

## St Vincent's Foundation Impact Report

How your support and generosity impacts our community



## About St Vincent's Foundation Victoria

Community support and generosity have been central to the story of St Vincent's Hospitals since our beginnings as a small cottage hospital, established by the Sisters of Charity in Fitzroy in 1893.

St Vincent's Foundation Victoria provides funds for St Vincent's public and private hospitals, Caritas Christi Palliative Care Services as well as new and innovative developments. These include the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD), and the world-class redevelopment project being undertaken at St Vincent's Private Hospital in Fitzroy.

The generosity of individuals, patients, families, community groups, staff and businesses enable the funding of new equipment, infrastructure, research innovation, improved patient health care, and the education of our next generation of medical staff.



## **CEO's Report**

It has been an absolute pleasure compiling our Impact Report and re-visiting all the wonderful examples of your support over the last twelve months.

Our Report highlights and celebrates the role philanthropy plays in enabling us to do things which wouldn't ordinarily be possible: to undertake research, purchase equipment and explore innovative responses to our community's needs. Together, we work as a team to achieve shared goals and objectives that will ensure the best possible care for our patients and their families.

Gifts of all sizes are important. The small acts of kindness and care that occur every day across our health network make all the difference to those we look after. These are the stories we love to share.

We continue to grow our Grateful Patient Program, enabling patients to become active philanthropic supporters by giving a gift in gratitude for the care they have received. Each donor has their own personal reason to support the life-saving and life-changing care they've received here at St Vincent's.

Those of you who drive along Victoria Parade will have seen we have two new buildings going up on our Fitzroy site. On the corner of Nicholson Street and Victoria Parade the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD) has commenced building and on the corner of Brunswick Street and Victoria Parade, The Tower project, phase one of the redevelopment of the Private Hospital, is moving fast. A huge thank you to our Philanthropy and Fundraising Advisory Committees who are helping with these campaigns and to our visionary donors who have contributed. I hope that you share in our excitement as these projects progress to the opening of the buildings at the end of 2024.

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

Sue Parkes Chief Executive Officer St Vincent's Foundation



## St Vincent's Private Hospital Redevelopment Campaign

Building a better future for thousands of Victorian patients

My history with St Vincent's Hospital spans my entire lifetime. I was literally born in the foyer of the Hospital. I have enjoyed an ongoing relationship with St Vincent's public and private hospitals that spans 20 years.

I follow a rich and important legacy established by my father, Dr Bernard Clarke, who was St Vincent's first Director of Intensive Care. He was involved in the design and development of the original private hospital. So, it made perfect sense for me to play a part in the next chapter of the private hospital's development.

If you pass by the corner of Victoria and Brunswick Streets, you will see the emerging private hospital tower. I am excited about the possibilities the redevelopment of the Fitzroy private hospital campus offers both patients and staff. Everything has been designed with our patients in mind. I believe the structure of the centres of excellence will continue to provide high-level care for patients from all backgrounds. As a cancer surgeon, I believe that St Vincent's offers a unique and collaborative approach to healthcare.

It is with great pride that I took a leadership role in this project, channelling much of the energy and passion that my late father had for this institution.

Our goal is to raise \$20 million to help fund this visionary project. We hope you can join us in building a better future for thousands of Victorian patients.

#### Dr Anita Clarke

Director of Urology at St Vincent's Hospital and Chair of the Capital Campaign Advisory Committee

# The ACMD Campaign

#### A catalyst for healthcare innovation

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The Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD) is one of the most exciting new projects in Australian medical research in over 20 years. We are proud to advance its mission through co-chairing the ACMD Philanthropy Council.

Eight leading educational and research institutions are coming together at the ACMD. A range of specialists including engineers, medical researchers and doctors will develop new ways of tackling common major health issues to ultimately improve lives.

Located opposite the Royal Exhibition Building, the ACMD will be Australia's premier healthcare innovation centre, focused on biomedical research translation and real-world impact. As such, it will attract leading healthcare practitioners to Melbourne, to collaborate in the development of innovative solutions to medical problems.

