Giving Insight

SPRING 2022 SPECIAL IMPACT REPORT

Thank

ST JOHN OF GOD FOUNDATION

IN THIS ISSUE:

- How your support changed lives in FY2021-22
- The enduring legacy of Jack Bendat
- Bringing hope to cancer patients
- Every single dollar makes a difference



You !

Transforming health care for humanity



A message from Bianca Pietralla. Chief Executive Officer

Dear friends.

When I commenced at St John of God Foundation almost five years ago, I could never have imagined what could be achieved for patients and their families, thanks to our community's capacity for kindness, compassion and care for others, often during some of the most difficult times of their lives.

For over 25 years St John of God Foundation has raised vital funds to help drive innovations in health care that offer the greatest potential to improve clinical outcomes and quality of life for patients and their loved ones, and this last financial year was no exception.

However despite the more recent global shifts in the way societies value health care, there still remains a significant gap in available funding to ensure the very best outcomes can be achieved for our communities. People like you are helping us to bridge that gap.

In this edition of Giving Insight, I'm so proud to be able to share just some of the inspiring stories of life-changing impact from the past year that have only been made possible thanks to philanthropic support.

On page 14 you can read how our hospitals and services have continued to respond to the needs of our rapidly-growing communities, thanks to new equipment that has helped to improve quality of life for people recovering from breast cancer.

Generous donor support has also enabled cutting-edge research, with the potential to transform the future of health care and improve health outcomes for countless patients. More on page 12.

In total, your support over the past financial year has helped raise over \$4.2 million - to help us continue to bring healing, hope and a greater sense of dignity to people in our care, and especially to those most in need.

Thank you so much for your support this past year. For everything you do, we are truly grateful.

With warmest regards.

Kitralla

Bianca Pietralla Chief Executive Officer St John of God Foundation

When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.

– Maya Angelou

The enduring legacy of **Jack Bendat**

▲ Jack and Eleanor Bendat

Remembering highly respected, well-known WA businessman and philanthropist, Jack Bendat AM CitWA.

In February this year we were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of beloved WA businessman and philanthropist. Jack Bendat.

Jack and his late wife Eleanor were passionate about improving the lives and health outcomes of Western Australians, and their generosity will continue to have a significant impact for years to come.

Over a twenty year period the Bendat family's philanthropy has enabled world class cancer care, leading medical research, and provided stability and support for vulnerable young people at St John of God Health Care services in Western Australia and Victoria.

Perhaps most notably, Jack and his family have provided generous support towards the Bendat Family Comprehensive Cancer Centre at St John of God Subiaco Hospital, which brought together many of the elements involved in cancer care including oncology, haematology, palliative care, and research.



As well as making a personal contribution, Jack was instrumental in the fundraising campaign for the centre, serving as Campaign President.

Jack supported the establishment of several Bendat Horizon Houses, providing housing and support services for young people who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Jack's passionate support for the health care and wellbeing of our community was boundless, and his legacy will live on through the ongoing advancements in medical care enabled by the Bendat Respiratory Research and Development Fund (read more about this on page 12).

We are honoured to carry Jack's memory and legacy into the future, and will be forever grateful for his long term support and dedication to improving and transforming the lives and health outcomes of Western Australians.

Vale Jack Bendat 1925 -2022

FY 22 IMPACT UPDATE

You brought hope when it was needed the most

FY22 donation snapshot –

the life-changing impact of your generosity at a glance

You have helped to support....

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

Your generosity has contributed to:





New research grants program

Cuddle Beds for end of life care





New state-of-

the-art medical

equipment

Gifts of Hope for cancer patients





Caregiver scholarships



6% 12% Thank you 15%

> Over \$745.000 in research funding

Thank you for helping us to raise over \$4.2 million in 2021-22

Why I Give

Our wonderful donors are kind and passionate, and care deeply about giving back to their communities. We love to hear the stories behind what inspires them to give. We asked Jeffrey Williams, donor and CEO of St John of God Bunbury Hospital, to share his story.

