

St Vincent's Cares

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023

CEO Report

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you and your family had a wonderful break and enjoyed the sunshine.

The new year is full of promise for St Vincent's Health, with new buildings and innovative programs being developed here in Fitzroy. It is going to be exciting to see the turning of the sod for the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD) in March and to watch the progress on building the new private hospital on Brunswick Street. You play an important part in developing the vision of St Vincent's and we hope that your involvement will continue. I encourage you to drive by St Vincent's and witness these new buildings which will play an integral role in the next phase of healthcare in Melbourne.

I want to take the opportunity to thank all of you who donated to our Scholarship Fund over Christmas. Nurses are renowned for their thirst for knowledge. Their enquiring minds drive them to constantly expand their knowledge and learn new skills to improve patient care. The Nursing Scholarship Fund will provide our nurses with additional resources to seek educational opportunities, training and qualifications that may not otherwise be available to them. Your support validates their work and extra care that is provided to our patients each and every day.

Despite the financial pressures we have all faced over the past few months, the Christmas Appeal has broken previous records. Thanks to your outpouring of generosity, over \$110,000 has been raised for the Nursing Scholarship Fund. If you haven't had a chance to support our nurses, there is still time to donate at stvfoundation.org.au/christmas.

Along with new buildings and exceptional staff we also need to constantly upgrade our equipment and technology. We need to keep pace with the latest innovations in healthcare and medical equipment. With this newsletter we have included a list of equipment that has been identified by the St Vincent's Health executive leadership teams as a priority for 2023. This is a very real and tangible way to support our hospitals in their treatment of you and your loved ones. If you would like to hear more about our equipment needs or would like to investigate a particular piece of equipment, please don't hesitate to reach out.

You are a valued member of the St Vincent's family. On behalf of everyone at the Foundation and St Vincent's Hospital staff,



Sue Parkes, CEO, St Vincent's Foundation Victoria

I thank you for your ongoing support.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss how you can play a vital role in shaping St Vincent's future, or if you would like a tour of the St Vincent's precinct.

Best wishes,



Sue Parkes
CEO, St Vincent's Foundation
Victoria

You can contact me
directly on 0412 488 341 or
email sue.parkes@svha.org.au



Lifting up our nurses Lifting up our community

Nurses are special. You and your loved ones know this first-hand.

In extraordinarily difficult circumstances, nurses have provided the best possible care to all our patients. COVID has presented challenges and they have risen to the occasion and maintained their focus of looking after our patients and providing emotional support to each other.

To say thank you to our nurses, we have established a Nursing Scholarship Fund, which will open new career pathways for St Vincent's nursing staff and ensure their passion for the job is matched by the continued development of their skills.



L to R: St Vincent's nurses
Nichola, Ivan and Fiona

Q&A with St Vincent's nurses

As nurses at St Vincent's public and private hospitals in Melbourne, **Ivan**, **Fiona** and **Nichola** have dedicated their careers to helping Victorians when they are most vulnerable.

Q: Why did you become a nurse?

A: I love helping people. It's such a wonderful and noble job to be able to see people recover and be with their families. Working in the ICU means I become a part of their lives for a brief moment.
Ivan Ocampo, Intensive Care Unit Nurse

Q: What difference would completing more study make to your career?

A: I have plans to study the post-graduate degree in Critical Care Emergency. This study would mean that I can literally work anywhere in this hospital and I can look after the most unwell patients.
Fiona Latten, Emergency Department Nurse

