

# St Vincent's Cares

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021



## Love Your St Vincent's

Our St Vincent's nurses are truly amazing. While they always do a wonderful job caring for their patients with professional skill and tenderness, their commitment has never been more appreciated than during the pandemic. We are in awe of our nurses and feel the deepest gratitude to them for their stoic determination and great work ethic.

We were very pleased to recently welcome our patients and staff to the rebuilt Caritas Christi Palliative Care in Kew. It is an absolutely beautiful facility and will ensure that those in need of palliative care are able to benefit from the very best equipment and most comfortable surroundings. Thank you to all of you who supported the new building, your contribution will benefit seriously ill patients and their families for decades to come.

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Dame Quentin Bryce, Sir Peter Cosgrove and Curtis McGrath have joined together to form the ACMD National Assembly. As highly regarded, eminent Australians, their support of ACMD's work will help draw much needed attention to our efforts to bring

engineering and medicine together for the benefit of people suffering from serious illnesses. You can find out more about ACMD at [www.acmd.org.au](http://www.acmd.org.au).

Finally, I wish to thank everyone who has supported the work of St Vincent's throughout the year. Your generosity and interest means the world to us all. On a personal note, I will be leaving the CEO role after three and half wonderful years. I'm delighted to continue my connection with St Vincent's as a member of the ACMD Philanthropy Advisory Council. We look forward to announcing my replacement in the new year.



From all our staff, patients and the Foundation team, we wish you and those you love a safe and happy holiday season.

With kind regards,



Lyn Amy

CEO | St Vincent's Foundation

*The St Vincent's Foundation team are always happy to talk to you.  
Please phone 03 9231 3365.*

## A message of pride from St Vincent's Chief Nursing Officer

**"The past 18 months have been particularly challenging for our hardworking and committed nursing staff but our skilled and dedicated team has continually risen to the challenge," said Kathryn Riddell, Chief Nursing Officer, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne.**

"They truly are extraordinary people, maintaining an unwavering commitment to providing exceptional care to their patients, every day. The pride I feel for our nurses is beyond words.

"On behalf of my nursing team, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated to the St Vincent's Nurses Emergency Appeal. The magnificent outpouring of support from the community has been amazing. It's impossible to

express the gratitude my nursing team and I feel for this extraordinary show of generosity," Kathryn said.

**There is still time. Any gift you provide will go directly to purchasing this vital equipment. We are truly grateful for your generosity.**

**To donate head to:** <https://www.stvfoundation.org.au/emergency-letter-2021>



Kathryn Riddell, Chief Nursing Officer, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne.



## A Christmas message from Jonathon Welch AM DU<sup>Univ</sup>

As a proud Ambassador for the St Vincent's Hospital Foundation, I want to share a message with you as we approach the festive season.

There is no doubt that this year has been another very difficult time for us all. And I think you'll agree that no-one has experienced more challenges than our wonderful nurses.

However, no matter what has been thrown at St Vincent's nurses, they have maintained their unwavering dedication to provide exceptional and compassionate care to patients and each other.

They always go the extra mile to make someone else's life easier, healthier and

just that bit more special. You can support St Vincent's nurses by helping to purchase urgently needed equipment. Simply head to [www.stvfoundation.org.au](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au)

Let's all take a moment to reflect and give thanks to our nurses, the true heroes of the pandemic.

**I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and I truly hope 2022 is a safe and happy year for you and your loved ones.**



## iPads create life-changing connections



Support Our  
St Vincent's Nurses  
**EMERGENCY  
APPEAL**

Since the pandemic hit, iPads have become a vital tool for hospitals. As patients cannot receive visitors, we now use iPads to connect people, creating life-changing connections for patients and their families.

One example of this essential connection was a patient who was cared for in St Vincent's COVID ward. He was estranged from his family in the UK and Canada and was nearing the end of his life. The man was frail and had difficulty communicating but the team wanted to do everything they could to ensure he wasn't alone.

The team learned the patient had a caring neighbour he had been close to. When they connected him with his friend, the staff described seeing his face light up with a beautiful, radiant smile.

Shaun, Pastoral Care Practitioner, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, recalls, "It was transformational during those precious moments! The joy on his face spoke volumes about their special connection."

