



**Leukaemia  
Foundation®**

2025  
**PHILANTHROPY  
IMPACT REPORT**

**IMPACT  
2025**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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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 pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Traditional Owners across the Nation.

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## FIRST NATIONS EPIDEMIOLOGY STUDY

In 2023, the Leukaemia Foundation commissioned a world-first study to deepen understanding of blood cancer among First Nations peoples, examining prevalence, health system costs, underlying determinants, disease characteristics, and lived experience. The study is led by Professor Gail Garvey AM, a proud Kamilaroi woman, and is informed by the voices of First Nations people living with blood cancer, their carers, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, healthcare professionals, and community organisations.

The first phase of the research, released in February, reveals stark and systemic inequities across the entire blood cancer journey for First Nations peoples – from diagnosis and treatment through to survivorship. Critically, the findings show that First Nations peoples are diagnosed with blood cancer at younger ages and experience earlier mortality compared with non-Indigenous Australians.

As a world-first, this research provides essential foundational evidence and a clear direction for targeted, culturally-informed health interventions. While the challenges are significant, the findings also demonstrate there is substantial opportunity to drive meaningful change and close the gap in blood cancer outcomes for First Nations peoples.

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We are grateful to a generous gift in Will supporter who part-funded this important project.

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**Cover image: Edwina Bartholomew**

“My hope is to work with the Leukaemia Foundation to assist in building a stronger network of care across Australia, so people feel supported not only at diagnosis, but throughout treatment, and once it ends. Living well after cancer is such an important thing,” says Edwina Bartholomew, a much-loved Australian journalist with over 16 years’ experience working in television and radio.

In 2024, she was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML), giving her a new perspective on life, motherhood and the importance of early health checks.

In 2025, we were delighted to welcome Edwina as our newest National Ambassador.

# FOREWORD

## BEN WALAWSKI'S STORY

*This is from a speech given by Dr Fiona Langdon at an event to launch the Endowed Chair in Blood Cancer in Perth, November 2024. We are grateful to Fiona for allowing us to share this with you and to the many donors across Australia who supported the Blood Cancer Genomics Trial MoST-Lly, led by professors Steven Lane and Hamish Scott.*

Ben Walawski was my husband and the father to our boys, James and Andrew. At the end of 2022, following a Covid infection, he became unwell with an enlarged spleen and liver, a white cell count that was over 200, and fluid around his heart and in his lungs. We knew that whatever he had was serious, but nothing prepared us for the call from a haematologist telling us what that diagnosis was: T-cell prolymphocytic leukaemia (TPLL).

As two doctors, we had never heard of this type of leukaemia. We both sat at our kitchen table, with the doctor on speakerphone, and me rapidly googling the diagnosis, trying to process this new world we had suddenly been thrown into. Every scientific paper written about TPLL opens with the same sentence – TPLL is a rare and aggressive form of leukaemia for which there are few proven treatments. The average life expectancy is seven months.

We read the abstracts of numerous medical journals for the next 30 minutes and this same opening statement came up again and again, and the reality of what we were facing dawned on us.

We were told Ben's best chance was to try to aim for remission with a drug called Campath which would allow for a stem cell transplant – our only slim hope of a cure. After four weeks of Campath treatment it was clear that Ben was one of the 10% of TPLL patients for which it did not work. His lymphocyte count continued to climb, his liver and kidney functions were worsening and he was clearly dying. We were told he likely had a couple of weeks left. The medical team recommended stopping treatment and that we take the boys out of school to spend the remaining days together.

For 48 hours we lived this horror which came only weeks after a diagnosis that we were still trying to process.

## HEARING THIS STORY YOU MAY THINK THAT BLOOD CANCER RESEARCH HAD FAILED US – THAT THE CANCER HAD WON. THAT IS TRUE BUT WHAT SCIENCE AND RESEARCH GAVE US WAS TIME AND HOPE.

A month earlier, at initial diagnosis, Ben had been enrolled in a blood cancer study, the MoST-Lly trial, where they sequenced his leukaemia cells, looking for any possible mutation that could guide future studies or treatments. It was not a standard procedure for this type of investigation to be undertaken, and it only occurred because the Leukaemia Foundation funded the study.

Two days after being told Ben had two weeks to live the study results came back identifying two mutations in Ben's T-lymphocytes, meaning an experimental treatment may be an option. The following day, he was admitted to hospital and started a new regime of medications and the change was instantaneous. His lymphocyte count went from over 300 to less than ten and he was sitting on an exercise bike riding for 45-minute stints after not being able to walk more than ten metres. We had been given a lifeline.

Two months later, Ben's lymphocyte counts were stable and his overall health had improved to a

point where a stem cell transplant was possible. The stem cell transplant was far and away the hardest part of his treatment journey. The boys were unable to visit him in hospital through the month he was admitted due to the high risk of infection.

This transplant month really hit home to me how hard life would be without Ben. Each day I was trying to get the boys to school, be there when they got home, put them to bed and hug them as they cried themselves to sleep, worried about their Dad but without being able to see him. All while trying to work and sit for as many hours as I could by Ben's bedside as he battled the awful side effects that transplant patients often experience.

But Ben did come through his transplant and for a couple of blissful months we had this absolute hope that it had worked. Despite a few post-transplant complications, he seemed to be getting stronger and healthier with each day. Unfortunately, his 100-day bone marrow biopsy brought the devastating news that the leukaemic cells were still very much there. The brutal chemotherapy and radiation had knocked out all his healthy cells but the aggressive cancer cells had remained.

We both knew when we got that result that the battle was likely over. Over the next few weeks we trialled the previous treatment that had worked so well pre transplant, and then a few other medication combinations that had shown promise in limited studies. But it was clear that the cancer was winning and in October of 2023, exactly six months to the day following Ben's transplant, he passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family. He was 42 and had everything to live for.

Hearing this story you may think that blood cancer research had failed us – that the cancer had won. That is true but what science and research gave us was time and hope.

Time that allowed us a chance to process the concept of losing Ben so young. Time that gave my boys who were 9 and 12 years' old a chance to understand that this was happening to their Dad, and to say the things they wanted to. Time gave Ben the chance to properly – and over months, not days – say goodbye. We were

not ready to lose Ben in February of 2023, we were still in shock from the diagnosis. But eight months later, we were more mature, more hardened, and although we weren't ready, we've been able to get through losing him. Our boys have shown the most remarkable strength and resilience through losing their Dad. I know this because we had time to prepare them. This is what science and research gave us.

The strange thing about blood cancer is that during treatment, particularly at the critical stages, you get instantaneous feedback as to how it is working. With a



From left: James Walawski, Dr Ben Walawski, Andrew Walawski, Dr Fiona Langdon.

solid tumour such as breast or bowel cancer, it is weeks or months between scans that show whether the cancer is growing or shrinking. With blood cancer, daily and sometimes twice-daily bloods give a relentless, constant update as to how the treatment is going. Those blood count updates gave us the biggest wins, and also the worst of lows. But when you are battling such a brutal cancer, wow – the wins were amazing when they came!

Over those eight months, science and research gave us hope. Hope that he would make it to transplant. Hope that the transplant was going to be successful – and in those precious months, hope was pure happiness.

To the Leukaemia Foundation and the research institutes: we are so thankful for that time and that hope. In the future, for a family like us, I believe that science will also push that further to also include a cure.

**Dr Fiona Langdon**

# INTRODUCTION

## A REFLECTION ON WHAT LASTS

In a world driven by urgency and immediacy, loyalty can feel rather old fashioned. It doesn't trend or make headlines. Yet, as we prepared this year's Philanthropy Impact Report, I was reminded that it is loyalty – steadfast, deeply human, and unwavering loyalty – that sustains our mission when attention fades and the news cycle moves on.

Loyalty is the partner who stays when outcomes are uncertain and returns year after year without needing reminders. It is the friend who says, "I'm still here," and the organisation that responds, "We will not waste your trust".

In my time at the Leukaemia Foundation and throughout my long career, I have observed that real philanthropy is not a moment of giving, but a lifetime of loyalty. Our work is to honour that loyalty and reveal to you the impact of your unwavering trust over time. For a third consecutive year, your commitment has enabled us to exceed our philanthropy revenue targets, building a diversified future-ready foundation that can deliver on its promises.

I expect by now you have read the moving and very beautiful foreword, provided by Dr Fiona Langdon. We feel compelled to begin every edition of our Philanthropy Impact Report with a reminder of *why* we do what we do as philanthropists, fundraisers,

health service providers, medical professionals, researchers and the broader blood cancer community. As Fiona writes, research (funded by supporters of the Leukaemia Foundation), gave her young family precious time and hope.

In the pages that follow, are more stories, information and visuals to honour your loyalty and trust in our mission. We hope that you are rewarded when reading a small sample of what your commitment has enabled in the last the financial year.

For example, accommodation that keeps a family like the Kaluats together for 12-year-old Siah's painful treatments a long way from home. Support services from a dedicated team of health professionals online, on the phone and in person that provide genuine assistance for patients and their families throughout their

cancer journey, well beyond the acute stages of their diagnosis.

You'll read about philanthropic motivations from partners and donors like Tour de Cure and the Fini family supporting outstanding research and the careers of the most brilliant scientific and clinical talent. And of course, there are stories from our all-important community of gift in Will supporters who personify trust with a promise of loyalty beyond their lifetime.

**REAL  
PHILANTHROPY  
IS NOT A  
MOMENT OF  
GIVING, BUT  
A LIFETIME OF  
LOYALTY.**

# THE STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND LOVE WITHIN THESE PAGES ARE THE DIRECT RESULT OF YOUR DECISION TO STAND WITH US.



This edition is dedicated to the seed funders of our mission over the past 50 years. Your trust gave us the chance to take the first steps, experiment, and learn. You are foundational to our moonshot, and because of your loyalty, we can continue to provide hope where it is most needed. The stories of resilience and love within these pages are the direct result of your decision to stand with us. You created a ripple effect of compassion and progress. As such, these stories belong to you as much as they do to us.

In dedication,

**Jacqueline Williams**  
Head of Philanthropy

Jacqueline Williams, Head of Philanthropy

# FROM THE CHAIR GENEROSITY TO LEGACY

Every life touched by the Leukaemia Foundation over the past 50 years was made possible by the visionary partnership of our donors, volunteers, and supporters. Your generosity does more than fund services, it transforms ideas into action and hope into tangible, life-changing care for Australians facing blood cancer.



