



ST JOHN OF GOD
Foundation



Giving Insight

St John of God Foundation Spring Newsletter 2019
SPECIAL IMPACT REPORT

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**SPRING
2019**

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dear friends,

Reflecting on the end of the financial year 2018-19, I'm reminded of the incredible compassion and commitment shown by our supporters, in sharing St John of God Foundation's vision to

provide better health outcomes for our community.

In last financial year, through generous donor support, the Foundation raised \$1.45 million towards life-changing patient outcomes.

Your support makes an enormous difference not only to the lives of our patients, but also to their family, friends and greater support networks.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to helping us provide life-changing care for people in need, and improving healthcare for all Australians.

On 3 June 2019 St John of God Foundation reached a significant milestone, celebrating our 25th anniversary.

Over the past 25 years, the Foundation has raised over \$40 million to support the delivery of major healthcare advancements in areas of personalised patient care, medical research, state-of-the-art facilities, services and equipment, and other areas of need.

Our critical leaps forward over the past 25 years have only been possible through the generosity of our supporters who share our vision for better health in Australia.

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

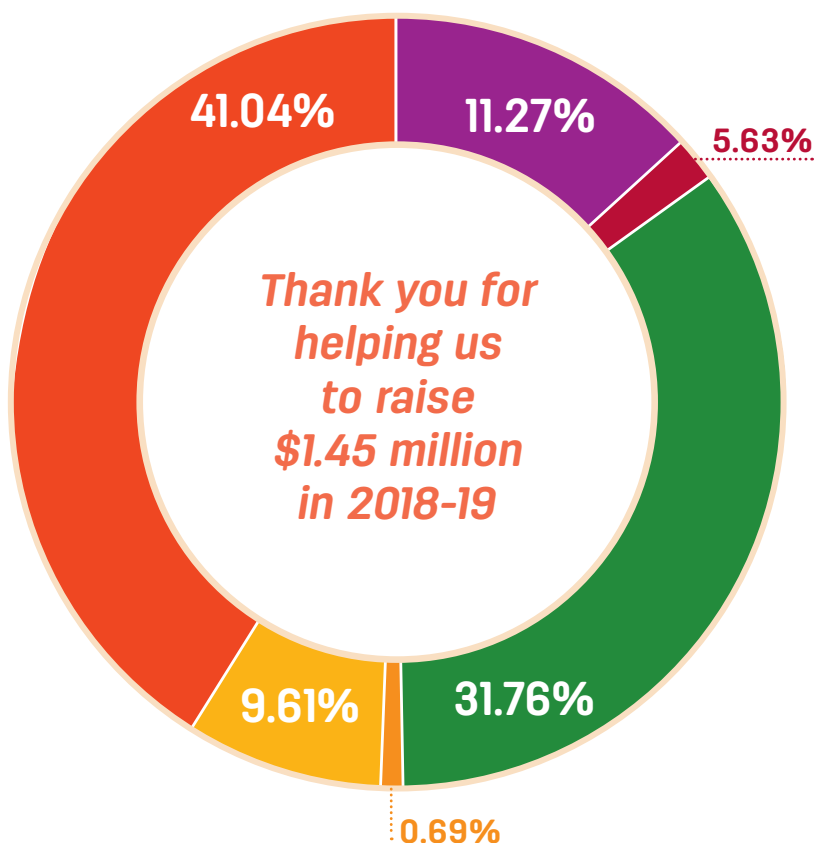
Kind regards,

Bianca Pietralla
Chief Executive Officer
St John of God Foundation

HOW YOUR DONATIONS WERE ALLOCATED

All donations received by the Foundation are allocated as you request. In the 2018-19 Financial Year, your donations were allocated as follows:

- **Medical & health research**
- **Expanded hospital services**
- **Contemporary Equipment**
- **General donations**
- **Community Services**
- **Education & training**



ALEX'S STORY OF HOPE

"The start of my cancer journey. The secondary cancer in my spine caused excruciating pain."

In 2016, fit and healthy 55 year old Alex Marshall was told that he only had 12 months to live. Luckily Alex's doctor suggested a new immunotherapy trial treatment, and within three months his tumour had reduced by 80%.

Hearing the news that I only had 12 months to live was shocking.

It was so hard to take. I was seeking out anyone who could give me a lifeline. Thankfully for me, a new immunotherapy treatment was my lifeline.

Three years later, after ongoing treatment, my tumour remains almost undetectable, and I feel healthy and happy.

My doctors are now using words like 'cure'.

I haven't got my frightening 'end date' anymore, so I haven't got that dark cloud hanging over me all the time... I live every day like it's the best day of my life.

