

ST VINCENT'S *Cares*

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020

CEO Message

We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from all of you over recent weeks and months. We cannot thank you enough for your kindness and generosity.

The St Vincent's family has together raised close to \$2 million dollars through our Emergency Appeal. These funds have been used for urgently needed and vitally important equipment for our Emergency Department and our Intensive Care Unit, equipment that will be used for many years to come.

We also thank those of you who supported Campaign Compassion. We are grateful to everyone who has helped us to provide warm clothing, medical necessities and support to our highly disadvantaged, chronically ill and isolated patients.

Once again, the family of St Vincent's displayed its enormous and beautiful heart.

With kindest regards,



Lyn Amy

CEO | St Vincent's Foundation



TOP ACHIEVEMENTS

At St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne there has been a superb response to the current crisis. Here is a snapshot of the achievements of the medical staff:

- We've provided care to over 17,000 people in our fever clinic
- We've tested 43,000 people for COVID-19
- We've received almost 18,000 calls to the COVID-19 advice line
- Our amazing teams have set up two COVID-19 operating theatres and established two COVID-19 General Medical Units
- People experiencing homelessness have access to a mobile fever clinic and can be cared for in one of four isolation recovery facilities
- We've established a simulation centre for staff training
- We've made our own hand sanitiser and face shields
- Our laboratory testing capability has more than doubled from 200 to 500 per day



Changes to our model of care

St Vincent's has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with unprecedented transformational change. We converted a whole ward into a simulation centre. This is now a training centre to teach all staff – doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, cleaners – how to use practical personal protective equipment in a COVID-19 secure ward.

Telehealth has also very quickly become a valuable service for our patients, and one that we will continue to develop and grow.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, we completed almost 6,000 phone consultations and almost 3,000 Telehealth consultations, including one with a 92-year-old patient who found it so convenient that she's never going back to face-to-face consultations!



Expansion of the Hospital in the Home Program

We have many patients who are frail, elderly or who have pre-existing medical conditions. The lockdown and threat of COVID-19 has meant that many of these patients haven't been able to access the treatment they need at St Vincent's.

To combat this, we've expanded our Hospital in the Home Program to ensure our doctors and nurses are able to travel to treat patients in their home.



Domestic and Family Violence Services

St Vincent's detection and support of family violence is a unified effort across our health service, strengthening our response to family violence.

Sadly, the presentations of family violence to the Emergency Department have more than doubled in the first quarter of 2020 compared to 2019.

St Vincent's Chief Social Worker, Lisa Braddy, said financial distress had been "magnified" during the COVID-19 pandemic. *"This was especially true when adult children moved back home after losing their jobs, creating a 'pressure-cooker environment'."*

"A silver lining is that a crisis often pushes victims to seek help for the first time," Ms Braddy said.



Health Independence Program

Our Health Independence Program has been expanded to enable staff to travel to patients in their home, aged care facilities or specialist clinics. This program provides support for long-term mental health problems, incontinence and rehabilitation services. We also have one of the first internationally recognised pain management services.

A patient who has been accessing the service since having bypass surgery and a renal transplant is extremely grateful to the team for their support. The patient's rehabilitation has transformed his outlook regarding his recovery. His mantra has become: "You'll never get better by staying in bed".



ACMD updates

New CEO

Australia's first biomedical engineering research centre, ACMD, is based on the St Vincent's campus. Dr Erol Harvey has been appointed as the new ACMD CEO. As a scientist, educator and entrepreneur, Dr Harvey has made outstanding contributions to Australia through the world-leading microfluidic engineering company MiniFAB, his distinguished academic career and his unwavering support for research commercialisation and entrepreneurship.

Dr Harvey will play a key role in nurturing the partnerships, he will oversee the progression of current and new projects and source exciting new local and international opportunities.



New ACMD CEO, Dr Erol Harvey

PPE support for clinical colleagues

Staff at St Vincent's 3D printing lab, part of ACMD, have produced face shields to boost supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to fight COVID-19.

"This collaboration has allowed the bio-fabrication world to really chip in and help in what we're trying to achieve, which is basically protection for everyone in the medical workforce," St Vincent's Orthopaedic Surgeon Claudia Di Bella said.

St Vincent's Hospital Engineer and Lab Manager Cathal O'Connell said, *"Being a bio-fabrication lab based within a hospital means that we can try multiple designs with the clinicians themselves, get their approval, and then send out the approved design to the big 3D printing sites who can manufacture them in large quantities."*



St Vincent's Orthopaedic Surgeon, Claudia Di Bella demonstrating the 3D printed face shield.

Campaign Compassion

Over the past few months, St Vincent's Foundation staff and volunteers have made over 1,000 calls to our wonderful donors.

Making these calls has helped us to stay connected with our St Vincent's community, to share stories, a laugh and to provide some comfort.

Through this connection, we've been able to ensure our supporters are safe and well during this difficult time of social isolation.



Caritas Christi – building update

Caritas Christi is the largest and best-known provider of palliative and supportive care in Victoria. Over 100 staff provide care to patients at the hospice, through the day centre facilities and in the home.

Construction of the new St Vincent's Caritas Christi building commenced in March 2020. We're excited to report that the first concrete pour happened just before Easter.



