



Annual Report

2022-23

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation with First Nations peoples of Australia, the Leukaemia Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Countries on which we operate.

We acknowledge and respect First Nations peoples' spiritual beliefs, connections to land, sea and communities.

The Leukaemia Foundation pays our respect to Elders past and present, and extends that respect to all Traditional Owners across the Nation.

We may use the terms 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples', 'First Nations peoples', and, where known, preferred identities in our Annual Report.

It's our heartfelt intention to use preferred and accepted identifiers, however, in keeping with this rich culture, we acknowledge there is no singular preferred term for everyone in Australia's First Nations peoples' communities.

Please be aware our annual report may also mention the survival outcomes of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, and acknowledge the health inequalities their peoples have experienced, and continue to experience, which may be distressing to First Nations people.

You can learn more about the Leukaemia Foundation's vision for reconciliation and read our *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan* at leukaemia.org.au.



The Leukaemia Foundation helps Australians with blood cancer. We offer wraparound health services, fund leading-edge research and campaign for change alongside our community.

Leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma – every blood cancer matters to us. So, we're here for anyone with any blood cancer, every step of the way.

The Leukaemia Foundation is Australia's most trusted cancer charity*, made up of patients, carers, healthcare professionals, researchers, specialists and an army of community supporters.

Blood cancer is a difficult and dangerous opponent and one of the greatest health and social challenges we face.

About 135,000 Australians are living with blood cancer, a number set to double by 2035. It cannot be prevented or screened for. It can strike anyone at any time. And it weighs heaviest on disadvantaged Australians and those living outside of our cities.

We're changing that; it's in our blood. We've spent nearly 50 years working with the community to help solve the challenges faced by people with blood cancer. And we're not stopping until together we reach the day when zero lives are lost to blood cancer.

IT'S IN OUR BLOOD



With April marking the two-year anniversary of the commencement of the Board renewal process and my appointment as Chair of the Leukaemia Foundation, I'm proud to reflect on just how far we've come in this time advancing our support for people living with blood cancer.

The first year was all about building much-needed foundations to extend our impact and drive us towards the day where we see zero lives lost to blood cancer.

And this year, with the number of Australians diagnosed with blood cancer continuing to escalate, we've challenged ourselves to think differently about where we focus support and effort in order to deliver the greatest benefit to the entire blood cancer community.

This forward-thinking approach is captured in the Leukaemia Foundation's first ever Impact Framework which is outlined in this report. The framework is a significant development for the Leukaemia Foundation, as it focuses our attention on setting clear objectives and measuring our impact on individuals, the health sector and Australian communities in the short, medium and long-term.

In the long-term our goal is that people impacted by blood cancer are better able to manage their own physical, mental, emotional, financial and social wellbeing, and that health and care systems are easier to navigate, providing equitable access to treatment care and support, which ultimately reduces lives lost to blood cancer.

I'm very proud of this work and want to thank all involved in contributing to its development.

I'd also like to thank everyone in our community who has contributed to our movement to reach zero preventable blood cancer deaths. So many of you have supported our efforts in a myriad of ways.

I encourage you to explore this report which outlines all the advancements we've made as we continue in our efforts to improve the quality of life for all those impacted by blood cancer.

Lucio Di Giallonardo
Chair of the Board

Approaching our 50th anniversary is a good time to reflect on how much has changed and yet how much remains the same.

The Leukaemia Foundation was founded in 1975 by a small group focused on equitable access to support and care, research funding and education for patients, carers and the medical community.

While we've seen many advances on all fronts, sadly some significant gaps remain, particularly when it comes to geographical and societal barriers.

This year we've been focused on closing these gaps.

We've made great headway with the short-term outcomes within the Impact Framework, including our new Online Support Service which is reaching more people with a blood cancer diagnosis when it suits them, no matter where they live.

This digital service enhances the support of our Blood Cancer Support Coordinators, empowering and equipping patients and carers with trusted information to support their blood cancer journey.

I'm also particularly proud of the work we've done to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples experience health and wellbeing equity alongside the wider community.

During National Reconciliation Week we launched five information booklets designed and written specifically with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander blood cancer patients. I look forward to reporting back next year on the impact these booklets are having in improving the health literacy and outcomes among First Nation Peoples.

I'm also proud to share that this year we committed more than \$4.3m to 18 new research projects. Investment in research is a core activity within the Impact Report and that's because we know research offers our greatest hope of improving and saving lives.

On reflection, while we have much to be proud of, there's also much to do.

And all of what we do is only possible because of the extraordinary financial support we receive from every corner of Australia. With no direct government funding, we rely completely on this generosity. We thank you for supporting the blood cancer community and making a real difference in the lives of people impacted by these insidious diseases.

Thank you for walking alongside us on this very important journey.

Chris Tanti
Chief Executive Officer



THE BURDEN OF BLOOD CANCER

Your blood is a remarkable thing. It keeps you alive by giving your body what it needs, taking away what it doesn't and fighting off infection.

But blood cancer stops your blood from doing what it needs to keep you alive and healthy. It's actually a complicated group of cancers, including lymphoma, leukaemia and myeloma. And it can affect anyone, at any age, at any time.

It develops in the places of your body where blood is made, but its exact cause is still unknown, which means it cannot be prevented or screened for.

A range of things affect someone's chance of surviving blood cancer and sadly it can be incurable.

Despite it being one of this country's most prevalent and dangerous cancers, awareness of blood cancer is very low when compared with other cancers.

But we have set about changing the statistics.

53

Australians are diagnosed with blood cancer every day

135k

people are living with blood cancer

Less than
1 in 4

Australians are aware of blood cancer

Only
21%

are confident they can spot the symptoms of blood cancer

16

Australians will lose their life to blood cancer each day



PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST

Side by side with Australia's blood cancer community, our goal is to ensure zero lives are lost to blood cancer by 2035.

Our organisation's Patient-First Strategy, launched in 2021, is helping to map the next part of our journey to 2035.

In 2022-23 we continued to deliver key outcomes against the five-year strategy, which is made up of four main pillars:

- » Improve the experience of all those affected blood cancer
- » Lead the blood cancer community
- » Grow support and funding
- » Optimise organisational health

Underpinning our work is always the voice of the patient – the people who know and understand the impact of blood cancer.

To help patients and carers share their lived experience with us, we launched our new Consumer Engagement Group in 2022 with 85 registered consumers.

Now we're lucky to be able to count on about 200 people, who are already busy helping us improve the design, delivery and evaluation of our services and systems.

Thank you to everyone in this special group for helping to shape a better future for others with blood cancer.



Impact framework

 = The individual  = System level

Our newly developed Impact Framework clearly sets out how the activities we undertake in our Patient-First Strategy combine and contribute to helping Australians with blood cancer, accelerating us towards the day when zero lives are lost to blood cancer.



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER OVER BLOOD CANCER

For those with blood cancer, their first experience with the Leukaemia Foundation's wraparound health services is often our information support, which makes navigating blood cancer and the health system easier.

This year we provided even more free blood cancer information for those who need it. Information is tailored to someone's individual circumstances and blood cancer type, while more general information is designed to ease the burden of cancer through education.

Getting to know more about your blood cancer can be a life-saving decision and making sure accurate blood cancer information is accessible to everyone is our priority.

Our information and education services are designed to cater for the very diverse nature of Australia's blood cancer community and include:

- » **Webinars**
- » **Podcasts**
- » **Online information**
- » **Printed information**

1.1k

people attended our
online education
webinars or support
groups

684k

people accessed
blood cancer
information on
our website

3.7k

information booklets
ordered by the blood
cancer community

4.8k

downloads of our
Talking Blood Cancer
podcast



A NEW WAY TO CONNECT

This year we launched the first version of our new Online Support Service, an always-there digital service to support people with blood cancer.