Lucio Di Giallonardo, Chair

## PHILANTHROPY ALLOWS US TO TAKE MEASURED RISKS WHERE THEY MATTER MOST.

Our guiding principle has always been to put the lived experience of people with blood cancer at the heart of every decision. However, we know that a diagnosis is not the same for everyone. For those in regional and remote communities, it can mean longer waits, fewer specialists and poorer outcomes. This is where your belief in us becomes truly transformational.

Thanks to the philanthropic leadership of our partners, we are tackling this inequity head-on. Programs like Regional Access to Care for Haematology (ReACH) are not just about providing a service, they are about changing the system. By supporting local GPs, training allied health staff, and embedding sustainable care pathways, your generosity is ensuring people can access specialist care close to home. This is the essence of transformational philanthropy: creating practical, scalable solutions that deliver lasting change.

This spirit of strategic collaboration is also exemplified by our merger with Bloomhill Cancer Care, which extends our reach and demonstrates how your support enables innovative models of community-based care. Philanthropy allows us to take measured risks where they matter most – driving research, strengthening advocacy, and forging partnerships that improve lives.

On behalf of the board, our staff, and the communities we are honoured to serve, thank you. Your trust, commitment, and loyalty are the foundation of our progress. As we look to the future, we are inspired to do more, reach further and continue turning strategy into impact.

Thank you for partnering with us. With you by our side, we will build a legacy for the next 50 years. A future where cancer care is not only effective but equitable, accessible and deeply human.

**Lucio Di Giallonardo**  
Chair

# FROM THE CEO BUILDING THE FUTURE OF CARE

As we celebrate the Leukaemia Foundation's 50th anniversary, I am filled with immense gratitude. Your generosity has been the lifeblood of our mission, turning the promise of our Patient First Strategy into a reality for thousands. Together, you have fuelled innovation and brought compassionate care to people with blood cancer when they needed it most.

Our patient first commitment taught us to place the lived experiences of patients and their families at the heart of everything we do. Our patient first commitment guided us to expand services, champion equity, and reduce the postcode lottery for those in regional and rural communities. As we look to the next 50 years, we know the journey is far from over. Too many Australians still face geographic and systemic barriers that lead to delayed diagnoses, poor continuity of care and profound isolation.

Inspired by your belief in us, we are undertaking our next strategic shift, advancing a future where support extends beyond treatment and becomes an enduring community of care.

Cancer survivorship is one of the most significant and rapidly growing challenges in modern healthcare. In Australia, approximately 70% of people diagnosed with cancer now survive at least five years, and there are more than 1.2 million Australians living with or beyond cancer, a number projected to rise substantially over the coming decade.

While improved survival represents extraordinary medical progress, it has also created a new and urgent need. Survivorship is not simply the absence of disease, it is the lifelong phase that begins at diagnosis and continues well beyond active treatment. Up to 3 in 4 survivors experience ongoing physical or psychological effects, including chronic fatigue, pain, anxiety, depression, fear of recurrence, and difficulties returning to work and everyday life.

The consequences of unsupported survivorship are significant. Many people leave hospital-based treatment only to face fragmented follow-up care, increasing



**Chris Tanti, CEO**

the risk of avoidable distress, deterioration, and re-presentation to acute health services. For regional communities, these challenges are often compounded by distance, limited specialist access and fewer local support options.

Importantly, investment in survivorship support yields strong social and health system returns. Evidence shows that integrated supportive care improves quality of life, reduces long-term complications, strengthens mental wellbeing, and helps people re-engage in family, community, and employment. By addressing needs early, rather than waiting for crisis points, survivorship programs can reduce pressure on hospitals and primary care and prevent avoidable downstream costs.

Building on the proven success of the Bloomhill Cancer Care model, we will establish a network of Integrated Cancer Support Hubs embedded within regional communities. These hubs will provide coordinated survivorship care, integrating rehabilitation, psychosocial support, practical assistance and connection, ensuring people are supported not only to survive cancer, but to recover well and live a life they value.

This strategic shift recognises that survivorship is now the next frontier in cancer care. With philanthropic partnership, we can create a model that delivers measurable impact for individuals, communities and the health system, ensuring that more people not only survive, but truly thrive beyond cancer.

**Chris Tanti**  
Chief Executive Officer

# PRACTICAL SERVICES FROM THE GM HEALTH SERVICES



Sarah De Lacey, General Manager Health Services

People with limited savings and major financial commitments are vulnerable to financial distress when diagnosed with a blood cancer. Treatment is often long and complex and can result in patients and their carers needing to stop working for a long time, or altogether.

Through practical services, we help lift the financial and logistical burdens that can overwhelm people impacted by blood cancer. Support with accommodation, transport and essential household bills, ensures people can focus on what matters most: their health and their loved ones. These moments of practical care often arrive at a critical turning point, when stress is highest and options feel few.

We have 156 accommodation units across Australia for people to access life-saving treatment, provided at no charge, for as long as they need. We prioritise people with blood cancer, but where there is capacity, we have expanded our service to include people with other forms of cancer.

Our merger with Bloomhill Cancer Care has shown us the value of integrating regional, place-based health and psychosocial support services with the acute stage treatments delivered in larger metropolitan centres.

Our strategy is emerging but the vision is clear: no matter where you live, or what your background or circumstances are, you should have access to the best possible care and treatment.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Sarah De Lacey**  
General Manager, Health Services

## 10 ACCOMMODATION CENTRES ACROSS AUSTRALIA

### ACT | 6 Units

John James Blood Cancer Centre, Garran.

### NSW | 7 Apartments

Leukaemia Foundation Patient and Family Accommodation Complex, Westmead.

### QLD | 105 Units

Clem Jones-Sunland Blood Cancer Centre, Coopers Plains.

Freemasons Blood Cancer Centre, Townsville.

ESA Blood Cancer Centre, Dutton Park.

Phillip Desbrow Blood Cancer Centre, Herston.

Village Green Blood Cancer Centre, Bowen Hills.

### SA | 15 Units

Bridgestone Blood Cancer Centre, Lightview.

### VIC | 15 Units

Building of Hope Blood Cancer Centre, North Melbourne.

### WA | 8 Units

Stirling Cross Blood Cancer Centre, Innaloo.

## PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE AND A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

For Australians living in regional and remote areas diagnosed with a blood cancer, urgent relocation to major cities for life-saving treatment becomes unavoidable. Treatments can last for weeks or even months, adding significant stress to families already navigating a devastating diagnosis.

In the 2025 financial year, for tens of thousands of nights, the Leukaemia Foundation has provided accommodation services at no charge to patients and their families undergoing treatment for as long as they need. To help get to appointments and meet out-of-pocket expenses, more than 2600 families have been provided with transport and supermarket vouchers.

This is core to our mission and our legacy, made possible through the generosity of our philanthropic community.

**\$267,000+ OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO PATIENTS AND CARERS TO HELP WITH ESSENTIAL LIVING COSTS**

**+ \$340,000 IN TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE TO ACCESS TREATMENT**

**156 ACCOMMODATION UNITS ACROSS AUSTRALIA AVAILABLE TO CANCER PATIENTS IN ACTIVE TREATMENT AT NO COST**

**156**

**39,854 NIGHTS OF ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED TO 547 FAMILIES TO ACCESS TREATMENTS AWAY FROM HOME**

**39K+**

**\$607K+**

# PRACTICAL SERVICES A FAMILY UNITED

## A PLACE THAT GAVE THE KALUATS STRENGTH AND ENCOURAGEMENT

When 12-year-old Siah Kaluat started to nap after school, her parents, Ellen and Jimmy, knew something wasn't right. She'd always loved running around at footy practice and chasing after her two younger brothers in their hometown of Cooribah on the Sunshine Coast. They thought she might have a virus or an iron deficiency but when Siah developed bruising on the backs of her arms, they immediately took her to the doctor for blood tests.

The following morning, the pathologist contacted Ellen and advised her to take Siah directly to hospital. By the afternoon, Siah was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia and her parents were devastated.

Siah recalls her parents coming to her room to tell her of her diagnosis, "I just sat there and wasn't fazed. Then I thought, 'I'm going to lose my hair,' and I cried." Even in those first difficult moments, the always-positive Siah took charge of her journey. "I told Mum and Dad that we won't be doing this with tears. We're going to do this with a smile on our face because we just have to do it," says Siah.

Siah was transferred by ambulance to the Queensland Children's Hospital in Brisbane to begin urgent life-saving treatment. Over the next 11 months, she had intensive therapies with one of the medications triggering a severe reaction, causing convulsions. But, for the most part, Siah was simply exhausted from the toll of the chemotherapy.

Her family was always by her side, playing card games and trying to keep her spirits up. Ellen and Jimmy wanted their sons to understand what chemotherapy involved, so they encouraged them to ask questions and to sit with Siah during treatments. It helped them understand what was happening to their sister so they felt included, rather than afraid.

The Leukaemia Foundation was able to provide accommodation at the ESA Blood Cancer Centre free of charge. This fully furnished, three-bedroom apartment gave the family a place to rest and regroup between hospital visits. "It gave me encouragement that the family was united," says Jimmy. "That was the biggest thing for me."

They also received support from Sarah Manning, their Leukaemia Foundation Supportive Care Case Manager. "Sarah was often emailing or ringing me making sure we were okay and that all our needs were met. She connected us in with the local school and we got all that sorted. Sarah supported us practically as well as emotionally. Once things are alleviated practically, sometimes it just takes the weight off," says Ellen.

With accommodation, emotional support and genuine wraparound care, the Leukaemia Foundation helped Siah and her family focus on what mattered most – her recovery.



**I TOLD MUM AND DAD THAT WE WON'T BE DOING THIS WITH TEARS. WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS WITH A SMILE ON OUR FACE BECAUSE WE JUST HAVE TO DO IT.**

**—SIAH KALUAT**

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The Kaluat family is grateful that Siah has ongoing remission. She developed graft vs host disease after receiving four doses of stem cells towards the end of 2025.

Siah spent most of the hot summer months in her togs enjoying the sunshine. Going to the beach, stand-up paddle boarding, and swimming in the local creeks and the backyard pool.

So far, she is keeping fairly well. Although she has been doing really well with distance education, she is hoping to return to school (on campus) this year sometime.