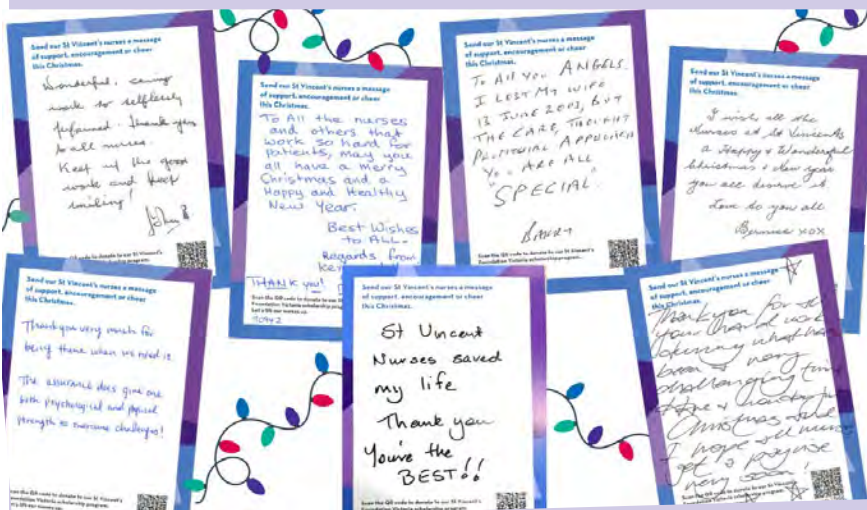
Q: You've just completed your degree. What has changed for you?

A: I've felt a lot more empowered in the care I give to patients, and I feel a lot more confident in advocating for them.
Nichola White, Anaesthetics Nurse

Q: How could this fund shape the future of the nursing workforce?

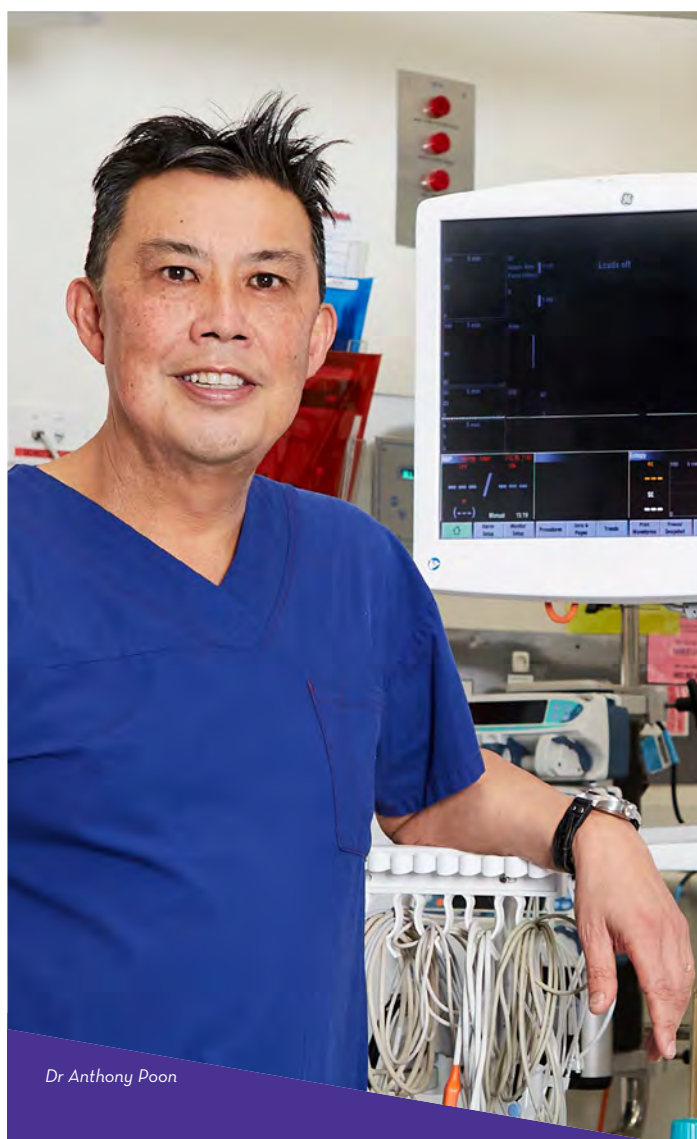
A: Patient care is forever evolving, I need to stay at the forefront of it, which is why I need education and training.
Fiona.

