

Giving Insight



ST JOHN OF GOD
Foundation

Making extraordinary care **come to life**

SPRING 2026

ST JOHN OF GOD FOUNDATION



IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Comfort when it matters most**
- **A melody of hope and healing**
- **Running together, with heart and purpose**

Welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of Giving Insight

Celebrating the people, partnerships and generosity bringing hope, dignity and extraordinary care to the communities we serve.

Walking in the footsteps of compassionate care

St John of God Foundation caregivers recently came together from across Australia for a special walk through central Perth, retracing the journey of the first eight Sisters of St John of God who arrived in Australia in 1895 in answer to a call to care for the sick and vulnerable.

Led by St John of God Health Care Manager of History & Heritage, Jacqui Sherriff, the walk is undertaken in the tradition of a Catholic pilgrimage, inviting caregivers to immerse and reflect on the experience in a deeply personal way. Following in the footsteps of the Sisters' first five years in Australia, the pilgrimage offered an opportunity to pause, reflect and reconnect with the values that continue to shape our mission today.

Along the route, caregivers stopped at sites significant to the foundation of St John of God Health Care. Through stories of the Sisters' compassion and determination, caregivers gained insight into the successes and challenges of the time, and the extraordinary health care services that grew from their commitment to serving others.

More than just a walking tour, the pilgrimage encouraged caregivers to reflect on how they carry forward the spirit, or charism, of the Sisters in their own work. For the Foundation team, this means partnering with donors to bring hope, healing, and extraordinary care to patients, clients and their loved ones.

The day served as a powerful reminder that the work of St John of God Health Care and St John of God Foundation is part of a much larger story, one that began more than 130 years ago and continues today through the compassion, dedication and generosity of our donor community. Through this shared experience, caregivers renewed their connection to the purpose that inspires their work every day.



▲ St John of God Foundation caregivers on the heritage walk.



▲ Sisters of St John of God on the deck of the RMS Orizaba, October/November 1895. This photograph is from an album documenting the 1895 journey of Orizaba recently acquired by the SJGHC Heritage Collection.



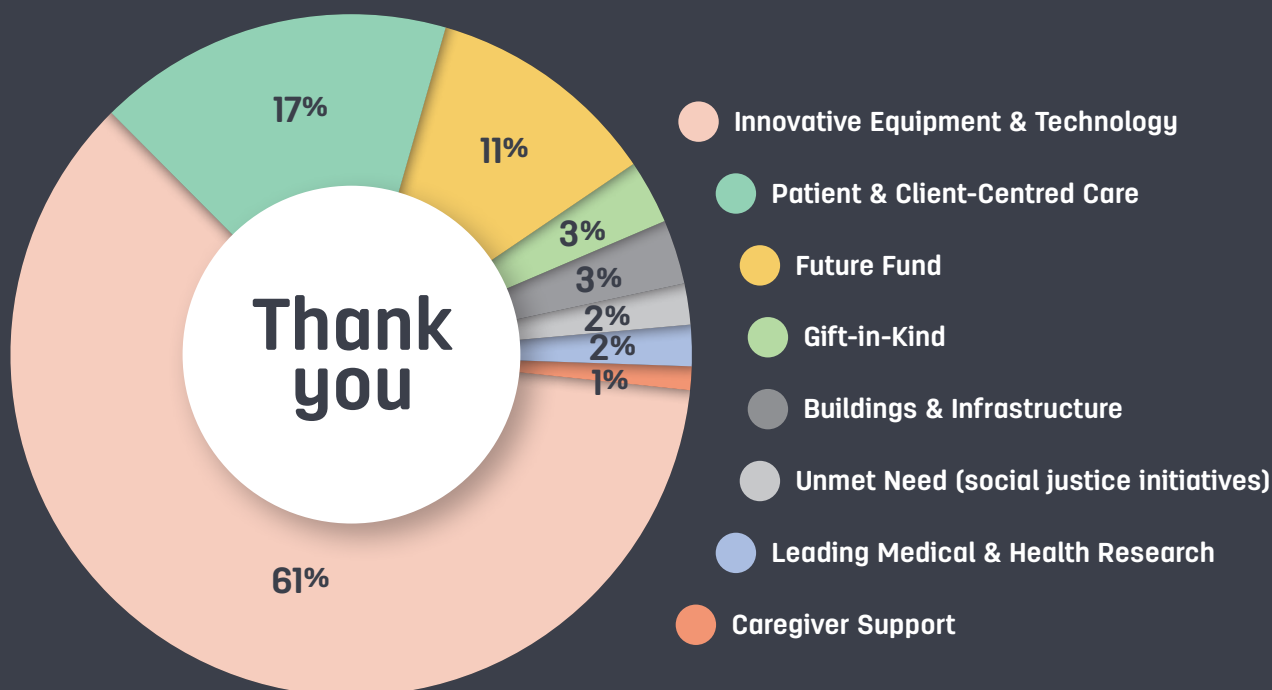
Your generosity brings light to someone's hardest days.