# QUALITY OF LIFE AND SURVIVORSHIP CARE THAT EXTENDS BEYOND TREATMENT



Rochelle Fletcher, Supportive Care Case Manager, SA.

## REBUILDING QUALITY OF LIFE

At the Leukaemia Foundation, we believe care extends far beyond medical treatment. True care means standing alongside people through the disruption, uncertainty and lasting consequences of blood cancer. Care helps to protect stability, dignity and hope, not only during treatment, but for the long road that follows.

At the heart of our Health Services is a national team of more than 30 highly-skilled healthcare professionals delivering personalised, one-to-one supportive care to people affected by blood cancer and their loved ones across Australia. People impacted by blood cancer can access this support directly through our Triage and Navigation Team via our Blood Cancer Support Line, self-referral online, or referral from healthcare professionals. This ensures support is timely, coordinated and responsive to individual need.

Through our Patient Education and Support Program, and with clinical governance and oversight from an external committee of leading clinicians and people with lived experience, the Leukaemia Foundation addresses the information, support and care needs of more than 170,000 Australians living with blood cancer today.

We deliver trusted, evidence-based disease information in print, online and through podcasts. We distribute more than 30,000 booklets and factsheets each year by email and post. Our self-guided Online Blood Cancer Support Service further empowers patients to navigate blood cancer

in their own way and in their own time, recognising that information needs evolve across the journey.

Survivorship care is central to our approach. We recognise that the impact of blood cancer does not end when treatment does. Many people continue to live with emotional, psychological, social and financial challenges long after leaving the hospital system. Survivorship is about more than survival – it is about rebuilding life, identity and confidence in a changed reality.

Our survivorship supports are designed to reduce isolation, strengthen resilience and improve quality of life. Through webinars, peer-led online support groups and social media, we connect people with practical tools, shared experience and reassurance that they are not alone. Topics reflect the diversity of our community and span the full blood cancer journey, including treatment options and side-effects, wellbeing and mental health, exercise, intimacy and nutrition, as well as managing finances, returning to work and understanding rights and entitlements.

One-to-one support from Supportive Care Case Managers, combined with meaningful peer connection, creates space for healing, belonging and hope beyond the hospital walls.

Together, these services ensure care is not just something people receive at a point in time, but something they continue to feel, supporting them to live well, long after treatment ends.

## PEOPLE ARE AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO

Survival rates for people living with blood cancer are improving, however surviving blood cancer is not necessarily an easy road. The Leukaemia Foundation deploys a variety of channels to reach and support patients wherever they are and at every life stage.

Beyond face-to-face and one-to-one phone support, we publish podcasts and webinars, and we are active on social media to reach, educate and inspire our community. We provide trusted information for patients and healthcare professionals both online and in print.

APPROXIMATELY 170,000 AUSTRALIANS LIVE WITH BLOOD CANCER TODAY\*

170K

SUPPORTIVE CARE CASE MANAGERS HAVE PROVIDED MORE THAN 38,000 ONE-TO-ONE INTERACTIONS WITH NEARLY 5000 PEOPLE ACROSS AUSTRALIA

38K+

1438 PEOPLE ATTENDED ONLINE EDUCATION EVENTS AND SUPPORT GROUPS

1.4K+

# QUALITY OF LIFE AND SURVIVORSHIP

## JOSH'S WILD RIDE TO WELLBEING

After a routine blood test revealed some abnormalities, Josh Gourlay was sent for a second before being diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL). Straight away, in the winter of 2021, he had to begin treatment at the Royal Hobart Hospital in Tasmania.

The six months that followed were gruelling. After several rounds of chemotherapy, he reached remission, and then relocated to Brisbane to undergo a stem cell transplant from a German donor. He was discharged on New Year's Day in 2022 and returned to his home in Hobart.

Later that year, Josh decided it was time for a change of environment and relocated to Canberra. He said of the move, "I felt that I needed to just remove myself from everything that reminded me of the last few years. It gave me the time to get to know myself again in a place that was unfamiliar, that was neutral. That I could have time for me, to love myself again and to work out what I wanted to do."

It was this impulse move to another state that led Josh to his partner Michael, "one of the greatest blessings" of his blood cancer experience. The two moved to Melbourne in 2024 and are loving their new lives there.

Nearly five years from his initial diagnosis, Josh remains cancer free and is living his 'new normal'. But as he describes, regaining that sense of normality – including returning to work – was a challenge.

"My big thing was *after* treatment and what happens when the cancer's done. When life is supposed to go back to normal," he said. "The

emotional scars, the psychological damage, they don't go away. You're always on the backfoot, always second-guessing every tiny little sign or symptom."

Josh has been a member of the Leukaemia Foundation community since his early diagnosis and has participated in a number of different programs, including as a member of the Lived Experience Engagement Program (LEEP). He has been a remarkable advocate for the blood cancer community, briefing the Victorian Parliament in 2025 about the work of the Leukaemia Foundation. He was able to speak of his direct experience while in active treatment and emphasised the importance of ongoing support after treatment has concluded.

"Life is short. Life is unexpected. I'm a very lucky person and I plan to make the most out of the time that I've been given. I'm going to find every piece of joy and happiness that brings me meaning. So that when my time comes, I can look back and reflect and say, 'what a ride it's been.'"

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The Leukaemia Foundation was able to provide Josh accommodation at the Clem Jones-Sunland Blood Cancer Centre in Coopers Plains, not far from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Herston. We thank Josh for being part of LEEP and look forward to hearing about the next chapter of his life.

**To become part of LEEP, email Matt Eby our Consumer Engagement Coordinator at [consumers@leukaemia.org.au](mailto:consumers@leukaemia.org.au). He welcomes new members who can bring their unique perspective to improve our mission and advocate for all people living with the impacts of blood cancer.**



I'M GOING TO FIND EVERY PIECE OF  
JOY AND HAPPINESS THAT BRINGS  
ME MEANING – JOSH GOURLAY

# HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH FROM THE HEAD OF RESEARCH



Bill Stavreski, Head of Research

## A DISTINCTIVE STRATEGY LEADING THE FUTURE OF BLOOD CANCER

The Leukaemia Foundation's National Research Strategy stands apart in the blood cancer landscape by deliberately investing where the need and the potential for impact are greatest. Driven by the ambition of a future free from the burden of blood cancer, the strategy is designed not only to improve outcomes for those already diagnosed, but to help stem the rising number of blood cancer cases, while ensuring every patient can benefit from advances in care.

A defining feature of our strategy is its strong focus on prevention, early detection, and diagnostics – areas that remain under-invested despite their critical role in reducing disease burden. By supporting research that improves understanding of risk factors, advances earlier and more accurate diagnosis, and strengthens the role of primary and community care, we are targeting opportunities to intervene sooner before disease progresses. Earlier diagnosis improves survival, enables less intensive treatment, and delivers lasting benefits for patients and the health system.

Equally distinctive is our leadership in implementation science – research that ensures evidence and innovation are adopted into routine care. Too often, medical breakthroughs fail to reach patients due to geography, workforce limitations, or system barriers. By investing in research that improves models of care, informs policy, and addresses inequities, we help ensure that people affected by blood cancer can access high-quality care regardless of where they live.

The strategy also prioritises access to novel and emerging treatments, supporting research that accelerates the development, evaluation, and delivery of the latest therapies. By funding personalised and targeted approaches, and in research that optimises how treatments are delivered, we are helping to ensure patients benefit from safer, more effective and less toxic options.

Critically, the Leukaemia Foundation is independent and not tied to any single institution or research centre. This independence frees us to fund the best and brightest researchers across Australia, wherever excellence and innovation exist. Research investments are driven by merit, impact, and patient need – allowing the Leukaemia Foundation to support the projects with the greatest potential to deliver direct and meaningful benefits for people living with blood cancer.

**In the last financial year, the Leukaemia Foundation funded 36 research projects in excess of \$14 million, thanks to the support of our generous community.**

Underpinning this work is our unique role as the leading consumer and patient voice in blood cancer, ensuring lived experience informs funding priorities and research design.

Together, this distinctive strategy positions the Leukaemia Foundation as a catalyst for change – slowing the growth of blood cancer, accelerating equitable access to innovation, and transforming outcomes for patients and families nationwide.

# HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH 2025 PROJECT LIST

## TRIALS ENABLING PROGRAM (CLINICAL TRIALS)

TRIAL NAME	LEAD RESEARCHER	INSTITUTION	LOCATION	FUNDING	DURATION	DISEASE FOCUS	STATUS
Blood Cancer Genomics Trial MoST-Lly	Prof Steven Lane and Prof Hamish Scott	QIMR Berghofer	National	\$1,685,000	2022–26	All blood cancers	Active
ALLG TEP (Amyloidosis MM24)	Dr Simon Gibbs	ALLG	National	\$250,000	2020–26	Amyloidosis	Active
AETHER Trial (CLL12)	Prof Philip Thompson and Prof Stephen Opat	ALLG	National	\$80,000	2025–27	Leukaemia (CLL)	Active
CLARIFY Clinical Trial	Prof Maher Ghandi	Mater Research	QLD	\$44,500	2023–26	Lymphoma (DLBCL)	Active

## STRATEGIC ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH PROGRAM (SERP GRANTS)

LEAD RESEARCHER	INSTITUTION	LOCATION	FUNDING	DURATION	DISEASE FOCUS	STATUS
Prof David Gottlieb	University of Sydney	NSW	\$1,000,000	2018–25	GvHD, transplant	Completed
Prof Deb White	SAHMRI	SA	\$600,000	2022–26	Leukaemia (ALL)	Active
Dr Ilaria Pagani	SAHMRI	SA	\$400,000	2023–25	Leukaemia (CML)	Completed
Dr Ashwin Unnikrishnan	UNSW	NSW	\$385,506	2023–27	Leukaemia (AML)	Active
Assoc Prof Ian Majewski	WEHI	VIC	\$324,552	2023–25	Leukaemia	Completed
Prof John Pimanda	UNSW	NSW	\$300,000	2023–25	Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), leukaemia (AML)	Completed
Assoc Prof Anna Brown	University of SA	SA	\$280,481	2023–25	Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), leukaemia (AML)	Completed
Assoc Prof Devendra Hiwase	SAHMRI	SA	\$240,000	2020–25	Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), leukaemia (AML)	Completed
Dr David Bishop	Westmead	NSW	\$217,400	2023–27	Leukaemia (AML)	Active
Assoc Prof Jenny Wang	University of Sydney	NSW	\$179,800	2023–26	Leukaemia (AML)	Active
Dr Charis Teh	WEHI	VIC	\$141,500	2023–25	Myeloma	Completed
Assoc Prof Kathy Fuller	University of WA	WA	\$132,396	2023–25	Leukaemia (CLL)	Completed

## TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

LEAD RESEARCHER	INSTITUTION	LOCATION	FUNDING	DURATION	DISEASE FOCUS	STATUS
Prof Mark Dawson	Leukaemia & Lymphoma Society	VIC	\$289,920	2023–26	Leukaemia, lymphoma (B-cell malignancies)	Active
Assoc Prof Jane Oliaro	Leukaemia & Lymphoma Society	VIC	\$219,390	2022–25	Lymphoma, multiple myeloma	Completed
Prof Richard Lock	Leukaemia & Lymphoma Society	VIC	\$219,390	2022–25	Leukaemia (ALL)	Completed
Prof Gareth Morgan	IWMF/LLS	USA	\$100,000	2023–25	Lymphoma (WM)	Completed

## OTHER PROJECTS

TITLE	LEAD RESEARCHER	INSTITUTION	LOCATION	FUNDING	DURATION	DISEASE FOCUS	STATUS
Leukaemia Foundation Tony Fini Chair in Blood Cancer	TBC	University of Western Australia	WA	\$3,000,000	Ongoing	All blood cancers	Active
First Nations Blood Cancer Epidemiological Research Study	Prof Gail Garvey AM	University of Queensland	QLD	\$731,720	2023–26	All blood cancers	Active

# HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH

## LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION TONY FINI CHAIR IN BLOOD CANCER

One of the most significant achievements for the Leukaemia Foundation in the last year was the establishment of an Endowed Chair with the University of Western Australia (UWA). It was a landmark investment of \$3 million, matched by UWA, to establish an inaugural professorial research position in blood cancer in perpetuity.

The Leukaemia Foundation Tony Fini Chair in Blood Cancer (Chair) is a once-in-a-generation initiative that represents the single largest non-government investment in blood cancer research in Western Australia's history, and a tripling of the Leukaemia Foundation's investment in blood cancer research in the state over the past 25 years.

Head of Research, Bill Stavreski says, "The establishment of the Chair will create lasting impact: shifting from treating advanced disease to preventing it, detecting it earlier, and ultimately saving more lives."

There have been remarkable advances in treatment but earlier detection means treatments are more effective, less invasive and less costly, and that means better outcomes for patients and their families.

Prevention and early detection are areas of key national strength for UWA, thanks to the outstanding work of Professor Wendy Erber and her

team. The Chair will be a central pillar in building a stronger, more connected ecosystem for blood cancer and haematology research. One that attracts, nurtures and retains outstanding early- and mid-career researchers in the field.

Establishment of the Chair was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Tony Fini Foundation, the official naming rights donor. The Fini family is one of WA's most respected names in philanthropy and has supported the Leukaemia

Foundation since 2010. They were instrumental in the relocation of the Foundation's WA accommodation in 2017 and provided seed funding for the Leukaemia Foundation Endowment Fund, which helped establish the Chair.

In addition to the Fini family, there is a committed core of Western Australian donors who provided the initial support for the Chair. They were critical to the realisation

of this remarkable milestone and we are indebted to their trust in our vision.

The Leukaemia Foundation Tony Fini Chair in Blood Cancer with UWA is a confident step forward for the prevention and earlier detection of blood cancer. But it's also a wonderful legacy for the blood cancer community of Western Australia, a testament of what can be achieved with combined vision, trust and commitment.

**THE CHAIR WILL  
CREATE LASTING  
IMPACT: SHIFTING  
FROM TREATING  
ADVANCED DISEASE  
TO PREVENTING IT  
— BILL STAVRESKI**



From left: Adrian Fini, Nadia Lefroy, Cav Antonio (Tony) Fini AM and Don Fini. Tony is the Chair of the Tony Fini Foundation, Nadia and Don are board members. Our deepest gratitude to the Tony Fini Foundation for accepting our invitation to naming rights for the Endowed Chair. Image by Dylan Le'Mon.

# HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH PRECISION MEDICINE FOR ALL WHO NEED IT



Professor Hamish Scott

MoST-LLy – Molecular Screening and Therapeutics in Leukaemia and Lymphoma – is a cutting-edge precision medicine program delivering hope to Australians with advanced blood cancers who have exhausted standard treatment options.

MoST-LLy is led by Professor Steven Lane at QIMR and Professor Hamish Scott at Adelaide University, and is delivered by a national network of partner clinicians and researchers. The program uses comprehensive genomic screening to identify the unique molecular drivers of an individual's blood cancer, and then matches the individual to targeted therapies or clinical trials that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

To date, more than 200 Australians with leukaemia, lymphoma and related blood cancers have been referred and screened as part of the program. Importantly, around 70% of those screened have received a personalised treatment recommendation based on their cancer's genetic profile. For many participants, these recommendations represent the first new treatment option offered after all conventional therapies have failed.

MoST-LLy is unique in Australia. It is one of the only national programs dedicated to genomic screening in blood cancers, analysing more than 500 cancer-related genes, which is far beyond standard clinical

testing. The program is disease-agnostic within haematology, meaning eligibility is based on clinical need rather than cancer subtype, ensuring broad access for patients with rare or aggressive disease.

Equally important is the program's national reach and equity. Through a remote consenting and referral model, MoST-LLy enables participation regardless of where patients live, removing geographic barriers to cutting-edge precision medicine.

Beyond individual patient benefit, MoST-LLy is building a vital national evidence base. One that links genomic data with clinical outcomes to inform future research, accelerate access to targeted therapies, and shape the next generation of blood cancer care in Australia.

For patients facing limited or no remaining options, MoST-LLy offers something profoundly meaningful: choice, opportunity, and hope. MoST-LLy is guided by

science and made possible through philanthropic support from generous and visionary donors.

## MOST-LLY OFFERS SOMETHING PROFOUNDLY MEANINGFUL: CHOICE, OPPORTUNITY, AND HOPE.

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**The Leukaemia Foundation is seeking a further \$2.9 million over five years to continue MoST-LLy, otherwise the program's future is in jeopardy. Contact [philanthropy@leukaemia.org.au](mailto:philanthropy@leukaemia.org.au) or call your relationship manager directly to find out more about this extraordinary research collaboration with proven impact.**

# HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH PARTNERS UNITED BY PURPOSE



Over the past financial year, our partner, Tour de Cure has achieved significant national growth across their events program, with more participants and corporate partners than ever before joining their mission. This momentum directly translated into increased fundraising revenue to support cancer research, patient support services and prevention initiatives. Since its inception in 2007, Tour de Cure has raised in excess of \$158 million to pursue its dream of a cancer-free future.

We at the Leukaemia Foundation feel very fortunate to be working productively with Tour de Cure since 2012. We are honoured to be the beneficiary of nearly \$5 million across a number of programs and research projects. Most recently, they are the inaugural partner for our flagship Breakthrough Fellowship Program, where ambitious multi-year research projects, led by the brightest minds in blood cancer research, receive \$1 million over five years.

We asked Joscelyn Kevan of the grants committee why they partner with us. Her answer was emphatic, “We’re driven by the same purpose: to save lives, improve treatments, and support people affected by blood cancers. Our partnership combines our fundraising strength with the Leukaemia Foundation’s research knowledge and patient support expertise, creating a high impact collaboration that accelerates progress toward a cancer-free future.”

Joscelyn says, “We are proud to continue our history of investing in groundbreaking cancer research with the Leukaemia Foundation. We both remain focused on projects that advance innovation, improve treatment options and bring us closer to a future where cancer no longer takes lives.”

We are indeed a good fit. By working together, in alignment, we are also creating meaningful experiences for donors and supporters that inspire better engagement with our shared purpose. This translates to increased revenue and ultimately, better outcomes for people living with cancer.



Participants of the Research Colloquium held at Tour de Cure headquarters in Sydney.

## WE ARE HONOURED TO BE THE BENEFICIARY OF NEARLY \$5 MILLION ACROSS A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS.

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT 2025 PROJECT LIST

## BREAKTHROUGH FELLOWSHIPS

### FUNDED BY TOUR DE CURE

RESEARCHER	INSTITUTION	STATE	FUNDING	DURATION	DISEASE FOCUS	STATUS
Assoc Prof Ashley Ng	WEHI	VIC	\$999,501	2024–28	Leukaemia (ALL)	Active
Dr Ashwin Unnikrishnan	University of New South Wales	NSW	\$1,000,000	2024–28	Leukaemia (AML)	Active

## PRIORITY DRIVEN COLLABORATIVE CANCER RESEARCH SCHEME

### WITH CANCER AUSTRALIA

RESEARCHER	INSTITUTION	STATE	FUNDING	DURATION	DISEASE FOCUS	STATUS
Dr Kate Vandyke	University of Adelaide	SA	\$200,000	2022–26	Myeloma	Active
Dr Lauren Thurgood	Flinders University	SA	\$199,683	2024–26	Leukaemia (CLL)	Active
Dr Bill Panagopoulos	University of Adelaide	SA	\$66,403	2023–26	Myeloma	Active

## PHD SCHOLARSHIPS

RESEARCHER	INSTITUTION	STATE	FUNDING	DURATION	DISEASE FOCUS	STATUS
Dr Vajirane Malalasekera	WEHI	VIC	\$97,998	2022–25	Leukaemia (AML)	Completed
Dr Jessica Elliott	Royal Melbourne Hospital	VIC	\$97,998	2023–25	Lymphoma (CTCL)	Completed
Dr Sun Loo	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre	VIC	\$97,998	2023–25	Leukaemia (AML)	Completed
Dr Helen Cashman	University of Sydney	NSW	\$112,500	2024–26	Lymphoma (DLBCL)	Active
Mr Damian D'Silva	WEHI	VIC	\$112,500	2024–26	Leukaemia, Lymphoma	Active
Dr Eric Wenlong Li	WEHI	VIC	\$112,500	2024–26	Leukaemia (AML, CLL)	Active
Dr Elizabeth Goodall	Austin Health	VIC	\$112,500	2025–27	Lymphoma	Active
Dr Sean Harrop	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre	VIC	\$112,500	2025–27	Lymphoma (DLBCL)	Active
Dr Rithin Nedumannil	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre	VIC	\$112,500	2025–27	Leukaemia (AML)	Active

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT BREAKTHROUGH ÉTAPE 8



From left: Dr Ashwin Unnikrishnan, Chris Tanti, Roseanne Bricknell and A/Prof Ashley Ng

In 2023, Tour de Cure awarded a transformative grant of \$2 million to the Leukaemia Foundation providing financial certainty for long-term, high-risk, high-reward research in blood cancer. Tour de Cure's generous investment established the Leukaemia Foundation Breakthrough Fellowship Program.