It gives Australians an intuitive and organised way to learn about the topics most important to those impacted by blood cancer, including information about fatigue, emotional resilience, returning to work, and financial and legal matters.

Patients and carers alike will find practical steps to help them live with blood cancer. The new service can improve quality of life and wellbeing by addressing person-centred care needs and concerns.

It's simple to use and highly credible, filled with content specially curated by the Leukaemia Foundation.

It has information and recommendations relevant to the blood cancer community, helping guide people towards local services delivered by those with the right expertise.

And it can connect patients and carers to our Blood Cancer Support Coordinators, a unique team that can help with the complex challenge of blood cancer.

We asked about 1,500 people in our community to use the platform this year to help us test the service and make it better. It will be available to everyone across Australia by the end of 2023.



'You're not alone'

Christie Yu was 18 years old when she became run down, attributing it to balancing university and her other commitments.

"That was until I became really sick," says Christie. "Mum took me to the emergency room. There, I was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia."

Christie was immediately put into intensive care and started treatment. She eventually moved on to outpatient chemotherapy before requiring a stem cell transplant.

"Being diagnosed with cancer is a very abrupt and extensive change. Often the physical challenges are acknowledged, but in some ways, the psychological challenges can be even more difficult," says Christie.

Christie has been using our new Online Support Service, designed to help patients navigate blood cancer.

"The support service hosts a range of sources for psychological support, including mental health advice in different learning modules. It also connects people with counsellors and psychologists.

"The *Emotional Resilience* learning module will really help equip patients to manage their mental health and identify at what point to seek additional help.

"I was also impressed with the *New Normal* learning module. It captures many unspoken difficulties of survivorship, like the loss of the hospital support network and grappling with what you have experienced.

"I thought I was alone in grieving my old self and expectations of survivorship. It created a barrier in talking to anyone about my grief. The learning modules normalise these thoughts and makes you feel [like] you're not alone."



CLOSING THE GAP

We strive each day to ensure First Nations peoples experience health and wellbeing equity alongside Australia's wider community.

This year the Leukaemia Foundation launched five new information booklets designed and written specifically with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander blood cancer patients.

A blood cancer diagnosis is often overwhelming and for many First Nations people it results in them having to leave their community for the first time to seek treatment and care.

The new booklets harness a rich storytelling culture to help more First Nations Australians understand their diagnosis and learn what they can expect from treatment.

The first three booklets in the series cover a range of important topics, including information about blood and cancer, symptoms, tests and treatments like chemotherapy.

The final two books in the series are all about stem cell transplants, a common treatment for blood cancer. The booklets can be downloaded from [the Leukaemia Foundation website](#) and will also be distributed to health clinics around the country.

The booklets are primarily visual teaching tools, designed to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients. However, they may also benefit all patients, including cultural and linguistically diverse groups whose main language isn't English.

The booklets were officially launched during National Reconciliation Week 2023.

This year we continued to advance a unique **First Nations Epidemiology Study** to provide the vital evidence base for a national roundtable tackling the systemic challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with blood cancer. We'll be delivering a range of insights and reports in 2024, ahead of the roundtable in 2025.

► An illustration from our new *When I have chemo* booklet for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and their families.

550

families provided
accommodation run
by the Leukaemia
Foundation

1.1k

financial
assistance
grants provided

37.6k

nights of
accommodation
provided

\$276k

given in financial
assistance grants

\$406k

provided in
transport
support

2.4k

people benefitted
from our transport
service

'LIFE ADMIN' DOESN'T GO AWAY

Families facing long and demanding treatment have the added stress of managing the ongoing pressures of everyday practical matters, from work and finances to family life and relationships.

So our practical support program is designed to be just that: practical.

This year our team continued to help patients understand what practical support they might need, and then connect them with available services that ease the stress of everyday life.

Our practical support helps patients and carers with transport and accommodation services, financial advice and assistance, and support to manage work, study and family matters.

LIVING UP TO EXPECTATIONS

If you've been diagnosed with a blood cancer and live in regional, rural or remote areas of Australia, you may have to travel to a city hospital at short notice. It can mean many weeks or months away from home.

We offer subsidised or, where possible, free accommodation to regional and rural patients and their families to help relieve the stress and financial burden of attending treatment.

Over the last few years there have been many factors that have impacted the way we provide accommodation, including COVID-19, the introduction of telehealth, and more readily available treatment in regional areas.

This year we undertook a comprehensive review of our accommodation service to ensure we can continue to deliver the most impact for patients and their families into the future.

The review investigated and provided a range of recommendations that will help us make more accommodation options available where they're needed most; deliver a more consistent experience for our stakeholders; and remove barriers so more people access our service.

To find out what our blood cancer community was thinking and experiencing, we spoke to previous residents and our staff about their experiences with our accommodation.

We also connected with senior healthcare professionals across Australia to help us gain valuable insight into the future landscape of blood cancer treatment for regional and rural patients, as well as the potential impacts of telehealth.

We found several common themes and questions, including:

- » Will regional hospitals offer a wider range of treatments negating the need for patients to travel to the city?
- » Will more treatments start in the city but finish in regional hospitals?
- » Will telehealth replace the need for in-person appointments?
- » Are diagnosis practices changing and will this increase the number of people diagnosed and potentially needing accommodation?

The answers to all these important questions, and many more, will form a critical part in how we deliver our accommodation services in the future.

We've already started to act on some of the recommendations and that work will continue as we strive to make a greater impact for those who need our accommodation services.



Easing the burden

Lorie Sarson received a shock blood cancer diagnosis in 2021, putting her and husband Troy in immediate financial distress due to treatment and transport costs.

Lorie needed to receive treatment at Melbourne's Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, increasing travel to and from appointments.

"We found ourselves needing to do trip after trip to Melbourne for stem cell harvesting," says Troy.

The couple needed a roof over their heads in Melbourne – and that's when they were referred to the Leukaemia Foundation.

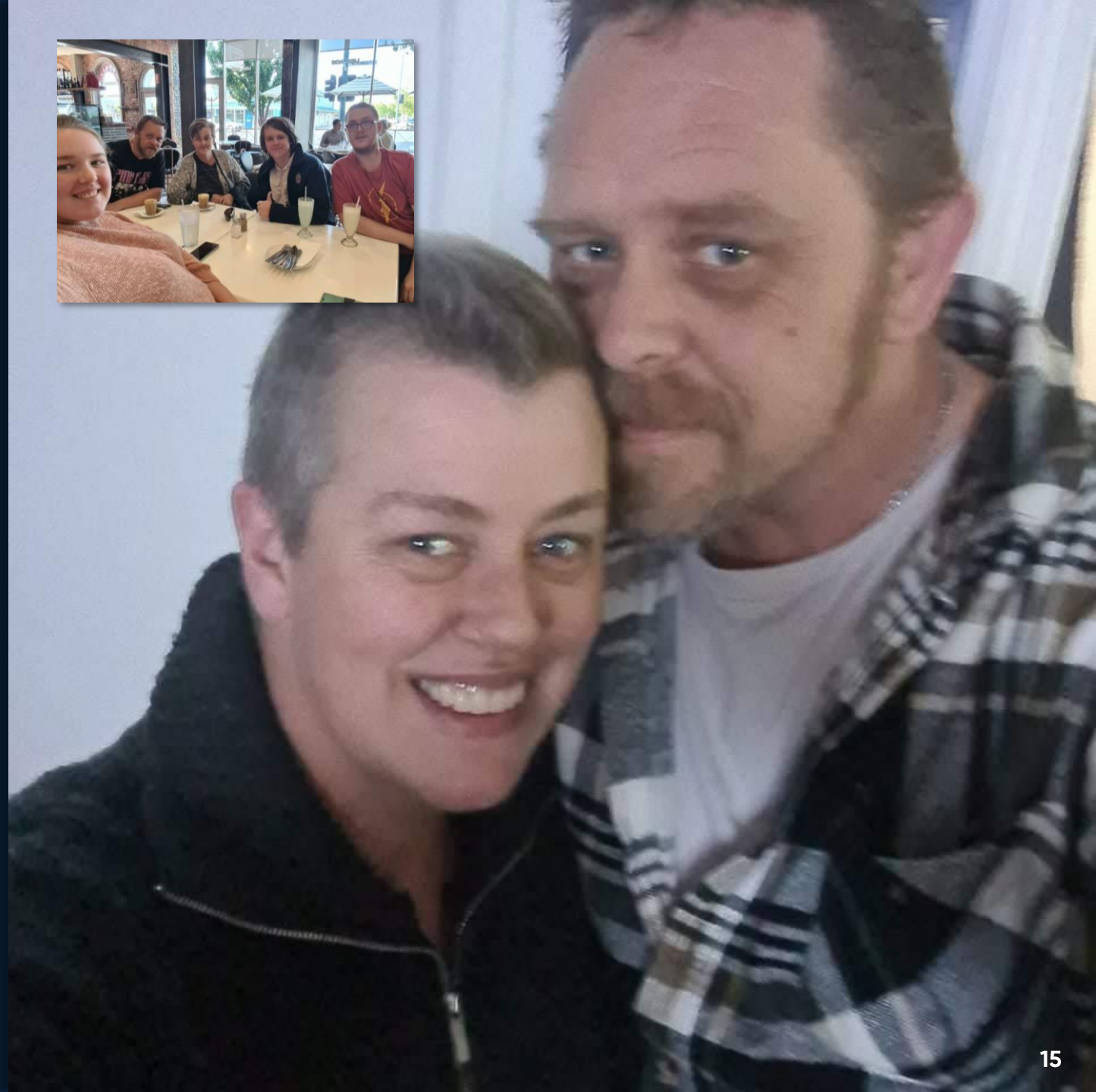
"Peter Mac wanted us to stay in Melbourne, and that's when the Leukaemia Foundation really got involved," says Troy.

