Annual Review 2022/2023

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Perth Children's Hospital Foundation

Acknowledgement of Country

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Whadjuk Noongar people and the Aboriginal people of the many traditional lands and language groups of Western Australia. We acknowledge the wisdom of Aboriginal Elders both past and present, and pay respect to them and Aboriginal communities of today.

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Message from the Foundation.



thus last

The Hon. Ian Campbell Chairman



Carrite G1

Carrick Robinson

Chief Executive Officer This year we are proudly celebrating a momentous milestone: \$100 million in grants to the Perth Children's Hospital and wider Child and Adolescent Health Service since our modern beginning in 1998.

This is an amazing achievement and one that has touched the lives of countless sick children and families. But we couldn't have done it without Western Australia's incredible spirit of generosity.

As the largest funder of Perth Children's Hospital (PCH)after Government, we're proud to have played an integral role in advancing children's healthcare in WA. We're closer to the frontline of children's health than any other charity. It's our closeness that sets us apart and defines us. We walk the same hallways as our remarkable doctors, nurses and allied health specialists and hear firsthand stories of resilience and recovery, so we understand how to make an impact where it counts most.

Over the decades with generous donor support we have funded unique, groundbreaking projects that have propelled the children's hospital to the world-class institution it is today. Projects such as cutting-edge equipment for the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit in our first year, the Space Infusion Station for intraoperative MRIs during brain tumour surgery, WA's NETS Ambulances transporting our sickest babies to PCH, the world's first Clinical Centre of Expertise for Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases, worldleading research in Cancer, Respiratory Disease and Infectious Diseases, world leading expertise in Radiology, Immunology and Vaccines, multi-year Fellowships in Oncology, Radiology, Simulation Training and Clinical Research and positive patient experiences to make hospital a less stressful and daunting place.

We're immensely proud of major projects we have instigated and funded like the Kids' Bridge linking PCH to Kings Park, transforming the Greenspace to the north of PCH into a world-class therapeutic play, education, and relaxation space and WA's muchneeded Children's Hospice to give children with a life-limiting condition and their families a nurturing home away from home for end-of life and respite care.

Although inflation and cost of living pressures weighed on the economy over the past year, we're pleased to report that our donors have continued to give generously to support sick children. This year the Foundation provided grant funding to the value of \$7.99 million.

In the following pages you'll discover all the amazing ways supporters like you are bringing life-changing care to sick children in WA and beyond. To all our donors, partners and volunteers, your generosity is deeply appreciated, and we say thanks **\$100 million**.

About us.

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation proudly fuels the fight on the frontline of children's health care, helping sick children get well and stay well.

By working closely with those on the frontline, the Foundation has an in-depth understanding of what clinicians, researchers and families need to ensure we make a tangible impact where it counts most.

We are the official and largest funder of Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) and the wider Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) after Government and are now the fourth largest philanthropic foundation in WA.

With the help of our generous partners, our efforts enable PCH and CAHS to provide WA's sick children and young people with access to world-class care that comes from:



Financial summary.

In FY22/23 the Foundation recorded another strong financial result, with revenue derived from generous donors and supporters enabling us to provide \$7.99 million in grants to Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) and the wider Child and Adolescent Health Service.

Every donation we receive makes a difference to paediatric healthcare in Western Australia and we are steadfast in our commitment to ensure that all funds we receive are spent wisely, to make a real and positive difference for children.

We are highly aware of our stewardship role - we effectively act as a conduit between donors and the "on-the-ground" impact of their generosity – and this is a role that we take extremely seriously.

We have a strict approach to corporate governance, and strong controls over the assessment, acceptance, administration, and acquittal of grants. This includes a rigorous peer review process which ensures that our impact is maximised.

When we receive requests for funding, those requests are reviewed by the Executive Committee of the relevant health service - Perth Children's Hospital (PCH), Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), or Child and Adolescent Community Health Service (CACHS). If they believe the project meets the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation's funding guidelines, the application is then reviewed by the Foundation Grants Executive Team and the Foundation Grants Sub-Committee. Finally, a request for funding over \$20,000 requires the approval of the full Perth Children's Hospital Foundation Board.

