

Giving Insight



SPECIAL IMPACT REPORT

ST JOHN OF GOD FOUNDATION SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020

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ST JOHN OF GOD
Foundation

Transforming health care for **humanity**

Message from the CEO



Dear friends,

I'm pleased to share our Spring Newsletter with you to highlight the difference you've made for patients in their time of need, and to improving health outcomes for the broader community.

This Special Impact edition includes a snapshot of the areas you've chosen to support as well as a collection of stories that highlight some of the incredible achievements made in the past 12 months, thanks to you.

Together with your support, the Foundation raised \$1.62 million in the financial year 2019-20. These funds will enable medical advancements to help provide life-changing treatment to improve lives and create hope into the future.

Behind these figures are hundreds of grateful patients and their loved ones to whom you have helped make a difference, for better treatments, care or quality of life.

In the following pages, I hope you'll see the incredible impact of your support through a collection of stories that will enlighten and inspire.

For example, our St John of God Berwick Hospital, located in Victoria, celebrated its 110 year anniversary this year. We share some of the rich history, the impact of your support to the community,

and the hospital's future vision on page 5.

You may recall in our last issue we profiled St John of God caregiver Jennifer Fraser who was planning to trek the Sandakan Trail in Borneo in April to raise funds for cancer research. On page 9 you can read about Jennie's fundraising success despite COVID-19 travel restrictions significantly changing her plans. Congratulations and thank you Jennie for your determination.

As you read on, please remember that all of these stories of impact are only made possible with your support.

Thank you for the part you have played in creating positive impact in the lives of many.

Kind regards,

Bianca Pietralla
Chief Executive Officer
St John of God Foundation



Siegfried and Gudrun Westerfeld with one of the chemotherapy chairs they so generously donated.

GIVING BACK:

Why I became a donor

Philanthropic giving often comes from a desire to enhance the wellbeing of others. The ability to 'give back' can be a powerful motivation for individuals to donate to causes that have had a lasting impact on their own lives.

This was certainly the case for generous donors, Siegfried and Gudrun Westerfeld.

Siegfried began attending the Cancer Centre at St John of God Murdoch Hospital in 2017, and recently made a generous donation to enable the purchase of two brand new chemotherapy chairs for the centre.

Originally from Germany, Siegfried and Gudrun have lived in Australia for many years, and wanted give back in a way that felt meaningful to them. "The people of Australia have looked after us so we wanted to give something back," he said.

The Westerfelds have also contributed significantly to supporting improved health outcomes for cancer patients at Murdoch Hospital, providing vital

funds to support the Oncology Clinical Trials unit and cancer research carried out on site.

St John of God Murdoch Hospital CEO Ben Edwards is grateful for the benefit of philanthropy. "Donor support can help to increase patients' access to treatment options, leading to better quality of life and improved health outcomes. The Westerfelds' recent gift is a great example of the real life impact that philanthropy has for our patients. The Hospital is very grateful for their wonderful generosity."

We thank the Westerfelds for their generosity and the positive impact they will have for cancer patients at St John of God Murdoch Hospital.

Thank you for helping us to raise \$1.62 million in 2019-20

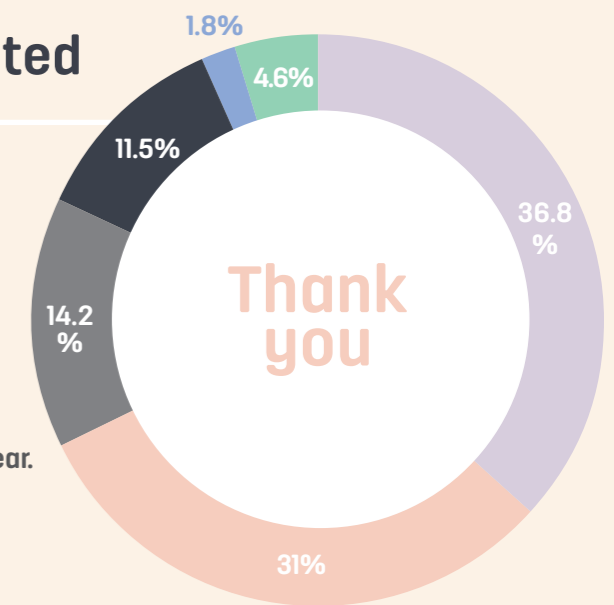
How your donations were allocated

All donations received by the Foundation are directed in accordance to your wishes.