Thanks to the outpouring of generosity from our valued donors and corporate partners, we have been able to support our nurses by providing them with equipment including iPads and mobile computer stations. These items will make an enormous difference to every single nurse, every day.

**There is still time to show your support. Any gift you provide will go directly to purchasing this essential equipment.**

**To donate head to:** [www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate/emergency-appeal-2021](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate/emergency-appeal-2021)

# ACMD National Assembly officially launches



A National Assembly of high-profile members has been formed to support the work of ACMD, which is Australia's first collaborative, hospital-based biomedical engineering research centre, located at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne.

We are delighted to announce that former Governors-General of Australia Dame Quentin Bryce and General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Paralympian Curtis McGrath are the founding members of the ACMD National Assembly.

This esteemed group will play an essential role in helping to spread the word about one of Australia's most exciting medical research initiatives.

*"I'm extremely honoured to be a part of ACMD. By harnessing the power of collaboration, Australia's greatest medical and engineering minds are being given the opportunity to work together like never before. This work will not only positively impact patients and the community, it will revolutionise the way we bring medical discoveries into clinical practice."*

**General Sir Peter Cosgrove**  
AK AC (Mil) CVO MC (Retd),  
former Governor-General of Australia

*"I'm particularly impressed with the focus ACMD has placed on the importance of creating the ideal environment to nurture our future clinical, nursing, allied health, and biomedical research leaders. The dedicated teaching hub, embedded within the new Centre, will provide an excellent learning and development setting."*

**Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO,**  
former Governor-General of Australia

*"By bringing engineering and medicine together on a hospital campus, ACMD is creating practical, life-altering outcomes for patients."*

*"I have personally benefited from the wonders of medical advancements. I'm excited about the huge potential of the implants and devices that are being created at ACMD - they will truly transform lives."*

**Curtis McGrath OAM, former soldier**  
and gold medal Paralympian



General Sir Peter Cosgrove,  
former Governor-General of Australia



Dame Quentin Bryce,  
former Governor-General of Australia



Curtis McGrath,  
former soldier and gold medal Paralympian



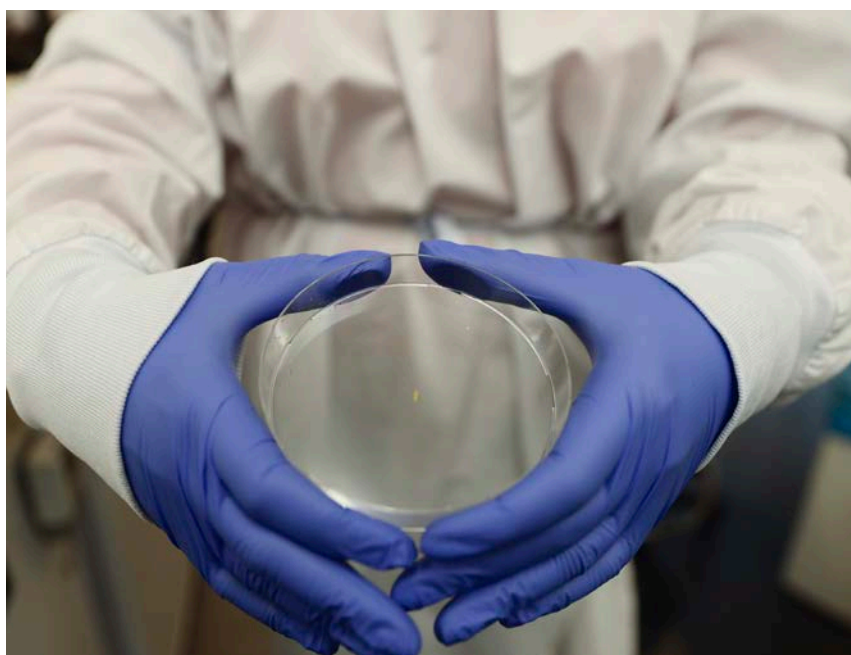
## ACMD – life-saving pancreatic cancer research

A tiny implant that delivers chemotherapy directly into a pancreatic cancer tumour has the potential to improve surgical outcomes by shrinking the tumour so it can be safely removed.

The proposed implant is part of a world-first project being developed by researchers from Swinburne University of Technology and the University of Wollongong in partnership with ACMD.