For Jeffrey, giving is in his DNA. He and his wife Andrea both work in the non-profit sector, and have always felt that charity is an important part of life. They give back wherever they can, through volunteering or donating to causes close to their hearts. One cause that is particularly special to Jeffrey is Gifts of Hope, which provides direct financial support to in-need Australians who are struggling with the cost of cancer treatment.

"Gifts of Hope really contribute to positive outcomes in people's lives. It relieves that pressure and that worry and all of those things that are really stressful when you've got cancer – it really gives some hope."

With Jeffrey's extensive experience in nursing and quality management at St John of God Health Care and in the public sector, and now in his role as St John of God Bunbury Hospital CEO, he has seen firsthand the difference that support from the community can make.

"The 'Care Closer to Home' campaign is a fantastic example of how the community can make a real difference," says Jeffrey.

"Through that campaign, we had around \$3 million raised in donations that ranged from a \$10 note or a \$2 coin being chucked into a donation bin, through to tens of thousands of dollars coming from community organisations in the South West region.

"Out of that campaign we were able to build the South West Cancer Accommodation Centre in Dalyellup, which provides short term affordable accommodation for people undergoing long term cancer treatment. That's made a real difference for the community in the South West - the affordability of it, and people not having to drive overnight, with kangaroos jumping on roads - that's taken a real stress away.

"Through that campaign we've really delivered care close to home – and the coronary unit and interventional cardiology service is a great example of that. Ten years on from that unit opening, the equipment needs to be replaced. And we've got funds raised by the community that are going to enable us to upgrade the equipment, and we're going to be right there with the latest technology and again will be delivering better care, closer to home."

Jeffrey is one of many caregiver donors across St John of God Health Care, who make a difference each day not only through their work, but also by generously donating in support of transformational patient care – many through the St John of God Health Care Workplace Giving program.

We're so grateful to Apex Radiology for their support of the Workplace Giving program at St John of God Bunbury Hospital – their generous contribution will mean the impact of caregiver donations will be even greater for the Bunbury community.

Do you have a story of your own you'd like to share? Please contact Hayley at Foundation@sjog.org.au or by calling 1800 281 288.



As CEO and as a donor, Jeffrey is passionate about delivering high quality care to the people of the South West.

"The thing that makes me most proud is the team that I work with, who deliver great care to the patients and their families that we care for every day.

"We hear such wonderful stories about the hospitality and the compassionate care that's provided. That's one of the reasons why we - well it *is* the reason why we are here. The reason why we're here is to care for people."

Generous support from community

enables advanced care for newborns in Geelong

Mother Penelope and caregiver Cate using the device on baby Primrose

St John of God Geelong Hospital has been a leading provider of maternity services in the Greater Geelong region for decades, and the experienced nurses, midwives and obstetricians have built a reputation for exceptional, personalised care.

Outstanding clinical and compassionate care go hand-inhand at St John of God Geelong Hospital – and with the recent arrival of a new donor-funded device, the hospital has been able to bring even more advanced care to new babies in the Special Care Nursery.

The new device, a Transcutaneous Bilirubinometer (TcB), enables caregivers to effectively test and treat newborns with neonatal jaundice, and offers numerous benefits to newborns and their parents including less pain, reduced infection risk, and less interruption of breastfeeding, allowing mother and baby to spend more time together in the days following birth.



"This is an invaluable piece of equipment," says Cate of the TcB.

"It is easy to use and accurate as an assessment method for jaundice The new equipment was fully in newborn babies." funded by kind donations rece

Cate also said the new device can potentially avoid the need for unnecessary blood tests, which can be invasive and delay the discharge process for families.

Penelope (pictured top left) and her new baby Primrose (inset) were one of the first families to benefit from the TcB during their four week stay in the Special Care Nursery. Penelope was thankful that the new device made it simple and non-invasive to test Primrose, and for the donor support that made this possible.

Baby Primrose being tested using the donor-funded device

"Thank you to the community for supporting premature babies to thrive, and providing the care needed to get them home quickly."

The new equipment was fully funded by kind donations received at the St John of God Geelong Hospital Café Costa donation point and other gifts from the community.