"They found us accommodation and organised fuel vouchers for us. Without that help, I wouldn't know what we would have done. There's no way we could have paid for rent in Melbourne."

Fuel vouchers eased the financial burden for Troy, who was living in Bendigo for work. He needed to travel to and from Melbourne every two days.

"We hate asking for help," says Lorie. "If people ask us how we're going, we just say 'yeah good, thanks'. That's why Jo from the Leukaemia Foundation was such a big help. She was constantly messaging and reminding us that the Leukaemia Foundation was there for us."

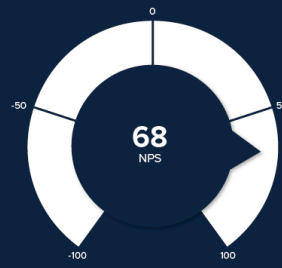
After undergoing a stem cell transplant in November 2022, Lorie went into remission.



HOW ARE WE DOING?

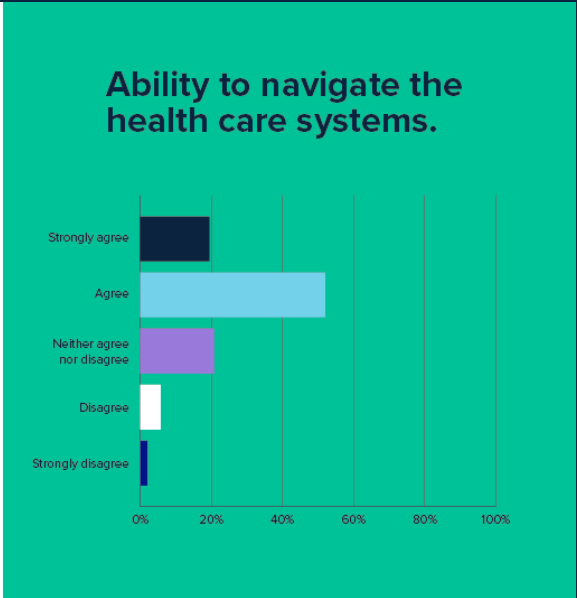
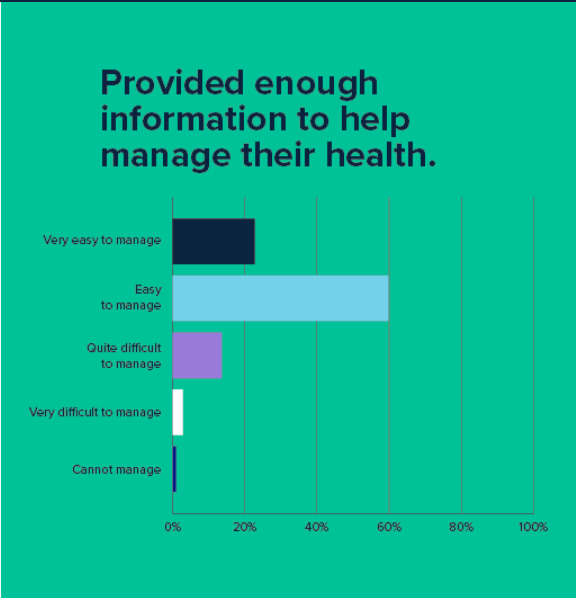
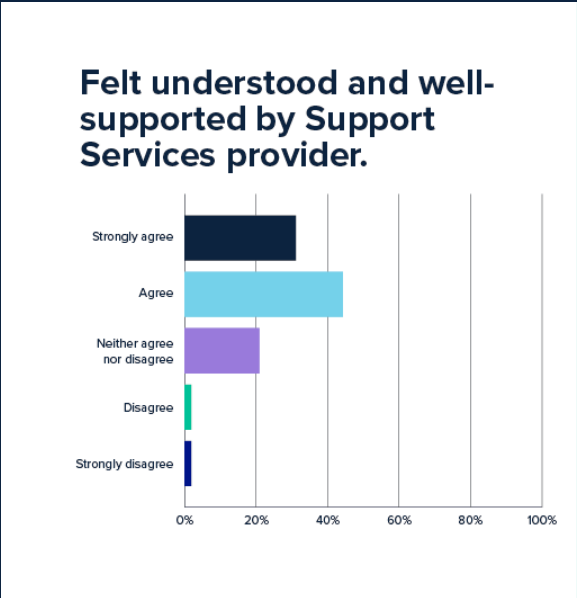
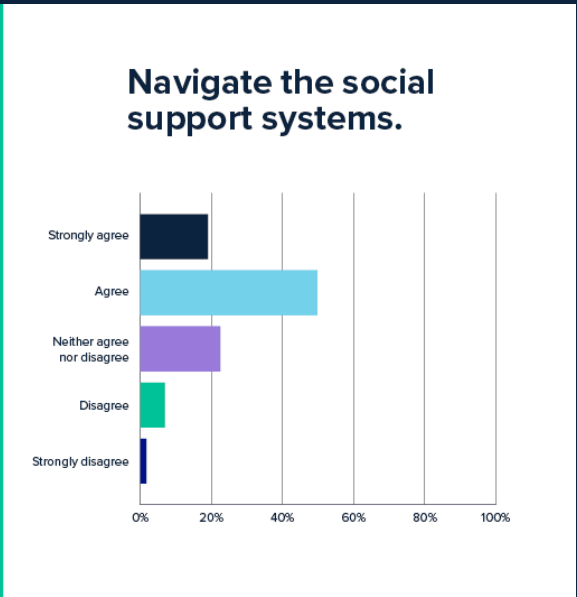
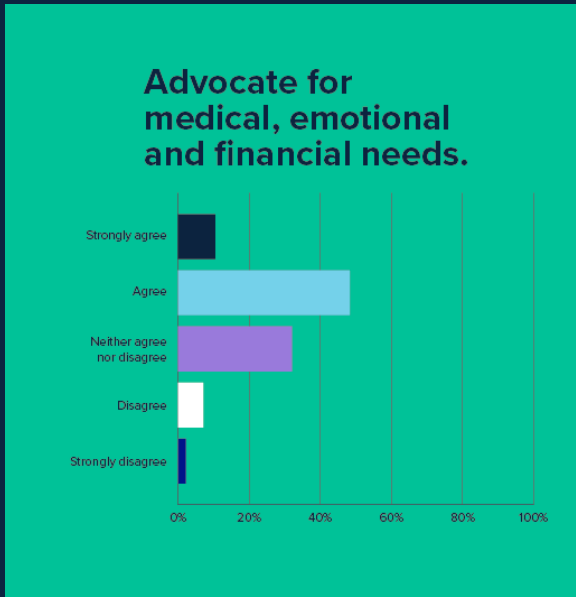
In alignment with our Impact Framework, we regularly ask people who use our services different questions to understand how our support helped.