Our nurses aren't just precious, they're irreplaceable. With your help we can provide scholarships to St Vincent's nurses, allowing them to receive the education and training they need to support you and your community.



We invited donors and former patients to send messages of support to our nurses. You can view more messages at stvfoundation.org.au/christmas/christmas-thank-you

Please give the gift of a scholarship donation and help lift the nurses we love.
Donate at: stvfoundation.org.au/nursing-scholarships or call 03 9231 3365.



Dr Anthony Poon



I really enjoy my work because it includes consistently technically challenging procedures.

Our patients are often very unwell and we give them the opportunity to be cured."

Dr Anthony Poon, donor

Doctor's gift builds an important legacy for the next generation

Dr Anthony Poon has enjoyed a long and fulfilling career as an anaesthetist at St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne (SVPHM), specialising in thoracic and upper gastrointestinal colorectal surgery.

Since joining the team in 1995, Dr Poon has seen a lot of change at St Vincent's. Right now, there is one very big change he is particularly excited about. So much so, that he's choosing to support it with his own money, committing \$25,000 towards a new building, which will be celebrated with the naming of a hospital room.

St Vincent's Private Hospital Fitzroy is undergoing a major redevelopment. Construction has commenced on a new \$180 million building.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for St Vincent's, for our teams and for our patients. The development will continue the great work of our medicos and carry on the legacy of our nursing staff and teams. It's an opportunity to access some of the best equipment and build on our core group of specialists by attracting the best and brightest."

It was the chance to leave a legacy that compelled Dr Poon to support the project financially. "I've spent a significant portion of my career at St Vincent's. It will be great to leave a legacy, and to contribute to the next chapter in St Vincent's history."

He is keen to inspire his colleagues to join him in supporting this ambitious project. "This is our chance to not only contribute to the future of medicine, but having your name on a plaque means you're able to remain a part of the hospital long after you've retired."

To find out more about this exciting project contact: Cameron Smith, SVPHM Capital Campaign Director, St Vincent's Foundation Victoria on 0431 079 906 or cameron.smith@svha.org.au

Generous donor supports St Vincent's palliative care and **honours her parents' memory**

Caritas Christi in Kew has a special meaning for Ellen Lew and her family. After being diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer, Caritas was where Ellen's mother, Joanna, spent her final days.

Giving back to the community is a long-standing tradition in Ellen's family. Her uncles have strong philanthropic mindsets, and this is something Ellen also feels strongly about.

Ellen's father, Les, passed away five years after his wife. Ellen and her husband James wanted to create a lasting legacy for them both, while also donating to an organisation that they felt provided a valuable service to the community.

"We felt that naming a room at the newly upgraded Caritas Christi in memory of my parents - Joanna and Les Youie OAM - achieved both of these goals, as well as acknowledging the important role Caritas Christi played in my mother's final journey," Ellen said.

In 2012, Joanna noticed a growth in her belly button and was eventually diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Joanna chose to be admitted to Caritas Christi for pain management in April 2013.

"The staff were really good. They looked after us as well as caring for my mother. I would sometimes go with her to art therapy to paint or make something and if I needed to talk, they were always there. Even after mum had passed, Jenny, the Nurse Manager, would ring to check how we were going," Ellen said.

Ellen and James want to encourage others to support Caritas Christi.



Caritas is a special place. The team provides an important service to families and people at a time in their lives when they really need emotional and medical support. We think that makes it a very worthwhile organisation to support."

Ellen Lew, donor



Ellen Lew with her parents Joanna and Les

If you would like to support Caritas Christi visit
stvfoundation.org.au/donate/caritas-christi



L to R: ACMD donors Paul Cross and Barry Janes with Erol Harvey, CEO, ACMD

“Leaving a legacy while you’re still alive, instead of waiting until you’re gone, means you get so much back personally. Seeing the benefits and witnessing the impact is a wonderful feeling.”

Barry Janes, donor

ACMD supporters make a tangible impact

A leading philanthropist once told Barry Janes to “give with a warm hand, not a cold one”. This inspired Barry and his partner, Paul, to make a conscious decision to support the causes they care about during their lifetimes.