Construction of the new building is well underway

The new site will include:

- a 26-bed in-patient facility, consultancy services, an ambulatory care hub, a gym area to preserve patients' mobility, a day respite area for families and after-hours triage
- sustainable design using rain gardens, solar panels, and large windows
- direct access to a private garden from every room.

Project Director, Andrew Crettenden, said, *"One of the key goals of the development is to provide more continuity of care in the transition from aged care to palliative care and better access to services."*

A real-time camera feed has been installed at the building site so you can view the progress of the build.

www.livetimelapse.com.au/clients/adco/kew/index.html

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO COMPLETE THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT

www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate/caritas-christi

COVID-19 research – to prevent lung damage

A global clinical trial led by St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne is using Heparin (a blood-thinning medication) to help improve breathing in critical-care COVID-19 patients and get them off ventilators sooner.

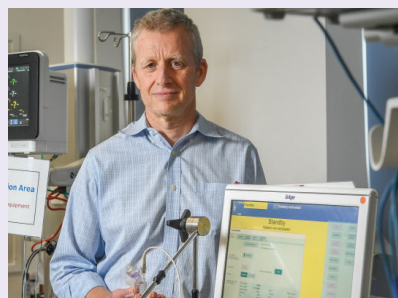
The trial aims to show how Heparin can reduce the damaging effects COVID-19 can have on a person's lungs by focusing on one of the virus's lesser-known symptoms – blood clots.

Rather than injecting Heparin to prevent blood clots in the body, this trial administers it as an inhaled gas to treat COVID-19 patients on ventilators in ICU.

An earlier study of patients with lung injury and pneumonia found that giving people inhaled Heparin accelerated their recovery, which has prompted this trial.

About 206 patients are expected to form part of the COVID-19 Heparin trial. Patients from St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and hospitals overseas, including Galway, Barcelona and Liverpool are part of the mix.

You can make a donation at www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate to support this study.



St Vincent's Intensive Care Specialist and Research Lead, Dr Barry Dixon

Virtual pre-pregnancy information sessions

St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee has adapted to the changing COVID-19 environment by now offering their onsite pre-pregnancy information nights online.

Families had the opportunity to hear from one of our obstetricians and midwives all from the comfort of their own homes at the first online session in March.

For more information head to

www.svphw.org.au/our-services/maternity/maternity

To register your interest to attend the next pre pregnancy information night email **maternity.enquiries@svha.org.au**



Restaurant thanks to nurses

Popular local restaurant, Wolf on Watton, has been donating free meals to nurses at St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee, to support healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are excited to give back to the community, in particular, our local doctors and nurses at St. Vincent's Hospital Werribee," Wolf on Watton director, Nathan Salvalaggio said. *"This is a small gesture to show our support and thanks for our local heroes."*



Special support for the homeless and disadvantaged

One special achievement has been the opening of a facility for homeless people who are COVID-19 positive or at-risk of COVID-19 transmission. This was the enduring legacy of the Sisters of Charity, responding courageously to the call of the mission, going out to the margins and working in partnership with others.



St Vincent's Hospital on the Park

The Department of Health and Human Services has provided the green light for St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne to proceed with commissioning 'St Vincent's on the Park'.

Located at the former Peter MacCallum Centre site in East Melbourne, St Vincent's on the Park will be used to support some lower-acuity medical patients. This will free up critical beds to treat COVID-19 patients at our main public hospital in Fitzroy.

The new site, which was commissioned in under three months, will provide 84 inpatient beds and start receiving patients from mid-August. This move reinforces St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne's commitment to providing strong patient-care support.



WINTER APPEAL PROVIDES CLOTHING AND NECESSITIES TO PATIENTS IN NEED

Students from Caulfield Grammar School took time out from their school holidays to assist with packing items generously donated by local and national businesses. The packs of warm clothing and toiletries will be distributed to St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne's most vulnerable patients.

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne CEO Angela Nolan said, *"The Winter Appeal is so very important for the vulnerable patient groups we serve. We are deeply appreciative of every organisation who have donated goods, to the committee, students and teachers who all gave up their time to help."*

We wish to thank the following organisations for their support: AFI Branding, And1 Australia, Australian Defence Force, Big W, Caulfield Grammar School, Park Hyatt Melbourne, Peter Sheppard Footwear, Pinchapoo, Qantas Airways Limited, Reddrop Group, SOJO Pty Ltd, Starcorp Textiles Pty Ltd, Williamson's Foodworks.

The packs are being distributed to patients who are in need of these essential items.



Caulfield Grammar students hard at work packing the generously donated items.



St Vincent's patient, Roy, was very grateful to receive his bag of warm clothes and toiletries.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the video

WILL PLANNING WEBINAR

Is it time to make or review your Will?

Learn the secrets to estate planning and how to protect the ones you care for the most.

Webinar Date: Thursday 13th August 2020

Time: 12 noon

Duration: 45 minutes plus questions

REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL:

Head to www.stvfoundation.org.au/event/will-planning-webinar

CHECK OUT OUR FOUNDATION WEBSITE

To donate easily, start your own fundraising event and keep up-to-date with the latest hospital news and events, visit www.stvfoundation.org.au