In the process of this, the ACMD will help to achieve more equitable healthcare and reduce the pressure on the hospital system. This is a great promise that is inspiring and motivating us and our fellow Council members to support the ACMD.



It is an ambitious project that needs significant investment. The federal and state governments' combined contribution of \$90m reflects their recognition of the role the ACMD will play in elevating both Victoria and Australia's position on the global MedTech stage.

To set this project up for success, we need \$40m in philanthropic support.

To all our current supporters for all you have done, we are truly grateful, thank you. It is your generous support that allows us to keep lifting our ambition.

We invite you to join us on this ground-breaking journey to bring medical discoveries into the lives of those who need them most.

Krystyna Campbell-Pretty and Clark Morgan ACMD Philanthropy Council Co-Chairs



### The power of giving

Donors are the cornerstone of our work. You provide us with the inspiration to strive for greatness. Your support has a direct and powerful impact on the work of the hospital, creating better health for all.

Here is a collection of stories to demonstrate the power of giving as we take a moment to celebrate you, and thank you, our generous donors!

"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 care. We think that makes it a very worthwhile organisation to support." Ellen Lew



Ellen and

James Lew

#### A love that will last beyond a lifetime

Chelsea and Brock first met at the tender age of 16. She was instantly attracted to Brock's outlook on life. "He was a really positive person. He was also very patient and kind. Somehow, he managed to see the best in everyone."

Their life was filled with adventure. They both loved camping and 4WD-ing. Self-professed adrenalin junkie Brock spent much of his downtime searching for the next rush.

Chelsea and Brock's lives were first turned upside down in 2014 when Brock started to feel tired and just a bit off. One morning around 2am, he woke suffering from a bad migraine and nausea. Following a series of tests, Brock was diagnosed with a grade 2 anaplastic astrocytoma brain tumour.

Over the next five years they got married, travelled to the USA and

a year later to New Zealand where the highlight was of course bungee jumping. They also bought a house and added a new addition to their family, a Jack Russell named Benny.

Brock passed away on 22 June 2019 at just 33 years old. It was his wish to be an organ donor and to die at St Vincent's. Chelsea said "Everyone was so caring; they always went out of their way to care for both of us. The ICU team went above and beyond to make Brock's wish to be an organ donor a reality."

Almost a year after Brock passed away, Chelsea decided to make her first donation to St Vincent's. She continues to give a donation every year. "It's to thank the team for Brock's incredible care. I hope it helps in some way."

"I am deeply honoured to receive this generous grant from MECCA M-POWER. I am inspired by their passion and belief in the work we're doing that could potentially save lives."

Helen Frazer, St Vincent's BreastScreen Clinical Director and ACMD BRAIx Project lead



Adjunct Associate Professor Helen Frazer



# Going above and beyond to care for our community

There is a role for philanthropy in bringing about the big changes we need to see in healthcare. Philanthropists can innovate and support projects – from the seed of an idea through to proof of concept – in ways that governments just can't. Chris Blake Group CEO, St Vincent's Health Australia



\$11.4 million Donations received

\$1.026 million Gifts-in-kind



**3,509** Donors





Our impact in numbers 2022 - 2023



164 00 18 Regular Givers New con

**18** New confirmed bequestors

803,870 Interactions with donors and supporters



1,750 Event attendees 18 In-person events

**4** Online Events (Art Auction and Webinars)



#### Appeals

# An outpouring of generosity at Tax and Christmas time

Community appeals help the Foundation to fund areas of the hospitals with the greatest need. Each Christmas and Tax time, we share stories and information with you, our donor community, to show you how your gifts will make a significant difference to the patients and staff at St Vincent's Hospitals. Here is a sample of some of our most recent campaigns.

