

Annual Report

2020-2021

Leukaemia
Foundation®

A photograph of a woman with brown hair, wearing a mustard-colored floral shirt and blue jeans, smiling and looking to the right. She is holding a young child with a shaved head, wearing a pink headband and a floral dress. The child is looking directly at the camera. The background is a simple, slightly out-of-focus indoor setting.

Message from the Chair

It was my honour and privilege in April this year to be invited to continue my longstanding commitment to people living with blood cancer as the incoming Leukaemia Foundation of Australia Chair.

It's a very exciting time to assume this role, working alongside our recently appointed CEO Chris Tanti, who joined us in February this year. And in April, we welcomed a refreshed Board made up of those of us who were voted by our members and two additional members appointed by the Board.

Together our new Board and CEO bring a renewed energy to our purpose to stop blood cancer wrecking lives and our goal to achieve zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

All of what lies ahead builds on our achievements this financial year, which are even more remarkable given COVID-19 continued to disrupt our long-established face to face support services which required further development of an integrated online support model.

Through extensive evidence-based research and the successful delivery of a number of online support programs, we have committed to expanding our online offering through the establishment of a new digital health platform. This approach is a significant change for the Leukaemia Foundation and those we support as it will enable us to extend our reach and impact to more people living with blood cancer right across Australia.

Which brings me to the work of the National Blood Cancer Taskforce and its National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer. The Plan was commissioned by the Australian Government and launched by the Health Minister during Blood Cancer Awareness Month last year. Thank you to the many organisations and individuals who've supported this once-in-a-generation opportunity to reduce the impact of blood cancer.

The priority action within the plan is the development of optimal care pathways to ensure all Australians receive the same high quality, evidence-based care for their specific type of blood cancer, no matter where they live. This important work is currently underway.

(Front Cover: Arianna Baczynski was diagnosed with blood cancer and stayed in Leukaemia Foundation accommodation.)

And looking ahead, I'd like to thank Chris and the team who have been dedicated to designing a long-term, Patient First strategy which is focused on improving the outcomes for people living with blood cancer. I look forward to seeing the progress of this important work over the coming months and sharing the outcomes of this in next year's Annual Report.

In closing, it's also very important to recognise the incredible contribution of our recently departed Board members who have given so much of their time and expertise to improving the experience for all who are affected by blood cancer. Their contribution is significant and has paved the way for our future success.



A handwritten signature in a cursive script, appearing to read 'Di Giallonardo'.

Lucio Di Giallonardo
Chair of the Board

Need support?

We encourage you to find out about the different ways we can help by visiting leukaemia.org.au/support or calling **1800 620 420** to speak with a Blood Cancer Support Coordinator.

CEO Message

As the Leukaemia Foundation's newly appointed CEO, I'm proud to be leading the charge as we continue our fight to meet the needs of every Australian living with blood cancer and work toward our goal of zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

I'd very much like to acknowledge previous Chair Dr Carrie Hillyard and current Chair Lucio Di Giallonardo for their commitment to our mission and our organisation. Thanks also to our previous and current Board Directors for investing their time, energy and expertise in supporting our mission to make a real difference.

The unacceptable reality is that 50 Australians are diagnosed with blood cancer every day and this is projected to more than double by 2035. With blood cancers combined being Australia's second most diagnosed cancer and, sadly, the second most common cause of cancer-related deaths, our fight continues across many fronts.

Thanks to the Leukaemia Foundation's pioneers and our generous supporters, we've been at the forefront of making a difference to those diagnosed with more than 150 sub types of blood cancers in so many ways including:

- funding and participating in the development of ground-breaking research
- providing much needed and timely financial support
- accommodating people living with blood cancer and their families needing to stay close to a hospital for treatment
- advocating to government to ensure funding of cutting-edge treatments and therapies
- and importantly by providing psychosocial support to families and people diagnosed with a blood cancer.

This is an organisation that punches way above its weight and continues to work nationally and globally to ensure we get traction on issues that are important to both patients and their families.

COVID-19 put us to the test

The onset of COVID-19 challenged us in many ways. It disrupted our face-to-face support at a time when patients needed us more than ever, led to temporary closure of some of our accommodation facilities, disrupted our volunteer patient transport service and impacted our major fundraising events and endeavours. The roll-on effects were felt right across the Leukaemia Foundation. We had to downsize our team, invest in creating an online support tool for people living with blood cancer and ramp up alternate transport solutions.

We also needed to future-proof our support model through gearing up for the additional investment needed to extend our digital service to reach more Australians living with blood cancer, no matter where they live and where they are on their blood cancer journey.

We wouldn't have been able to do all of this without the generosity from thousands of Australians who kept their fundraising and donations flowing and the Federal Government who helped us hold the fort during these uncertain times. This support enabled us to reinvest in the blood cancer community and ensure we're supporting more Australians through improved access to the best treatment, connection to support, and a direct link to the latest blood cancer information and research breakthroughs.

Putting patients first

Thanks to the efforts of our team and so many in our community, in the past year we've been able to deliver life-enhancing one-to-one support to more than 5500 families living with blood cancer. This has been possible through the real-time development of a digital support service and a redesign of our transport support model.

We've also been very active when it comes to blood cancer research and patient advocacy. Thanks to an incredible army of fundraisers, we were able to invest nearly \$2 million into 37 exciting research projects which are right now accelerating new tests and treatments that will help people living with blood cancer live, and importantly live well.