Every gift, no matter how large or small, makes a difference and supports people in their time of need. We believe that philanthropy is an expression of compassion and can be deeply personal. We express our sincere gratitude to you, for entrusting us to realise your vision to help others. Thank you for choosing to support us.

How your donations were allocated in the 2019-20 financial year.

- Medical and health research
- Expanded hospital services
- Innovative medical equipment
- Area of greatest need
- Community services
- Patient support



RESEARCH:

Translational research from bench to bedside



Professor Eli Gabbay, Chair, BRRD Fund Committee.

We can only discover tomorrow's medical treatments and health care by undertaking research today. St John of God Health Care is actively involved in research across a range of clinical fields with support from our community and other key collaborators.

With generous community support, the Bendat Respiratory Research and Development (BRRD) Group is at the forefront of world leading medical research into respiratory medicine and respiratory oncology.

Professor Eli Gabbay chairs the BRRD research group, made up of five consultants, two nurses, two research fellows and a statistician.

The group aims to better understand lung and respiratory disease in order to develop advanced treatments through translational research.

"Thanks to generous donor support, the Bendat Respiratory Research and Development Group is at the forefront of thoracic research. With continued support, we can continue to make new medical discoveries to improve health outcomes for our patients and the greater community" said Professor Eli Gabbay, Chair, BRRD Fund Committee.

Over the past 12 months, the BRRD group has achieved several key milestones, including:

- Continuation of the Thoracic Cancer Biobank, a collection of biological samples (e.g. blood) and health data that supports researchers to make meaningful discoveries. As more information is added, the Biobank serves as a 'library' providing deeper insights for ongoing research and advanced discoveries.
- Publication of important research findings in several high impact international journals including *Internal Journal of Medicine* and *Pulmonary Circulation*
- Presentation of research findings at national and international conferences
- Mentoring of junior doctors in their research careers
- Directly improving patient care for patients with lung disease and cancer

The research group collaborates with sites across WA, as well as nationally and internationally, and a monthly journal club has been established to ensure physicians are kept up to date with the latest respiratory research.

Thank you to the Bendat Family Foundation, who support this life-changing respiratory research. We would also like to extend a thank you to each and every one of our donors who support a range of leading medical research projects. Your compassion and generosity will help transform the future of health care.



Together with your support, our aim is to ensure St John of God hospitals remain at the forefront of medical research and innovation to continue to improve patients' lives.

110 years of health care in Berwick

On March 23rd 1910, Dr Percy Langmore and Nurse Grace Dunphy signed the registration of application for a private hospital in Berwick. The little hospital, known as Shepton Private Hospital, run from a tiny weatherboard house at Station Street was the beginning of today's St John of God Berwick Hospital.

St John of God Health Care took over ownership and management of the Berwick Hospital in 2003, inheriting its rich history. A major redevelopment to offer new and expanded services to meet growing demand in the region commenced in 2016, with the new St John of God Berwick Hospital opening on Kangan Drive in 2018 with all patients seamlessly and safely transferred from the former Gibb Street Hospital.

Through fundraising and philanthropy, the Berwick community got behind the redevelopment and contributed an incredible \$2.8M towards Comprehensive Cardiac and Cancer Care services at the new state-of-the-art hospital. These services support advanced care and increased capacity, technology and facilities, offering the community the very best treatment options which can increase the life expectancy and quality of life of many community members.

The community continues to support advanced cardiac and cancer care at the hospital to help provide care closer to home for patients in the Casey and Cardinia regions.