Our Net Promoter Score (NPS) measures how satisfied people are with the Leukaemia Foundation overall and helps us track satisfaction over time. We use all these results (and many more) to help improve our services.



Previous scores	
2022	65
2021	61
2020	59

NPS scoring breakdowns	
70 - 80	Excellent
30 - 69	Great
0 - 29	Good
-100 to	Needs improvement



HELP WITH CANCER ROLLERCOASTER

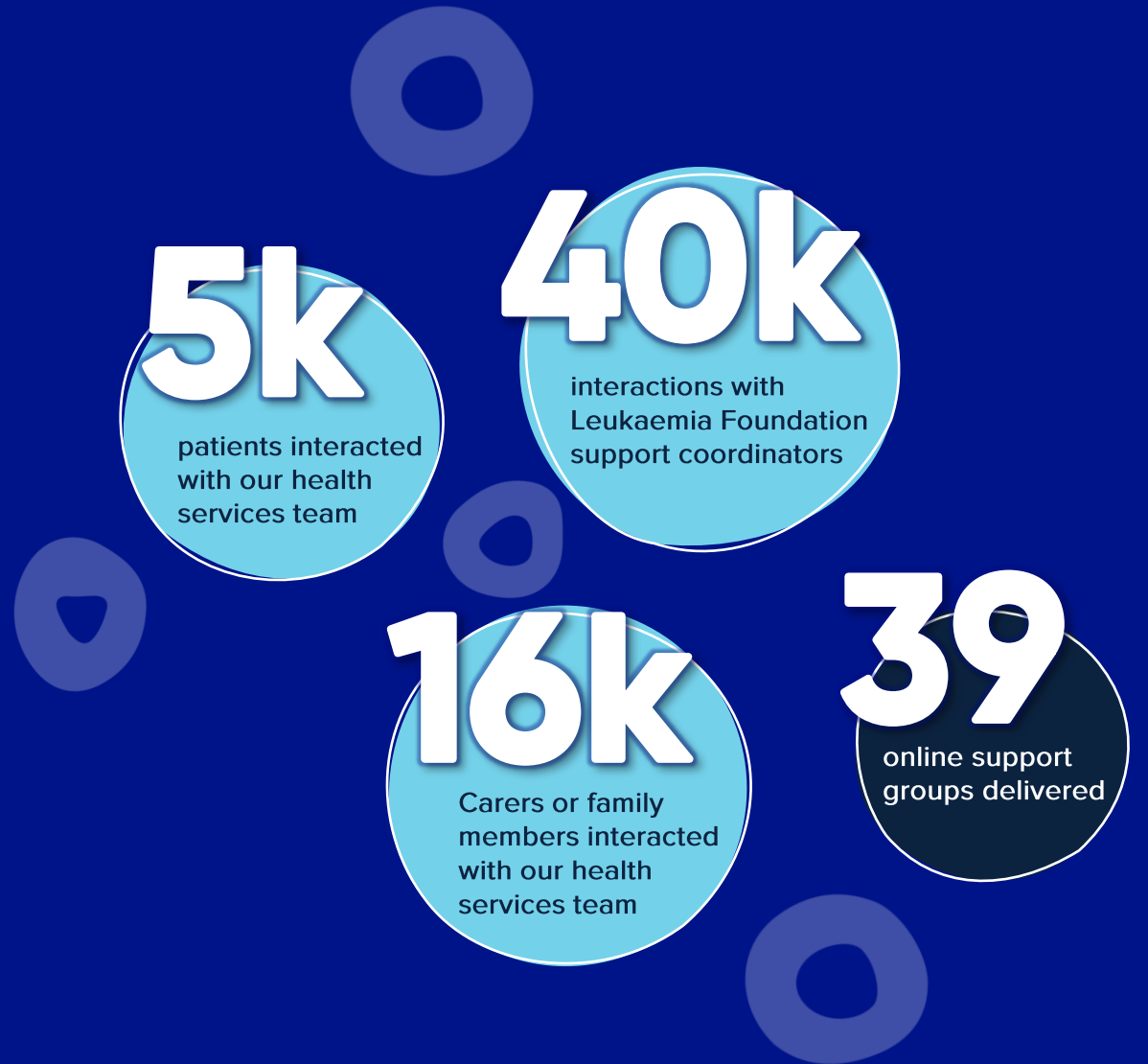
As part of our wraparound health services, the Leukaemia Foundation continued to offer a range of emotional and psychological support this year, delivered by our highly trained support services team.

A blood cancer diagnosis is a life-changing event, which has a significant impact on people's emotional and psychological wellbeing, including those family and friends who are deeply involved in their lives. It's normal for people to feel a range of emotions: grief, anger, fear, sadness. Treatment is complex and so it's not uncommon for patients and their loved ones to feel overwhelmed.

Our Blood Cancer Support Coordinators can help anyone at any stage of their cancer journey.

Whether someone just needs to talk about how they're feeling, they need some support adjusting, or they're feeling completely overwhelmed by their emotions, the Leukaemia Foundation is here to listen, provide support and provide connections to other services that can also assist.

Our staff have backgrounds in healthcare and are all experienced in offering emotional support.



'Invaluable advice'

In 2020, Giles Purbrick and wife, Jacqui, welcomed their baby daughter into the world. But just days later, Giles was hit with a blood cancer diagnosis that turned everything on its head.

"Our happiness bubble had suddenly popped," says Giles.

"I was quickly put in touch with the Leukaemia Foundation's Blood Cancer Support Coordinators who were an immense help. They were always very familiar with my personal circumstances and played a massive role through the twists and turns of my patient journey. I feel incredibly grateful to these amazing people."

Two years after he was diagnosed, Giles entered remission.

While in remission, Giles continued to receive further guidance and support from the Leukaemia Foundation's Blood Cancer Support Coordinators. They helped him navigate long-term survivorship and a long-awaited return to work.

"The team was fantastic in helping me navigate these decisions and provided invaluable advice. The Leukaemia Foundation and the Blood Cancer Support Coordinators play such an important function in the blood cancer ecosystem. They were always ready and available to take a call, answer questions or point me towards information or useful resources."

"In a digital age that can sometimes feel isolating and impersonal, the Leukaemia Foundation's Blood Cancer Support Coordinators provide the critical human touch to support, listen, guide and galvanise."



Emotional support | Peer support groups

MORE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

About 700 Australians aged between 15 and 34 are diagnosed with blood cancer each year, and we know young adults with blood cancer have some unique needs and challenges.

This year we successfully piloted a new virtual peer support group that allowed younger people to share their experience, exchange information and learn healthy coping strategies in a supportive space.

The group was facilitated by our Blood Cancer Support Coordinators and was open to anyone diagnosed with a blood cancer aged 18-45.

Like all our online support groups, our *Young Adults Blood Cancer Support Group* was easy to access from any device via Zoom. They were also held in the evening to accommodate the needs of young adults.