To support new families at St John of God Geelong Hospital, please contact Bec Takle, Philanthropy Manager, on 0498 464 298 or Bec.Takle@sjog.org.au or donate online at sjogfoundation.org.au/donate-geelong



Sisters empowering women through education

The new Sister Bridget Clancy Scholarship for the Empowerment of Women through Education will support caregivers to continue their studies

Built on core values of hospitality, compassion, respect, justice and excellence, the Sisters of St John of God have dedicated themselves to supporting the sick and needy for over a century.

The inspirational service and dedication of the Sisters has paved the way for health care in Australia, and today their legacy lives on at St John of God hospitals and numerous health care facilities across Australia and New Zealand.

Building on their legacy of supporting our communities, the Sisters have established the Sister Bridget Clancy Scholarship for the Empowerment of Women through Education to celebrate their 150th year anniversary.

The new scholarship, named after founding Sister Bridget Clancy, aims to empower caregivers to continue their study. The inaugural cohort was announced in March 2022, with scholarships awarded to 33 scholars across 12 hospitals. Karen Benson, a physiotherapist at St John of God Warrnambool Hospital, will be completing a Master of Physiotherapy – Pelvic Health thanks to the scholarship.

"I am so very thankful for the opportunity that the Sisters are able to provide," says Karen.

"This scholarship allows me to continue my postgraduate studies, enhancing my skills and knowledge to provide the best possible pelvic floor physiotherapy care to patients.

"I hope to be a role model for other girls and women, both in health care and the general community, by demonstrating that education is something to be proud of, and striving for ongoing knowledge is possible, and should be celebrated."

This philanthropic investment from the Sisters of St John of God will help to unlock the potential of caregivers like Karen. These scholarships will have an impact far beyond the life of the individual scholars, The Sisters of St John of God (pictured circa 1897) have been dedicated to helping the sick and needy for over 150 years.



🔺 Karen Benson, scholarship recipient

and will have a positive impact on the lives of patients and their families for years to come as well.

On behalf of all our caregivers at St John of God Health Care, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Sisters of St John of God for their philanthropy and leadership.



A Gift of Hope makes treatment possible for mother battling cervical cancer

A Gift of Hope is a gift of financial support provided to in-need Australians with life-threatening conditions such as cancer. For patients who are struggling to afford the best treatment for their cancer, a donor-funded Gift of Hope can be life-changing.

Sarah*, a young mother of three, has a rare subtype of cervical cancer that has spread through her abdomen.

Promising new research suggests that some cervical cancer patients can go into full remission with new immunotherapy treatments that are being used to treat other cancers such as melanoma. However, as this research is so recent, it will likely take years before the treatment will be funded by the government in Australia for this condition, leaving patients like Sarah with large outof-pocket expenses.

Associate Professor Kynan Feeney, St John of God Murdoch Hospital's Head of Cancer Services, says that this is a common difficulty with new cancer treatments. "I trained as an Oncologist 15 years ago. During that time, immunotherapy was just a dream, gene therapy emerging in a few select conditions, and nothing was known about possible cures using these therapies. In the space of less than two decades, treatment for cancer is now looking at curing previously incurable cancers, treating conditions we couldn't even previously treat, and all with less toxic therapies.

"One of the difficulties with these new treatments, however, is that they can initially be unfunded by the government due to the time it takes for government to approve drugs for funding. This is where Gifts of Hope make a difference."

A/Prof Feeney has seen firsthand how a Gift of Hope can help patients like Sarah to access treatments that might otherwise be out of reach, bringing hope when patients may have exhausted all other treatment options.

(

This treatment will give Sarah a chance to see her children grow up, a chance of life. Even if it doesn't guarantee remission, it provides hope, a hope based on the possibility of a great outcome in a person who has a lot of life left to live and whom might otherwise not be given this chance. So it is a real Gift of Hope."

To support a Gift of Hope, please go to sjogfoundation.org.au/hope or call us on 1800 281 288.