In response to the escalating COVID-19 situation in Victoria recently the original hospital facility was rapidly stood up in August to offer the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) additional beds to help protect the aged care sector, who have been hardest hit by this pandemic.

The vision for 2020 and beyond includes a redevelopment of the original hospital site to provide care for patients with mental health conditions in response to a 2019 community engagement campaign. The centre will be named St John of God Langmore Centre in honour of Dr Percy Langmore and his son Dr Leonard Langmore for their contribution to health care services in the region.

Inset: Original Berwick Hospital agreement. Images: Hospital transformation over the years.



Berwick Hospital in 2020.



IMPACT:

Sean celebrates 10 years of survival

In March 2010, 38-year-old Sean Mahony received the devastating news that he had stage four bowel cancer which had spread to his liver. With this news, Sean's biggest fear was not getting to see his three young children, then aged 8, 6 and 4, grow up.

Sean immediately began treatment at the Bendat Family Comprehensive Cancer Centre (BFCCC) and defying all odds, he has now celebrated 10 years of survival this year, after receiving over 250 rounds of chemotherapy at the BFCCC.

The BFCCC was established in 2007 through community support to provide comprehensive cancer care, allowing patients to access all the services and support they need, for all cancer types, at one location.

Sean continues to receive treatment at the BFCCC every two weeks and said,

“The nurses are like my family now, which makes my treatment days feel more like a social outing, rather than a medical appointment”.

Sean praises his forward-thinking medical team, including oncologist Dr Tom van Hagen, who has treated him since his initial diagnosis. *“Dr van Hagen is constantly exploring the latest research and treatment advancements to ensure that I continue to live a good quality of life.”*

Philanthropic support enhances our hospitals' ability to invest in health and medical research to ensure patients like Sean have the best chance for survival.

Sean is optimistic about the future. *“The longer you stay alive, the more treatment options are available. I hope to stay ahead of the curve and maybe one day there will be a cure.”*

Most of all, Sean is grateful to spend time with his family and see his children become young adults.

We would like to thank our donors for their ongoing commitment to supporting leading medical research to help cancer patients like Sean to access the best possible treatment options and live longer, fulfilling lives.



Top: Sean with Dr Tom Van Hagen, who has been his treating oncologist for the past 10 years.

Left: Sean with caregivers at the BFCCC celebrating 10 years of survival.

LEADING THE WAY:

Connection and comfort when it is needed most

Large patient beds, referred to warmly as 'Cuddle Beds,' can make a huge difference for palliative care patients and their families. Cuddle Beds allow loved ones to be physically close and lay together, deepening connection and providing comfort.

This compassionate approach to care can have a huge impact on patients who can often feel isolated, and provides family members with the opportunity to feel close in a hospital or hospice setting.

St John of God Murdoch Hospital is leading the way in Western Australia with this approach to care, being the first hospital to offer patients a Cuddle Bed during end-of-life care.

Karan Lane, a Nurse Unit Manager in the Oncology Ward at Murdoch Hospital, has been the driving force behind the Cuddle Bed project.

When Karan's own mother passed away seven years ago, she longed for more meaningful, intimate connection during this time, so when she later discovered the use of larger hospital beds that could fit two or more people, she encouraged this style of care be adopted.

“As a caregiver I see it time and time again, where people are trying to get close to each other, and it can be heartbreaking and have a lasting effect for patients' families. It's about just being there... without restriction.”

Together with your support, the Foundation aims to fund additional Cuddle Beds to offer more palliative patients at Murdoch Hospital this meaningful approach to care.



Cuddle Beds offer patients and loved ones a compassionate approach to end-of-life care.

Gifts of Hope

Help provide hope for people who are battling a life-threatening illness

A Gift of Hope is a gift of financial support provided to in-need Australians suffering from a life-threatening condition, such as cancer.

New medical discoveries, including medicines can help patients to live longer and to experience less pain or other debilitating symptoms. However, these treatments can often be costly and out of reach of many Australians.