In 2022-23 we facilitated five fortnightly sessions, discussing different topics ranging from relationships and communication, to life transitions after diagnosis.

Due to the success of the pilot, we'll be rolling it out into our standard support group program in 2024, co-facilitated by our staff and a young adult.



RESTORING A SENSE OF SELF

Sadly, too many lives are still lost to blood cancer and our grief and bereavement services help support families and friends during these difficult periods.

This year we established a new bereavement support group to provide an opportunity for people who have lost someone to blood cancer to connect with others who understand what it's like to live with bereavement.

It's open to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one from blood cancer.

The closed sessions are facilitated by staff trained in grief counselling and have been carefully designed to allow people to share with others experiencing bereavement in a safe, supportive environment.

Each week over four weeks the group explores a different aspect of loss and grief, including:

- » *Sharing your story* – Meet others who understand what it feels like to be alone in grief
- » *The impact of loss* – Explore the maze of personal and practical impacts of loss
- » *Models of grief* – Learn about the theories of grief & what this looks like in daily life
- » *Restoring meaning* – Reconnect with yourself and the world & restore meaning in life
- » *Time to reconnect* – Exploring your long-term support needs



18

new research projects funded in 2022-23

More than
\$4.34m

committed to new research in 2022-23

40

projects being supported by our *National Research Program**

\$60.8m

committed to blood cancer research since 2000

INVESTMENT IN INNOVATION

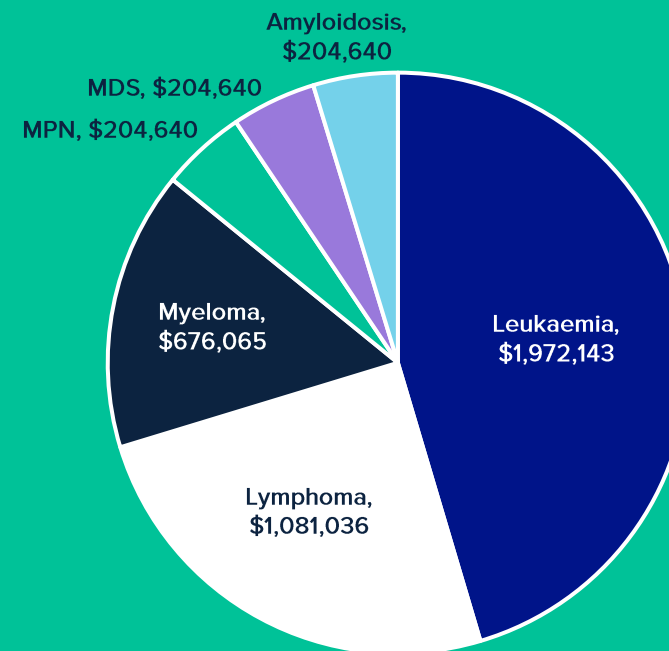
Cure will only come through innovation and investment in science and research. These scientific breakthroughs will improve and save the lives of all Australians living with blood cancer.

Quality research provides a more in-depth understanding of the causes and mechanisms behind blood cancer, which lead to more effective therapies.

The Leukaemia Foundation is at the forefront of funding cutting-edge science in Australia, to help advance our understanding of the causes of blood cancer, how it can be diagnosed with speed and certainty, and how blood cancer can become resistant to therapies over time.

We also fund research translating this frontier knowledge into innovative life-saving treatments, while giving patients rapid access to clinical trials testing the very latest medicines they otherwise may not have had access to.

Where we're focusing our research investment this year



Research | PhD Scholarships

FUNDING THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST

Our investment in PhD Scholarships supports early career researchers in blood cancer, funding the best and brightest researchers and clinicians to conduct internationally competitive blood cancer research.

The program funds up to three PhD Scholarships each year, made possible thanks to a long-standing partnership between the Leukaemia Foundation and the Haematology Society of Australia & New Zealand (HSANZ).

Together we've funded 13 talented researchers since 2019. In fact, this life-saving collaboration is now one of the biggest funders of early career blood cancer researchers in the country.

This year we funded the exciting work of **Dr Jessica Elliott** and **Dr Sun Loo**.



Dr Jessica Elliott

Getting under the skin of blood cancer

Challenge

Our body's T-cells normally help protect us from infection, but sometimes they develop abnormalities and go on the attack – against our own skin. The result is a blood cancer called cutaneous T-cell lymphoma or skin graft versus host disease, both difficult to treat disorders about which we have limited knowledge.

Focus

Dr Jessica Elliott's research aims to better understand the malignant and allo-aggressive T-cell biology of these disorders and how T-cell modulating therapies may alter that immunology. The research will use registry data, longitudinal patient samples, novel disease models, and state-of-the-art analysis platforms.

Impact

The outcomes from Dr Elliott's research promise significant research and clinical impacts, offering both great discovery potential and benefits to patients' diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. It could also enhance the understanding of the mechanisms of T-cell therapy for T-cell disorders.



Dr Sun Loo

Remission using relapse warning system

Challenge

Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) is difficult to treat and has poor outcomes. While remission can be achieved with chemotherapy, many patients relapse. The small number of leukaemic cells that remain after treatment are called minimal residual disease (MRD) and likely to be the cause of relapse.

Focus

Dr Sun Loo's research will report on a world-first clinical trial, the INTERCEPT study, to address the question of whether MRD-directed intervention in AML leads to improved outcomes. The INTERCEPT platform study employs a precision medicine approach to treating MRD patients.

Impact

The outcomes will address a major knowledge gap that exists within the AML field, answering the age-old question of whether pre-emptive AML therapy will improve clinical outcomes. Dr Loo's project has the potential to help to prolong remission and improve long-term outcomes.

Research | Clinical trials

GENOMICS TRIAL HELPING MORE PATIENTS

► A scanning electron microscope image shows dendritic cells interacting with T-cells. Image courtesy: National Cancer Institute



This year the Leukaemia Foundation and valued partner Tour de Cure continued to drive the life-saving Blood Cancer Genomics Trial, also called MoST-Lly, by co-funding \$1.8 million to pilot the screening of 240 patients.

The blood cancer genomics trial links genomic screening of patients who have failed or don't respond to treatment to multiple novel therapeutic combination treatments.

This initial investment has allowed screening and enrolment to open at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Queensland and Royal Adelaide Hospital in South Australia. Expansion into Western Australia was supported by local philanthropists.

The trial was also awarded an additional \$2.7 million in funding from the Medical Research Future Fund.

It means patients are now enrolled in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.



Research | Partnerships

High quality research, high impact results

Strategic Ecosystem Research Partnerships (SERPs) are blood cancer project grants for researchers one to seven years post doctorate.

Our SERPs fund high-quality and high-impact research in partnership with *Cancer Australia*.

This year our SERP program funded the life-changing work of Dr Jenny Wang and her team.

Dr Jenny Wang

New approach to treating chemotherapy-resistant leukaemia

Challenge

Leukaemia stem cells (LSCs) are the major cause of treatment failure. These cells resist chemotherapy and cause relapse because of their dormancy and self-renewal. Chemotherapy may kill active leukaemia cells, but it also leaves a reservoir of dormant LSCs that can enable the cancer to repopulate and lead to relapse.

Focus

Dr Jenny Wang's project aims to eliminate dormant LSCs by targeting a newly discovered mechanism of LSC survival critical for therapy resistance. The project will target the pathways that drive the self-renewal and survival mechanism of dormant LSCs, while also establishing a new integrated approach to targeting dormant LSCs.

Impact

The desired outcomes from the research will offer a new therapeutic approach to eradicate AML at its root and resolve a critical yet unmet need for AML patients. The new approach will directly target the renewal and survival of LSCs and offer a new hope to patients who don't respond to standard treatment.

AMPLIFYING OUR COMMUNITY'S VOICE

Blood cancer often isn't diagnosed quickly enough and getting the best treatment can depend on where you live or what you can afford.