Importantly, we need to be confident that we do not fund a project or program that the community would reasonably expect is the responsibility of Government to fund, such as the routine replacement of equipment.

We are resolute in our focus on funding world-class expertise, innovative education and training programs, ground-breaking research, cutting-edge equipment and technology, and positive patient experiences. These are programs, research projects and equipment that deliver healthcare services which are above and beyond what would otherwise be accessible to Western Australian children.

Our strong governance processes, the remarkable projects and programs being funded, and the extraordinary generosity and kindness of our supporters is propelling the transformation of children's healthcare, resulting in improved health outcomes for children today and tomorrow.



Our impact on the frontline.

Changing lives through the most advanced equipment and technology.

Funding the future through ground breaking research.

10,000+

largest in the world

100s

children were part of research and

transformational work of the PCH

of children will benefit from research

into a clinical decision support

tool guiding antibiotic selection for urinary tract infections

many more benefitted from the

Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine Research Team, now one of the



150

of WA's most vulnerable sick babies were transferred to hospitals closer to home by a new NETS WA Patient Transfer Vehicle



60

critically ill patients had their risk of secondary pressure-induced injuries reduced by high-tech temperature management devices, helping get kids home sooner





42

ENT patients received a more accurate diagnosis and better care because of a cutting-edge nasoendoscope with specialised head support



30

children with burn injuries benefitted from a ground-breaking 3D scar scanner, improving scar management and potentially reducing scarring



13

children had complex eye problems including cancer and glaucoma diagnosed and managed better thanks to an ultrasound biomicroscope, which can be sight and life-saving





young children with cancer were recruited into a study examining the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in kids with cancer which will inform national and international vaccine recommendations

8

children have potentially been saved from heart attacks in early adult life because of research into child-parent screening for the most common form of inherited high cholesterol that remains largely undetected in the community. Four parents were also identified with the condition and will benefit from the study



Funding clinicians through innovative education and training programs.

75

healthcare professionals

per month are better

prepared to respond

to changes in patient conditions because of training in PCH's state-

of-the-art Simulation

Funding worldclass expertise closer to home.

50



children admitted to hospital with burn injuries each year are receiving the best possible care thanks to the work of Professor Fiona Wood

children diagnosed

with cancer each year in WA are receiving worldleading cancer care because of Professor Nick Gottardo and his team

Funding positive patient and family experiences.

40



cardiac patients and their families were empowered by educational videos leading to reduced anxiety before and after heart surgery



182

children and young people received the therapeutic benefits of music therapy



7600

inpatients were able to play during their hospital admission through funding of the Pleasure, Leisure and Engagement (PLAE) Service



3000

outpatients and their families were entertained and engaged with activities while waiting for appointments, alleviating anxiety and encouraging positive behaviours



31

Suite

staff are more equipped to deal with the emotional impact and pressures of working in Oncology and Haematology because of Reflective Supervision psychological care sessions



23

newly diagnosed cancer patients are potentially eating better because of new nutrition resources and healthcare staff training on eating well during cancer treatment



Together we're proudly celebrating \$100 million in grants to Perth Children's Hospital – an incredible milestone that's all thanks to the power of partnerships and the strength of our community.

Since 1998, we've been transforming children's healthcare. We've funded countless ground-breaking studies, made coming to hospital a more positive experience, secured the latest equipment and technology, and lured some of the world's best medical minds to join us right here in WA.

To everyone that's been a part of our journey – thanks \$100 million, we couldn't have done it without you.

You are, and will forever be, a piece of a life changing puzzle.

While our story has its origins more than 100 years ago, when visionary early fundraising efforts established WA's first children's hospital in 1909, it was in 1998 that the Foundation as we know it today was established as the hospital's official fundraiser.

