2020 Leukaemia Foundation of Australia PhD Scholarship, through the Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand (HSANZ).

Care

People living with blood cancer should have equitable access to essential supportive care to improve their quality of life.

Supportive care encompasses the management of issues across a range of physical, emotional, and social domains to improve a patient's quality of life.

This year, like every year, we have supported and cared for people living with blood cancer, their families, and their carers through:

- The **37 Blood Cancer Support Coordinators**, who gave personalised care to 8,459 people living with blood cancer
- **26,542 connections** with families and carers needing help, answers and someone who understands
- Providing **837 rural and regional families** with **40,344 nights** in self-contained accommodation so they could stay together during treatment
- Connecting our Blood Cancer Support Coordinators with more than **3,600 families** through our COVID-19 outreach program
- Easing the worries of 1,197 families thanks to **95 generous volunteer drivers** completing more than **17,800 trips** to and from hospital appointments
- Providing **$223,919** in financial grants offered to 660 families.

Staying safe away from home

> "You couldn't imagine a more vulnerable person than Jamie. He's three years old. He has aggressive blood cancer. His immune system has been knocked out by chemo. COVID-19 is our worst nightmare. But it's real. It's happening." - Nicky, Jamie's mum.

The COVID-19 pandemic affects us all. People having treatment for blood cancer are among the most vulnerable in our communities – because blood cancer and the treatment for blood cancer makes their immune systems much weaker, and unlike healthy children, children like Jamie are at a higher risk of a more severe infection. Staying safe can be difficult - they have to stay near hospital to continue their treatment, but they can't self-isolate at home because they live so far away.

Thankfully, Jamie and his family were able to stay in a 'home away from home' in our Leukaemia Foundation accommodation. A place they feel comfortable while they take added precautions to stay safe during this time.

(Photo above) Jamie, three years old, was able to stay safe during treatment in our Leukaemia Foundation accommodation.

Supporting teenagers with blood cancer

After suffering a devastating relapse last year, Siobhan Hoy knew her Leukaemia Foundation family would be there for her again.

Siobhan was just 14 years old when she was first diagnosed with blood cancer in 2015.

"I was a fit, healthy teenager with a few bad bruises and a couple of bloody noses," said the now 19-year-old. "A blood test and one phone call later and my life changed completely."

Siobhan and her family stayed at a Leukaemia Foundation Patient Accommodation Village while she received life-saving treatment.

"My first diagnosis was really hard. I didn't want to talk to anyone and felt so embarrassed and ashamed of my illness," remembers Siobhan.

"I wouldn't leave the room for anything until my mum convinced me one day to go down to see the Leukaemia Foundation support staff in the office.

"I was introduced to Maree, a Patient Accommodation Coordinator and Maryanne, a Blood Cancer Support Coordinator. Maryanne and I clicked straight away.

"There was no shame in what I was telling her. We would talk about all my teenage issues and she would laugh and reassure me through it all."

When Siobhan relapsed in 2019, she felt assured by her first experience with the Leukaemia Foundation, knowing she would have access to all the supportive care she needed.

"I walked in that first day and said to Maree at the front desk: 'I'm back, buddy, let's do this!'," laughs Siobhan.

"Maree and my mum, Sally, also became really great friends.

"That was really important for my mum's mental health as well because being a carer is not easy."

Siobhan is grateful for the family she built while staying at the village and keeps in regular contact with Maree and Maryanne.

"They see you at your best and worst, experiencing every set back and every victory together.

> "I consider them my lifelong friends and actually really miss them now as happy as I am to be getting on with my life."

Siobhan is now in remission – and we miss her, too!

Sally, Siobhan, and Maree formed lifelong friendships while Siobhan stayed in our Leukaemia Foundation accommodation in 2015 and again when she relapsed in 2019.

How we do it

We want to make sure every Australian with blood cancer gets access to:

- **trusted information and education to empower informed choices**
- **best-practice treatment and the latest trials, tests and diagnostic tools**
- **essential supportive care to improve quality of life.**

To achieve our Access Strategy, we have the following enabling areas that allow us to reach towards our goal of zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

Advocacy

For over 45 years, the Leukaemia Foundation has supported and advocated for people living with blood cancer in Australia.