Using the latest evidence, the Leukaemia Foundation works with the blood cancer community to act for better policies, better access to treatment and care, and better outcomes for those with blood cancer.

As part of our efforts to amplify the voices of our community, this year we continued to actively engage in government policy development.



► Our CEO Chris Tanti spoke at the inquiry into organ and tissue donation at the Parliament of Victoria.

- » We made **10 submissions** to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) supporting easier access to medicines and other therapeutics for Australians with blood cancer, including:
 - » PBAC submission July 2022 – **Asciminib (Scemblix®)** for chronic myeloid leukaemia
 - » PBAC submission March 2023 - **Zanubrutinib (Brukinsa®)** for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and small lymphocytic leukaemia
 - » MSAC submission March 2023 - **Axicabtagene ciloleucel (Yescarta®)** for relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma
- » We played an active role in the consultation for the **Health Technology Assessment Review** being undertaken by the Commonwealth, which is looking at ways of accelerating access to medicines.
- » The Leukaemia Foundation took part in Australia's **Science & Research Priorities** review.
- » We called for better support for nurses in 'best practice' blood cancer care, digital health delivery and service awareness and navigation as part of the **Nursing Practitioner Strategy**.
- » We made a pre-Budget submission to the Federal Government calling for investments to support blood cancer patients in the **Federal Budget**.
- » The Leukaemia Foundation advocated for better support for patients undergoing stem cell treatments during the Western Australia **Parliamentary Inquiry into Organ and Tissue Donation**. We also advocated for the same at the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Organ and Tissue Donation, including appearing at the public hearing.

STATE OF THE NATION

This year we proudly launched the largest report of its kind into the state of blood cancer in Australia – and it revealed that while gains are being made, lives are still lost unnecessarily.

About 16 Australians still lose their life to blood cancer each day, but new modelling shows more people could be saved if only everyone received what is already considered best-practice treatment.

Our *State of the Nation: Blood Cancers in Australia 2023* report, published in February, shows survival rates are improving, especially among those benefiting from new, targeted treatments. But the ongoing postcode lottery of treatment continues to slow progress.

The detailed analysis contains updates on data and insights from our 2019 report, the first of its kind in Australia.

It called for governments and the community to work together to achieve an ambitious goal of zero lives lost from blood cancer by 2035.

The lived experience of 4,600 people with blood cancer informed the latest report, and we heard from people in every state, with every type of blood cancer.

Synthesising these updated data and perspectives, the latest report summarises the major achievements to date against each strategic objective set out in 2019 and sets key priorities for the next stage of the Zero by 2035 strategy. The main priorities include empowering patients and their families, catalysing health services reform, accelerating research, and enabling access to novel therapies.

Read the full report by searching 'state of the nation' at leukaemia.org.au.



▼
The launch of our *State of the Nation: Blood Cancers in Australia 2023* report was attended by Barry Du Bois, Lyndey Milan OAM, Professor John Seymour AM and Leukaemia Foundation CEO, Chris Tanti. (top photo L-R)

SETTING THE STANDARD FOR BLOOD CANCER CARE

Working with Australia's Blood Cancer Taskforce, this year we led the development of six new Optimal Care Pathways (OCPs) for blood cancer treatment and care, setting the standard of high-quality cancer care for all Australians with blood cancer.

OCPs are trusted guides that describe what optimal care for a particular type of cancer should look like, putting patients at the centre of care decisions.

They help healthcare professionals provide nationally consistent, high-quality, evidence-based information and holistic care at each stage of the blood cancer pathway, from diagnosis and treatment through to ongoing and end-of-life care.

The development of OCPs for different types of blood cancer marks a big step towards setting national quality standards for treatment and care for all Australians diagnosed and living with blood cancer.

OCPs are now available for eight of the more common types of blood cancer, with detailed versions available for healthcare professionals and specific guides designed for people diagnosed with blood cancer and their loved ones.

- » Acute leukaemia in children, adolescents and young adults
- » Acute myeloid leukaemia
- » Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia
- » Chronic myeloid leukaemia
- » Hodgkin and diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
- » Low grade lymphoma (including follicular lymphoma, marginal zone lymphoma and mantle cell lymphoma)
- » Multiple myeloma
- » Myelodysplastic syndrome

An additional OCP is also available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

To download the guides for patients and healthcare professionals, search 'optimal care pathway' at leukaemia.org.au.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Blood Cancer Month in September is a significant event in our calendar as our community steps up to raise awareness of blood cancer and its impact.


In 2022, the Leukaemia Foundation promoted a new public awareness campaign to not only raise awareness and funds, but also help more people with blood cancer connect with our wraparound health services.

We launched Australia's first and only dedicated blood cancer support line and our triage team handled nearly 600 requests from patients and doctors.

Our campaign also attracted more than 12,000 visitors to new online information at bloodcancer.org.au.

The campaign culminated with our special Light the Night event, attended by thousands from across the blood cancer community.

**BLOOD
CANCER
AWARENESS
MONTH**



▶ Sage Wilder was 22 years old when he was diagnosed with blood cancer. He shared his story as part of our Blood Cancer Month and Light the Night campaigns.

Still cutting it 25 years on

The Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave is one of Australia's longest running and most-loved fundraising events - and this year we celebrated our official 25th anniversary.

Over the decades, more than two million people have sacrificed their hair, or donated to someone who has. We've seen it all: the all-over shave, edgy undercuts, messy mullets, bright blue 'dos or plucky waxers. And we've loved them all!

We've also seen heads shaved in all sorts of weird and whacky places, including in helicopters, state parliament, shearing sheds, and while rock climbing. One brave shaver even did it at the top of Mount Everest!

This year's World's Greatest Shave once again went 'green' thanks to a partnership with Sustainable Salons.

It meant ponytails snipped from those taking part in the event were collected to be turned into wigs for those who have lost their hair during cancer treatment, with shorter hair transformed into compost and floating booms to absorb oil spills at sea.

More than 17,000 people signed up to get sponsored to shave, cut or colour their hair, together raising more than \$13.5m to help people with blood cancer.



Thank you to everyone who raised money to help people with blood cancer. These fundraisers ended up topping our leaderboards:

Individual

- » Graham Mirabito - \$45,757
- » Toby Rudolf - \$41,992
- » James Walawski - \$41,281

School

- » Scotch College Perth - \$158,672
- » Mereweather High School Newcastle - \$126,639
- » Wesley College Perth - \$96,755

Family and Friends Team

- » 50K FOR RAY - \$42,336
- » Team Vito - \$36,851
- » Love Locks Down - \$28,647

Workplace

- » Snowy 2.0 - FGJV - \$84,368
- » ESS Compass Group - \$52,772
- » Team OMD - \$40,245

A SPECIAL SEPTEMBER SUNSET

As the sun set on Blood Cancer Awareness Month in September, the Leukaemia Foundation's Light the Night event took place virtually across Australia on 30 September 2022.

On the night, thousands of families, friends, colleagues and neighbours who have experienced the darkness of blood cancer came together to reflect on how blood cancer had touched their lives.

Those who attended lit lanterns of different colours symbolising their own experience with blood cancer: white lanterns were carried by patients and survivors; gold lanterns by those who had lost someone to blood cancer; and blue lanterns by those who wanted to show their support.



This year's virtual ceremony featured a special Welcome to Country by one of our ambassadors, Matthew Doyle, along with powerful stories from those who have felt the impact of blood cancer firsthand.

We were also lucky to have legendary sports broadcaster Bruce McAvaney lead our lantern-lighting ceremony.

Nearly 2,500 people registered to take part in Light the Night this year and together they raised more than \$440,000, taking us another step closer to the day zero lives are lost to blood cancer.