We're closer to the frontline of children's health than any other charity and direct grants straight to Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) and the wider Child and Adolescent Health Service to help sick children get well and stay well.

Since 1998, our generous community has helped turn PCH into a world-class hospital, funding pivotal projects outside the scope of government funding.

Without this incredible support, PCH wouldn't be the premier hospital it is today. Our sickest kids receive world-class care close to home thanks to the \$100 million in support. We are deeply grateful for this generosity and proudly showcase overleaf some of the key projects which have changed the face of children's healthcare in WA.

Our journey began as the official fundraiser for Princess Margaret Hospital. In the first year, we raised more than \$2 million to fund new equipment for the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit.

2002

We provided seed funding for research exploring ways to protect children against middle ear infections. This team is now considered world-leading and their latest ground-breaking research is expected to have enormous impact on young children with potential commercial application.



\$2M

2003

A state-of-the-art skin mesher for burn injuries was funded, allowing earlier wound coverage and potentially reducing scarring.



2005

We funded the redevelopment of the Children's Rehabilitation Centre at PMH, now known as Kids Rehab WA, bringing together all areas of paediatric rehabilitation and making it easier for children and their families to access services.

2008

We began bringing some of the best medical minds to WA through our Professorial Chairs of Expertise, helping position PMH as a world-class hospital.

We celebrated PMH turning 100 by funding open days allowing the community to see first-hand how far WA's children's hospital had come.

2011

In a world-first, a Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation device was purchased for the Neurology Department for research projects focusing on children with epilepsy.

2013

Music therapy was initially funded as a 3.5 month pilot program, but the service made such an impact on sick children and their families that it's still in place today.





2015

We funded a transformational fit-out of a NETS WA ambulance – a mobile intensive care unit for sick newborns and infants – as well as a ground-breaking robotic arm to help children with a neurological disease or injury resulting in limited upper arm movement.

2016

We supported the Pilbara Faces Program, combining 3D facial photography and innovative medical technology to build the world's first library of photographs of Aboriginal children's faces – a unique knowledge base to assist in medical diagnosis, treatment monitoring and clinical research.



After doctors began noticing a pattern of self-reported or documented antibiotic allergy, the Foundation funded leading research to investigate the true rate of antibiotic allergies in children.





2018

The Foundation began funding the world-leading work of renowned cancer specialist Professor Nick Gottardo. We also supported a new eczema model of care that's significantly reduced eczema specialist waiting times and improved the quality of life for many WA kids. There was also a high-tech, wearable robotic frame helping kids with spinal injuries get back on their feet. With the opening of the much-anticipated Perth Children's Hospital in 2018, we got a new name and look as we became Perth Children's Hospital Foundation.

2019

Thanks to our generous donors, the pace of world-leading projects escalated in 2019 and included:

- The establishment of the world-leading burns centre headed by top burns specialist Professor Fiona Wood, AM
- Collaborations which brought world leading vaccine and immunology expert Professor Tobias Kollmann to Perth
- The purchase of an innovative Carbon Floatline surgical table, an adjustable imaging table allowing patient movement in any direction during interventional radiology
- The Early Moves study a world-first aiming to diagnose babies at risk of developmental delays via home videos recorded through a smart phone app, and
- RetCam, a world-class premature baby eye screening program.



PCH began performing intraoperative MRIs on children undergoing brain tumour surgery, thanks to the delivery of a Space Infusion Station funded by the Foundation. At the time, it was the only FDA approved equipment in Australia. This vital technology makes tumour removal safer and quicker.

2020 also saw the creation of the Wal-yan Respiratory Research Centre, which brings together clinicians, scientists and community members from across the globe with the united goal to prevent childhood respiratory illness and ensure all children have healthy lungs for life.



Healing through happiness is an integral part of what we do at the Foundation and we are immensely proud of funding The Kids' Bridge linking PCH to Kings Park and the healing benefits of nature.