And we're leading the charge in ensuring the experience of Australians living with blood cancer is getting the broader national attention it deserves. As co-chair of the National Blood Cancer Taskforce, the Leukaemia Foundation has taken a lead role in developing Australia's first National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer and as the Taskforce secretariat we're driving the Plan's implementation.

What lies ahead

Looking ahead our team is focussed on reaching double the number of people living with blood cancer and through our research and advocacy efforts seeing the next State of the Nation: Blood Cancer in Australia report capturing fewer lives lost to blood cancer. We're also committed to increasing awareness of blood cancer, as early diagnosis and treatment can lead to better health outcomes.

There remains much to be achieved but built into this organisation's DNA is hard work and a passion for making a difference. The Leukaemia Foundation has never shied away from hard work, it's an enduring part of our proud heritage. This is what drives me, our fantastic Board, staff and members to do more to meet the needs of patients and their loved ones to achieve our goal of zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

Thank you for supporting Australia's blood cancer community.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Chris Tanti', written in a cursive style.

Chris Tanti

CEO

Delivering real, life-saving impact

In the past year, we've been concentrating our time, talents and resources in three critical areas:



Best-practice treatment and the latest trials, tests and diagnostic tools



Trusted information and education to empower informed choices



Essential supportive care to improve quality of life



Treat

Research driving best-practice treatment

For more than 25 years the Leukaemia Foundation has been committed to tackling the biggest blood cancer challenges through investing in ground-breaking research. During this time more than \$54.5 million has been invested into high impact research by concentrating our resources on projects with broad potential for all people living with blood cancer.

Research priorities

The Leukaemia Foundation committed \$1.98 million in vital funding to game-changing research in the 2020/2021 Financial year. We further leveraged this research impact with an additional \$4.4 million in funding from other not-for-profit, industry and government contributions.

Our three research impact priorities were to:

1. Amplify Australia's blood cancer research capability through Leukaemia Foundation PhD Scholarships and Fellowships
2. Invest in cutting-edge blood cancer projects across fundamental, pre-clinical and translational science
3. Expedite new drugs and therapies to market through clinical and drug repurposing trials

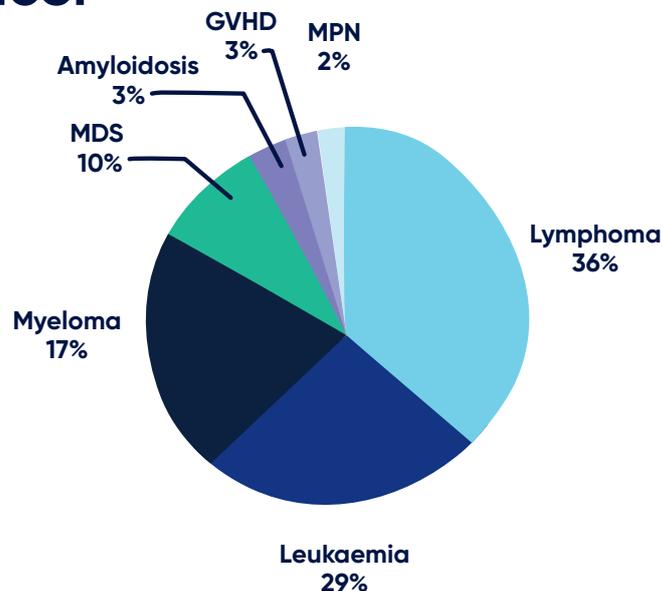
Research partnerships

Cancer Australia
The Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand
Tour de Cure
The Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (U.S.A)
International Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia Foundation (U.S.A)
The Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia Foundation of Canada
Snowdome Foundation

Research impact highlights

- ✓ Developing new treatments that increase survival for children with aggressive, high-risk leukaemia
- ✓ Preventing and treating graft vs host disease, which can occur after a stem cell transplant
- ✓ Developing new cell-based therapies to fight viral infections in individuals who have received a stem cell 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 treatments and decrease side effects
- ✓ Working to better understand why people relapse after blood cancer treatment
- ✓ Development and implementation of a clinically accredited single tube diagnostic test that allows for the detection of mutations in 41 clinically relevant genes in myeloproliferative neoplasms, myelodysplastic syndrome, primary and secondary acute myeloid leukaemia, atypical chronic myeloid leukaemia, chronic neutrophilic leukaemia, mastocytosis, chronic myelomonocytic leukaemia and juvenile myelomonocytic leukaemia.
- ✓ Evaluating COVID-19 vaccination responsiveness among people with follicular lymphoma

Driving discovery in every type of blood cancer



Leukaemia: Primary and Secondary AML, ALL, CLL, CMML, JMML

Lymphoma: Hodgkin, Non-Hodgkin (Follicular, DLBCL, Waldenstroms)

Ensuring the research breakthroughs of tomorrow

The Leukaemia Foundation Research Endowment was established to provide a sustainable source of funding to support future breakthroughs in blood cancer.

The objectives of the Endowment are to produce capital growth and income to increase the real value of the Endowment over the long term, so that the Leukaemia Foundation is better resourced to achieve its mission.

With the support of visionary philanthropists and the generosity of Gift in Will supporters, the Leukaemia Foundation Research Endowment has grown to over \$2.7 million over the past 12 months and achieved positive market returns.