My daughter Lexie was one of my main motivators, I didn't want her to be without a father so I fought like crazy to beat this cancer. I hope she's learned resilience, and that I'm a fighter.

I know I am one of the lucky ones. My hope is that every person can receive life-saving treatment, like I did. I'm still here, and I'm enjoying life to the fullest.
– Alex Marshall

"My beautiful family has been my inspiration to fight this awful disease."

Gifts of Hope

In its 25th year, St John of God Foundation is privileged to announce the launch of a life-changing health initiative: *Gifts of Hope*.

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

A Gift of Hope can directly support a person living with a life-threatening illness to access costly medicines including unsubsidised treatments such as immunotherapy; a type of cancer treatment which assists the body's immune system to fight cancer.

To learn more about *Gifts of Hope* or to directly support this life-changing initiative, please call the Foundation on (08) 9381 0300.



JOONG'S STORY

Joong was diagnosed with renal cell cancer in 2013 at age 35 when his spine collapsed.

"I was in agonising pain, and they put me in a neck brace, and I couldn't move. I had a back operation to insert a metal rod into my spine to keep it stable."

Joong was then given the news that he had spinal metastasis, and a life expectancy of only a few years.

In the first few months of his treatment, Joong was feeling bored, depressed and having suicidal thoughts, feeling he was in a hopeless situation.

At my lowest point during treatment I was feeling depressed and suicidal. That is when I was referred to Footprints Day Centre.

The centre provided a place for me to focus on something other than my illness, to meet people who could relate to what I was going through, and enjoy other therapies like Reflexology and Reiki.



Joong at Footprints Day Centre.

These were so relaxing and put me into a peaceful sleep, which I wasn't getting much of at the time. Finding the centre was a blessing.

Joong now also takes part in art and craft activities which provide meaningful distraction, which he says have been invaluable during treatment.

Thank you to our generous supporters who have contributed to Footprints Day Centre, located at St John of God Murdoch Hospital. Your support is helping to provide holistic healthcare and alternative therapies for patients living with life-limiting conditions, as well as their families and carers.

KEVIN'S BREAKTHROUGH TREATMENT

Thanks to generous Foundation support, a breakthrough cardiac treatment – the Micra pacemaker – is now available to patients at St John of God Bunbury Hospital, relieving South West residents the burden of travel to Perth for this advanced cardiac care.

The Micra pacemaker is one tenth of the size of a traditional pacemaker, yet it delivers equal benefit.

Kevin Hogg, St John of God Bunbury Hospital patient, received the first Micra implant completed outside of the Perth metropolitan area in March this year.

Kevin said being able to access treatment locally made a huge difference. "It was extremely beneficial to receive treatment in Bunbury. I live alone and I don't have any family in Perth, so I was grateful not to have the added concern of travel."

The care Kevin received was made possible by donations to the St John of God Foundation for improved personalised patient treatment at St John of God Bunbury Hospital. Thank you for your support in providing better health outcomes in our community.



Kevin Hogg holds an example of the Micra pacemaker.

INSPIRING CHANGE, PATIENT UPDATES

Emma English

In February 2017, 28-year-old Emma English received the devastating news that her bowel cancer had returned and had spread to her liver.

Thankfully, a new technology, funded by St John of God Foundation donors, enabled her doctor to better understand her cancer, and provide personalised treatment.

It has been nearly two years since Emma's last chemotherapy treatment, and she is thriving.

"I recently turned 30. I was so happy knowing I was healthy and in remission."

I cannot thank the St John of God Foundation donors enough. If it wasn't for them, and my doctors, it's scary to think I may not be here.

I thank my lucky stars every day.

It has been nearly two years since my final chemotherapy cycle, meaning there will be no chemo or medication left in my system.

My husband Link and I are hoping to start the process of trying to have a family when I am all clear.

Life at the moment, is perfect. - Emma English.

Emma English, with husband Link.



Dawn Gleeson

When Dawn received the devastating news that her breast cancer had returned, she turned to St John of God Health Care for treatment.

Dawn's treatment at the donor-funded St John of God Bendat Family Comprehensive Cancer Centre was supported by specialist breast care nurses, also made possible through generous donor support.

Dawn's second cancer diagnosis was the catalyst for the incredible personal achievements she made both during and after her chemotherapy treatment. Dawn is now actively raising awareness and funds to support ongoing research and treatment of breast cancer for all Australians.

"I am so proud of what I achieved through my treatment and beyond. I completed my first ironman challenge within six months of my last chemo treatment."

I want to say a massive thank you to the Foundation donors for giving me, and the other people I met on my journey, a reason to hope. - Dawn Gleeson.