#### Helping us BEAT the ODDS

The 2023 Tax Appeal was focused on 'beating the odds' against cardiac arrest. Every day in Australia 68 people have an 'out-of-hospital' cardiac arrest. Only 7 survive!

Gifts to the appeal will provide training, equipment, and research to help to BEAT the ODDS for someone suffering a cardiac arrest.



St Vincent's Nurse, Laura with Sugath whose life she helped to save when he collapsed from a sudden cardiac arrest on the way to work.

# Bringing a revolutionary surgical robot to Werribee

The 2023 Werribee Tax Appeal was focused on bringing the latest orthopaedic technology, a Mako Robot to Werribee. We cannot thank the Werribee community enough for their generosity. We would particularly like to thank the Cilmi family whose donations ensured Werribee now has the latest in orthopaedic robotic technology to care for patients.

# You have delivered the latest technology to St Vincent's

Donations to the 2022 Tax Appeal have helped St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne become the first public hospital in Australia to install the Synaptive Modus V – a robotic exoscope for brain surgery and other procedures.

Dr Paul Smith, Director of Neurosurgery at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne said, "It is incredibly important to have the backing of the community. Thank you, your interest in helping us make a difference to the lives of patients is so meaningful."

# Community generosity brings people closer

Thanks to donors like you, Caritas Christi is now the proud owner of a brand-new cuddle bed, a large, custom designed bed that can help to reduce anxiety, pain, and stress during the end-of-life process. Thank you!



Mako Robot



L to R: Dr Andrew Gogos and Dr Paul Smith demonstrating the exoscope technology to the then Victorian Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas.



Angela Baird with the cuddle bed.



#### ACMD

# Engineering the future of healthcare

The Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD) was created to translate Australia's biomedical engineering research excellence into innovative devices and treatments to drive healthcare transformation.

To find out more about how you can be involved, please contact Melina Talanis on 0426 110 533 or melina.talanis@svha.org.au

# An enduring dedication to the ACMD

Vision, passion, and tenacity are the hallmarks of Brenda Shanahan's dedication to health and medical innovation. In 2021, Brenda's altruistic service was recognised when she was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia.

Erol Harvey, CEO, ACMD said, "There would be no ACMD without Brenda. She has been there from the very beginning. It's her belief and enduring commitment that has driven the project from an ambitious idea so many years ago to the creation of this biomedical research centre with a difference."

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"We can see how much the ACMD will benefit society. This is the ideal chance for others to get behind a truly worthwhile cause." ACMD donors, Paul Cross and Barry Janes

L to R: Donors Paul Cross and Barry Janes with ACMD CEO Erol Harvey.



#### A brother's legacy brings life to ACMD

A bond with a sibling can be one of the strongest connections we make in our lives. For Yvonne Clements and her brother, Alf Hughes, their bond was unbreakable. He was more than her brother; he was her best friend.

When Alf passed away suddenly, Yvonne chose to create a legacy to cherish his memory by giving a significant gift to the ACMD. In honour of this great-hearted donation, the ACMD's student collaboration lounge will be named 'The Alf Hughes and Yvonne Clements Lounge'. "I feel very honoured and humbled to be given this special opportunity to be part of this important and extraordinary facility, along with Alf. I think he'd be really proud," Yvonne said.



R to L: Yvonne Clements with Sue Parkes, CEO of St Vincent's Foundation Victoria in front of the ACMD building site.



"My grandfather died at the age of 60 from heart failure. It's because of medical research and technology that people can live longer, spend precious time with their families and enjoy living."

ACMD donor, Phil Spry-Bailey



### Building a better future for Victorian patients

A new 12-level tower is being built at St Vincent's Private Hospital in Fitzroy. This new tower will allow St Vincent's Private to care for an additional 20,000 patients a year.

To find out more about becoming a part of this exciting development, please contact Cameron Smith on 0431 079 906 or cameron.smith@svha.org.au



One of the stunning maternity suites that will feature in the new Private Hospital Tower.