The endowment aims to support the following research priorities

PHD scholarships	Power the next generation of visionaries to explore bold ideas
Centres of Research Excellence	Support innovative, high quality scientific research that pushes boundaries and considers experimental approaches for diagnosing, managing and treating blood cancers
Clinical trials	Fund clinical trials and systems change to expedite the drug development process, bringing new and more effective therapies to patients sooner
International research collaboration	Harness the world's best minds in blood cancer to ensure all Australians have access to the latest discoveries.



“The Leukaemia Foundation’s vital support has accelerated our research to better understand how multiple myeloma and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia arise and respond to treatment. Thanks to our supporters, we have been able to access a cutting-edge new technology called mass cytometry, enabling us to study millions of individual cancer cells from patients in unprecedented detail. This detail allows us to identify potential vulnerabilities in the cancer cells that can guide new and effective precision treatments. It also allows us to better understand why some patients’ cancers become resistant to treatment. This important work is allowing us to change health outcomes for people living with blood cancer.”



Associate Professor Daniel Gray

Walter and Eliza Hall Institute



¹The Health, Social and Economic Impacts of the Leukaemia Foundation, Insight Economics Pty Ltd, February 2021



Joe celebrating over six years of remission with his wife Katalin and daughter Sylvia

Long-term research investment brings "staggering results" for Joe and other Australians with amyloidosis

“When you're diagnosed with a life-threatening disease and your survival chance is very slim, you are absolutely shocked. I was very happy and lucky to have the opportunity to go on the trial.”

When Joe found out he had AL amyloidosis, a rare blood disease, he was given the opportunity to take part in a clinical trial that saved his life.

Joe was one of 13 Australians who took part in an international AL amyloidosis clinical trial, headed up in Australia by Associate Professor Peter Mollee and run by the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG). The trial was held across 14 countries.

In 2011, support from the community allowed the Leukaemia Foundation to invest \$100,000 into the ground-breaking trial.

“This investment enabled us to bring the international trial to Australia,” explains Assoc. Prof. Mollee. The results of this long-term study have now been released, showing the significant benefit of bortezomib (the drug being trialled) in improving response rates and overall survival.



“The 30% improvement in survival is a staggering result almost never seen in clinical trials for blood diseases.”



Associate Professor Mollee

Joe is so grateful to the Leukaemia Foundation for ensuring people living with this rare disease have access to improved treatments. “Six years later, I’m still in remission and absolutely sure the treatment saved my life. I wouldn’t have survived without it,” says Joe.

Clinical trials

Enrolment in clinical trials is one of the single most important actions needed to reduce the number of Australian lives lost to blood cancer.

The State of the Nation: Blood Cancer in Australia report, identified that less than 20% of Australians living with blood cancer participate in a clinical trial. Of those who did not participate, one in five indicated they wanted to enrol in a clinical trial, but there either weren't any trials available, or they failed to meet eligibility criteria.

The Leukaemia Foundation is driving a program of investment, advocacy, and collaboration to remove these barriers.

These critical investments have provided our country's brightest researchers and clinicians with a better understanding of blood cancers. Importantly, clinical trials that demonstrate a positive outcome are set to improve the management of blood cancers in the future, leading to the best possible outcomes for Australians facing blood cancer.



7 clinical trials
supported by
Leukaemia Foundation



150 patients
took part in those trials

New hope for families facing AML and MDS

Last year, the Leukaemia Foundation's Trials Enabling Program (TEP) helped Australians living with blood cancer access the latest research and treatments through international clinical trials, without leaving the country.

This innovative collaboration between the Leukaemia Foundation and the Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group (ALLG) was developed to give Australians access to new clinical trials and novel therapies years ahead of their expected availability on the Australian market.

Through the TEP, two new trials have launched at hospital sites across the country, giving new hope to Australians living with acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) and myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS).

The trials, being led in Australia by Chief Investigator Associate Professor Andrew Wei and Principal Investigator Professor Paula Marlton, aim to understand whether the addition of new targeted precision medicine treatments to existing standard treatments will improve outcomes for patients.



Chief Investigator Associate Professor Andrew Wei, The Alfred Hospital



"For Australian blood cancer patients, it's very important that we participate in these international trials to provide them with the opportunity to potentially access these breakthrough new treatments that are being tested."

Professor Paula Marlton

Principal Investigator and Head of Leukaemia and Deputy Director of Haematology at the Princess Alexandra Hospital

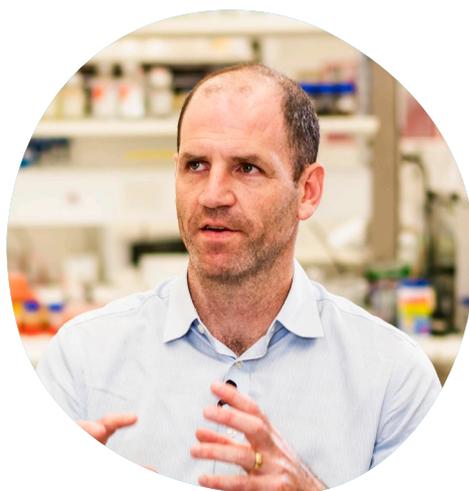
Australian first clinical trial recruits first patient

Community and philanthropic support has not only improved access to international trials, it's also enabled Australian led clinical trials.