“The challenge with some pancreatic tumours is the size prohibits any surgical removal because the tumour may be encroaching on other areas of the pancreas and also may have metastasized to other parts of the body, which then makes surgery very challenging and risky,” says ACMD Project Lead Simon Moulton, Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Swinburne University of Technology.

Prototypes of the implant have been developed by researchers from ACMD and the University of Wollongong, with initial lab-testing trials currently underway and showing promising results.



*A prototype developed at ACMD at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne of the pancreatic cancer implant*

## World experts explain why engineering is the future of medicine



*Dr Alan Finkel*



*Dr Erol Harvey*

Internationally recognised neuroscientist, inventor and former Chief Scientist of Australia, Dr Alan Finkel and globally successful physicist, entrepreneur and CEO of ACMD, Dr Erol Harvey provide a captivating and lively insight into why engineering is the future of medicine.

**Discover how the impossible can become possible when health and engineering combine forces to solve some of today's toughest healthcare challenges.**

You can watch the webinar at: <https://youtu.be/sReOJtig-tA>



# Proud leaders in palliative care

St Vincent's is a proud national leader in the area of palliative care. The breadth of what we offer includes compassionate, high-quality palliative care services that are informed by our comprehensive research, advocacy and training programs. We are committed to improving our patients' quality of life while also supporting their family members and carers. Our holistic approach includes coordinated access to physical, physiological, social and spiritual, needs that are unique to each person and family.

## A new chapter for Caritas Christi Palliative Care

St Vincent's Hospital's Caritas Christi Palliative Care in Kew is the largest and best-known provider of palliative and supportive care in Victoria. Since its inception 80 years ago, commitment, compassion and professionalism have been the hallmarks of the Caritas Christi experience.

Due to ageing infrastructure, there was an urgent need to upgrade the facilities. Thanks to the incredible generosity of families of past patients and the community we were able to raise significant funds to undertake the rebuild.

Caritas Christi patients and staff returned to the new 'home' in Kew in August 2021.

We are delighted that there has been such a great response to the opportunity to purchase naming rights in the new building. These unique and very visible contributions continue to be taken up by people who want to show their appreciation for the truly memorable care they have received at this cherished Victorian institution.

Plans are underway to hold an official blessing and launch of the facility in early 2022.





## Inaugural Dame Quentin Bryce Postgraduate Nursing Scholarship awarded

We are extremely proud of the inaugural Dame Quentin Bryce Palliative Care Postgraduate Nursing Scholarship. This is a fitting recognition not only of the exceptional work of St Vincent's nurses but also of St Vincent's commitment to providing first-rate palliative care services.

As the Advocate for the St Vincent's Centre for Palliative Care, Dame Quentin Bryce is passionate about the importance of access to inclusive, high-quality palliative care across our nation. She is also a strong supporter of St Vincent's nurses.

"I have admiration, respect and affection for our nurses – and never more so in these times that demand so much of them on the front line. The scholarship is a significant initiative that will illustrate, in a practical way, St Vincent's recognition of the skill, service, selflessness and

accomplishment of the recipient as well as the nursing specialty of palliative care," Dame Quentin said.

The first successful recipient of the scholarship is Registered Nurse at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, Michelle Jovanovic.

"Palliative care was always something I wanted to do later in my career. But as fate would have it, palliative care was my first rotation. I feel like it was meant to be, there is no other area of nursing I want to work in," Michelle said.



Scholarship recipient, Michelle Jovanovic, Registered Nurse, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

The scholarship will support Michelle as she undertakes a Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care. Once she completes her studies, her goal is to apply to become a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Palliative Care.

"I hope you will join me in congratulating Michelle. She demonstrates the true courage and commitment in the Hospital's proud tradition of compassionate care. I wish her well with her studies and will look forward to hearing as she advances in her career in palliative care," Dame Quentin said.

### Love Your St Vincent's

*"This scholarship is a significant initiative that illustrates in a practical way St Vincent's recognition of the skill, service, selflessness and accomplishment of the recipient as well as the nursing specialty of palliative care."*

**Dame Quentin Bryce.**

## Remembering a great man

Former Governor of Victoria, Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria and Patron of Caritas Christi Palliative Care, Sir James Gobbo, has sadly passed away.

Sir James was a friend and long-time supporter of St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and Caritas Christi. He will be greatly missed by the St Vincent's family.