*Not her real name

Supporters and caregivers came together for an evening to celebrate the future of mental health care in South East Melbourne

Supporting the growing need for mental health care closer to home

In May this year, our supporter community in South East Melbourne came together at an event to celebrate the new St John of God Langmore Centre. The event was held at Stella's Kitchen in Lysterfield, and guests enjoyed canapés and a virtual tour of the new Centre, which is expected to open later this year.

Hosted by Lisa Norman (General Manager, South East Melbourne Hospitals) and Linda Allen (CEO, St John of God Langmore Centre) the event provided an opportunity for the community to learn more about the important work that will take place at the Centre and how they can support this vital new service.

The St John of God Langmore Centre will provide specialist community mental health facilities with both inpatient and outpatient services for the fastgrowing South East corridor of Melbourne.

Offering a range of therapies for mild to moderate mental health conditions, addiction dependency and specialised perinatal mental health support for new and expecting parents, the Centre will provide the South East Melbourne community with care closer to home when it is needed most.



This event also marked the commencement of a fundraising campaign in support of therapeutic sensory gardens for patients and their families, caregiver education scholarships, and other areas of unmet need.

The vision for the St John of God Langmore Centre is for it to be a beacon of mental health care in the South East Melbourne community, and our supporters can help to make this vision a reality.

To support mental health care for people in South East Melbourne, please contact Upeka Kumarasinghe, Philanthropy Manager, on 0499 528 095 or upeka.kumarasinghe@sjog.org.au.

Supporting better health outcomes in Victoria's South West

Update: The Midfield Group's generous support for patients at St John of God Warrnambool Hospital

The Midfield Group is a family-run business based in Warrnambool, in the heart of Victoria's Great South Coast. Owned and operated by the McKenna family, The Midfield Group is also one of the largest employers in the region and a proud supporter of the South West Victorian community, including St John of God Warrnambool Hospital.

Since 2019, The Midfield Group have given over \$500,000 to support exceptional patient care at St John of God Warrnambool Hospital, an incredibly generous contribution that will translate to better health outcomes and access for individuals and the wider community. The Midfield Group's support has helped to fund significant improvements across the Warrnambool campus, including new Urology equipment, bathroom upgrades enhancing patient and caregiver safety, and new car parks for easier patient and family access.

They have also shown exceptional compassion through a commitment of \$100,000 for Gifts of Hope, which will provide direct financial support to cancer patients in the Warrnambool community who are struggling with the costs of cancer treatment.

We are so thankful to The Midfield Group for their ongoing support, which will greatly assist St John of God Warrnambool Hospital in providing the highest-quality health care closer to home for patients and families in the region.





Comprehensive cancer support at St John of God Murdoch Hospital

According to the Cancer Council, one in two Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85. For patients and their families, receiving a cancer diagnosis can be a terrifying, confusing and isolating time.

Thanks to generous donor support, St John of God Murdoch Hospital is establishing a new Clinical Nurse Consultant for Cancer Services, so that the hospital can offer patients and their families crucial support from diagnosis and throughout the cancer journey.

This position, which was only made possible through a compassionate gift from a grateful hospital patient, will enable the hospital to provide comprehensive cancer support services, coordinating the existing Clinical Nurse Specialist roles for prostate, breast and colorectal cancer, and also providing end-to-end support for all patients diagnosed with other types of cancer. This provides patients with essential continuity of care throughout their cancer journey.

The Clinical Nurse Consultant will also build an important relationship with each patient they support, becoming a trusted, consistent and knowledgeable point of contact for the patient and their family.

The position will support St John of God Murdoch Hospital's existing oncology team, including oncologists, surgeons, Cancer Centre caregivers and oncology researchers.

There is also potential for the Clinical Nurse Consultant to provide and capture extensive data that can contribute to ground-breaking and transformational national research across different cancer types.

Our sincere thanks to Sue Roberts for this wonderful gift, given in grateful memory of her loving and much loved husband Phil. St John of God Health Care believes in providing compassionate and holistic care for both patients and their families throughout the cancer journey, and thanks to generous donor funding, this position will allow us to do that in a coordinated way that will provide vital care and support at a time where people need it most.