Visit www.sjogfoundation.org.au
call 1800 281 288, or scan the QR code.



Celebrating the power of your support

Every donation and act of support helped fund vital services, provide care for patients and families, and strengthened our community over the past year.



Your generosity has helped to deliver:



Thank you
for helping
us to raise
\$6.6M
in 2025-26

Donors deliver greater comfort for patients

Thanks to the extraordinary kindness of our donor community, St John of God hospital patients are experiencing greater comfort, dignity and independence during some of life's most challenging moments.

A chair may seem like a simple item, but for patients spending long hours in treatment or recovery, it can become a place of profound rest, reassurance and connection. Thanks to donor generosity, these everyday moments are being transformed into even more compassionate experiences in our hospitals across Australia.

In our oncology centres, where some treatment sessions can last several hours, specialised electric recliner chairs provide ergonomic support and pressure relief, helping patients remain comfortable during what can already be an emotionally demanding experience.

For grateful patient Paul, the impact was deeply personal. During some of his toughest days on Thomas Furlong Ward, the care and compassion shown by caregivers was complemented by the comfort of a recliner chair donated by a former grateful patient. More than physical comfort, the chair was a reminder that someone who had walked a similar path cared enough to help those who followed.

Inspired by that act of generosity, Paul has since donated five recliner chairs so that other patients can experience the same comfort and support during their own journey. He also hoped the chairs would provide comfort for family members spending long hours by a loved one's side, offering a place to rest while remaining close when it matters most.

A similar story unfolded at St John of God Geelong Hospital, where a grateful patient gifted nine recliner chairs to Koala Cove Day Stay Admissions to help future patients feel more comfortable during treatment.

"The impact and generosity of this donor is truly remarkable," said Taanya Widdicombe, Director Corporate and Service Development. "These new chairs will be of enormous assistance in supporting the provision of care for our patients."

Across our hospitals, many more comfort-giving chairs funded by donors are bringing relief and connection every day, not only for patients, but also for the families and caregivers sharing these moments alongside them.

We are deeply grateful to every donor who makes this compassionate care possible. Whether through an appeal across the year, a gift or a donation in gratitude for care received, your generosity leaves a lasting impact. Because of you, patients and families experience not only extraordinary care, but also comfort, dignity and hope when they need it most.

Front cover photo: Koala Cove Day Stay Admissions, St John of God Geelong Hospital were also gifted recliner chairs from a grateful patient honouring the extraordinary care they received.



▲ Caregivers with a recliner chair gifted to Thomas Furlong Oncology Ward, St John of God Murdoch Hospital.





A melody of hope and healing

St John of God Bunbury Hospital has welcomed a dedicated Music Therapist, reopening the door to care that supports the physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual wellbeing of patients and families.

Funded by generous donors, Registered Music Therapist, Charlotte Kirke, commenced in the role in June and is leading a program that will bring the proven benefits of music into the health care journey of patients of all ages.

An evidence-based intervention, music therapy activates areas of the brain linked to emotion, memory and wellbeing. It can help reduce pain, anxiety and stress, while improving relaxation, communication and overall quality of life. For some patients, particularly those who are non-verbal, living with dementia, experiencing mental illness, or receiving palliative care, music offers a powerful way to connect when words are difficult or no longer possible.

"The response has been super positive from all wards, with music therapy helping settle anxious children before surgery, engage

families, and support patients through challenging moments," shares Katherine Feddema, Acting Allied Health Manager.

The benefits of music therapy are seen across our services. At St John of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital, music forms part of the Proactive Parkinson's program, helping participants improve movement, speech and social connection in a fun and engaging environment.

"Music can help people creatively express what is going on for them and be a safe, supportive and non-invasive way to develop resources helpful to deal with life's challenges," says Music Therapist Stephanie.