A Gift of Hope can directly support a person to access potentially

life-changing treatment during their time of greatest need.

Your support can make a real difference.

Every dollar donated brings us closer to making a life-changing impact to the life of someone in need.

To learn more about Gifts of Hope or to directly support this life-changing initiative, please email us at GiftsofHope@sjog.org.au or call the Foundation on 1800 281 288.



Precision Health Milestones thanks to your support

Together with our community, St John of God Foundation is dedicated to supporting St John of God Health Care to remain at the forefront of medical technology and innovation with one simple objective: To improve people's lives.

Your generous donations have enabled investments in new and advanced technologies and state-of-the-art equipment to support personalised treatment for patients.

Hundreds of patients have already received life-changing treatment, and many more will continue to benefit from your compassion.



Subiaco Hospital performs 100th transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI)

In addition to saving the life of 86-year-old cardiac patient Irene Thomas, the operation marked the 100th procedure conducted by St John of God Subiaco Hospital's TAVI Team. TAVI is a minimally invasive surgery which enables suitable patients with aortic stenosis, a narrowing of the aortic valve, to avoid traditional open heart surgery and benefit from a quicker recovery and less discomfort.



Our very first Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT) treatment

The first Intraoperative Radiation Therapy treatment was performed at a private hospital in Australia this year thanks to our generous community. The advanced technology supports significantly reduced treatment time for suitable breast cancer patients through a single, targeted dose of radiology during surgery. "It's made a real difference for me at a time when being with loved ones is more important than ever" - Debra Strauss, our first-ever IORT patient.



A first in Bunbury for advanced cardiac care

State-of-the-art cardiac imaging technology is now in use at St John of God Bunbury Hospital. The new technology provides comprehensive images enabling doctors to see the inner mechanisms of the heart and blood flow in real time, empowering specialists to make more effective surgical decisions.

Cardiologist Dr Stefan Buchholz said, "The technology allows us to visualise the shape of heart valves before going into surgery, so that we can plan whether an affected valve can be repaired or needs to be replaced ahead of time".

It is the first time this technology has been available in WA's South West, saving patients the travel to Perth for this specialised care.

Our first-ever IORT treatment taking place.



FUNDRAISING:

Emma's fundraiser to support cancer research

Emma Lacey is a clinical nurse in the Cancer Centre at St John of God Murdoch Hospital, where she shares a passion for providing exceptional patient care with colleagues.

Being in the Centre with patients and seeing first-hand the impact of clinical trial treatments, the dedicated team came together to host a fundraising raffle in support of cancer research at Murdoch Hospital.

The raffle raised nearly \$900 for cancer research.

Emma said everyone was very pleased with the enthusiasm from patients, families and caregivers who got involved.

"We all want our patients to have access to the best treatment options, so we decided to host a fundraising raffle to support cancer research. It was great to see how excited everyone was to get involved. Some of our patients donated blankets to be included in the raffle prize."

Emma says the team plans to host regular fundraising activities to continue to support cancer research at Murdoch Hospital to help patients to lead longer, healthier lives.

"Fundraising activities driven by front line caregivers not only support medical advancements, but clearly show patients the compassion and dedication of those providing their care", said Rachel Bruechle, Senior Manager Marketing, Communications and Fundraising, St John of God Foundation.

If you're interested in community fundraising, please visit www.sjogfoundation.org.au/fundraise or contact us on 1800 281 288.



The Murdoch Cancer Centre team on their 5th anniversary.

Our fundraising hero, Jennie! \$2,612 raised!

A huge thank you to St John of God Health Care caregiver Jennie Fraser who raised funds in support of cancer research.

Jennie showed amazing determination in completing her fundraising challenge; a virtual walk of the Sandakan Trail in Borneo, which she adjusted significantly in response to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Jennie dedicated this walk to her mother, who sadly passed away suddenly at the end of 2019 from pancreatic cancer, and others who have lost their battle to cancer.

Thank you and congratulations to Jennie on your epic achievement.