Cutting-edge medical research made possible at Subiaco thanks to donor support

The enduring kindness and philanthropic vision of our donors in support of innovative medical research at St John of God Subiaco Hospital is truly inspirational. Thanks to people like you, research at the hospital is improving clinical outcomes and quality of life for individual patients and the community.

In the past financial year alone, donor contributions totalling over \$400,000 have meant that Subiaco researchers can continue important work that will help to shape the future of health care in Australia and across the globe. We are delighted to be able to provide an update on just some of the key achievements made possible thanks to generous donor support.

Earlier this year, the new St John of God **Foundation Research Grants program**

was launched in partnership with St John of God Subiaco Hospital. The program aims to further support and grow Subiaco's world class clinicianled research, with the ultimate goal of improving patient care, treatment and health care outcomes through translatable research. The inaugural grant recipients, including an Early Career Researcher and Seed Funding grant, were announced during the hospital's annual Research Week event in August 2022.

Generous donor support for St John of God Subiaco Hospital's **Colorectal Cancer Research Group** has paved the way for integrated benchtop and clinical research into bowel cancer. The research will aim to provide patients with more personalised care directed at their unique tumour biology, and improve survival and quality of life for patients with bowel cancer. With great thanks to you, our generous donors, researchers will continue a translational biomarker discovery program over the next 12 months, as well as commencing data analysis.

The **Bendat Family Foundation** has made an extraordinary \$1.5 million gift to enable leading medical research into respiratory illness, through the Bendat Respiratory Research and Development (BRRD) Fund. The Bendat family name is synonymous with pioneering philanthropy and is well known for improving lives and health care outcomes for Western Australians. We are honoured to continue our long standing partnership with the family, who have long shared our mission in caring for our communities.

A new donor-funded clinical trial led by St John of God Subiaco Hospital's Dr Paul Cohen has the potential to change the way in which ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal cancer patients receive follow-up care. MOST (Measure of Ovarian Symptoms and Treatment concerns) aims to improve patient experience and outcomes by offering more holistic care and relieving the stress of travelling to appointments, particularly for women in rural and remote areas.



St John of God Subiaco Hospital's annual Research Week took place from August 22-25, giving members of the Western Australian community the opportunity to hear about current research, new discoveries, treatments and case studies.

The events included a welcome keynote from the University of Western Australia's Professor Christopher Blyth, who presented on Vaccine Translation.



Thanks to generous support from the Ladybird Foundation and other supporters, researchers, led by Dr Michelle McMullen, will run a randomised **placebo-controlled clinical trial** which aims to assess the effectiveness of different vaginal creams at reducing the symptoms of dryness, pain and irritation that are common in women after breast cancer therapy. Vaginal atrophy is a common and frequently distressing condition affecting breast cancer survivors, and this trial will provide further information regarding much-needed treatments.

> With thanks to the Massey Charitable Trust, **biostatistical** analysis of data from robotassisted joint replacement surgeries at St John of God Subiaco Hospital has potential to determine the optimal treatment decisions for individuals undergoing joint replacement.



▲ St John of God Bendigo Hospital caregivers Abbey Hayes (left) and Rosemary Gillies (right) testing the new SOZO machine.

New equipment a game changer for breast cancer patients in Bendigo

Thanks to Bendigo Breast Cancer Support Services Network and three Lions Clubs in the Bendiao region, new equipment has been purchased for St John of God Bendiao Hospital that will greatly improve quality of life for patients recovering from breast cancer.

The new donor-funded machine, called a SOZO, will help to screen for lymphoedema, a potential side-effect following surgery for breast cancer. Lymphoedema can often lead to uncomfortable swelling, usually in patients' arms, and so having a SOZO machine to easily and non-invasively screen for this condition will make a significant difference for breast cancer patients.