2022 and beyond

Another world first came to Perth in 2022 with the opening of the Rare Care Centre, offering new hope for the 63,000 WA children living with a rare or undiagnosed disease. We also funded the ground-breaking research program Move to Improve, paving the way for Australia's first clinical exercise service at PCH for children with chronic diseases.

Looking ahead, we're excited about our biggest and most important project to date, the much-needed Children's Hospice, and look forward to continuing the journey with you. **GROUND-BREAKING RESEARCH**

World-leading cancer care.

We're proud to support cutting edge cancer research and treatments that are positioning Perth Children's Hospital as a leading paediatric cancer centre and ensuring WA kids have access to the most advanced medical care available.

New, better treatments

Brave little Luca is now experiencing the joys of childhood. But it's been a harrowing journey to get to this point after being diagnosed with a rare form of brain tumour at just three years of age.

Her family was told there was only a slim 8% chance of survival. Luca underwent a gruelling treatment protocol including an eight-hour operation, five rounds of chemotherapy, three stem cell transplants and six weeks of daily radiation. She was so sick she lost the ability to walk for almost five months.

After the fight of her life, Luca's now going to school every day. She loves singing and music and has fun and laughter back in her life.

For children with brain cancer, the treatment is typically aggressive, involving rounds of chemotherapy, radiation and surgery which can leave them with devastating, life-long side effects.

But world-leading experts like Professor Nick Gottardo, Head of Oncology and Haematology at Perth Children's Hospital (PCH), are helping transform childhood cancer care for the more than 100 WA children diagnosed each year.

Finding safer, more effective treatments that avoid damaging normal surrounding cells and offer a targeted therapeutic approach are a top priority. This would allow harsher treatments, and their toxic effects, to be reduced.

"For those children who do survive there's a price to pay for that survival in terms

"If there was nicer treatment that had less of an impact on these kids, things that didn't make them so sick, and weak and exhausted – they could fight back more, they would be happier. If it could just be a little less taxing on their bodies, they might bounce back quicker."

Brooke, Luca's mum

of long-term toxic side effects which impact greatly on the child and then the young adult and their quality of life," said Professor Gottardo.

"Some of our unique work includes the development of very sophisticated model systems to try and test novel therapies that we can apply in the clinic."

Western Australian children are among the first to benefit from the cutting-edge cancer research and treatments proudly supported by Perth Children's Hospital Foundation.

Fast-tracking the cure for childhood brain cancer

In Australia, one person dies from a brain tumour approximately every seven hours. Sadly, it takes the lives of more Australian children than any other disease.





Professor Gottardo leads one of the biggest programs in Australia for the most common form of childhood brain cancer, Medulloblastoma.

Leading edge cancer research equipment funded by Perth Children's Hospital Foundation is helping Oncologists like Dr Santosh Valvi in the race to develop safer, more effective brain cancer treatments.

MultiFlo FX

This equipment streamlines research workflows and, importantly, improves the accuracy and quality of research data. It increases researchers' capabilities in evaluating new types of tumour treatments and the impacts they have on cancer cell survival.

Mantra pathology workstation

A process that used to take seven weeks can now be done in one week with this advanced technology. Comprising a multifunctional microscope, digital camera, computer and image analysis software, the Mantra Pathology Workstation provides faster, more accurate analysis of new drugs and therapies.

Tecan digital dispenser

This equipment enables quicker, more accurate drug screening through the application of multiple drugs onto cells. A process that used to take several hours can now be done in a minute.

This information is used to determine the susceptibility of patient cancer cells to multiple different drugs simultaneously and, in combination with the other equipment, can be used to personalise treatment.

ACACIA Study

Children undergoing cancer treatment and bone marrow transplants are more vulnerable to getting sick with COVID-19 than healthy kids. The ACACIA study funded by the Foundation is examining how well children with cancer are protected by COVID-19 vaccines.

Adult studies show that immunosuppression, including receiving chemotherapy, can reduce the immune response to COVID-19 vaccines. Researchers at PCH want to understand how well kids with cancer are protected with the current vaccine schedule.