Barry and Paul are great supporters of the arts, including being Presidents, Councillors and Life Members of the National Gallery of Victoria. They added medical research innovation to their portfolio, with a generous donation of \$150,000 to the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD).

Paul explained, “Much of the research being done at ACMD is around managing debilitating conditions such as Crohn’s disease, epilepsy and glaucoma. The devices they’re developing have the potential to vastly improve people’s quality of life. We are very excited about the possibilities.”

Their generous donation will go towards constructing three Faraday Rooms within ACMD. These rooms will

be fitted with a shield used to block electromagnetic fields. This allows researchers to undertake experiments to develop hearing and vision devices without electrical, sound or light interference.

Barry and Paul are keen to inspire others to join them in supporting ACMD. “We can see how much ACMD will benefit society, it will make a significant difference long term. This is the ideal chance for others to support a truly worthwhile cause,” Paul said.

To find out more about how you can be involved, please contact Melina Talanis, ACMD Capital Campaign Director, St Vincent’s Foundation Victoria on 0426 110 533 or melina.talanis@svha.org.au

Healthcare for the Homeless

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (SVHM) is staying true to its mission to help people who are poor or vulnerable by making plans to undertake an ambitious redevelopment of a property in Fitzroy.

The aim is to provide accommodation for people who are experiencing homelessness, have been involved with St Vincent's, and who need to recover while receiving further treatment.

A feasibility study has been undertaken – thanks to a grant from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation – to assess the conversion of a hospital-owned property, Salisbury Place, into a 'fit for purpose' accommodation facility.

Katrina Rushworth, SVHM Homeless Health Senior Project Officer said, "It is widely recognised that health and homelessness are inextricably linked, with homelessness contributing significantly to poorer health outcomes. It is also known that health issues can be a major contributing cause of a person becoming homeless. Without stable housing, a person's capacity to follow up with necessary medical care after hospital discharge can further compound both their health issues and vulnerability to homelessness."

The Salisbury Place team will work with relevant housing and psychosocial support agencies, alongside medical and nursing staff, to develop care and support plans for each person. Residents will be able to stay for up to six months



L to R:
Katrina Rushworth, SVHM Homeless Health Senior Project Officer and Una McKeever, SVHM Healthcare for the Homeless Manager outside Salisbury Place

in order for their health issues to be addressed, including mental health and substance use, prior to being discharged into longer-term housing.

**We require funding to advance this project.
If you would like to learn more, please email foundation@svha.org.au or call (03) 9231 3365.**

Gastroenterologist awarded VCCC Alliance Inaugural Tony Burgess Medal

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne gastroenterologist, Associate Professor Jessica Howell, has been awarded the Inaugural Tony Burgess Medal by the VCCC Alliance.

Associate Professor Howell received the award for ground-breaking research that is improving the screening and diagnosis of liver cancer. This work has advanced the diagnostic screening tools for liver cancer, which in turn has impacted prevention, treatment and care.

Collaborating with St Vincent's Pathology, Associate Professor Howell's team has developed Australia's first scalable, low-cost population-level liver screening program via routine blood tests, which links to care for cirrhosis.



It is a tremendous honour to receive an award named after Professor Tony Burgess, whose pioneering work in cancer began at the lab bench and transformed the lives of people with cancer at the bedside. This award reflects the incredible work of my team and collaborators, whose generous support has made our work possible"

Associate Professor Howell



St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne gastroenterologist, Associate Professor Jessica Howell



L to R:
Members of the Aboriginal Health Unit, Rhys Radcliffe,
Nicole Watt, Marissa Mulcahy and Christopher Delamont.

Enhancing the experiences of **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** patients and staff

St Vincent's has a long history and commitment to the health and wellbeing of members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Our goal is to be the health service provider and employer of choice for First Nations people in Victoria.

Our Aboriginal Health Unit, Wilam Ngarrang, is a leader in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healthcare and research in a hospital setting.