The Blood Cancer Genomics Trial is an important new Australian blood cancer genomics trial supported by the Leukaemia Foundation and Tour de Cure.

This revolutionary new precision medicine trial will focus on Australians with high-risk blood cancers who relapse or fail to respond to treatment. Sadly, the outcomes for these people are currently poor. In this clinical trial, these high-risk patients will undergo a genetic screen to identify mutations in their cancer cell DNA, before gaining access to targeted precision medicines.

The Blood Cancer Genomics Trial aims to help transform the way people are treated for blood cancer. It hopes to provide a pipeline for blood cancer patients to access personalised targeted therapies and combination therapies which they may otherwise have no or limited access to.



The Blood Cancer Genomics Trial is led by Professor Steven Lane at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (left) and Professor Hamish Scott, University of South Australia, SA Genomics (right).

Fast-tracking affordable access to innovative treatments

The Leukaemia Foundation steps up to make it count for people living with blood cancer, to be their voice when the government considers listing a blood cancer drug on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The Leukaemia Foundation engages with governments at all levels to advocate for access to affordable treatments on behalf of people living with blood cancer.

In 2020-2021, the Leukaemia Foundation made 15 patient submissions to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee supporting the listing of drugs on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Delivering life-saving impact

In 2020-21, five new drugs for blood cancer that were supported by the Leukaemia Foundation were listed on the PBS.

To appreciate the full extent of the impact for people living with blood cancer, without a PBS listing these drugs would cost a patient anywhere from \$69,000 to \$160,000 per treatment (depending on the drug). Being listed on the PBS reduced patient payments to \$41.00 per script or \$6.60 with a concession card.



The National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer

In April 2019 the Leukaemia Foundation was commissioned by the Australian Government to develop the National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer on behalf of the blood cancer community.

The National Action Plan (NAP) was officially released in September 2020. The NAP offers a blueprint for change and reimagines the way treatment and care of blood cancer patients is planned and administered across Australia.

This initiative will save and improve lives by ensuring every Australian with blood cancer has access to the best possible care and treatments, regardless of where they live, their circumstance or background.

The NAP includes recommendations across the entire blood cancer ecosystem: from research, clinical trials, precision medicines, treatment access and reimbursement, through to achieving best practice in diagnosis, treatment and supportive care.

The recommendations, developed by the Blood Cancer Taskforce, aim to improve how a person is supported from the point of diagnosis, through their treatment and recovery and adjusting to life beyond treatment.

Phase one priority actions

Phase one of the NAP focuses on recommendations around critical standard setting to establish a baseline for best practice blood cancer care in Australia. This is the first step to addressing differences in survival outcomes between states, and between people living in metropolitan and regional areas.

The first priority action in development is blood cancer Optimal Care Pathways (OCPs). These will help ensure that all Australians receive the same high quality, evidence-based care for their specific type of blood cancer, no matter where they live.

OCPs are currently being developed for:

- chronic lymphocytic leukaemia
- chronic myeloid leukaemia
- multiple myeloma
- myelodysplastic syndromes
- low grade lymphomas
- childhood, adolescent and young adult acute leukaemias.

Impact measures

Once implemented, the NAP will generate a potentially significant return on investment for governments and the community and will increase the Leukaemia Foundation's return on investment ².

The health benefits of the completed NAP will be immense. Based on the significant and far-reaching recommendations put forward in the NAP, it's expected we can save 1,375 lives each year, just by setting consistent, national standards for blood cancer treatment and care.

“This Taskforce is a potential game changer for blood cancer. We have been given a unique opportunity to change and save lives which must not be squandered. Momentum is key, and we're already progressing towards consistent best practice treatment across the country.”

Professor John Seymour AM Co-Chair Blood Cancer Taskforce

Director, Department of Haematology Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Royal Melbourne Hospital



²The Health, Social and Economic Impacts of the Leukaemia Foundation, Insight Economics Pty Ltd, February 2021



49 online support groups delivered



Specialised support groups for men, carers, parents and young adult launched



6 disease-specific education events delivered



344

individuals attended online education and support groups



5,105
post event views of education events



411,265
people accessed blood cancer info pages on our website



Meg and her partner Jacob

"You can't replicate the feeling of being seen or heard"

After a complicated blood cancer diagnosis, it was Leukaemia Foundation online support that gave Meg the understanding she needed to navigate an uncertain time.

In February 2020, Meg was given an inconclusive diagnosis of either myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) or aplastic anaemia.

Facing the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and an uncertain diagnosis, the 27-year-old felt isolated and vulnerable.

Thanks to the generosity of Australians, the Leukaemia Foundation has given Meg valuable support through an online community who understand.

“I regularly attend online support groups and get so much out of them,” Meg said.

“Sometimes I’ll learn about treatment that I may have ahead of me, or I might just listen to someone who is feeling the same as I am. You can’t replicate that feeling of being seen or heard. The emotional support and different strategies you get from everyone are just brilliant.”

The flexibility and welcoming nature of the online groups have given Meg the chance to share from wherever she is and with no filter.

“I’ve even dialed in from the sidelines of my partner’s soccer game! There have been other participants who have joined from their hospital bed,” said Meg.

“They’ve given me space to express exactly how I feel without fear of judgement.”

“I feel more prepared for what's ahead of me and have learnt so much from not only other participants, but also the Leukaemia Foundation facilitators. Thank you.”