A huge thank you to everyone who registered and to those who raised money. These five fundraisers shone brightest in their fundraising efforts this year:

- Nicole McKenna - \$22,441
- Alanna Smith - \$16,370
- Jacob Bruinewoud - \$15,656
- Trent Supplice - \$13,640
- Simon Dutton - \$12,406

Lights down for intermission

Over the years we've noticed a steady decline in participation and fundraising for Light the Night. We use our organisational resources in the most effective way possible and so, after this year's event, we conducted a thorough review and made the difficult decision to pause Light the Night in 2023.

We didn't light our lanterns but our commitment to supporting those affected by blood cancer remains undimmed. We want to thank everyone who has supported Light the Night for more than a decade. Your generosity, passion, and support have been integral to our mission of funding research and supporting all Australians impacted by blood cancer.



Our CEO Chris Tanti met David Hill (left). Photo courtesy The Border Mail

GROWING OUR SUPPORT

The Leukaemia Foundation has been working with the community for nearly 50 years to help solve the challenges of blood cancer.

It is progress fuelled by the unwavering passion, positivity and generosity of our supporters.

Another step towards our goal

David Hill took a stand against blood cancer by walking 130km from Albury to Wagga Wagga over three days in memory of his great niece, Billie Grace Richards.

Billie was only three years old when she lost her life to blood cancer.

David and his support team struck out from Albury in October 2022, wearing T-shirts dyed in Billie Grace's favourite colour – purple.

David's marathon effort saw him raise an incredible \$142,000. On behalf of people with blood cancer, David, thank you for going the extra mile.

Beyond our popular signature events like World's Greatest Shave, Australians help to fund our mission in so many different ways. And this year was no exception.

Some chose to leave gifts in their Will to help people with blood cancer, others made regular monthly donations or responded to one of our direct appeals for support.

Many more supported the Leukaemia Foundation by giving money through their payroll at work or honouring a loved one by donating in memory.

We also received larger gifts from generous philanthropists and corporations, while an army of grassroots fundraisers stood tall behind us.

We're grateful for each and every precious donation. They all deliver hope, comfort and progress for people with blood cancer.

OUR AMBASSADORS

We officially launched our National Ambassador and Blood Cancer Advocate program this year, to help raise further awareness and support for our cause.

Our new Ambassadors and Advocates have their own personal experiences with blood cancer, either as patients, survivors or as family members and carers. Their stories will provide inspiration, hope, and comfort to others in the blood cancer community.

By establishing a visible National Ambassador and Blood Cancer Advocate program, we hope to create a lasting impact on public awareness, funding and support of our cause.

Welcome to our Ambassadors and Advocates (photos clockwise from top left):

- » Sydney FC A-League soccer star, **Luke Brattan**
- » Journalist, presenter, author and health coach, **Elle Halliwell**
- » Cultural custodian and knowledge holder, and descendant of the Muruwari people, **Matthew Doyle**
- » Author, video producer and motivational speaker, **Briony Benjamin**
- » TV food queen and home cook hero, **Lyndey Milan OAM**
- » Beloved children's icon, **Humphrey B. Bear** (with his brand guardian, Craig Kocinski)
- » TV presenter, artisan and entrepreneur, **Barry Du Bois**
- » Comedian, writer, actor and producer, **Urvi Majumdar**

🔍 Learn more about our ambassadors and advocates by searching 'ambassadors' at leukaemia.org.au.



THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

The key to reaching zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2035 lies in our partnerships with our philanthropic partners and the wider community.

We are so grateful for the generosity, loyalty and passion of our business partners, trusts and foundations and major donors.

We have a bold plan to dramatically change the landscape for people living with blood cancer in Australia and such bold visions require these important longstanding partnerships.

We thank the following for their commitment to the Leukaemia Foundation over the past year.

To all those who prefer to stay anonymous, we also say thank you.

Philanthropic partners and donors

Alfred & Jean Dickson Foundation
Anita Thomas
Barry Hopwood
Barry Stockdale
Bert and Vera Thiess Foundation
Botsis Holdings Pty Ltd
Botsis Investments
Bourne Foundation
Civic Solutions
Cory Charitable Foundation
David Hill and Krishna Sen
Davies Family Foundation
Dry July Foundation
Greater Charitable Foundation
Halifax Foundation
Hammond Family Foundation
Handy Family Foundation
HeyDoodle
Hull Family Charitable Fund
James Family Foundation
John James Foundation

Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation
McNally Foundation
Mike Stoneman
Morrie [dec] & Nanette Griffiths
Nghia Lam
Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation
Paul Hughes
Paul Okkerse
Peter Carr
Rosalia Di Giacomo
Russell and Julie Kempnich
Stan Perron Charitable Foundation
Suitters Foundation
Perpetual Trustees
Pratt Foundation
Todd Lewis
Tom Shearer
Tony and Gai Wales
Tony Fini Foundation
Tour de Cure
Waverly Griggs
William and Patricia Westlake

Our corporate partners

Bridgestone
Brydens Lawyers
KOJO
LSKD

AbbVie
AstraZeneca
BeiGene
Bristol Meyers Squibb
Janssen
Servier
Novartis
Pfizer
Research Review
Takeda

Better Living Group
Rainbow Fresh
Simon National Carriers
South Australian Produce Market

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO LEFT A GIFT IN THEIR WILL

We would also like to acknowledge those who so generously left a gift to the Leukaemia Foundation in their Will.

These supporters are creating a legacy that will make a difference now and in the future.

To all those who prefer to stay anonymous, we also say thank you.

Agnes June Clark
Alastair Paul Nixon
Betty Jensen
Constance Alma White
Daniel O'Dwyer
Daphne Novak
Darryl Simpson
David Roleston
Denise Robyn Fairservice
Derek Martin Muller
Donald Christopher Hudson
Drusilla Yvonne Gray
Dudley Thomas Mason
Elsa Norma Vedder Trust
Eva Veronica Hulbert
Eva Winifred Maxwell
Florence Bettye Brown
Heather Merle Williams
Ian Neil Galletly Leukaemia Fund
Ian Robert Bramley
Ivan Bacic
Ivy Jane Reeves
James Patrick Kane
James Peter Young

Janet Frommer
Josephus Gerardus Tax
Josephus Wilhelmus Lommers
Julie Maas Charitable Trust
Karen Joy Plume
Kerry Linda Kavney
Leslie Rickleford Hoops
Lilly Mary Szczepaniak
Margaret Rose Evelyn Coleman
Margaret Watts
Marion Avis Bennett
Marjorie Butta
Maurice Sidney Pembroke
Mervyn Edwin Rodgers Fund
Nancy Hannah Dorothy
Penhallurick Fund
Robert Heady
Robyn Kaye Williams
Rosemary Violet Goodwill
Ruby Doreen Pfeiffer
Russell James Coffield
Ruth Louvain Pryce Trust
Samantha Nicole Atkins
The Alf & Winifred Murgatroyd Charitable Trust

The Beryl Lord Foundation
The Matheson Bequest
The Neil Stewart Memorial Endowment
The Thomas and Vera Condie Trust
Thomas & Coral Williams Memorial Trust
Thomas Harris
Valerie Joan Everist
Vanni Gustavo D'Ambros
Veronica Hardy
Vivienne Irwin
William Jack Jaffray

MEMBERS ARE OUR LIFEBLOOD

In 1975, six members of the Holland Park Lions Club came together to form the Lions Leukaemia Foundation to raise vital funds and fight for Queenslanders with blood cancer.

Five years later, 71 Members voted on a name change to the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland to better reflect their work.

In 2005, a separate Leukaemia Foundation of Australia charity was established, before Members of both organisations endorsed a proposal to unify in 2016 so we could do even more to help every Australian with any blood cancer, every step of the way.

Today we're proud to have 377 Members and 10 Branches across Australia advocating for patients in their communities and raising much needed funds.



Mackay's running total nears \$600k

Our Mackay Branch is proudly celebrating 15 years of fundraising through its annual Mackay Marina Run - and this year they've broken all previous fundraising records!