This year, we have led a new era of change for the Australian blood cancer community by partnering with industry, government, medical professionals and everyday Australians to realise the goal of zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

We set a bold goal to create real change for people living with blood cancer.

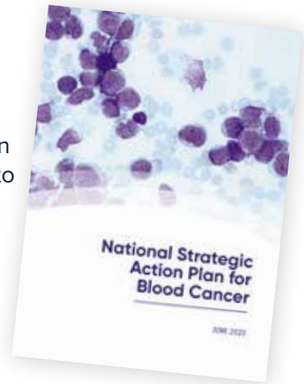
To help us achieve that goal we commissioned a comprehensive and first-of-its-kind analysis to identify the challenges and opportunities that influence survival and quality of life for people living with blood cancer.

In September 2019, alongside the Federal Minister of Health, the Honourable Greg Hunt, we launched the *State of the Nation: Blood Cancer in Australia* report.

The report revealed the scale and impact of blood cancers in Australia today and into the future.

The Federal Government also announced the establishment of a Blood Cancer Taskforce to deliver Australia's first National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer.

Co-chaired by Carrie Hillyard (Chairman, Leukaemia Foundation) and Professor John Seymour (Director Department of Clinical Haematology, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre & Royal Melbourne Hospital), the Taskforce unites 29 of Australia's leading haematologists, researchers, patients and members of the blood cancer community to provide the blueprint to help tackle the key issues in blood cancer, today and into the future.



The Taskforce is supported by seven specialist Working Groups, led by members of the Taskforce and drawing on almost 100 external experts to contribute to the preparation of the National Action Plan.

At the launch of the *State of the Nation: Blood Cancer in Australia* report, we announced our response titled, My Life Counts. This document summarised the key findings, statistics and recommendations for reducing the impact of the blood cancer in Australia and outlines the Leukaemia Foundation priorities as we work to achieve the goal of zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

We look forward to working together with the blood cancer community to launch and implement the National Action Plan and achieve zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

Data

We use data to inform and deliver a service that is credible, relevant and timely for people living with blood cancer.

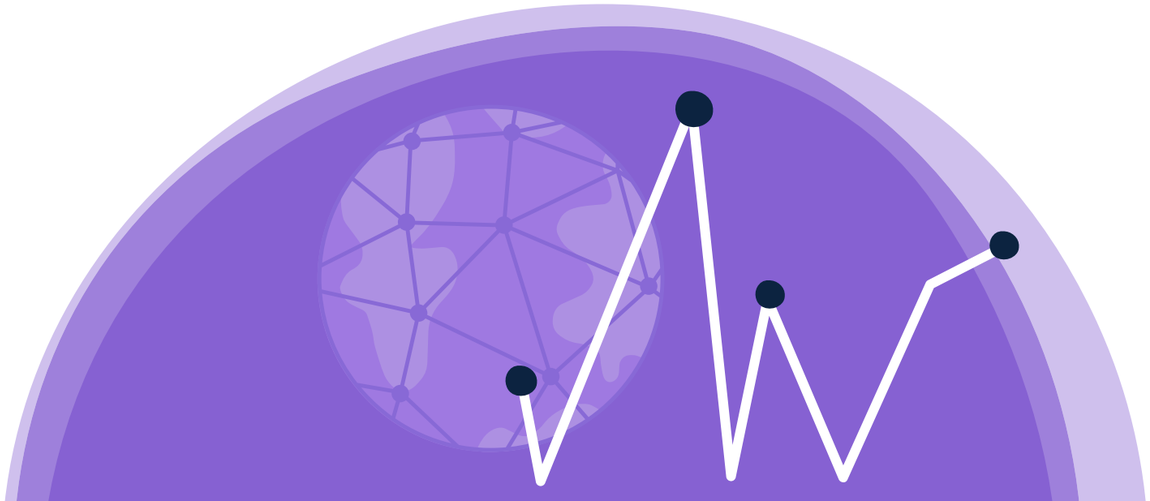
This year, the bushfires and COVID-19 challenged us like never before. More than ever, families facing blood cancer desperately needed reassurance and a trusted source for their questions in a relevant and timely manner. Our ability to respond swiftly during this period has been through careful planning and management of our databases. Over the last financial year, we have merged our systems and spent considerable resources in cleansing our data, training our people, and aligning our systems.