Across our hospitals, the response from patients, families and caregivers has been overwhelmingly positive. Beyond the clinical benefits, music creates moments of joy, comfort and connection during what can often be a difficult and uncertain time.

This compassionate care extends beyond scheduled sessions. When the need is there, our Music Therapists can visit patients at their bedside, bringing comfort

to those with restricted mobility or complex health needs. For many, these encounters become meaningful moments of emotional and spiritual healing that complement their medical treatment and provide reassurance when it is needed most.

This life-changing program returning to St John of God Bunbury is possible because of the compassion of our donors. Thank you for helping bring comfort, dignity and connection to patients and families in our care. Your generosity is ensuring that healing extends beyond medicine, and that when words are not enough, music can speak.

Music forms part of the Proactive Parkinson's program, helping participants improve movement, speech and social connection in a fun and engaging environment.



A gift of care for WA's youngest patients

St John of God Foundation has received more than \$1.5 million in funding from Channel 7 Telethon Trust (Telethon) to support life-changing programs and equipment across St John of God Health Care hospitals and services in Western Australia.

Thanks to the generosity of the Western Australian community, babies, children and families receiving care across St John of God hospitals will benefit from programs, specialised medical equipment and enhanced support for years to come.

The funding will strengthen maternal, neonatal and paediatric care across metropolitan and regional Western Australia, ensuring clinicians have the resources they need to deliver extraordinary care to our most vulnerable young patients.

With almost 8,000 babies born each year across St John of God hospitals in WA, this support will touch countless lives - providing comfort, reassurance and specialised care during some of the most important moments many families will ever experience.

The funding will help expand the **Moort Boodjari Mia Midwifery Outreach Program (MBM)** based at St John of God Midland Public Hospital, providing culturally

safe, community-based care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their families throughout pregnancy and the early stages of parenthood.

It will also provide **MBM 'Safe Sleeping and Essentials Packs'** for families, helping create safer home environments for newborns and giving parents practical support as they welcome their babies into the world.

These initiatives will strengthen support beyond hospital walls, helping families feel informed, connected and cared for during the transition to life at home with a new baby.

Life-saving equipment for little patients

The funding will also deliver 50 pieces of specialised medical equipment across St John of God hospitals in Midland, Murdoch, Subiaco and Geraldton.

Among them are **neonatal 'Kangaroo Chairs'**, which allow parents to safely hold and bond with premature and unwell babies during critical stages of development. These precious moments of closeness can provide comfort to families while supporting better outcomes for newborns. This project was made possible with philanthropic support from Mineral Resources.

Advanced ultrasound machines will enhance diagnostic capabilities and maternal care, made possible with philanthropic support from Hawaiian, while state-of-the-art **'Giraffe Omnibed Carestations'** and neonatal resuscitation systems will support clinicians caring for critically ill newborns.

Jaundice meters will enable faster, less invasive assessments for babies, helping caregivers provide timely treatment while reducing stress for families.

Together, this incredible support will directly improve neonatal, maternal and paediatric care, empowering clinicians to deliver safer, more responsive care of the highest standard to Western Australian children from the very beginning of life.

To Channel 7 Telethon Trust, and to every Western Australian whose support of Telethon helps fund life-changing care, thank you. Your generosity is helping equip our hospitals, strengthen vital programs and give babies, children and families the best possible chance to thrive.

Because of you, extraordinary care will be there for WA's youngest patients when it matters most.



Giving from the heart, changing lives

The compassion of St John of God Health Care caregivers extends far beyond the care they provide every day. Through our Workplace Giving program, many choose to make regular donations from their pre-tax pay to support people who are vulnerable, sick or facing disadvantage.

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps bring hope and practical support to those who need it most. While caregivers provide extraordinary care through their work each day, their generosity through Workplace Giving helps bring that care to life in new and meaningful ways.

Caregivers have raised more than \$100,000 in this past year alone, helping fund areas of greatest need for patients and clients served by our hospitals and services across Australia. The impact of these contributions has been celebrated over the years in *Giving Insight*, shining a light on the many people and programs that have benefited from the kindness of our caregivers together with our donor community.

Workplace Giving is a simple, affordable and effective way to give. When caregivers come together, individual donations combine to become a powerful force for compassionate care across our hospitals, services and communities.

Caregivers also support their communities through the *Charity of Choice* program, with each hospital and service supporting a local charity nominated by its team. This initiative strengthens connections with local communities while bringing colleagues together through a shared purpose.