Care

Being there with supportive care

For over 45 years, the Leukaemia Foundation has supported and cared for Australians living with blood cancer, their loved ones and carers. We deliver a breadth of supportive care including accommodation, transport, emotional, practical health and wellbeing and grief support.

Personalised support from Blood Cancer Support Coordinators

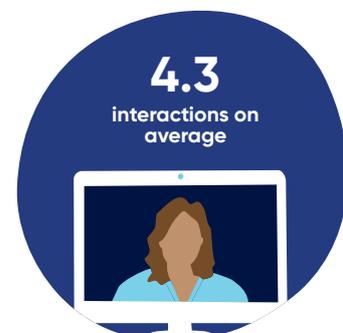
The generosity of our philanthropic community has been pivotal in enabling us to redesign our service delivery during COVID-19.

Early in the financial year the Leukaemia Foundation worked with Melbourne University to identify the evolving impacts of COVID-19 for people living with blood cancer to ensure our support services responded to the research findings.

The research showed that:

- 70% of respondents reported some degree of concern about the impact of COVID-19 on their cancer management³
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, 35% of respondents indicated they had limited opportunity for family support, and 21% had been restricted in accessing care due to travel bans³
- 32% of respondents reported experiencing at least one unmet moderate or high need³

Specialised Blood Cancer Support Coordinators were able to provide personalised support through various telehealth models, including phone, text, online support groups and video conferencing. These flexible ways of delivering support have helped break down the barriers of access to critical support services.



³ Prevalence and correlates of psychological distress, unmet supportive care needs, and fear of cancer recurrence among haematological cancer patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, Nienke Zomerdijk, Michelle Jongenelis, Camille E. Short, Andrew Smith, Jane Turner, Kathryn Huntley, Jan 2021

Support one step ahead

When Bridget's husband Mitchell was diagnosed with aggressive blood cancer, the support she didn't even know she needed became a constant source of strength.

"Our lives changed from that moment," said Bridget, his wife of eight years and mother to their three children.



"You need someone who gets it, who can listen to all your questions and fears without judgement."

Funding support for the Blood Cancer Support team meant that Bridget was handed the card of Leukaemia Foundation Blood Cancer Support Coordinator, Kate.

"I was told 'you don't know it yet, but you're going to need this person,'" remembers Bridget.

Kate organised free childcare for Bridget and helped her apply for income support. "But it was so much more than that," explains Bridget. "Kate was always one step ahead of me, ready with what I needed next."

"Kate was that person for me through it all."



Bridget, Mitchell and their children.

Mitchell sadly lost his life to blood cancer in April 2021.

"We will hold him in our hearts forever and remember him for the amazing father, husband and man that he was," said Bridget. "I'm forever grateful for the support we have received which still continues to this day – I wouldn't be standing here without it."



Helping families access life-saving treatment

In early 2021, the Leukaemia Foundation, together with our long-term patient transport partner Bridgestone Australia, launched a new, personalised transport service to enhance the ability to provide support to the blood cancer community through a more tailored approach.

From an idea that began in 2018, Bridgestone Australia invested in the research of the Leukaemia Foundation's former transport service and funded an innovative pilot program. Through this pilot, several key insights were realised and collaboratively, a revised model was developed.

The impact of COVID-19 saw the Leukaemia Foundation's transport service suspended to protect the health and wellbeing of people living with blood cancer and our team of volunteer drivers. This program suspension accelerated the roll out of our new personalised service leveraging the insights gained through the pilot program.

Thanks to the generosity and support of Bridgestone Australia, everyone with blood cancer can now access the Leukaemia Foundation's new personalised transport program.

392

people benefitted from the new transport service



\$85,550

in transport support provided



Wherever you live, whatever your situation

The new personalised service gives families complete control over their own journey to life-saving blood cancer treatment, in a way that's right for them and better meets their needs. This means saving families time, money and worry. Our transport service is always evolving to better meet the needs of the blood cancer community, an evolution proudly supported by Bridgestone Australia and its network since 1986.

How it works

With support from Bridgestone Australia, the review of the transport service highlighted that a one-size fits all approach wasn't best for the diverse needs of our blood cancer community. What works for a parent travelling with children in Brisbane may be different to a person from regional Victoria who uses a wheelchair and needs to travel to the city for treatment.

Our Leukaemia Foundation team members now manage every support request with an individual focus, considering the solution that will best fit the person's specific needs and location.

The service includes expanded options like:

- Taxi, fuel or parking vouchers
- Financial subsidies
- Referrals to other transport providers
- Help with completing applications for other providers

Bridgestone's ongoing support is helping get Australians with blood cancer on the road to recovery!



I feel empowered by how it's all tailored to what I personally need, rather than a one size fits all. You guys really understand!

– Aaron, a blood cancer patient*



“Our ongoing partnership with the Leukaemia Foundation is a core part of our commitment to contributing to society under the company's global ‘Our Way to Serve’ initiative. Throughout the year, our stores and customers are continually raising funds with \$2 from every Turanza Serenity Plus tyre sold going directly to funding the Leukaemia Foundation's transport service, as well as other fundraising initiatives.” Stephen Roche, Managing Director – Bridgestone Australia.

Did you know that our partnership with Bridgestone Australia is quite possibly the longest, if not one of very few of Australia's most enduring corporate partnerships? And we're super proud to be celebrating 35 years of their unwavering support of the blood cancer community.