"Importantly we want to understand how well the vaccine works with children while they're on chemotherapy to help plan for the future," said lead researcher Dr Daniel Yeoh, PCH Infectious Diseases Physician. "Do we need to change the number of doses we're giving, do we need to change the dose or change the timing? Without this type of information and data we wouldn't be able to plan as well for the future".

The project is looking at the immune response following COVID-19 vaccination and the clinical features/outcomes and immune response for breakthrough cases of COVID in this vulnerable group of children.

Research findings will inform future national and international vaccine recommendations in order to optimise COVID-19 protection for kids in the fight of their lives.

PACIFIC Study

Another study proudly funded by the Foundation, which is placing Perth Children's Hospital at the forefront of research, is the PACIFIC study. PCH was one of three large Australian children's cancer centres investigating the best approach for preventing severe fungal infections in children with leukaemia, the most common form of childhood cancer.

Across the three centres it was found that there was room for improvement and that using preventative broad-spectrum antifungal drugs during treatment reduced the occurrence of invasive fungal infections in acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) and highrisk cases of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL), the most common type of leukaemia in Australian children. The results will inform future national and international guidelines and improve outcomes for children in WA and abroad.

Preliminary findings have been shared with key infectious diseases physicians around the nation. In April, they were presented at the European Congress for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, one of the premier international infectious diseases meetings.

"The timely completion of this project would not have been possible without the generous support of the PCH Foundation," lead researcher Dr Daniel Yeoh said.

"This project was led from Perth allowing consolidation of local expertise as well as the strengthening of national research collaborations, opening the door for future studies focused on improving outcomes for children with cancer in WA and nationally."

"No child should die in the dawn of life. Children represent the future of society and if you want to aim for a 100% cure with zero side effects, the only way is to invest in research because it's proven, it works."

Professor Nick Gottardo

Head of Oncology and Haematology at Perth Children's Hospital

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GROUND-BREAKING RESEARCH

Global leader in world-first trial.

To begin with 10 year-old Sloane didn't think the ache she felt in her leg during swimming training was anything to worry about. She thought it would improve overnight. But Sloane's condition rapidly deteriorated, and by the next morning she could no longer walk.

Sloane had a severe Staphylococcus aureus infection.

Also known as golden staph, the bug lives harmlessly on our skin and in some people's noses but can lead to potentially lifethreatening blood stream infections, or sepsis, in vulnerable people.

Sloane's infection was one of the worst doctors at Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) had ever seen. She was in hospital for three months, including 10 days in an induced coma, and needed IV antibiotics, surgery and intensive rehab to recover.

"It was really difficult learning how to walk again, how to move again," said Sloane, a keen swimmer, netballer and water polo player. "I went from a wheelchair to walking around on crutches, to walking, into running." Sloane was one of the 50 to 100 children PCH sees every year with staph bloodstream infections, caused by breaks in the skin from cuts, grazes, even insect bites. It's also a common cause of hospital acquired infections.

Currently, doctors have very little research to guide them on antibiotic treatment and rely on their experience and expert opinion to inform patient care.

However, a world-first global study, now underway at PCH, is aiming to identify the best possible treatments for what is the leading cause of dangerous bacterial infections in children.

Thanks in part to funding from Perth Children's Hospital Foundation and Telethon, PCH is the lead paediatric site in the global

"So even within the scope of the trial, we're both trying to get the best treatment options but also trying to address this big global health problem."

Associate Professor Asha Bowen, Head of Infectious Diseases at PCH.

SNAP trial, investigating the most effective antibiotic treatment for staph bloodstream infections.

With no vaccine to prevent infections, the goal is to improve treatment and save many young lives. In doing so, it will also tackle the looming global health crisis of antibiotic resistance.

"We want to make sure we're treating that particular stream of staph aureus bloodstream infections the best we possibly can," said global paediatric lead, Associate Professor Asha Bowen, Head of Infectious Diseases at PCH.