Following a rigorous selection process, Associate Professor Ashley Ng of the Walter and Eliza Institute, Melbourne, and Doctor Ashwin Unnikrishnan of the University of NSW, were named the Leukaemia Foundation Tour de Cure Inaugural Breakthrough Fellows.

In September last year, we reached an important stage of the program – the midpoint of the ambitious research projects of the Breakthrough Fellows. To mark the occasion, the Leukaemia Foundation presented a three-part event in the new headquarters of Tour de Cure in Eveleigh.

It started with the *Research Colloquium* for blood cancer researchers in Sydney, facilitated by the Breakthrough Fellows and Associate Professor Charley de Bock of the Children's Cancer Institute.

Next, Breakthrough Fellows A/Prof Ng and Dr Unnikrishnan demonstrated to the Tour de Cure Board of Directors and select staff how their trust and investment are turning scientific possibility into life-affirming reality. We used this unique opportunity to present the latest information on blood cancer and insights from the Research Roadmap for Blood Cancer. Alarming, blood cancer incidences have risen 47% over the past decade. Blood cancers combined are the most common cancer in children and young adults today. 1 in 12 people are expected to face a blood cancer diagnosis in their lifetime, and in ten years, blood cancers are predicted

to be the most prevalent and deadly form of cancer in Australia. In addition to current funding levels, a further \$125 million of targeted investment is required to fast-track treatments into practice, and we must build the research workforce to implement this.

This urgent message was amplified at *Breakthrough Étape 8*, a cocktail soirée attended by next generation researchers, ambassadors, senior executives, board member, major donors, corporate sponsors, leading community fundraisers in Sydney, and potential philanthropic partners of both organisations. *Breakthrough Étape 8* was an opportunity to hear A/Prof Ng and Dr Unnikrishnan explain their research to a broader audience and the potential for impact on the lives of people living with blood cancer. Roseanna Bricknell closed the presentation speaking movingly on her experience with lymphoma.

The message of all three events was clear: groundbreaking research cannot happen in a vacuum. It requires infrastructure, belief and critically, sustained funding. Our partners are as much a part of any breakthrough as those in the lab. We have built a visionary coalition that together can achieve what no organisation could alone.

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**The Breakthrough Fellowships are one of Australia's most prestigious high-value grants that powers ambitious multi-year research projects. Contact our Philanthropy Team to be a part of this transformative coalition.**



# CAREER DEVELOPMENT

## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMILY BLYTH



Associate Professor Emily Blyth

### MAKING LIFE-SAVING THERAPIES AVAILABLE TO MORE PATIENTS IN NEED

Associate Professor Emily Blyth's journey in haematology began with a passion for addressing the needs of her patients. Her early exposure to haematologic conditions, particularly in HIV patients, led her to specialise in haematology and integrate research into her clinical career. Over the years, she has become a leading expert in cell therapies, pioneering research that has improved patient outcomes and influenced clinical practice.

A/Prof Blyth has significantly advanced understanding of cell therapies in post-transplant care. Clinically, her research has influenced treatment protocols, reducing infections, lowering healthcare costs, and improving patient outcomes. Her findings have also shaped discussions on integrating cell therapies into standard haematologic treatment and paved the way for compassionate-use programs, granting patients early access to these therapies.

At a policy level, her research has informed discussions on the regulation and funding of cellular therapies. As cell therapy has grown into a widely recognised treatment option, her contributions have been instrumental in shaping national and international frameworks for equitable patient access. Her continued advocacy ensures that life-saving therapies are available to more patients in need.

Beyond technical skills, her PhD also honed her leadership abilities. Over time, she has transitioned from researcher to mentor, fostering new generations of scholars ensuring continuity

in cell therapy advancements. She has taken on multiple advisory roles, collaborating with biotech companies to drive innovation.

Since 2020, she has led the Immune Effect Cell Service, overseeing CAR-T cell therapy programs in Australia. Her focus has expanded to improving patient access, addressing cost challenges, and enhancing local manufacturing capabilities. As Vice President of the International Society for Cell and Gene Therapy, A/Prof Blyth works on policy and regulatory initiatives to ensure equitable global access to cell therapies.

The Leukaemia Foundation are proud to have supported the career of A/Prof Blyth, enabling her to conduct meaningful research and drive innovations that have improved blood cancer treatment. Her ongoing work ensures that cell therapies remain at the forefront of modern cancer treatment, offering hope to patients and their families worldwide.

## A/PROF BLYTH WORKS ON POLICY AND REGULATORY INITIATIVES TO ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CELL THERAPIES.

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT DOCTOR SIOK TEY



Dr Siok Tey

## BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND CLINICAL APPLICATION

Doctor Siok Tey is one of Australia's leading clinician scientists with an extraordinary resume. An outstanding graduate of the University of Queensland, she was awarded a fellowship in the USA, has been a chief investigator for several highly competitive NHMRC grants, published more than 60 papers in the most prestigious international journals, and currently leads her own laboratory at QIMR Berghofer in Translational Cancer Immunotherapy.

Dr Tey's early experience as a bone marrow transplant physician motivated her to pursue a research career. Exposure to patients suffering severe haematological conditions, often without preventive measures or definitive cures, underscored the importance of advancing scientific understanding to develop better therapies.

In 2008, the Leukaemia Foundation awarded her a Clinical Research Fellowship, which was a three-year grant valued at \$300,000, made possible by our community of generous donors and supporters. The Fellowship played a pivotal role in enabling Dr Tey to pursue her PhD and advance her research capabilities. It provided financial support that allowed her to dedicate substantial time to laboratory work, fostering collaborations and honing her expertise in immunology, genetic engineering, and translational research.

Dr Tey's career has had a transformative effect on clinical practice. Her expertise in gene engineering and immunotherapy has been instrumental in establishing protocols for the safe and effective use of CAR-T cells

– genetically modified T cells used to target specific cancer cells. Through her leadership, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital became the first centre in Australia to manufacture and administer CD19 CAR-T cells on-site.

## DR TEY'S CAREER HAS HAD A TRANSFORMATIVE EFFECT ON CLINICAL PRACTICE.

This capability has expanded treatment options for patients who would otherwise be ineligible for commercially available CAR-T therapies. Her investigator-initiated trial, funded by Queensland Health, provided critical access to life-saving treatments for patients from across Australia. By prioritising clinical need over restrictive trial criteria, Dr Tey ensured that patients with few other options could receive cutting-edge care.

We applaud Dr Tey's achievements and thank the many donors and supporters who have enabled us to identify and foster her talent.

# GIFTS IN WILLS

## A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY



Emma Dwyer, Senior Philanthropy Manager

Every gift to a cause begins with a decision to care deeply. It's a choice rooted in values, compassion, and a desire to make a difference beyond ourselves.

This past year, we set out to ask our donor community an important question: will you love beyond your lifetime? It's a question that captures the heart of legacy giving and what it means to create lasting impact for families facing blood cancer.

Every day, 55 Australians are diagnosed with blood cancer and too many face that diagnosis without the support they need. Worse yet, if nothing changes, in ten years blood cancer is likely to become the most common – and deadliest – cancer in Australia. Gifts in Wills are one of the most powerful ways supporters are helping to change this future. Leaving a gift in your Will is creating a legacy of hope for the 170,000 people in Australia now living with a blood cancer.

## EVERY GIFT TO A CAUSE BEGINS WITH A DECISION TO CARE DEEPLY.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank our incredible community of gift in Will supporters. You enable the Leukaemia Foundation to provide wraparound care to patients and their families, now and in the future. With you, breakthrough research will continue to improve how care is delivered and give future generations the opportunity for better outcomes, improved treatments, greater hope and the chance to live well after diagnosis.

Thank you for being by our side.

**Emma Dwyer**

Senior Philanthropy Manager | Gifts in Wills

# GIFTS IN WILLS

## A YEAR OF PURPOSE AND PROGRESS

### AN ACT OF LOVE

Our gift in Will supporters were at the heart of a busy and impactful past year, beginning with a milestone in February – the Leukaemia Foundation’s first online event centered around estate planning and legacy gifts. A special webinar provided practical advice on creating a Will, establishing advance care directives, and how to align a legacy with personal values.

Our expert panel, including Eleanor Davis of David Davis Lawyers, explained the key steps to take when planning your final wishes. Eleanor observed that thoughtful planning was an “act of love” which helps ensure the wellbeing of your family, friends, and the causes you care about. This wonderful insight, that a legal document such as a Will can be a meaningful expression of love, has helped shape the way that we think about gifts in Wills at the Leukaemia Foundation.

### SAFEWILL: PARTNERING FOR SUPPORT

The Leukaemia Foundation, in partnership with Safewill, Australia’s leading online Will provider, once again offered free, convenient legal Wills to our donor community for two dedicated fortnights in March and September.

We were pleased to see many Leukaemia Foundation supporters and members of our blood cancer community take up the offer, ticking the important task of estate planning off their to-do lists.

Our partnership with Safewill has now deepened with a new pilot program exclusively for patients and carers receiving support from the Leukaemia Foundation. We are proud to offer free digital Wills year-round to people who are facing blood cancer and sincerely hope it lowers the emotional and financial barriers one may encounter when estate planning.

If you are a Leukaemia Foundation client who would like to create an online Will at no cost, please contact a member of the Philanthropy team for more information. Know that there is no requirement to include a gift to the Leukaemia Foundation in your Safewill – only an invitation to consider a legacy gift.