*name changed for privacy reasons

Accommodation centres providing safe home-away-from-homes

Philanthropic support enabled Leukaemia Foundation accommodation centres to remain open to individuals and their loved ones throughout the year, at no cost to them.

To keep resident families safe, restrictions and improved cleaning protocols have remained in place at accommodation centres since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.



Accommodation services vital for at-risk families

The Leukaemia Foundation's accommodation services enable at risk families to overcome significant barriers to blood cancer treatment. Without access to Leukaemia Foundation accommodation:

- 5% of families would have declined treatment ⁴
- 10% would have sought less optimal care closer to home, likely leading to poorer outcomes ⁴
- Roughly 80% would have exhausted their savings and incurred higher out of pocket costs if they had to self-fund their accommodation. Of these, around 20% would have experienced increased financial hardship as a result of prolonged accommodation and associated travel costs. ⁴

⁴The Health, Social and Economic Impacts of the Leukaemia Foundation, Insight Economics Pty Ltd, February 2021

Helping ease financial pressure

Blood cancer can impact every aspect of family life, including the day to day running of a household and the ability to pay bills. The stress of financial commitments can place additional burden on families, as they navigate long and demanding blood cancer treatment, potential reduced income and additional treatment related costs such as medications and car parking. We work with families to understand their financial commitments and impacts and then tailor our support.

Generous support from individuals and families allows the Leukaemia Foundation to provide a lifeline through financial assistance grants, including food and petrol vouchers to families referred by health care professionals.



Our supporters

The Leukaemia Foundation has a long history of partnering with the community and other organisations to support the delivery of real life-saving impact for people living with blood cancer. These supporters, and so many other bighearted Aussies, are members of a very special, generous community. Our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation!

AbbVie	CommScentre	Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation	Simon National Carriers
Amgen	Dry July Foundation	Novartis	Stan Perron Charitable Foundation
Astra Zeneca	Gillespie Family Foundation	Perpetual Trustees	Suitters Foundation
Better Living Group	Halifax Foundation	Pfizer	The Alfred & Jean Dickson Foundation
Bourne Foundation	Hammond Family Foundation	Rae and Peter Gunn Family Foundation	The Cory Charitable Foundation
Bridgestone Australia	Hands Across Canberra	Richardson Family Foundation	Tony Fini Foundation
Bristol Myers Squibb (Celgene)	Handy Family Foundation	Sarto Advisory / Future Generation	Tour de Cure Ltd
Brydens Lawyers	Janssen Australia	Servier	
Carcione Foundation	John James Foundation		
Charities Aid Foundation (CAF America)	Kojo		

The Leukaemia Foundation would also like to extend our gratitude to the extraordinarily generous people who left a gift in Will. 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.

Valma Adams	Elizabeth Cowan	Judith Hodgkinson	Nancy Hannah Dorothy Penhallurick
Elsie Anders	Pauline Dansie	Keith Alfred James	Gary Perrett
Betty Anderson	Monica Mary de Bryon-Faes	Margaret Lack	Lorraine Reakes
Richard Anderson	Martin George Degn	Gwendolyn Lord	Adeline Riley
Rodney Edward Anderson	Stella Denner	Jane Lutz	Mervyn Edwin Rogers
Andrew Apostolou	Mervyn Errington	Carol Madden	David Roleston
Verna Arthur	Ernest Charles Evans	Eva Winifred Maxwell	Therese Smith
Irene Ruth Blair	Polly and Lewis Families	Shirley McCosh	John Tipping
Mavis Florence Brest	Melvyn Farrugia	Beverley and Jock McIlwain	Miriam Therese Vaughan
Nancy Campbell	Arthur Thomas Ferguson	Paul Miller	Elsa Norma Vedder
Norah Cheong	Ian Neil Galletly	Derek Martin Muller	Glendwyr Wake
Patrick Chin	Jackson Glenister	Alf and Winifred Murgatroyd	Thomas and Coral Williams
Mariam Choucair	Elizabeth Gow	Thomas Edward Murray	Judith Wilson
Thomas and Vera Condie	Madella Ann Hay	Noel Niemeyer	
Estelle Maree Cook	Carmelita Herzenak	Patrick Bernard O'Brien	
Vera Coulthard			

The Leukaemia Foundation also wants to send our sincere thanks to those who participated and donated in fundraising events throughout the year on our behalf including: Celebrations – celebrate an occasion, DIY – fundraise your own way, Light the Night, Team Beat Blood Cancer, World's Greatest Shave

Appeals

Every year four generous families share their personal stories to help us shine the spotlight on the impacts of people living with blood cancer and to raise funds for those yet to be diagnosed.

Our annual appeals stories capture just how unique the blood cancer journey is for each patient and their loved ones and highlights the array of services and support the Leukaemia Foundation provides throughout their journeys.

We'd like to thank those who shared their stories in 2020/2021 and thank our supporters who made gifts to these appeals. Your generosity helped us to raise \$664,000 to support people living with blood cancer.

World's Greatest Shave 2021

In 2021 the Leukaemia Foundation celebrated 23 years of raising vital funds for people living with blood cancer through our world-recognised World's Greatest Shave campaign.

This year was an especially impressive effort with Aussies everywhere rallying their friends, family and community to support their fundraising efforts in a largely online world during the pandemic. Together these wonderfully committed individuals and teams raised a whopping \$17.6 million dollars - the most funds raised in five years.