This unit brings together the Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer program, quality improvement, cultural awareness training and cadetships, as well as representation on the executive leadership team.

Its work is continually evolving to support our First Nations patients and the 236 staff members across the St Vincent's Health Australia network. We are focused on creating a range of projects that will enhance patients'

experiences and increase employment opportunities to provide a culturally safe and inclusive environment for staff members, patients, and families.

Examples of planned projects include acquiring new First Nations artwork, developing engaging cultural activities to aid patient recovery, traineeships and cultural support for staff.

There are opportunities to invest in these projects. To find out more, please contact the Foundation's Deputy Director, Rebecca MacFarling, on 03 9231 3365.

Celebrating **Werribee Hospital donors**

Werribee locals give back **to make a difference to their community**

Werribee is a very special place for long-term residents Adrian and Amanda Williams. They were born and raised there and both their parents still live in the homes where they grew up. Adrian and Amanda were thrilled when St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee opened its doors in 2018. The arrival of a quality, highly respected hospital meant convenient, local access to top healthcare not only for them, but also for their family and friends.

Amanda said, "We hope we don't have to use it but unexpected things do happen in life. And if our family or friends need healthcare, it's so great to not have to travel into the city."

Adrian chose to take on an active role with St Vincent's, joining the Hospital's Fundraising Committee in 2019. "It's easy to say you want services to come to Werribee but the community needs to get behind it. Ultimately, I want to see the hospital thrive."

Staying true to their vision, Adrian and Amanda have generously donated to the hospital. Most recently, they contributed to the refurbishment of the oncology unit. The growing need for cancer services means the current unit at St Vincent's Werribee needs to undergo an expansion to respond to the increased demand.

For Adrian and Amanda, supporting St Vincent's Werribee was a really easy decision. "We feel so blessed; therefore, it was a no-brainer for us to give back to the community we love."

If you would like to support St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee, please visit stvfoundation.org.au/private/svphw

If you would like to support the refurbishment of the oncology unit, please contact the Foundation's Deputy Director, Rebecca MacFarling, on 03 9231 3365.



Amanda and Adrian Williams



Supporting St Vincent's Werribee is like an insurance policy for your and your family's future health. You never know when you're going to need its services."

Amanda Williams, donor

A commitment to family and the community inspires a generous donation

Family is Alex Cilmi's number one priority. His wife, Lucy, and five children are everything to him. He attributes his success in life and in business to his family. "Without my family, I wouldn't be where I am today. My family has supported me through the highs and lows, quite simply, they make me a better person."

Family and community spirit have motivated Alex and his family to sponsor several local sporting clubs and, most recently, to make a significant donation to St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee. The family's generous donation of \$100,000 will go towards the purchase of a Mako Robot. This revolutionary technology enables orthopaedic surgeons to better tailor hip and knee replacements to their patients, involves smaller incisions and reduces recovery time after surgery.

"We want to help the hospital to grow. The Mako Robot will not only enable St Vincent's Werribee to specialise

in joint replacement procedures, it will also attract more specialists to work at the Hospital."

Alex has dedicated the donation to his parents. "I wanted to recognise their contribution to the community."

A plaque commemorating his parents, Salvatore and Grazia Cilmi, will be displayed in the Hospital's reception area.

If you would like to support St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee, head to stvfoundation.org.au/private/svphw.

St Vincent's Foundation is seeking philanthropists, like Alex and his family, to support the purchase of a Mako Robot for Werribee. If you would like to help, please contact the Foundation's Deputy Director, Rebecca MacFarling, on 03 9231 3365.



The Cilmi family at the July Werribee Gala Ball



I hope more local businesses jump on board to support the Hospital. The community will benefit and it will ease the pressure on the public hospitals. The ultimate goal is to attract the best talent to Werribee so St Vincent's can offer top care to support everyone who will need it in the future."

Alex Cilmi, donor

A tribute to a beloved brother

Dominic and his brother Ralph were as close as brothers could be. They spent 40 years as business partners running restaurants together including Il Duca Restaurant in East Melbourne, until 2019 when Ralph sadly passed.