Dawn after her final chemotherapy treatment at St John of God Subiaco Hospital.



TONY'S MIRACLE



Tony in intensive care at Berwick Hospital.

After unexplained feelings of fatigue, Tony visited his doctor in February to discover the shocking news that he had an abnormally large abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), a localised enlargement of the abdominal aorta, which can cause life threatening bleeding if ruptured.

Within a week Tony was scheduled for surgery at St John of God Berwick Hospital.

A large AAA is considered to be around 4.5cms in size, while Tony's measured 9cms.

The severity of Tony's condition caused complications during surgery, and he went into cardiac arrest.

Caregivers in the operating room at Berwick Hospital worked tirelessly during his arrest, installing a pacemaker to keep Tony alive.

The initial, early care was crucial, it was a matter of life and death for me. The staff in the operating theatre were beyond amazing.

Tony spent nearly two months in the ICU at Berwick Hospital, recovering from this episode, before he was able to undergo surgery to repair his AAA, once he had regained enough strength.

It was a miracle of miracles. Thanks to the wonderful care I received, I am still alive today.

\$2.3 million was committed by Foundation donors towards comprehensive cancer and cardiac care services as part of the St John of God Berwick Hospital redevelopment, which was completed in 2018.

The new cardiac services introduced during the redevelopment – including advanced stent and pacemaker installation and procedures – has supported better care for patients, enabling more complex surgical and medical procedures to take place closer to home for regional patients.

Thanks to your generous support, people like Tony can access life-changing treatment in their time of greatest need.

"The initial, early care was crucial, it was a matter of life and death for me. The staff in the operating theatre were beyond amazing."

Tony, post-treatment and healthy, heading off on a holiday with his wife.



TAVI'S 50TH TREATMENT

Purchased with generous donations to the Foundation, advanced surgical equipment for TAVI (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation) has enabled Subiaco Hospital to offer a less invasive treatment option for cardiac patients since late 2017.

TAVI, a minimally invasive cardiac procedure, can give a new lease on life to people not well enough for open heart surgery. Patient benefits include less pain and a better recovery than conventional heart valve surgery.

The 50th TAVI procedure took place earlier this year, showing the lasting impact of your valuable support in providing better health outcomes for people in their time of need.



The TAVI team at Subiaco Hospital celebrating the 50th procedure.

Lifetime contributions to 30 June 2019

OUR GENEROUS DONORS 2018-19

Visionaries

\$250,000+

Bendat Family Foundation | Carcione Foundation Pty Ltd
Berwick Mazda | Caruso Family

Innovators

\$100,000 to \$249,999

Siegfried & Gudrun Westerfeld | Stan Perron Charitable Foundation | Iannello Family
Massey Charitable Foundation | Geoff & Jan Brown | Havelock Nominees Pty Ltd
Brown Property Group | John & Carmel Carney

Leaders

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Estate of the late Rodney Grey | Don Moyes
Dolores & Kevin Beasley | Michael & Irene Ajani

Champions

Donated \$20,000 to \$49,000

Tony & Gwenyth Lennon (Lennon Family Charitable Fund)
Spinifex Trust

St John of God Foundation is grateful to each and every donor for their ongoing support and generosity. Thank you for helping us bring healing and hope to patients and our wider community

L-R: Mr Graham and Mrs Lovell Anstee-Brook, Mr Vangelis and Mrs Dimi Katsaitis at the 2019 Annual Donor Thank You event.



Making a difference

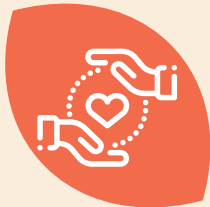
We rely on your generosity to help enable transformational healthcare, through excellence in personalised patient treatment and leading medical research.



DONATE ONLINE

100% of your donation goes directly towards your area of choice, to best support healthcare areas that have the greatest meaning to you.

www.sjog.org.au/donate



BECOME A REGULAR GIVER

Regular donations help provide stability and support for long-term projects, which enable us to plan for the future. Your regular donation will help us continue to provide life-changing care for people in their time of need.



GIVE IN MEMORY OR CELEBRATION

Make a gift in lieu of flowers or presents to honour an occasion, or a loved one.



GIFTS IN WILLS

Including a gift in your Will means you have the opportunity to create a legacy, and be a part of the life-changing work of St John of God Foundation.

At St John of God Foundation, our commitment is to advancing discoveries in holistic healthcare with a focus on human dignity.

Support St John of God Foundation and help us transform healthcare for humanity.

To support St John of God Foundation, you can make a donation online, by phone, or post.