Importantly, the machine measures subtle fluid changes before they are felt, enabling early intervention and reducing the risk of a condition that can have a major impact on patients' limb movement and their self-esteem, and can require long-term monitoring

"I will be forever grateful to the Lions Clubs and the Bendigo Breast Cancer Support Services, who do extraordinary community work," says Rosie Gillies, a Breast Care Nurse Consultant at St John of God Bendigo Hospital

"

Thank you really isn't enough - due to such kindness, St John of God Bendigo Hospital's breast cancer patients will have access to state of the art technology in reducing risks of lymphoedema and improvement of health in the oncology and cardiac rehabilitation programs.

Our sincere thanks to the Lions Clubs of Kangaroo Flat, Heathcote, and Maiden Gully Marong, as well as the Bendigo Breast Cancer Support Services Network for their remarkable efforts and generosity.

This new equipment will make an amazing difference for breast cancer patients and caregivers in the Bendigo community.

New equipment to transform training for caregivers in Ballarat

Through the generous support of the Oliver Family Foundation, new training and simulation equipment will soon be available to caregivers at St John of God Ballarat Hospital, and will enhance the exceptional level of care that is provided to the Ballarat community.

The Oliver family are Ballarat locals and have deep connections to the community, including St John of God Ballarat Hospital, where they have previously supported life-saving equipment for the Emergency Department.

The new training and simulation equipment funded by the Oliver Family Foundation will help to enrich the skills and abilities of Ballarat's caregivers, and support better health outcomes for the community. Simulation-based learning provides

students and caregivers with experience of simulated patients and technologically complex manneguins that replicate important aspects of patient physiology. Through simulation training, students have repeated opportunities to learn, practice and receive specific and immediate feedback to help them develop their expertise.

Thanks to the support of the Oliver Family Foundation, St John of God Ballarat Hospital has the opportunity to transform

Thank you for supporting patients and families during end of life care

Imagine being able to spend precious time with your partner while they were in palliative care, because compassionate donors funded a specially designed bed that could remove the physical barriers between people during end of life care.

Generous donor support enabled us to provide funding towards 12 new Cuddle Beds for our hospitals across Victoria and Western Australia last financial year. A Cuddle Bed is a large, palliative care hospital bed that helps to remove physical barriers during end of life care, giving intimate connection and comfort to critically ill patients and their loved ones.

These beds will now be available in many of St John of God Health Care's palliative care units across the country, providing patients and their families with safety and comfort during an incredibly difficult time.

We are so grateful to our donors for their generous support of Cuddle Beds at St John of God Health Care.

Thanks to generous donor support, new caregiver training will be available at St John of God Ballarat Hospital

its current training and simulation program through the acquisition of state of the art equipment and technology, delivering programs that lead the charge in excellence and innovation for the training of health professionals and students in the Ballarat area and regional Victoria.

We remain incredibly grateful to the Oliver family for their support and commitment to better health outcomes for the Ballarat community.



GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE-CHANGING HEALTH CARE



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



Complete the form below and return to: GPO Box 5264, MELBOURNE VIC 3001 <u>OR</u> PO Box 5753, St Georges Terrace Perth WA 6831

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

	-	ı 'd like to make	this a regular gift to maximise	2 my impost
	donations of \$2 or more			s my impact.
All d		are tax-deductible.	St John of God Foundation Trust ABI	N 64 715 901 441
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Providing your email address allows us to email your tax receip	t to you, minimising cos	ts and paper usage.		
Payment Details				
Please debit the above amount to my credit card	MasterCard	Visa <u>OR</u>	My cheque / money ord	ler is enclosed
			(made payable to St John of	God Foundation)
Card Holder's Name		Exp	iry Date /	

Signature

Area of areatest need

□ Innovative technology

and equipment

Please be assured that 100% of your donation will be used as you request.

Please direct my gift towards:

- \square Leading medical and health research
- □ Gifts of Hope for cancer patients
- \square Cuddle Beds for end of life care
- \Box A specific St John of God Hospital or Service:

Date of Birth*

LEAVING A LEGACY GIFT

By leaving a gift in your Will to St John of God Foundation, you can help to ensure the very best health care is available for people in their time of greatest need, now and into the future.

- I am interested in leaving a legacy gift, please contact me at:
- I have already left a gift in my Will

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 or email Foundation@sjog.org.au. *Optional field.



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