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

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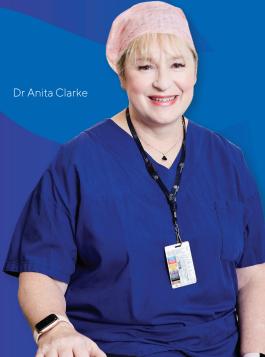
Dr Anthony Poon has enjoyed a long and fulfilling career as an anaesthetist at St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne, specialising in thoracic and upper gastrointestinal colorectal surgery.

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, he's choosing to donate his own money, committingto fund a hospital room within the new hospital tower. "This is our chance to not only contribute to the future of medicine, but also to the next chapter in St Vincent's history. Putting your name on a part of the new building means you'll remain a part of the hospital long after you've retired," Dr Poon said.

"My mum and my brothers and sisters and I want to keep dad's name alive and continue his legacy because he was so passionate about this work and helping others."

**Dr Anita Clarke**, Director of Urology at St Vincent's Hospital and Surgical Advisor and Capital Campaign Chair for St Vincent's Private Hospital

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"This new building means our doctors, nurses and other staff can provide the best possible care for the people entrusted to us. Better care in facilities means better care for all." **Prof Maryanne Confoy,** rsc & Capital Campaign Advisory Committee

Dr Anthony Poon



#### Werribee donors

### Celebrating Werribee hospital donors

Five years ago, there was no private hospital in the West. Thanks to your vision, your generosity and commitment to your community, St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee is one of the premier private hospitals in Victoria. Meet the generous individuals who are making a real difference for their local community.



"We want to continue lifting the quality of healthcare in Wyndham. But one thing is for sure, the St Vincent's Werribee story will always remain true to focusing on family and community."

Oriano Salvalaggio

Ori and his wife Michelle.

Alex Cilmi



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. Quite simply, they make me a better person."

Family and community spirit has motivated Alex and his family to make a significant donation to St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee. Their exceptional gift will go towards enabling 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.

Alex has dedicated the donation to his parents. "I wanted to recognise their contribution to the community." A plaque commemorating Salvatore and Grazia Cilmi is displayed in the Hospital's reception area.

"I hope more local businesses jump on board. The community will benefit because we'll attract the top talent to St Vincent's Werribee to provide the best care to everyone who needs it in the future," Alex said.

I decided to donate to the hospital because we have always received great care at St Vincent's. It's the people that make it special. I know my late husband Nino would have wanted me to support St Vincent's."

Elaine Arrigo



Elaine with Nino and their children Louise and John.



#### **Nursing Scholarships**

# Giving our nurses the gift of education

Thanks to the kindness of donors, scholarship opportunities are helping to open up new career pathways for nurses, ensuring their passion for the job is matched by their skills.

In 2022, you helped us to establish a Nursing Excellence Scholarship Fund. It is thanks to you that St Vincent's hard-working nurses can continue their training without having to worry about working extra shifts to pay for their education.

"Thank you so much to the people who have helped to create the Nursing Scholarship Fund. Your kindness and generosity will not only directly benefit nurses, but it will ultimately benefit the patients who need our help."

Ivan Ocampo, St Vincent's Registered Nurse





L to R: Madeline Lam, Dame Quentin Bryce and Shaoyun Guan.

#### Dame Quentin Palliative Care Nursing Scholarship

For the past three years, the Dame Quentin Bryce Postgraduate Palliative Care Nursing Scholarship has provided a fitting recognition of the exceptional work of our nurses and their commitment to St Vincent's.

In 2023, the scholarship was awarded to not one but two worthy recipients - palliative care nurses, Madeline Lam and Shaoyun Guan. This is the

#### Bank First lifts up our nurses

For the very first time, Bank First funded five St Vincent's nursing scholarships, enabling them to undertake postgraduate studies, creating opportunities for future leaders in healthcare.

Simone Van Veen, Bank First Chief Member Officer, said, "I am delighted first time the award has been shared between two nurses, because, in the end, we just couldn't split them!