A few years ago, Dom became inspired to write a book to document his family's story. It was during this time that Ralph became unwell. After receiving a kidney transplant at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, he spent the next five years in and out of hospital, eventually developing terminal cancer. Ralph was 68 when he died.

Dom decided to donate the proceeds of his book to St Vincent's. "I think it's a wonderful way to remember my brother and to thank the incredible staff because they went above and beyond for him, caring for him as if he was one of their own family."

Since its release, Dom's loyal customers, family and friends have snapped up the book raising a phenomenal \$37,500 ... and counting! The funds will go towards purchasing vital equipment for the renal department, in Ralph's honour.

Dom created a fundraising page on St Vincent's website to channel the donations. Here, he wrote a moving tribute to his brother. "This book is for you, Ralph. So much of my life is attributed to you. I love you. Rest in the peace you so richly deserve."

You can set up your own fundraising page to support St Vincent's Hospitals at:
stvfoundation.org.au/fundraise



Ralph was my best friend. We were thick as thieves. Because we ran the restaurant together, we barely ever spent any time apart, and that was just the way we liked it."

Dom Bonadino, donor



*L to R: Ralph and
Dom Bonadino*



*L to R: New Foundation team members
Cameron, Melina, Septi and Ralf*

The Foundation welcomes new team members

The St Vincent's Foundation team is growing! We are delighted to welcome four new members to the family.

Melina Talanis and Cameron Smith have joined the team to head up the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD) and St Vincent's Private Hospital Fitzroy redevelopment capital campaigns, respectively.

Originating from Germany, Melina spent the past eight years at Monash University, working to advance the Engineering, Information Technology and Science Faculty's social impact research and student experience. Melina holds a Master of Science, Economics and a Bachelor of Science, Economics from the University of Cologne.

Cameron has more than 25 years of experience in the non-profit sector across healthcare, corporate and government relations, and social justice.

Our new Digital Fundraising Manager, Septi Duffy, is focused on refreshing the Foundation's website and elevating our social media presence.

Ralf Sternad is managing all aspects of the Foundation's growing Gifts in Wills in Program. Originally from the UK, Ralf has worked for charities in the heritage, education and environment sectors.

Calendar of events

For any event enquiries, please contact:

Rebecca Martin, Events Manager, St Vincent's Foundation Victoria
on (03) 9231 3365 or email rebecca.martin@svha.org.au



St Vincent's Private Hospital Gala Dinner

Join us to celebrate the launch of the new state-of-the-art 12-level hospital building in Fitzroy.

Help build a living legacy and share in our commitment to providing life-saving care for your community.

Date: Saturday 4 March 2023

Time: 6:30 pm - 11:30 pm

Location: Melbourne Museum, Fitzroy

To purchase tickets, visit: stvfoundation.org.au/event/fitzroy-gala-dinner
or call 03 9231 3365

THE SISTERHOOD OF ST VINCENT'S LUNCHTIME GALA

Save the date for the not-to-be-missed
Sisterhood of St Vincent's Lunchtime Gala.

The event will once again raise funds for the
St Vincent's Addiction Medicine & Mental Health Unit.

Date: Friday 26 May 2023

Time: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Location: Zinc at Federation Square

*The Sisterhood
of St Vincent's*



To find out more about our upcoming
events, scan the QR code.



St Vincent's Foundation supports the following hospitals and capital campaigns in Victoria:

St Vincent's Public Hospitals: Melbourne, St George's Hospital and Caritas Christi

St Vincent's Private Hospitals: Fitzroy, East Melbourne, Kew and Werribee

Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD)

Fitzroy Private Hospital Redevelopment

St Vincent's Foundation Victoria

Ground floor, rear 55 Victoria Pde, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065

Phone: 03 9231 3365 | e: foundation@svha.org.au | w: stvfoundation.org.au

ABN: 22 052 110 755



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St Vincent's Foundation - Victoria