He was a tireless and passionate supporter of palliative care services. His devotion to this essential service included an involvement with the Order of Malta Hospice Home Care since 1986, as well the role of Patron of the Caritas Christi redevelopment campaign.

"Sir James was a great man. He was highly respected for



Sir James Gobbo

his brilliant mind and loved by everyone he met, for his delightful and kind manner.

"His dedication to palliative care saw him play a pivotal role as Patron of the Caritas Christi redevelopment project. He will be sorely missed," said Lyn Amy, CEO, St Vincent's Foundation.

# Building on Brilliance – a world-class private hospital where care meets brilliance

A major redevelopment is being planned for St Vincent's Private Hospital, Melbourne. The new 12-storey building, adjacent to the existing private hospital, is designed to increase opportunities to share research and clinical expertise with both St Vincent's Hospital and the soon-to-be-built ACMD – Australia's first collaborative, hospital-based biomedical engineering research centre.



*Highlights of the redevelopment include:*

- **Four new state-of-the-art operating theatres** – equipped to deliver the latest techniques in robotic and image-guided surgery
- **New birthing suites and a new Special Care Nursery** – to provide a calming, luxury hotel-style environment and extra care for sick and premature babies.
- **New Intensive Care Unit and radiology services** – to support single-visit diagnosis, assessment and treatment
- **A Virtual Care Hub** – to capture data to alert clinicians so they can intervene early and to offer a wide range of home-based services.

In order for us to complete this development, we are seeking additional funds through philanthropic grants and donations, with the opportunity for naming rights.

To invest in this world-class private hospital, where care meets brilliance, is to invest in the future of health for all Victorians.

For further information, please contact: [foundation@svha.org.au](mailto:foundation@svha.org.au).

**The future of St Vincent's Private Hospital is here**

## Thank you for your life-saving generosity

We are so grateful to everyone who donated to help us purchase a new, 3D mammogram and ultrasound machine, to perform one-stop breast imaging and biopsies. Your generosity will literally save thousands of women's lives.

Pictured clockwise

Lisa Weterings, Medical Imaging Tutor, Kirti Mehta, Specialist Imaging VMO, Nicole Tweedle, Executive Director Acute Services, Caroline Baker, Head of Breast Surgery, Nicole Barnes, Medical Imaging Technologist, Chris Perry, Operations Manager and Rebecca Martin from St Vincent's Foundation.



## Stockland supports Werribee Hospital

This Christmas, Stockland Point Cook is once again partnering with St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee. This organisation is supporting patients with cancer who will be spending the Christmas period in hospital.

Shoppers at Stockland Point Cook are encouraged to donate gifts for women, men and children under the Stockland wishing tree. The wishing tree will be located near Customer Care. For shoppers who prefer to provide a financial donation to St Vincent's Werribee, there will be tap-to-donate facility available.

## Friends in business

Local businesses and corporate organisations play an important role in the care St Vincent's Hospitals are able to provide. We are excited to announce an important new corporate partnership with Bank First.

Bank First was the Premier Partner for this year's Staff Awards. The bank is also supporting the education and further development of our future leaders in healthcare through its funding of nursing scholarships.

Michelle Bagnall, CEO of Bank First, said, "Bank First is a culture of uncommon humanity and genuine care for our members, and we are committed to nurturing partnerships that share these same values. We can already see this in St Vincent's and the way these values are lived every day. We are genuinely excited about this partnership and what it could mean for all our people and the members we serve."

We also wish to thank the many corporate and community groups that generously provided both financial and readymade meals and snack donations. The meals meant St Vincent's nurses didn't have to go offsite during their long shifts.

There are many ways businesses and corporate organisations can support St Vincent's Hospitals. To find out more, visit [www.stvfoundation.org.au/get-involved/corporate-partnerships](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au/get-involved/corporate-partnerships).

**THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS**



Nurses received meal donations from our partner organisations



If you would like to say thank you for the care you received at St Vincent's, please contact the Foundation team. St Vincent's Foundation raises funds to support the vital work of the network of St Vincent's Hospitals across Victoria.

You can call us on 03 9231 3365, email us at [foundation@svha.org.au](mailto:foundation@svha.org.au) or visit [www.stvfoundation.org.au](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au).

**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.**