"Being able to know how to use our antibiotics as wisely as possible, and to narrow the spectrum of how we're treating infections is actually one of the key strategies to address antibiotic resistance.

"So even within the scope of the trial, we're both trying to get the best treatment options but also trying to address this big global health problem."

The trial is the largest of its kind ever conducted into a single-pathogen bloodstream infection and the first ever to include both adults and children. Recent studies show children with bloodstream infections present in a different way to adults, so the inclusion of children will help optimise treatment as currently there is limited guidance on treatment in children.

Children admitted to PCH with staph bloodstream infections are being approached to participate in the trial.

Findings will potentially streamline care, reduce the length of time kids spend in hospital and lead to fewer complications and deaths, as well as resulting in less time away from Country for Aboriginal children from regional WA.

PCHF CEO Carrick Robinson said: "The SNAP-PY@PCH study will give WA pediatricians the opportunity to contribute to game-changing research which will inform best-practice and improve care for kids not just at PCH, but across Australia and around the world."

The landmark trial is expected to pave the way for future clinical trials involving both children and adults and positions PCH as a contender to conduct future trials investigating infectious pathogens, such as emerging antimicrobial resistance threats.

Pursuing excellence in healthcare.

Western Australia is taking a world-leading role in key areas of childhood healthcare through Centres of Excellence proudly supported by Perth Children's Hospital Foundation. By bringing together some of the best medical minds, we're funding innovative solutions and improved care for children with burn injuries and rare diseases.

Stan Perron Centre of Excellence for Childhood Burns

In just a few seconds, a child's life can dramatically alter course through a burn injury.

Burns are one of the most devastating childhood injuries, causing significant pain both physically and mentally. The accident itself is often traumatising and hospital stays can be scary and involve separation from family. Treatment is painful and scarring requires long-term medical care and contributes to poor mental health.

Children with burns have increased levels of stress and anxiety and higher rates of mental health issues in the long term.

However, the more than 500 Western Australian kids admitted to hospital with serious burns every year are in good hands with the Stan Perron Centre of Excellence for Childhood Burns led by world-renowned burns specialist Professor Fiona Wood, AM.

"There are very few such centres across the globe, many of which we collaborate with, driving to improve outcomes from burn injury," said Professor Wood.

"The Stan Perron Centre of Excellence has allowed us to build the foundations of research and innovation in childhood burn injury and it is essential we continue to push back the frontiers of knowledge to improve the lives of our children." World-leading research highlights from the past year include:

- Interesting correlations between dysfunctional T cells – a type of white blood cell – after a burn injury and patient time in hospital and scar outcome. Decreased levels of a specific subset of T cells are associated with taking a longer time to heal and longer stays in hospital. Worse scarring is linked to lower levels of a specific inflammatory substance, known as cytokines, in blood plasma and T cells soon after a burn injury
- A pilot analysis of specimens from the Centre's biobank, thought to be the largest paediatric research biobank in the world, showed a very strong link between hair cortisol levels – a measurement of stress – and a child's scar outcome in samples from more than six months after injury
- The first ever studies to show that a nonsevere burn impacts the brain
- Planning for the first human study of a cutting-edge 3D printer to be used in surgery to deliver cells and therapeutic scaffolds for wound healing and skin regeneration
- And ongoing collaboration with esteemed psychiatrist, Professor Helen Milroy AM, to address the mental wellbeing of children with burns

In another world-first, a ground-breaking 3D handheld scanner, funded by Perth Children's Hospital Foundation, is now being used by clinicians to transform burn care in young patients.



The scanner generates high resolution images which accurately map scarring in just seconds. This allows doctors to understand how a scar changes over time and better manage children's scar treatment. It also increases the engagement of children in their own scar care and management more effectively.

"Having access to advanced technology like this is hugely exciting because it gives us the tools to improve clinical and research data," said Professor Wood. "Ultimately, it will help WA to lead the way in burns care and scar reduction."