Throughout the year, caregivers take part in fundraising activities such as quiz nights, cake stalls, raffles, jam sales and gold coin donation events. These occasions are a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow caregivers, have fun and raise valuable funds for worthy causes.

We are incredibly grateful to every caregiver who contributes their time, generosity and support to causes that matter. Their generosity is a powerful reflection of the values that define St John of God Health Care – compassion, dignity and a commitment to serving others.

If you're a caregiver and would like to learn more about how you can get involved, search **"Workplace Giving"** on the intranet or call the Foundation team on 1800 281 288.



▲ A sausage sizzle is always a good idea – Murdoch caregivers host Just Because Day.



▲ Caregivers, supporting each other to support the community.

On the road and creating stronger beginnings

The Moort Boodjari Mia (MBM) Outreach Service is delivering promising early outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their families.

Since launching its clinical outreach van in February this year, the MBM service has provided culturally safe maternity care directly within communities two days per week, helping women access support closer to home and on Country.

So far, the outreach service has supported more than 30 families, bringing essential maternity care to women who may otherwise face barriers attending hospital appointments. Using a fully equipped clinical van, the team delivers care where it is needed most, helping families stay connected to vital health services throughout pregnancy.

Mothers accessing the MBM service are attending an average of seven antenatal appointments - a 40% increase on the national average of five appointments. Research shows that early and ongoing antenatal care is linked to healthier outcomes for both mothers and babies.

The impact is also being seen in birth outcomes. Babies supported through the MBM program have an average birthweight of 3,556 grams, compared with the national average of 3,271 grams for First Nations babies. Average gestation has reached 39 weeks, supporting healthy development and stronger starts to life.

Beyond the numbers, MBM is strengthening connections with families and communities. The service has seen fewer missed appointments, increased community engagement and growing word-of-mouth referrals, demonstrating the trust being built through culturally responsive care.

These achievements reflect the importance of women feeling safe, respected and supported throughout pregnancy and early parenting.

▼ MBM clinical van reducing barriers to health care for women in rural and remote communities.



“We’ve planted the seed, marking the beginning of what I hope will grow into something bigger.”

- Jodee Hollingsworth, Midwife and MBM Coordinator

When barriers to care are reduced and relationships are built, families are more likely to stay connected to the health services they need.

The success of the outreach service is also helping shape the future, with planning already underway for additional community health programs.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors. Your support is helping to strengthen access to culturally safe maternity care, contributing to better health outcomes for mothers and babies across Western Australia.

Plus, thanks to donor funding, every family welcoming a baby through the MBM service also receives a Safe Sleeping and Essentials Pack. These practical packs provide valuable support during the early days of parenthood while helping improve the health, safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and families.

Together, we are helping create stronger beginnings for babies, greater confidence for mothers and healthier futures for generations to come.

This project was made possible thanks to the extraordinary philanthropic support of:



STAN PERRON
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION





The life-changing power of hope

Through Gifts of Hope, compassionate supporters are helping people facing cancer access the treatment they need when they need it most.

Throughout the year, donor generosity removed financial barriers that may otherwise have prevented patients from receiving critical care. For individuals and families navigating a cancer diagnosis, this support provides more than financial assistance – it offers hope, reassurance and the chance to look towards the future.

One of the most powerful examples of this impact is Yuting's story.

Just as she was beginning her nursing career, Yuting was diagnosed with advanced bowel cancer. Along with the shock of a life-threatening diagnosis came the fear of losing the future she had imagined, including her dream of becoming a mother.

Thanks to support from Gifts of Hope donors, Yuting was able to access life-changing immunotherapy treatment. Today, she has returned to nursing, married her love Daniel and welcomed their son, Cameron, named in honour of her oncologist, Dr Cameron McLaren.

Yuting's journey is a powerful reminder that philanthropy can change far more than a single life – but the lives of families and communities for generations to come.

Through Gifts of Hope, donors continue to stand beside people affected by cancer, ensuring financial circumstances do not stand in the way of potentially life-saving treatment and helping more families move forward with hope.



▲ Dr Cameron McLaren and Yuting with baby Cameron on the cover of Giving Insight, Autumn 2026 edition.

Help bring comfort, care and hope to those who need it most.
Go to www.sjogfoundation.org.au call 1800 281 288 or scan the QR code.



Helping care reach further

Every day, Allied Health caregivers at St John of God Warrnambool Hospital travel throughout the community to support patients recovering at home. Their work provides vital health services to those who need it most, including patients connected with Gunditjmara Health Services.