Our highest fundraisers included:

Marshal Keen from NSW	\$ 96,458
Graham Mirabito from NSW	\$ 50,067
Tim Henry SA from Toms Hillbillies	\$ 48,404
Joshua Arens from NSW	\$ 41,110

The highest Workplace fundraising team: Team Dg No Hair Yeah Yeah, in NSW came out on top as the nation's highest fundraising team in the Workplace category raising an astounding \$277,950.

The impact of such fundraising is monumental, providing 496 people living with blood cancer and their loved ones with free accommodation close to life-saving treatment. This is a vital service for those who live far away from medical care enabling patients and their families to be together during this most challenging time.

Light the Night 2020

Each October, thousands of Australians who have experienced the darkness of blood cancer come together to Light the Night. This night is an important moment to reflect, remember, and share hope as a community for a future free of blood cancer.

Each lantern holds a special meaning – white symbolises one's own blood cancer journey, gold for a loved one lost to blood cancer, and blue to show support for those affected by blood cancer.

This year, COVID-19 turned the event upside-down, but thanks to the commitment of our team, we hosted our first-ever virtual lantern lighting ceremony, brought to life online.

Going virtual allowed us to connect with more people from across Australia, including those in hospital undergoing blood cancer treatment. Together, we raised close to \$1 million for people living with blood cancer.

Our highest fundraisers included:

Team Light the Night for Lyndell (QLD)	\$ 17,774
Team Shane Bulloch's Light the Night (QLD)	\$ 16,245
Team Shane's Light the Night, Clarendon Homes (NSW)	\$ 11,181



Edward's lasting legacy



Edward was just one month shy of his 27th birthday when he passed away after a six-year blood cancer journey.

Despite the long and difficult journey Edward was determined to help others and was instrumental in setting up a young adult blood cancer support group and updating his Will to include an extraordinary gift to the Leukaemia Foundation.

Recalling her “funny, cheeky, thoughtful” son, Jan shares it was Edward’s passion and determination to help others, especially young adults, navigate a blood cancer diagnosis and this inspired her to recently update her own Will to include a gift to the Leukaemia Foundation as well.

“I see this gift in will as my parting gift to the many more families coming after us who hopefully won’t suffer such a terrible fate,” Jan explains.

Through my gift I'm now carrying on Edward's precious legacy of helping others and keeping his memory alive. It also brings me great comfort to know his name will be remembered long after we're both gone

To learn more about how your gift can help us achieve zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035 please call **07 3318 4459** or mobile **0435 962 162** or email giftinwill@leukaemia.org.au.

Rebecca Gumley Memorial Fund

At just 27 years of age, Rebecca Gumley was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. While Rebecca did enter remission following a stem cell transplant, sadly, she developed a condition known as Graft versus Host Disease (GvHD) that ended her life two weeks before her 29th birthday.



To honour Rebecca's commitment to advocating for people living with blood cancer, and specifically those requiring stem cell transplants, her family and friends came together to fund breakthrough research at the Centre for Blood Transplant and Cell Therapy. Close to \$500,000 has been raised to advance the Centre's work.

The family has also established the Rebecca Gumley Memorial Fellowship which has been awarded to Dr Wei Jiang, a laboratory haematologist working within the Cell Therapies Group at the Westmead Institute of Medical Research.

This extraordinary commitment of Rebecca, her family and friends to helping us reach zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035 is truly remarkable.

Our Board



Lucio Di Giallonardo
Chair



Michelle Beveridge
Director



Professor Mark Cormack
Director



Dr Angela Ferguson
Director



Jane Hancock
Director



Nigel Harris
Director



Peter Hodgett
Director



Sian Slade
Director

In April 2021 we welcomed a refreshed Board made up of those voted by members and two Directors appointed by the Board.

We'd like to thank our departing Board Directors for bringing their knowledge, talent and commitment to the Leukaemia Foundation and steering us towards our goal of zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

With thanks to Dr Carrie Hillyard AM, Phillip Bradley, Timothy Ridgway, Associate Professor Maryanne Hargraves, Christopher Murray, Darren Laarhoven, Andrew Soter, and Tony Formica for their dedication and service.

And welcome to our new Board Directors who are now taking the reins. We're very pleased to have longstanding Board Director Lucio Di Giallonardo as our current Chair working alongside our new Board Directors Michelle Beveridge, Professor Mark Cormack, Dr Angela Ferguson, Jane Hancock, Nigel Harris, Peter Hodgett and Sian Slade.

Our Executive Leadership Team

In 2021 the Leukaemia Foundation farewelled several members of the Executive Leadership Team and welcomed three new executives supporting our goal of achieving zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

With thanks to Alex Struthers, acting CEO, Rachael Lance, acting General Manager Supporters and Keiran Mylrea, General Manager Corporate Services for their contribution.

Joining us more recently we welcome Maria Voukenas, General Manager People and Culture, Mike Hubbard, Chief Financial Officer and Charlotte Webb, General Manager Supporters.



Chris Tanti
Chief Executive Officer



Kathryn Huntley
*General Manager
People Living with Blood Cancer*



Tim Murphy
*General Manager
Blood Cancer Partnerships*



Charlotte Webb
*General Manager
Supporters*



Susie Howard
*General Manager
Strategic Communication*



Mike Hubbard
Chief Financial Officer



Maria Voukenos
*General Manager
People & Culture*



Our Members & Branches

Our members from all corners of Australia continue their important contribution to the Leukaemia Foundation in many ways. From working in Branch committees, to leading and lending a hand at fundraising events and finding ways to ease the burden and offer comfort to families in their communities who are impacted by a blood cancer diagnosis.