Migrated 120,000 organisations and 2.7 million contact records from our CRM database into Salesforce

Campaign registration and payments enabled in Salesforce allowing us to make use of Salesforce Marketing Cloud.

Throughout 2020, the Leukaemia Foundation was able to respond swiftly to all our stakeholders, and Blood Cancer Support Coordinators across the country mobilised a new wave of remote support:

- Accelerated the online launch of nine disease-based support groups, covering topics such as "Keeping fears in check" and "Courage in the face of chaos". In the safe company of peers, group members learnt from others and eased their anxiety.
- A COVID-19 outreach program, connecting support staff with more than 3,600 families already bearing the burden of a blood cancer diagnosis.
- Connected with families with the introduction of individual videoconferencing to enhance connection in COVID19 times.



Communication

We need our voice to be trusted, talking loudly and clearly about blood cancer across Australia providing people living with blood cancer a place to trust and turn throughout their blood cancer diagnosis and beyond.

Communicating with our stakeholders is how we support people living with blood cancer, appeal to our generous supporters, and advocate for people living with blood cancer.

Leukaemia Foundation website had over 761,081 visitors in the 2019/2020 financial year.

Over 8,350 media stories featuring the Leukaemia Foundation were published during the 2019/20 period reaching over 1.3 billion views and an Advertising Sales Rate (ASR) value of over $13.25 million.

SOCIAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

145,034	**13,971**	**2,481**	**5,052**	**894**
following all groups/pages				

In early March, when the COVID-19 threat was gripping Australia and the world, we created a hub with dedicated COVID-19 information specifically for people living with blood cancer. This information was developed in consultation with haematology nursing staff, clinical haematologists, treating hospitals, and other cancer authorities.

First published on the 10 March, we had over 14,000 unique visitors by the end of June 2020. Our most popular content included 'Viruses and blood cancer: what you need to know', 'Blood cancer & COVID-19 FAQs', and 'COVID-19 and the effect on stem cell donations'.

Fundraising

Our strength still lies in our supporters, members and branches – and the power of grassroots fundraising, passion and connecting our communities Australia wide to the cause.

This community spirit lives on in the big-hearted individuals, communities and businesses who offer generous support to ensure all Australian families with blood cancer have access to supportive care, information and the treatment they need, when they need it.

Thank you to the following supporters. You, and so many other bighearted Aussies just like you, are members of a very special, generous community.

You're part of a community with the kindness and compassion that reaches out to Australian families facing blood cancer – to tell them they're not alone, to tell them hope is in sight.

Thank you in advance as you join us to continue to turn life right-side up again for blood cancer families right around the country.

- **AbbVie**
- **AstraZeneca**
- **ALH Group**
- **Better Living Group**
- **Bill Long Charitable Trust, managed by Equity Trustees**
- **Bridgestone Australia**
- **Bristol Myers Squib (Celgene)**
- **Brydens Lawyers**
- **Charities Aid Foundation**
- **ClubGRANTS NSW**
- **Commonwealth Bank Community Foundation**
- **Comscentre**
- **Davina Sickerdick**
- **District Race - Initiative Sport**
- **Dry July Foundation**
- **Edward Rhoades**
- **Florence Brown**
- **For Benefit Medicines**
- **Gambling Community Benefit Fund**
- **Graham Phillips**
- **Gwendolyn Lord**
- **Halifax Foundation**
- **Holden**
- **Hoshizaki Lancer**
- **Icon Cancer Centre**
- **Illawarra Community Foundation Ltd**
- **Janssen Australia**
- **Jefferey Kearley**
- **John Baker**
- **John James Foundation**
- **Joyce Prentice**
- **KOJO**
- **Laz Family Trust**
- **Novartis**
- **Patricia Seivers**
- **Perpetual Trustees**
- **Blackmores Sydney Running Festival - Pont3**
- **Precision Management**
- **Rae and Peter Gunn Family Foundation**
- **Rebecca Gumley**
- **Richardson Family Foundation**
- **Rina Chow**
- **Roche**
- **Ruth Lutwyche**
- **Simon National Carriers**
- **Spartan Race Australia**
- **Stadium Stomp - King Performance**
- **Stan Perron Charitable Foundation**
- **The Alfred & Jean Dickson Foundation**
- **The Cory Charitable Foundation**
- **The William Angliss Charitable Fund**
- **Tony Fini Foundation**
- **Tour de Cure**