### HELLO GISELLE!

In September, we were delighted to welcome Giselle Versteegen to the team. Giselle brings more than two decades of experience in the philanthropy sector and a genuine commitment to social impact and community development. Many supporters have already had the pleasure of meeting Giselle and experiencing her thoughtful, people-first approach. With a Master of Business Administration and a comprehensive skill set including financial and trust management, impact assessment and governance, Giselle enjoys working closely with individuals to help them make a difference through philanthropic endeavours and legacies.

### A BIG HEARTED THANK YOU

In the 2024-2025 Financial Year, 54 individuals advised that they had created a Will and included a gift to the Leukaemia Foundation, to create a better future for people with blood cancer. Additionally, 34 supporters took the time to reaffirm that the Leukaemia Foundation continues to be included in their Will. This proactive communication is deeply appreciated. It provides greater certainty in our future income and enables us to plan responsibly, while also reflecting our community’s enduring belief in our mission: to provide the best possible care and support for those affected by blood cancer.

Over the same period, we gratefully received \$8.7 million, including \$3 million in shares, from farsighted gift in Will supporters who left a remarkable legacy of love.

To the families and loved ones of those generous individuals we offer our condolences. We hope you are comforted by the knowledge that their gift – their values – live on with every family that we support, every researcher we fund, and each step we take to ease the burden on people living with blood cancer.

# GIFTS IN WILLS

## VALERIE'S LEGACY



From left: Valerie with daughters Caroline, Michelle and Louise.

### A MOTHER'S ACT OF LOVE, SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT

Valerie Young of Heidelberg, Victoria, was always full of life and energy. Balancing a career, volunteering and quality time with family, her days were always busy and filled with purpose. She had a great mind for numbers and worked much of her life as a comptometrist, a skilled profession in the early finance industry involving the operation of a mechanical key-driven calculator.

She raised three daughters with her husband who worked in trade education. Their great enjoyment together was music. Their daughter Louise remembers, "Mum played the piano and the organ, whilst Dad loved to sing. They were very active in the local Rosanna Uniting Church."

When they retired, they travelled overseas and volunteered with many charities. Valerie worked in an opportunity shop for many years, only retiring at 90. She lived in her own home until 94 and passed away just shy of 99 years of age.

### MICHELLE'S JOURNEY

In 2010, Valerie's eldest daughter, Michelle, received a shock diagnosis of Myeloma, a blood cancer that develops in plasma cells. It can weaken bones, reduce levels of healthy blood cells and make it harder for the body to fight infections.

Reflecting on her treatment journey, Michelle shares, "I have been under the care of the same

wonderful doctor and nurse for 15 years. I am lucky to have lived relatively unscathed through my treatment and had many years in remission after a stem cell transplant. I have been blessed with three wonderful children and many supportive friends. My seven beautiful grandchildren keep me going on my darkest days."

After several years of stable health, Michelle's cancer recently returned, and she has begun chemotherapy. We at the Leukaemia Foundation send Michelle our heartfelt support and well wishes for the road ahead.

### VALERIE'S GIFT IN WILL

In support of her daughter, Valerie included a gift in her Will to the Leukemia Foundation – an act of love that her daughters believe was entirely in keeping with Valerie's nature and her dedication to worthy causes. She came from a family that valued service to others. Her father was in the Australian Navy and served at Gallipoli in the First World War. He received a posthumous honorary medal for his service.

The Leukaemia Foundation are honoured to be a part of Valerie's legacy and we are grateful for her generous gift. She will be remembered as a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother, a loyal and cheerful friend, and a woman of great faith and kindness.

# GIFTS IN WILLS INTRODUCING THE BIG HEARTS SOCIETY

We are excited to announce the launch of our dedicated gift in Will community, the Big Hearts Society. The Big Hearts Society will bring together a community of generous, like-minded people who have each chosen to support the Leukaemia Foundation through a gift in their Will.

In time, we will be in touch with all gift in Will supporters to share invitations to special events in your state, as well as online activities. Giselle Versteegen and Emma Dwyer look forward to welcoming society members and celebrating the impact of your generosity.

**Pictured right is Big Heart Society member Helen Holdey and her beloved dog Prinnie.**



# Big Hearts Society

# LIFETIME GIVING CIRCLES RECOGNISING OUR MOST LOYAL SUPPORTERS

## A LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO THE LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION

The lasting connections we share with our supporters are a great source of pride for the Leukaemia Foundation. Loyal donors hold a privileged place as they embody the trust our community places in our work.

Lifetime Giving Circles recognise the total cumulative pecuniary giving of donors over the last 50 years. When identified, Lifetime Givers are contacted in a number of ways to congratulate them on their achievement and to seek approval to publicly acknowledge their names in reports and other forms of communication. Despite our best efforts, there are times we have not been able to contact everyone.

If you are a Lifetime Giver and have not been recognised in the following pages or reached by mail, email or telephone, please contact the Leukaemia Foundation to rectify this for the future on (08) 6241 1019 or email via [philanthropy@leukaemia.org.au](mailto:philanthropy@leukaemia.org.au).

## THE THREE CIRCLES OF GIVING

### THE VISIONARIES

These outstanding individuals have given \$500,000 or more since 1975.

### THE HUMANITARIANS

These generous individuals have given between \$100,000 and \$499,999 since 1975.

### THE COMPASSIONATES

These wonderful individuals have given between \$25,000 and \$99,999 since 1975.

# LIFETIME GIVING CIRCLES THE COMPASSIONATE MAUREEN STEVENSON



Maureen Stevenson

## A LIFELONG COMMITMENT THAT'S DEEPLY PERSONAL

For Gold Coast philanthropist Maureen Stevenson, supporting medical research through organisations like the Leukaemia Foundation is deeply personal.

Having lost family members and friends to illnesses including ovarian cancer and motor neurone disease, and battling breast cancer herself, Maureen understands firsthand the urgent need for better treatments and cures. These experiences have shaped her lifelong commitment to philanthropy and her strong belief in the power of medical research.

Maureen has been a committed supporter of the Leukaemia Foundation since 2015, driven by concern at the rising incidence of blood cancer and its impact on Australian families.

Living on the Gold Coast, she is passionate about supporting Queensland-based charities making a tangible difference in their communities, and believes strongly in collaboration across the medical research sector.

Maureen's generosity is both remarkable and thoughtful. Today, her generosity extends to close to 90 charities.

"I like to spread my impact across multiple causes that mean something to me. With the Leukaemia Foundation, I feel appreciated as a donor. I like to look after causes that look after me."

In recognition of her extraordinary impact, Maureen was named Queensland Community Philanthropist of the Year in 2023 and Gold Coast Senior Australian of the Year in 2024.

Through her lifetime of giving, Maureen Stevenson continues to make a lasting difference for Australians affected by blood cancer – and for the broader medical research community.

**The Leukaemia Foundation is proud to celebrate Maureen Stevenson in the Compassionates' Circle of Lifetime Giving.**

## WITH THE LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION I FEEL APPRECIATED AS A DONOR – MAUREEN STEVENSON

# LIFETIME GIVING CIRCLES CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU

## THE VISIONARIES

*Honouring lifetime giving of \$500,000+ since 1975.*

Dr Soheil Abedian AM and Mrs Anne Abedian\*

Australian Unity Trustees Foundation  
– David Roleston Bequest

Nicole Chow UAG\*

The late Chris Connellan

Frederiks Foundation

John James Foundation

The late Dr Clem Jones AO

Tour de Cure Ltd

*+ 2 donors who wished to remain anonymous.*

## THE HUMANITARIANS

*Honouring lifetime giving between \$100,000 and \$499,999 since 1975.*

Attaway Foundation

Dr Margaret Baird

Phil Botsis Family

Bourne Foundation

The late Gloria Carige

Peter Carr

Cory Charitable Foundation

The late Terrence William Cryer

Davies Family Foundation

Rosalia Di Giacomo

Julia Farrell

Adrian and Michela Fini

Gandel Foundation

Tim and Linda Goyder

Greater Charitable Foundation

In honour of Rebecca Gumley

Dr Stephen Gumley AO and  
Mrs Sandra Gumley

Hammond Family Foundation

Handy Family Foundation

Professor David T. Hill AM and  
Professor Krishna Sen

Paul S. Hughes

Hull Family Charitable Fund

The late Noel George Hurd

The John Villiers Trust

Julie Maas Charitable Trust

Russell and Julie Kempnich

Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation

Lions Club of Brisbane Holland Park\*\*

Logan Family Foundation, Bundaberg  
in memory of Gail Logan

Valerie McAlpine

McNally Foundation  
in memory of Elizabeth McNally

Ann E. Miller AM

In honour of Michele O'Brien

The Pawlowski Family Trust

Rae and Peter Gunn Family Foundation

SMOC Association

Stan Perron Charitable Foundation

Stockwell Webber Foundation

Suitters Foundation

Anita Thomas  
in honour of Graham Noel Thomas

Tony Fini Foundation

Tony and Gai Wales

Julia Wilkins and Tony Wilkins

The William Angliss Charitable Fund

Rick Zeuschner

*+ 6 donors who wished to remain anonymous.*

## THE COMPASSIONATES

*Honouring lifetime giving between \$25,000 and \$99,999 since 1975.*

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Agforce Central Queensland	The Lewins Family
Allan Frenkel Foundation	Todd Lewis
Penny and Ian Ash	The Link Family
Associazione S. Sebastiano Martire Da Cerami (Enna)	The late Ken Miles
Megan Baker	Nelumbo Trust Fund
The Barton Family Foundation	Paul Norman AM
Mrs Lindsay Benaud	Laing O'Rourke
Warwick Bennet AM in memory of Margaret Bennet	Queensland Gives Leukaemia Foundation Fund
Clive Berghofer AM	The Raymond E. Purves Foundation
Karen and Gavin Bird	Helen and William Ridge
Susan and Leigh Bull	Faye Lynette Robinson
Canterbury Bankstown Council	Paul Roddis, True Blue
Carcione Foundation	Rose Anne Amaranth Charitable Trust
Civic Solutions	Bruce Sanderson
Bar Cohen	The late Tom Shearer
JW and Beris Coxeter	Maureen Stevenson
The Danks Trust	Barry Stockdale
Margot Davies	The Tall Foundation
The Derek Martin Muller Bequest	Binh Thai
Greg and Blanche Emms	The Thomas and Coral Williams Memorial Trust
Equity Trustees Charitable Foundation – The Neil Stewart Memorial Endowment	David W Thompson
Future Generation Australia	John and Betty Watt
The late Frank Goudge	William and Patricia Westlake
Waverly Griggs	The late Connie White
Peter Haeusler	Blue Williams
Haulmark Trailers	John Williams
The Honda Foundation	John and Maureen Wilson
Michael Humphreys and Nadia Naylor	The Woodend Foundation
Illawarra Community Foundation Ltd	<i>+ 21 donors who wished to remain anonymous.</i>
Bill and Narelle Innes and Family	
Finnian and Bernie Kenny	
Nghia Lam	
Peter and Robyn Lambert	

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*\* We celebrate these donors in recognition of their remarkable in-kind contributions to our accommodation programs.*

*\*\* The Lions Club of Brisbane Holland Park are honorary members of the Humanitarians Circle in recognition of their important role in the history of the Leukaemia Foundation.*

# REVENUE FY2024–25 WE ARE ALL PHILANTHROPISTS

We at the Leukaemia Foundation are humbled to announce that our total revenue in the 2024–25 Financial Year was \$39.2 million, an increase of nearly 30% on the previous year. Fundraising, which comprises more than 74% of total revenue, experienced a remarkable 21% growth on the previous year to reach \$29.2 million. This was achieved while simultaneously reducing fundraising costs by 4%.