"The scholarship is a significant initiative that gives nurses who have chosen this noble path the opportunity to fine tune their skills," Dame Quentin said.

we can partner with St Vincent's Foundation on this wonderful initiative. We look forward to seeing this program flourish in the years ahead. I'd like to thank the many applicants and congratulate our inaugural recipients."

#### How the Scholarship Fund changed a nurse's life

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Postgraduate Coordinator, Allison Mawson said, "We had a staff member who couldn't afford to pay their university fees. This meant they would need to withdraw from the course and not complete the training. This emergency assistance, made possible thanks to generous donors, means the world to all our nurses, thank you," Allison said.

Emergency Department nurse Ivan



#### **Trusts and Foundations**

# The enduring impact of Trusts and Foundations

"Philanthropic trusts and foundations play a critical role in the funding mix for St Vincent's. These valued partnerships often last many years, enabling programs to successfully develop from an idea to ultimately changing lives." **Sue Parkes,** CEO, St Vincent's Foundation Victoria

"We are extremely grateful to The Honda Foundation for their grant to purchase nine vacuum assisted wound closure (VAC) devices. The impact will be lasting." **Richard Prentice**, Head of Trusts and Foundations at St Vincent's Foundation Victoria Annabelle Chan, St Vincent's Hospital in the Home nurse, with patient, Phil, who is recovering from a toe amputation following diabetes related foot complications, with the help of the VAC device.



"The creation of BRENDA Database for breast cancer patients has been a dream I have shared with Head of Breast Surgery, Caroline Baker, for the past five years. We feel so fortunate to receive this funding from the Collier Charitable Fund. They have turned our dream into a reality."

**St Vincent's Breast Surgeon**, Jocelyn Lippey



L to R: BRENDA Database team, Suraya Roslan, Dr Jocelyn Lippey, Miss Christina Foley, Miss Caroline Baker, Annabelle Motteram, Rafaela Anja.

#### Gifts in Wills

## Making a lasting impact

"A gift in your Will is a wonderful way to ensure your generosity can make a significant difference beyond your lifetime." **Ralf Sternad**, Gifts in Wills Manager at St Vincent's Foundation Victoria

#### A gift in your Will can make an incredible difference

Department heads from St Vincent's Hospital share the extraordinary impact a gift from a Will has had on their areas of the hospital.

# Andrew Macisaac, Director of Cardiology Services

"We're always so grateful to be acknowledged by the kindness of donors. A grateful patient who had an interest in exercise and heart disease left us a substantial gift in his Will and we've been able to use that money towards research into sports cardiology."

# Sue-Anne Mclachlan, Director of Cancer Services

"Research underpins everything we do; it informs every aspect of how we care for patients.

"When I heard about the gift to The Cottage you could have knocked me over with a feather." **Stephen Abiuso**, Manager of The Cottage

A gift in a Will has allowed us to enable young clinicians to undertake higher degrees, like PhDs to investigate topics to focus on making things better for people as they manage their cancer."

#### Katrina Rushworth, Social Worker and Sub-acute Home and Community Services

"The Healthcare for the Homeless team were absolutely thrilled to receive a gift for our Cottage program. We help people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to receive a period of restorative care before or after a hospital admission. We feel incredibly grateful. Without generous donors, much of the work we do wouldn't be possible."





#### **Community Fundraising**

### Create your own fundraiser and make a difference

Community Fundraisers are truly inspirational people with the passion and energy to create their own event to help to provide better health for all.

Anyone can raise funds for St Vincent's! You can set up your own page to fundraise in lieu of gifts for a birthday, anniversary or special occasion or you may wish to celebrate the life of a loved one. To set up a community fundraising page head to: stvfoundation.org.au/fundraise

When Shaneese and Adrian Doria were married, they chose to give a very special gift by donating to St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne on behalf of their guests after surgeons performed a life-saving brain operation on Adrian a year earlier.