A lasting legacy

Before undergoing her life-saving transplant supporter Eleanor Colla made a lasting commitment to the blood cancer community though a gift in her Will. For Eleanor there is comfort knowing her wishes have been made clear though her will and that her gift will support people living with blood cancer long into the future.

To learn more about how your gift can beat blood cancer please contact Emma Quigley on 1800 620 420 or giftinwill@leukaemia.org.au

(Pictured above) Eleanor Colla with her father, made a lasting commitment through a gift in her Will.

U.G.L.Y. Bartender of the Year 2019

Each year U.G.L.Y. Bartenders across Australia help to beat blood cancer by raising money for the Leukaemia Foundation to provide its vital accommodation service.

In 2019, U.G.L.Y. Bartenders across Australia came up with unique and innovative ways to ramp-up the fun-factor in their venues and raised a whopping $996,931.

The top U.G.L.Y. Bartenders include:

- Club Services Ipswich QLD $30,000
- Jenny Lagozzino VIC $24,243
- Isabella Wyman QLD $22,257.

Light the Night 2019

Light the Night is a special evening when Australians come together to reflect, remember and share hope for a future free of blood cancer.

In 2019, our supporters raised an incredible $1,084,136 to help transform fear into hope in miraculous, life-changing ways by furthering the work of brilliant research scientists.

Our highest fundraisers included:

- Natalee Barnett NSW from team Georges River raised $25,067
- Feona Henness NSW from teams Hills District raised $22,240
- Annette Sullivan NSW from team Camden raised $18,431.

World's Greatest Shave 2020

In 2020, the Leukaemia Foundation celebrated 22 years of the World's Greatest Shave campaign, making it one of Australia's longest running and most loved fundraising events.

People of all ages channel their inner superhero and shave, colour, or wax their hair – supported all the way by proud family, friends, colleagues and classmates.

This year, despite the challenging environment, the World's Greatest Shave raised $12,588,425.

Our highest fundraisers included:

- Josh Noye SA from team Oscar Noye raised $71,455
- Kelly Scott NSW from Engadine High School raised $69,355
- Spiro Christopoulos NSW from Trinity Grammer School raised $62,414.

Oscar Noye

Team Oscar took out first place in the World's Greatest Shave Family and Friends fundraising team category nationwide, catapulting to the lead with an incredible $111,286 raised. Team Oscar's efforts are enough to provide 3,300 families with emotional support to overcome the initial shock and stress of a blood cancer diagnosis, and to give another two families one week's free accommodation when they have to travel from a region to a capital city for urgent blood cancer treatment.

Conquering the Kokoda Trail

In November 2019, a group of ten Leukaemia Foundation supporters set foot on the adventure of a lifetime to the tropical jungles of Papua New Guinea to take on the Kokoda Challenge.

It takes a special kind of person to succeed in the fundraising, training and adventure journey that is Kokoda.

Our group of adventurers included the Leukaemia Foundation's Head of IT, Rod Broadhurst. Together, as part of Team Beat Blood Cancer, our group trekked 96 kilometres and raised more than $45,000 to support families facing blood cancer.

Since first partnering with Inspired Adventures in 2011, more than $1,245,500 has been raised for the Leukaemia Foundation from 14 adventures.