**We are profoundly grateful to everyone who contributed to this extraordinary result. To the bequesters, the investors, partners and major donors, the fundraisers, the shavers, and the thousands of school students across Australia, you have shown us that we are all philanthropists. Thank you for sharing your love of humanity with us.**

As you have seen in the preceding pages, you have enabled so much service to the blood cancer community in Australia, and your impact will be felt long into the future.

The total revenue figure above includes state government schemes that subsidise patient accommodation and travel costs for essential medical treatment. This increased by 12% over the previous year to \$4.6 million, reflecting higher accommodation service provision. Federal grants for our work on optimal care pathways and specialist support services contributed \$1.8 million to the total revenue. Both these programs saw increased activity in the year. Interest earned on term deposits was consistent with the prior year at \$1.5 million. There was a \$0.7 million gain with the sale of the Jim Simpson Patient and Family Accommodation Complex in Newcastle, and Jessie Street in Westmead, that were no longer suitable and consequently underutilised.

In December 2024, the Leukaemia Foundation completed the business combination with Bloomhill Cancer Care Ltd. on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. As part of this combination, we absorbed nine op-shops in the locality, introducing retail as a revenue source. For the seven months of the 2024–25 Financial Year that the shops were part of the Leukaemia Foundation, they generated revenue of \$1.3 million and made a net contribution of \$236,000.

Operating Costs reduced by \$1.2 million, or 24%, in the year. Key to these savings were a redirection in marketing, communications and advertising costs as we align with digital strategies, and staff movement as part of our continual review of focus areas.

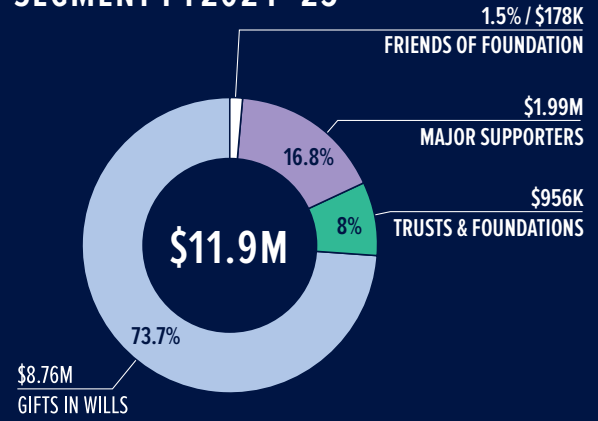
Overall mission spend in 2024–25 Financial Year was \$21.6 million representing an increase of \$1.7 million or 9% on the previous year. Within this figure, \$13.5 million was spent providing accommodation, counselling and advisory services and a further \$0.7 million on meeting the needs of people impacted by cancer on the Sunshine Coast via Bloomhill. Expenditure on research grants amounted to \$4.4 million in the year across high-impact research projects and career development grants. At the close of the reporting period, we established the Leukaemia Foundation Tony Fini Chair in Blood Cancer in partnership with the University of Western Australia. Under this agreement the Foundation contributed \$3 million, which was matched by the University.

The Leukaemia Foundation was able to report an operating surplus of \$1.9 million for the 2024–25 Financial Year. While deficits in recent years have been in accordance with plans, a surplus was an important operational goal as we gear up for a new strategic plan that will require *all* of our collective efforts to achieve.

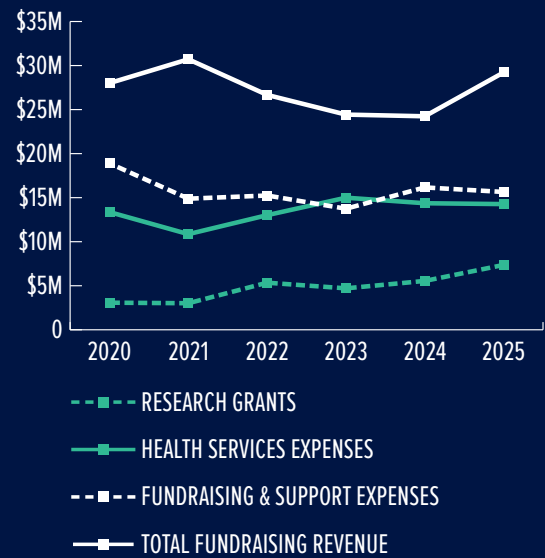
# \$11.9M

PHILANTHROPY  
REVENUE FOR  
FY2024-25  
= \$11.9 MILLION  
THANK YOU FOR  
SHARING YOUR  
LOVE OF HUMANITY  
WITH US

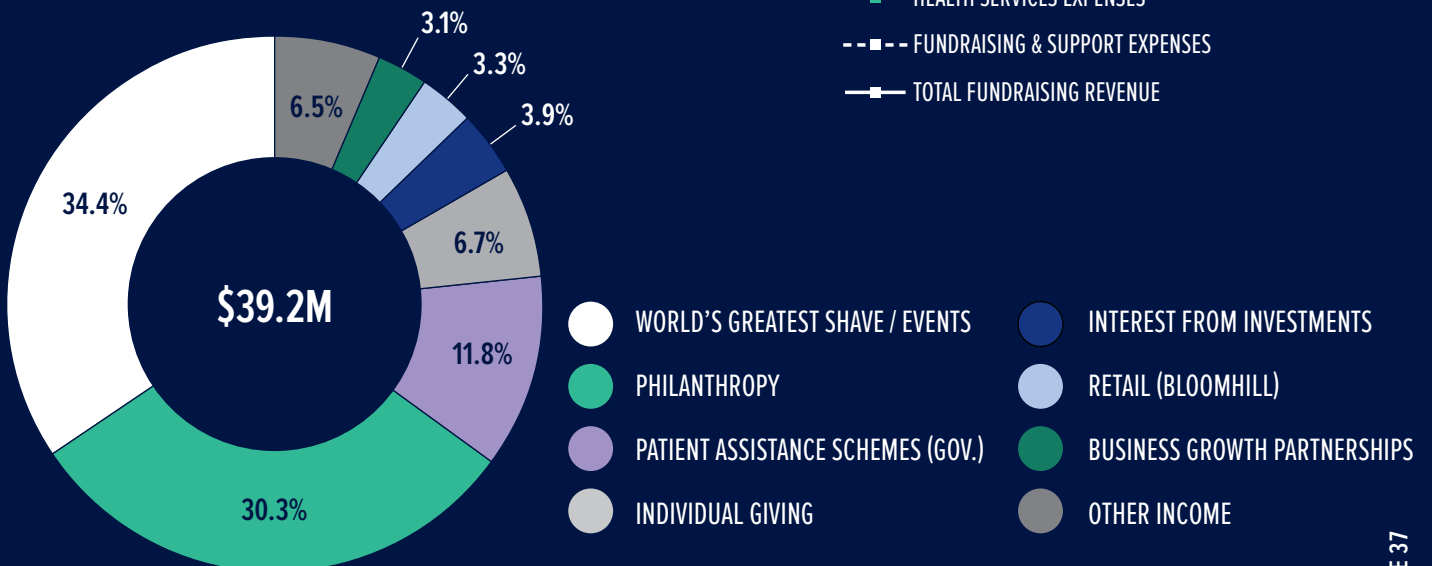
## PHILANTHROPY REVENUE BY SEGMENT FY2024-25



## FUNDRAISING REVENUE AND MISSION EXPENSES FY2020-25



## LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION REVENUE BY INCOME STREAM FY2024-25



# OUR WONDERFUL DONORS WITH GRATITUDE

## GIFTS IN WILLS

The Leukaemia Foundation gratefully acknowledge those below who so generously left a gift in their Will in the last financial year. We also thank those who wished to remain anonymous.

We are honoured to receive their wonderful legacies and extend our condolences to their loved ones.

---

Robert Douglas Abey	John Kidd
Christine Mary Adams	Colin Daly Kildey
The Alf and Winifred Murgatroyd Perpetual Charitable Trust	Rose Komduur
Robert Antonioli	John Kowalski
Verna Jane Arthur	Ian Kevin Lamont
Australian Unity Trustees Foundation – David Roleston Bequest	Maxwell Frank Lennon
Mary Ann Barbagallo	Gordon Francis Manski
Joseph Harold Barnett	Margaret Elizabeth Wakefield Martin
Ellie Boldery	Eva Winifred Maxwell
Margaret Lillian Brailsford	Mervyn Edwin Rodgers Fund
Robert George Carruthers	Francis John McCray
Centenary Foundation – Ian Neil Galletly Leukaemia Fund	Marie Eileen Mitchell-Zeepongsekul
Centenary Foundation – Matheson Bequest	Beverly Morton
Beverley Anne Cooke	The Neil Stewart Memorial Endowment – Equity Trustees Charitable Foundation
Terrence William Cryer	Daphne May Noble
Carol Ann Deeley	Peter Cecil Paine
The Derek Martin Muller Bequest	Penhallurick Fund
Eric and Margaret Dettrick	Robert James Poncho
Frank Di Molfetta	Diana Lesley Wakefield Prideaux
Laurel Lillian Dore	Derek Adrian Robinson
Nancy Hannah Dorothy	Ruth Louvain Pryce Trust
Steve Dugas	The Sarah Ruth Warren Memorial Bequest
Elsa Norma Vedder Trust	Hiam Sassine
Joseph Farrugia	Jean Victoria Selke
Roberta Ann Fraser	Herbert Desmond Smith
John Ernest Garousse	Tatjana Solodky
Alice Mary Geary	Rosemary Stewart
Keith Gowdie	Graham Leslie Stokes
Leanne Maria Grimstone	David Charles Kelvin Stradwick
Neville Redvers Hawke	The Thomas and Coral Williams Memorial Trust
Leslie Rickleford Hoops	The Thomas and Vera Benham Condie Trust
Joseph Paul Ilka	Gary Raymond Thompson
Julie Maas Charitable Trust	Brenda Joy Wyatt
	Valerie Joan Young

## MAJOR DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge the individuals, trusts, foundations, partners and entities below that have made a leading gift in the last financial year of \$10,000 or greater. We also thank those who wish to remain anonymous.