For many patients, these home visits are a lifeline, helping them remain safe, supported and connected to care in the comfort of their own homes.

Thanks to the generosity of The Honda Foundation and the support of Ballarat Honda, caregivers now have access to a dedicated Honda ZR-V through the Honda Hero program, making it easier to reach patients across the region.

The vehicle is helping caregivers spend less time coordinating transport and more time focused on what matters most: delivering compassionate, high-quality care.

"Having the car from Honda has made providing patient care much easier and more efficient," said Leanne McPherson, Director of Clinical Services at Warrnambool.

"It enables us to carry out home visits and assessments without having to wait for a vehicle to become available."

This act of generosity is helping extend care beyond the hospital walls, ensuring more patients receive the support they need on their recovery journey.

▼ *Honda making home visits to patients more accessible.*



Advancing care, enhancing comfort

Thanks to the generosity of the Griffiths Family, patients at St John of God Geelong Hospital are experiencing greater comfort and confidence throughout their treatment journey.

New equipment funded through their donation includes a Sonosite Ultrasound, helping theatre teams perform critical procedures with greater accuracy while reducing discomfort, anxiety and repeated needle attempts during vulnerable moments of care.

The family has also funded a Paxman Cooling Cap System for oncology patients undergoing chemotherapy. By helping to reduce hair loss during treatment, the system can have a meaningful impact on confidence, identity, and emotional wellbeing at a time when patients are facing significant challenges.



▲ *Caregivers grateful for support to access new equipment.*

We are deeply grateful to the Griffiths Family for their generosity. Their contribution is enhancing the experience of care for patients and families, and helping caregivers provide not only exceptional clinical treatment, but also reassurance, dignity and hope when it is needed most.

Big smile of celebration from Ashlee receiving her commemorative medal. ►

Caregivers go the distance



Bathed in glorious sunshine, a record 527 St John of God Health Care caregivers laced up their running shoes for this year's HBF Run for a Reason, taking on the half marathon, 12km and 3km courses.

Many participants chose to support causes close to their hearts, including St John of God Foundation, with funds raised helping deliver free or low-cost mental health and homelessness support for people in need.

For caregivers, the event was about much more than crossing a finish line. It was an opportunity to give back, honour personal experiences and inspire those around them.

Ashlee took part in support of her father, who has received care at St John of God Murdoch Hospital.

"I participated in HBF Run for a Reason due to my dad having myocarditis. The care that he has received at St John of God Murdoch Hospital across all areas has been amazing. This is one way I can

help give back to such a worthy cause so future research, equipment, extra patient care and support can be provided throughout all St John of God hospitals."

For Kate, completing her first half marathon was a personal achievement and a chance to support a cause she values.

"Completing my first half marathon was a milestone I once thought was out of reach. Running has always been therapeutic for me, so when I saw our hospital putting a team together, I thought, 'Why not?'

"My goal wasn't about getting a fast time, it was simply to cross the finish line. I wanted to prove to myself, and show my young boys, that we can achieve hard things.

"Having started my journey at St John of God Mt Lawley and now working across both Subiaco and Midland hospitals, it feels great to give back to St John of God Foundation. I am so grateful to my family, friends and colleagues for their support and donations."

Kate described the day as unforgettable, buoyed by the incredible atmosphere, perfect weather and encouragement from fellow participants and supporters.

HBF Run for a Reason continues to showcase the compassion, determination and generosity of our caregivers both inside and outside the workplace. Whether they ran, walked, volunteered or donated, everyone played a part in supporting people experiencing mental health challenges and homelessness.

Congratulations and thank you to all caregivers who represented St John of God Health Care and helped make this our biggest team yet.

◀ *Reaching a personal milestone was a day to remember for Kate.*





Your legacy, their future

**Your gift can help
to change the future
of health care for
generations to come.**

If you would like to know more about how leaving a gift in your Will can create a life-changing health care legacy for future generations, please contact Preema Wong for a confidential discussion:

Preema Wong

T: 0427 526 899

E: Preema.Wong@sjog.org.au

Good health is the greatest gift.

Every story of human impact, from new cancer treatments to breakthroughs in medical research, has only been made possible thanks to the generosity and compassion of people like you who share a vision of making extraordinary care come to life.



**To make a donation, please
scan here or visit our website
sjogfoundation.org.au/donate**

All donations are tax deductible.



ST JOHN OF GOD
Foundation

Making extraordinary care **come to life**