The Leukaemia Foundation has been the nominated beneficiary of this community event since its inception, raising an incredible **\$592,000** for regional families needing support during treatment in the city.

With this year's event attracting more participants than ever before from within Queensland and across Australia, the Mackay Marina Run has also become an important platform for spreading the word about the Leukaemia Foundation's support, research and advocacy.





BEHAVIOURS IN OUR BLOOD

Our Values of *Be Bold*, *Care Deeply* and *Make It Count* represent how we work.

They're our 'non-negotiables' and they stand the test of time. They are the invisible but powerful guides that serve as our compass in every situation. They're worded simply but can steer us through even the very complex. We can count on them to keep us true to our purpose, beliefs and each other.

This year, as part of our brand and strategy review, we dug deeper to define the specific behaviours, aligned to our values, that we want to see from each other.

Collectively we agreed on our **four C's**:

- » **Curious** is respecting diversity and diverse options, being solutions focused and challenging the status quo.
- » **Courageous** is being brave in making decisions, being accountable for our actions and leading/role modelling regardless of our position.
- » **Committed** is about going the extra mile, striving for excellence, being driven by impact and passion.
- » **Connected** is working together with our community to drive greater impact.

Our shared behaviours guide how we represent our organisation; how we treat each other, our teams, supporters and communities; and how we actively pursue our purpose.

Our Board

Chair, Lucio Di Giallonardo
Director, Michelle Beveridge
Director, Heidi Bradshaw
Director, Professor Mark Cormack
Director, Dr Angela Ferguson
Director, Jane Hancock
Director, Nigel Harris AM
Director Peter Hodgett
Director Siân Slade

Our Executive

CEO, Chris Tanti
GM Health Services, Kathryn Huntley
GM Blood Cancer Partnerships, Tim Murphy
GM Fundraising & Growth, Charlotte Webb
GM Communications & Marketing Services, Susie Howard
CFO, GM Corporate Services, Mike Hubbard
GM People & Culture, Alice Macfarlane
Chief of Staff, Bianca Butterworth

**Be
bold**

**Care
deeply**

**Make it
count**

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

As at 30 June 2023

We are, as always, hugely grateful to our donors and fundraisers who together raised \$29.3m in the financial year ending June 2023.

The Leukaemia Foundation relies entirely on generous donations from those who support our mission, and thanks to this incredible community we were able to invest more than \$19.7m to help more Australians with blood cancer.

The level of expenditure on our mission was \$1.4m higher than in the prior year, and we are determined to increase that sum further in future years.

By providing health services, funding research and advocating for change, the Leukaemia Foundation ran at a \$3.9m deficit in the 2022-23 financial year, which followed a \$3.5m deficit in the prior year.

This was consistent with operational plans and sanctioned by the Board to maintain services and progress towards our goal of zero lives lost to blood cancer by 2023.

Thanks to our supporters we had the reserves to do this. Our forward focus remains simply to maximise the positive impact we can make for each blood cancer patient who seeks our help, and to generate the funds to have an even greater impact.

	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Revenue	29,329,046	30,393,207
Fundraising and operational support expenses (excluding research grants and patient support)	(13,744,853)	(15,244,124)
	15,584,193	15,149,083
Fulfilment of mission expenses	(19,702,493)	(18,358,602)
Net deficit for the year	(4,118,300)	(3,209,519)
Other comprehensive income – Items that will not subsequently be reclassified to profit or loss		
Net changes in fair value of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	214,553	(243,970)
Total comprehensive deficit for the year	(3,903,747)	(3,453,489)

The above statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes in our full Financial Report 2022-23 available at leukaemia.org.au.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2023

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	24,910,004	26,657,161
Trade and other receivables	1,625,258	672,980
Other assets	13,290,632	15,254,887
Total current assets	39,825,894	42,585,028

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Property, plant and equipment	49,900,135	51,564,290
Right-of-use assets	5,672,628	6,580,327
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	2,791,177	2,576,624
Total non-current assets	58,363,940	60,721,241
Total assets	98,189,834	103,306,269

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Trade and other payables	1,459,828	1,585,606
Lease liability	444,105	824,006
Deferred income	1,014,763	1,183,094
Provisions	1,373,135	1,258,616
Total current liabilities	4,291,831	4,851,322

NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

Lease liability	5,430,607	5,856,230
Provisions	417,704	645,278
Total non-current liabilities	5,848,311	6,501,508

Total liabilities

	10,140,142	11,352,830
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Net assets

EQUITY

Retained surplus	60,250,949	64,369,249
Reserves	27,798,743	27,584,190
Total equity	88,049,692	91,953,439

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes in our full Financial Report 2022-23 available at leukaemia.org.au.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Give

Your donations mean we can continue to help the 135,000 Australians living with blood cancer by providing wraparound health services, funding leading-edge research and campaigning for change.

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 the World's Greatest Shave or perhaps one of our other 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.

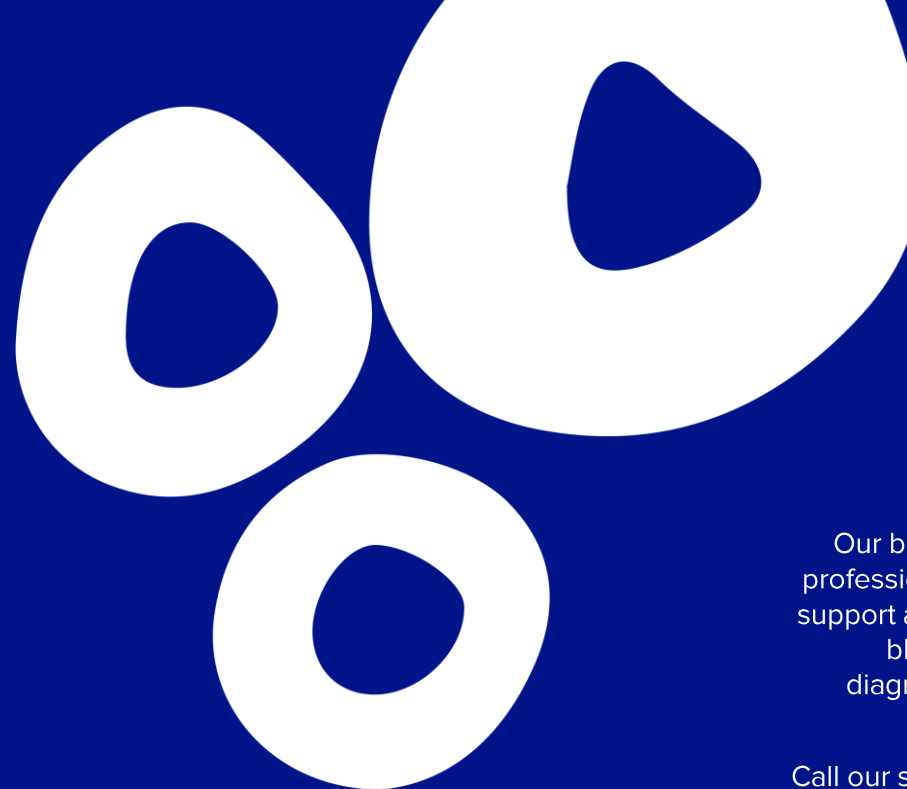
Partner with us

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 blood or bone marrow

Stem cell transplants and blood donations save the lives of many people facing blood cancer. Visit donateblood.com.au to help.

Visit to leukaemia.org.au to get involved and join our community.



Our blood cancer support professionals can guide and support anyone impacted by blood cancer through diagnosis, treatment and far beyond.

Call our support line on **1800 620 420** (10am-4pm) or use our support request form at leukaemia.org.au.

leukaemia.org.au
1800 620 420
info@leukaemia.org.au

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BRISBANE QLD

ABN 57 057 493 017

**Leukaemia
Foundation®**