Jennie in training for her fundraising challenge in honour of her late mother, Joan.

FUNDRAISING:

Local fundraising success



Your generous support is contributing to advanced treatment and compassionate care in St John of God Hospitals across the country.



St John of God Bendigo Hospital Dogs Connect: Compassion, Community, Connection

Your donations at Bendigo Hospital are supporting a new wellbeing dog initiative. As part of mental health and wellness program, 'Dogs Connect', Rosie the Groodle visits the hospital two days a week to help caregivers and patients to feel a sense of connection and comfort, adding to the compassionate community for everyone at Bendigo Hospital.



St John of God Bunbury Hospital

Supporting Advanced Cancer and Cardiac Care

Your donations to the Foundation at Bunbury Hospital support innovative cancer services to provide advanced care closer to home for South West residents.

St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital

Compassionate Care in supporting Older Adult Mental Health

Your donations at Mt Lawley Hospital will support a new sensory room to help provide a safe and calming space for our adult mental health service patients, promoting a compassionate treatment approach.

You can support this cause with a \$2 donation to our Tap and Go point when you visit our cafe on the ground floor.



If you would like to support any of these fundraising initiatives, or make a donation in support of your local St John of God Hospital, please contact the Foundation via email at Foundation@sjog.org.au or call 1800 281 288.



Thank you
for your support.



Suza Todorovska from Bendigo Bank WA with Kerry Smith, Oncology Nurse Unit Manager at St John of God Bunbury Hospital with the new digital honour board.



Together with our generous community, St John of God Foundation continues to support medical advancements to improve lives and provide hope for patients in our communities.

REGIONAL WA:

Recognising your support in the South West

To recognise the remarkable community support to the South West Coronary Care and Cancer campaign, a new digital honour board has been installed at St John of God Bunbury Hospital, to acknowledge major campaign supporters.

Remarkable philanthropic support from the community has given patients in the South West region access to high quality cardiac and cancer services eliminating travel for advanced care and giving patients more time with loved ones at home in recovery.

Bendigo Bank WA is among the major campaign supporters, contributing \$25,000 to the campaign. Suza Todorovska, Mobile Relationship Manager at Bendigo Bank WA said, "Giving back to local communities is one of our core values at Bendigo Bank WA. We're proud to partner with St John of God Foundation to help provide advancements in health care and make a difference for local community members in WA's South West."

Campaign supporters contributed \$3 million in total to help provide advanced care close to home for WA's South West region.

Together with community support, St John of God Foundation continues to fund medical advancements to improve lives and provide hope for patients in our communities.

Thank you to all of the compassionate supporters who have helped enable life-changing care for people, providing care closer to home, in their time of greatest need.



ST JOHN OF GOD
Foundation

Transforming health care for **humanity**

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Your generosity supports transformational health care
in our communities to improve the lives of many.
You make this possible.

DONATE TODAY



Donate online today at:
sjogfoundation.org.au/donate



Complete the form below and return to:
**PO Box 5753, St Georges Terrace,
Perth WA 6831**

Yes, I/we would like to support transformational health care for people in need.

Please accept my/our gift of: \$25 \$50 \$100 OR \$

All donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. St John of God Foundation Trust ABN 64 715 901 441

Name

Address

Payment Details

Please debit the above amount to my credit card MasterCard Visa **OR** My cheque / money order enclosed
(made payable to St John of God Foundation)

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Card Holder's Name Expiry Date /

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Email Address

Providing your email address allows us to email your tax receipt to you, minimising costs and paper usage.

I/we would like to receive a receipt via email.

Please be assured that 100% of your donation to the St John of God Foundation will be used as you request. We respect your privacy. If you would prefer not to receive further materials from St John of God Foundation please contact us on 1800 281 288.

Please direct my gift towards:

- Area of greatest need
- Precision Health (innovative technology and equipment)
- Leading medical and health research
- Gifts of Hope for cancer patients
- A specific SJG Hospital:



Donate online today at www.sjogfoundation.org.au/donate

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