(From left to right) David Pickering, Rachel Filgate, Michael Bowen, Gary Warburton, Raymond McDonald, Rodney Broadhurst, Phillip Murray, Kathryn Ibbotson, Tylanda Murray, Joe Toohey.

Support from our community

Leukaemia Foundation ran multiple campaigns to appeal for support from our dedicated supporters, during the 2019/20 financial year.

Loga's story
(Aug – Sept 2019)

9-year-old Loga struggled to battle her leukaemia after several unsuccessful chemotherapy treatments – her cancer was just too smart. Loga's story focused on the importance of research and getting people the best treatment for them. For the first time, this was a matched giving campaign with our generous partner Tour de Cure to fund the Blood Cancer Genomics Trail.

Loga's story raised over $105,000.

Louis' story
(Oct – Dec 2019)

No one should ever have to face blood cancer alone – especially not at Christmas, which is all about coming together as a family. Four-year-old Louis' story focused on the need for emotional support for people living with blood cancer and their families at this challenging time of year."

Louis' story raised over $190,000.

Zoie's story
(Feb – Mar 2020)

Our campaign for Zoie's story was heavily impacted by the bushfires. We chose to not send Zoie's story to many of our key supporters, as so many communities had been directly affected by the fires. In February, we shared Zoie's story. 17-year-old Zoie should have been starting Uni, enjoying a first taste of independence and looking forward to a bright future. She had plans to graduate high school with her friends and then study to be an interior designer. Zoie's story focused on emotional support and the challenges of living with blood cancer.

Zoie's story raised over $65,000.

Jamie's Story
(Mar – Jun 2020)

When COVID-19 hit Australia, it was important to change the way we shared 3-year-old Jamie's story. His family had very real fears about the impact of COVID-19 on Jamie, whose immune system was compromised due to his blood cancer treatment. We quickly changed our messaging to supporters and added more touchpoints to see the impact their support has on people like Jamie - and the importance of having a clean and safe place to stay for treatment during a global pandemic.

Jamie's Story raised over $456,000.

Our board

Carrie Hillyard AM FTSE FAICD
Chairman

Lucio Di Giallonardo
Director

Tony Formica
Director

Associate Professor Maryanne Hargraves
Director

Philip Bradley
Director

Darren Laarhoven
Director

Christopher Murray
Director

Tim Ridgway
Director

Andrew Soter
Director

Our executive leadership team

Alexandra Struthers
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Kathryn Huntley
General Manager People Living with Blood Cancer

Tim Murphy
General Manager Blood Cancer Partnerships

Rachael Lance
Acting General Manager Supporters

Susie Howard
General Manager Strategic Communication

Keiran Mylrea
General Manager Corporate Services

Our people

Our people are one of our greatest assets: bold enough to believe in our goal, working tirelessly every day to make it happen. The Leukaemia Foundation is ultimately about people: people helping people.

Farewell Beverley Mirolo OAM

Beverley Mirolo announced that the November 2019 AGM would be her last as Chair of the Leukaemia Foundation. Beverley remained as a Director on the Board until February 2020.

We sincerely thank Beverley for her devoted service and commitment to the Leukaemia Foundation for 40 years, 13 of those as Chairman.

Farewell Bill Petch

In June 2020, we announced that our CEO Bill Petch finished with the Leukaemia Foundation.

He led the team to create the long-term goal of zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035, with the establishment of the Blood Cancer Taskforce and National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer (the National Action Plan).

Our teams

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone. Money is scarce in the current environment, and pressure on government budgets continue to escalate as competition increases from all sectors.

The Leukaemia Foundation has not been spared and has seen significant impacts felt by bushfires and COVID-19 on our fundraising budgets as we're reliant on community and peer-to-peer income.

With such a reduction in income, we faced a difficult decision to address the financial shortfall. Many of our signature and community fundraising events were no longer viable given community restrictions so we were forced to reduce our organisation's size in these areas. We also reimagined our services for people living with blood cancer by offering online support groups and increasing our telephone support. For those friends and colleagues who were impacted by this decision, we thank you for your dedication and hope our paths cross again. And to our current team members, we acknowledge your efforts and resilience throughout this year. Now more than ever, we need to come together as an organisation because people living with blood cancer and their families need us.