We are humbled by your generosity.

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The Alfred and Jean Dickson Foundation  
Ian and Penny Ash  
The Barton Family Foundation  
In memory of Paul Beitey  
The late Warwick Bennet AM  
in memory of Margaret Bennet  
Robert and Annemarie Brack  
In Celebration of Rosie Bricknell and Sam Wall's  
Wedding  
Bar Cohen  
Cory Charitable Foundation  
Margot Davies  
Davies Family Foundation  
Rosalia Di Giacomo  
Tomasina East  
Eley Griffiths Group  
Peter Haeusler  
Halifax Foundation  
Hammond Family Foundation  
Handy Family Foundation  
HeyDoodle  
Professor David T. Hill AM and Professor Krishna Sen  
Paul Hughes  
Hull Family Charitable Fund  
Michael Humphreys and Nadia Naylor  
John James Foundation  
Russell and Julie Kempnich  
Janet Kutrolli  
Todd Lewis  
Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation  
The Link Family  
Logan Family Foundation, Bundaberg  
in memory of Gail Logan  
Valerie McAlpine  
McNally Foundation  
in memory of Elizabeth McNally

In Honour of Michele O'Brien  
Paul Okkerse  
The Pawlowski Family Trust  
Perpetual Foundation  
– John and Paulette Goodell Endowment  
Queensland Gives Leukaemia Foundation Fund  
Richardson Family Foundation  
Paul Roddis, True Blue  
Stan Perron Charitable Foundation  
Barry Stockdale  
Stockwell Webber Foundation  
Mike Stoneman  
in memory of Michelle  
Suitters Foundation  
The Tall Foundation  
Anita Thomas  
in honour of Graham Noel Thomas  
Tony Fini Foundation  
Tour de Cure Ltd  
Tony and Gai Wales  
Tania West  
in memory of Dr Damian West  
William and Patricia Westlake  
John Williams  
The Woodend Foundation  
Rick Zeuschner

# OUR WONDERFUL DONORS WITH GRATITUDE

## FRIENDS OF FOUNDATION

This year, for the first time, we recognise our Friends of Foundation for their generous contributions in the last financial year of between \$5000 and \$9999. We also thank those who wish to remain anonymous.

Michael and Cheryl Ansell  
In memory of Michael Brown  
Cory Charitable Foundation  
Reilly Davies  
Greg and Dianne Doughty  
Graham Kluck  
Peter and Robyn Lambert  
Faye Lynette Robinson  
Donna Sanders  
Bruce Sanderson  
Maureen Stevenson  
Michael Tichbon OAM  
Blue Williams  
Yazad Trust

If you have not been recognised correctly in any of our donor acknowledgment lists, please contact the Leukaemia Foundation to rectify this for the future on (08) 6241 1019 or email us at [philanthropy@leukaemia.org.au](mailto:philanthropy@leukaemia.org.au).

**While we honour our leading donors and bequesters in this Philanthropy Impact Report, the Leukaemia Foundation takes this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful donors, right across Australia.**

**We thank our dedicated community fundraisers and their supporters in our major campaigns throughout the year.**

**We acknowledge our blood cancer community: the members and volunteers; the scientists and clinicians; and the ambassadors and advocates who have selflessly supported our mission.**

**To everyone, we thank you.**

# FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER FUNDRAISING AND GROWTH THANK YOU FOR YOUR BELIEF IN OUR WORK



**Charlotte Webb, General Manager Fundraising & Growth**

We are living in a demanding moment for generosity. Across the charitable sector, fundraising is shaped by rising cost-of-living pressures, fewer people giving overall, and growing competition for attention and trust. Yet alongside these realities sits a quieter, more enduring truth: when people believe in a cause, when trust has been earned over time, generosity persists.

Reading this Philanthropy Impact Report is therefore both humbling and affirming. It offers a counterpoint to the doom loop of our daily news feeds and algorithm-driven headlines. The stories shared here speak not only to need and loss, but to loyalty, commitment and human connection. These are qualities that have sustained the Leukaemia Foundation for 50 years and continue to shape our future.

## IT IS LONG-TERM TRUST, RATHER THAN ONE-OFF MOMENTS, THAT ENABLES ORGANISATIONS TO PLAN, INVEST AND RESPOND TO EMERGING NEED.

Across the sector, we see clearly that it is long-term trust, rather than one-off moments, that enables organisations to plan, invest and respond to emerging need. Our experience this year reflects that truth. We were deeply humbled by the growth in bequest income – gifts in Wills often unknown to us until they arrive. They represent some of the most profound expressions of belief in our work.

We were energised by new corporate partnerships with Industrial Metal Services and Iconic Property Services, joining a valued portfolio of long-standing supporters. Among them is Bridgestone, celebrating an extraordinary 40-year partnership, an enduring reminder that sustained commitment can be as powerful as innovation.

And despite the pessimism that often dominates our screens, Australians once again showed how they rally behind ideas that inspire them. In 2025, World's Greatest Shave – now in its 27th year – grew in revenue for the first time in four years. Around 17,000 people chose to shave, cut or colour their hair, raising just over \$12 million, with schools contributing an inspiring \$6 million of that total.

Alongside these flagship moments sits the true breadth of grassroots generosity. Extraordinary feats like the Vertical 5k Challenge, and smaller yet deeply committed acts – a ponytail cut in a school assembly, a bake sale, a fishing challenge, a monthly gift, or a single, heartfelt donation to an appeal. Taken together, these gestures form a remarkable picture of human commitment across the length and breadth of Australia.

These acts may never trend, but they are *our* headlines. They give us confidence. Not in forecasts, but in people, as we extend our mission to support Australians whose lives are upended by blood cancer, and increasingly, by cancer of any kind.

Thank you, in every form your generosity takes.

**Charlotte Webb**  
General Manager, Fundraising and Growth

# YOUR TEAM WITH GRATITUDE



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you for taking the time to read the 2025 edition of the Philanthropy Impact Report. It is the fulfilment of a promise to you, intended as a demonstration of what has been achieved because of you.

Through stories and data, we seek to provide insight into how you improve the lives of those facing blood cancer: to what extent, for how many and at what cost.

We venture to show how your investment in research is transforming science for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of all types of blood cancer. Equally important is how we are developing the careers of the next generation of talented researchers as recommended in the Research Roadmap for Blood Cancer.

The other aim for the Philanthropy Impact Report is to acknowledge and celebrate our wonderful community of supporters: members of the Lifetime Circles of Giving, major givers, gift in Will supporters, trusts, foundations, ancillary funds, Friends of Foundation, ambassadors, advocates and members of our vibrant blood cancer community. They are an intrinsic part of our 50-year history and we thank them for their contributions.

If you have a story you would like to share, please contact us. We are always looking for ways to raise the profile of our wonderful community and what has been achieved by their support. And if there is information you seek that is not covered in this document, please don't hesitate to reach out.

The Leukaemia Foundation thanks you for partnering with us and we hope you will continue your support. We promise to listen, to understand what matters to you, and to honour your belief in us.

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# PROJECT 2035 THE FUTURE OF CANCER CARE

## A DECADE OF TRANSFORMATION NEEDS BOLD PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

The Leukaemia Foundation is entering a bold period of transformation. We are expanding our wraparound blood cancer support to encompass all cancer types and creating a new model of integrated care in regional hubs so that care can be provided closer to home.

We invite major donors and partners to direct their investment to their preferred area of interest across practical services (encompassing our integrated care model), quality of life, survivorship and research.

By partnering with us to drive our mission forward, we can make this a decade that changes the future of cancer care. From the support services we're renowned for, to empowering the next generation of researchers, your investment will change Australia's cancer landscape.

Whether you want to help create world-class community-based care in regional areas, fund the next generation of researchers, or lead the charge in new lifesaving treatments, Project 2035 is designed to amplify your impact and create a world that goes beyond cancer.

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### Image: Elle Halliwell

Elle Halliwell is an Australian writer, entrepreneur and wellness advocate. In 2016, her life changed forever when, in the space of 48 hours, she was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) and discovered she was pregnant with her first child.

Today, her son thrives and she is an inspiring National Ambassador for the Leukaemia Foundation. She says, "From day dot I have been grateful to the Leukaemia Foundation, which has been so helpful. It's made a difference, and it's meant I haven't felt alone."



# Leukaemia Foundation<sup>®</sup>

The Leukaemia Foundation of Australia Limited  
ABN: 57 057 493 017  
GPO Box 9954 Brisbane QLD 4001

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

## **Australian Capital Territory | Ngunawal**

John James Village  
14 Rusden Street Garran ACT 2605

## **New South Wales | Eora**

Suite 4.01 Level 4  
44 Hampden Road Artarmon NSW 2064

## **Queensland | Meeanjin**

ESA Blood Cancer Centre  
41 Peter Doherty Street Dutton Park QLD 4102

## **South Australia | Kurna**

Bridgestone Blood Cancer Centre  
39 Folland Avenue Lightsview SA 5085

## **Victoria | Naarm**

40 Barry Street Carlton VIC 3053

## **Western Australia | Boorloo**

Stirling Cross Blood Cancer Centre  
4 Baumea Way Innaloo WA 6018

*The Leukaemia Foundation cares about our environment.  
Please recycle, or better, advocate for us and pass this  
document to someone you know who might be interested in  
our work. Thank you.*