Our members and branches have not let COVID-19 interrupt their incredible fundraising efforts with larger events such as the Mackay Marina Run, Mossman's Airing of the Quilts, Golf Days by Redcliffe and Albany Branches and Lockyer-Brisbane Valley's High Tea enjoying great support.

Stanthorpe's Lamington Drive, the many Mother's Day and Father's Day events, Melbourne Cup luncheons and Christmas parties were also a great success. Regular fundraisers also continued through the year such as Theatre Nights, Albany Creek's Teddy's Day Out and the ever-popular raffles run by many branches.

Our newest branch, Thornbury in Victoria held their first successful online fundraiser and many branches and members participated in our signature events World's Greatest Shave and Light the Night to raise funds and bring awareness to their communities.

Several branches received substantial donations from generous members of their communities with Warwick Branch presenting a cheque for \$169,000. These contributions directly support the important work of the Leukaemia Foundation and bring us closer to our goal of zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035.

Our members and branches are the heart of the Leukaemia Foundation. They are our local champions, and we are so grateful for their dedication and support.

Our volunteers

With restrictions in place due to COVID-19 we haven't been able to welcome our talented and generous volunteers back this year. As the situation improves, we look forward to once again connecting with our wonderful volunteers who bring so much in service to people living with blood cancer.



The Leukaemia Foundation of Australia

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30th June 2021

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	42,122,611	24,135,424
Trade and other receivables	558,080	1,634,730
Other assets	46,180	110,705
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	42,276,871	25,880,859
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	53,317,964	59,798,433
Right-of-use assets	1,427,342	2,692,522
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	2,750,514	1,828,850
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	57,495,820	64,319,805
TOTAL ASSETS	100,222,691	90,200,664
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	1,071,181	785,730
Lease liability	835,746	849,385
Unearned income	327,456	-
Provisions	1,381,366	1,366,155
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	3,615,749	3,001,270
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease liability	640,230	1,894,943
Provisions	559,784	573,081
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,200,014	2,468,024
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,815,763	5,469,294
NET ASSETS	95,406,928	84,731,370
EQUITY		
Retained surplus	67,578,768	57,295,889
Reserves	27,828,160	27,435,481
TOTAL EQUITY	95,406,928	84,731,370

The Leukaemia Foundation of Australia Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30th June 2021

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Income	39,041,834	34,129,658
Fundraising and operational support expenses (excluding research grants and patient support)	(14,885,871)	(18,896,280)
	24,155,963	15,233,378
Fulfilment of mission expenses	(13,873,084)	(16,439,969)
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	10,282,879	(1,206,591)
<i>Other Comprehensive Income – items that will not subsequently be reclassified to profit or loss</i>		
Net changes in fair value of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	392,679	(384,935)
Total comprehensive income/(deficit) for the year	10,675,558	(1,591,526)

Covid-19 Impact Summary

Having experienced suppressed levels of income and restrictions on aspects of service provision in FY20, the Leukaemia Foundation took steps to plan for the impact of COVID-19 on operations in FY21 and mitigate accordingly.

Transportation for treatment services could not be offered due to transmission risks and this led to the sale of the transportation fleet. Going forward these services will be resumed using flexible vehicle acquisition.

Due to lockdown and travel restrictions, we saw a reduction in the occupancy rates of our patient accommodation centers and the temporary closure of our Clem Jones Sunland Village facility in Queensland. There was a commensurate reduction in travel and labour costs associated with our clinical and corporate services.

As public events were severely curtailed, we took the decision not to run the Ugly Bartender and Aussie Muscle Car campaigns and also significantly reduced our community and telemarketing fundraising activity as well as reducing our permanent headcount.

We saw an increase in ICT costs as we equipped staff to work from home but pleasingly a lot of groundwork had been done for this in prior periods and so expenditure was modest.

Importantly, our Research Grant expenditure remained on par with prior periods in FY21 despite difficulties in travel and attending research centers.

Our impact extends beyond blood cancer

The Leukaemia Foundation creates considerable social benefits for the broader community and financial savings for Australian governments.⁵

- ✓ The total benefit to government arising from the Leukaemia Foundation's accommodation service is estimated to be \$148.3 million over the 2015 – 2040 period.⁵
- ✓ Approximately 1/3 of blood cancer survivors return to work, increasing the supply of labour to the economy.⁵
- ✓ Financial assistance for individuals and families facing blood cancer reduces out of pocket costs, thereby increasing household wealth and reducing reliance on government's social services.⁵
- ✓ The Leukaemia Foundation's supportive care services "fill the gap", complementing existing health services and allowing scarce health dollars to be used for other purposes.⁵

⁵The Health, Social and Economic Impacts of the Leukaemia Foundation, Insight Economics Pty Ltd, February 2021

Ways to support our work

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 living 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 other 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!

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**[®]

**GPO BOX 9954 BRISBANE QLD
1800 620 420 info@leukaemia.org.au**



 The Leukaemia Foundation cares about our environment. Please recycle or dispose of thoughtfully.

The Leukaemia Foundation acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.