Our members and branches

Our members and branches are the lifeblood of the Leukaemia Foundation and play an important role in shaping the future of the organisation. With over 376 members and growing, we wish to thank you for the important role you play in supporting people living with blood cancer in your local communities, raising awareness, and continuing the traditions of our founding members.

Our volunteers

Our volunteers help in many ways and we're indebted to your generous gift of time and talents in supporting people living with blood cancer. We look forward to welcoming our volunteers back when it is safe to do so.

Operations

Working safe during COVID-19

Protecting the welfare of our people and people living with blood cancer, their families and carers was paramount to Leukaemia Foundation as the threat of COVID-19 became a reality. The Leukaemia Foundation responded swiftly and made some hard decisions to ensure the safety of our people and the people we support.

In the first weeks of March 2020, we made the following changes to the ways we work:

- All scheduled face-to-face support groups were postponed
- Suspension of our volunteer transport program
- Closure of common spaces in our accommodation facilities such as playground equipment and BBQ areas
- Where our people could work from home, they were instructed to do so
- Moving and setup of equipment to allow remote working
- Public fundraising events reimagined including World's Greatest Shave, Light the Night or put on hold such as U.G.L.Y. Bartender of the Year.

As a national organisation, the Leukaemia Foundation has followed the advice of Safe Work Australia and the local area restrictions and guidelines. These changes remain in place for the safety of our people and those we support.

The Leukaemia Foundation of Australia
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2020

	2020 $	2019 $
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	24,135,424	24,250,322
Trade and other receivables	1,634,730	997,580
Other assets	110,705	1,119,143
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**25,880,859**	**26,367,045**
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	59,798,433	61,977,933
Intangibles	-	461
Right of use assets	2,692,522	-
Financial assets	1,828,850	1,466,307
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	**64,319,805**	**63,444,701**
TOTAL ASSETS	**90,200,664**	**89,811,746**
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	785,730	1,694,309
Lease liability	849,385	-
Provisions	1,366,155	1,188,519
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**3,001,270**	**2,882,828**
Non-Current Liabilities		
Lease liability	1,894,943	-
Provisions	573,081	606,022
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	**2,468,024**	**606,022**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**5,469,294**	**3,488,850**
NET ASSETS	**84,731,370**	**86,322,896**
Equity		
Retained Surplus	57,295,889	58,502,480
Reserves	**27,435,481**	**27,820,416**
TOTAL EQUITY	**84,731,370**	**86,322,896**

The Leukaemia Foundation of Australia
Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020 $	2019 $
Profit and Loss		
Fundraising Revenue	28,007,995	35,511,285
Fundraising Costs	(14,392,072)	(13,317,721)
Net Fundraising Revenue	13,615,923	22,193,564
Other Revenue	6,121,663	4,611,893
Operating costs	(4,504,208)	(5,022,916)
Surplus after Fundraising and operating costs	15,233,378	21,782,541
Fulfillment of mission		
Research Grant Expense	(3,076,395)	(2,752,746)
Patient Support Expense	(13,363,574)	(14,057,102)
Total expenditure on Support Services and Research	**(16,439,969)**	**(16,809,848)**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	**(1,206,591)**	**4,972,693**

The Leukaemia Foundation is so grateful to the generous supporters across the country who enable Australians living with blood cancer have access to trusted and relevant information, the best treatment and supportive care to survive their disease. In 2019/20, $16.44 million was dedicated to helping Australian men, women and children conquer their blood cancer, no matter where they live. Our fundraising expenses were 42% of total revenue; as the Leukaemia Foundation experienced significant loss of fundraising income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented bushfires, the fundraising expense ratio is higher than planned and seen in previous years.

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 *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.

Become a Member

Our members are the lifeblood of the Leukaemia Foundation and play an important role in shaping the future of the organisation. Lend your voice to the future of blood cancer and become a member today!

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 to help.

Leukaemia Foundation®

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