Shaneese said, "It was our way of saying thank you to the St Vincent's team for saving Adrian's life."

Shaneese, Adrian, and baby Kathleen

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Dry July is an annual campaign that asks people to give up alcohol for the month. Participants raise funds to purchase items for cancer patients at St Vincent's Hospital. To date, since 2013, over \$600,000 has been raised from the Dry July campaign.

Comedian Nick Capper had his testicle removed at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. In 2023 he received the happy news that he's officially in remission "The whole experience has totally shifted my perspective of what's important in life. I feel so grateful for my life."



Nick's Capper's focus is to keep making people laugh. This year he wowed audiences with his hilarious account of his cancer experience.



L to R: Ralph and Dom Bonadio "Donating the proceeds of my book to St Vincent's is a wonderful way to remember my brother Ralf, and to thank the incredible staff who went above and beyond for him, caring for him as if he was one of their own family." **Dom Bonadio** 

Report



#### **Events**

# Fundraising events create memorable moments

Fundraising events are a wonderful way to bring like-minded people together to celebrate and contribute to important causes.



A table of attendees at the 2022 Werribee Winter Ball.

#### An unforgettable evening to celebrate a new hospital tower

The 2023 Gala Dinner officially launched the development of the St Vincent's Private Hospital Fitzroy Tower. Guests were entertained by comedian Cal Wilson and various acts. Thank you to everyone who made this event so memorable!

We were privileged to have the late Cal Wilson as MC for our Gala Dinner. She lit up the room and was a joy to work with. Our condolences to her family and friends.



The late Cal Wilson was the 2023 Gala Dinner Event Host.

#### Local community raises \$100,000 for St Vincent's Werribee

The 2022 Werribee Winter Ball was a resounding success, smashing previous years' targets to raise \$100,000 for St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee. These vital funds will enable a scalp cooling cap system to be purchased for patients undergoing chemotherapy and experiencing hair loss.

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#### Long-table lunch raises \$60,000 for St Vincent's Werribee

St Vincent's Foundation Victoria hosted its very first Long Table Lunch at Shadowfax Winery to raise funds for St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee's Day Oncology Unit. This incredible event was made possible by our visionary Werribee Events Committee, our donors and event sponsors.



L to R: Sue Parkes, CEO St Vincent's Foundation Victoria, Brei Scolaro, Event MC, and Werribee Events Committee Members, Amanda Williams and Rhiannon Karcoushkas.

#### The Sisterhood of St Vincent's Lunchtime Gala was simply the best!

There was an incredible vibe at the 2023 Sisterhood of St Vincent's Lunchtime Gala, the room was literally buzzing! A total of \$50,000 was raised to create an emergency fund for clients of St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne's Mental Health and Addiction Medicine team.



Some of the 400 plus attendees at the Sisterhood of St Vincent's Lunchtime Gala.



## Thank you

We want to say a huge thank you to our leading corporate supporters.

#### **Our Community Partners**

Australian Jewellery Liquidators, Good Vibe Society, Lions Club, Ritchies Supermarkets, Rotary Club, St Columba's College.

#### Our Gift in Kind Supporting Partners

Melbourne BMW, Bakers Delight, Crea8 Management Pty Ltd, CUE, Cygnett, Finsbury Green, IVE Group, KAO Salon Australia, Ministry of Chocolate, Nelson Alexander Pty Ltd - Fitzroy Office, Park Hyatt, Pullman on the Park, Zouki Group.

#### **Our Event Sponsors**

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### Corporate Partners







cybercast



















#### **St Vincent's Foundation Victoria**

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Phone: 03 9231 3365 Email: foundation@svha.org.au Web: stvfoundation.org.au ABN: 22 052 110 755

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

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St Vincent's Foundation - Victoria
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We acknowledge the people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians, and pay our respects to their culture and their Elders past, present and future. We welcome all cultures, nationalities, and religions. Being inclusive and providing equitable healthcare is our commitment.