The Clinical Centre of Expertise for Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases

For the 63,000 West Australian children living with a rare disease there's now hope of a better path ahead. What was often a long, lonely and stressful journey is being replaced with support, connections and clear pathways. The Clinical Centre of Expertise for Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases, also known as the Rare Care Centre, has welcomed its first 58 patients and families.

Its world-first, cross-sector Model of Care brings together different sectors beyond the health system including all parts of the social and community sectors. This is empowering children and families to live their best lives possible with holistic care and support for the whole life journey.

"The globally connected Rare Care Centre provides a unique opportunity to ensure children across WA receive the very best care and support they truly deserve," said Dr Gareth Baynam, Medical Director, Rare Care Centre.

Families now have a dedicated centre to help identify their unmet needs, navigate the right care and coordinate that care beyond the health system to reduce the burden on children, parents and carers.

Hollie's Story.

For families like Hollie's the Rare Care Centre has been a lifesaver, easing the never-ending stress and strain of caring for a child with a rare disease.

Hollie was like any other child up until Kindy age when problems with her fine motor skills and energy levels started to emerge. It took up to two years and a raft of tests to find out what was going on.

The diagnosis was CLN5 Batten Disease, an extremely rare condition with only two cases in Australia and less than 30 around the world. Essentially a form of childhood dementia, the disease, sadly, is incurable and will eventually leave Hollie bedridden with the loss of her abilities. Her current life expectancy is only into her mid-late teens.

For her parents and older sister, the difficult journey has been especially hard while living away from family support in WA's Pilbara region.

"When we found out exactly what was going on, it was every parent's worst nightmare. There is no cure and while there are some small studies underway, essentially there's nothing anyone can do," said mum Amanda, a Registered Nurse.

Less than a year after her diagnosis, Hollie went from walking, talking and playing like other children to having severe mobility issues. Now eight years old, she has difficulty walking and needs the assistance of a walking frame or wheelchair to get around. Hollie's speech has also deteriorated and she requires around the clock care.

Displaying a level of compassion and maturity beyond her 10 years, big sister Maddi helps out as much as she can. But the pressure on families like Hollie's is immense.

"The Rare Care Centre has been amazing as it is often such a push to get information, and people can get lost in the system and slip under the radar. The Rare Care team helps you link everything together and guides you through," Amanda said. Although they live thousands of kilometres away, support and guidance from the Rare Care team is never too far away. The family has monthly, remote-access appointments with several members of the team and if things ever become too much, support is only an email away.

Their recent relocation to Albany, to be closer to family, was made easier thanks to the Rare Care team.

"They have been invaluable during our move helping us to find a new school with the right facilities, therapy teams and support workers. They also help find solutions for the whole family not just the patients, so things like finding support for mental health. It's just helped to take off some of that pressure and lighten the load."

The family takes comfort in knowing that support is on hand if needed. And, with the burden of caring for Hollie eased to a degree, her family's greatest wish is to give their happy, animal-loving girl the best life possible.

"Having a child diagnosed with a rare disease can be very overwhelming especially in early diagnosis. It's a daunting situation but sometimes you need to put those feelings aside and not be afraid to ask for help, for the benefits it can bring are huge," Amanda said.



n's Hospital

"The Rare Care Centre has been amazing as it is often such a push to get information, and people can get lost in the system and slip under the radar. The Rare Care team helps you link everything together and guides you through."

Amanda, Hollie's mum

MAJOR PROJECTS

Major milestones for projects bringing comfort and calm.

We are delighted to be moving ahead with our flagship project, WA's first Children's Hospice, after the Western Australian Planning Commission granted development approval (DA).



Works can now commence at the Swanbourne site, bringing families of children with a life-limiting condition closer to much-needed choice for respite and end-of-life care.

A peek inside

No parent should ever have to face the heartbreak of saying goodbye to their child. But when the time comes for those living with a life-limiting illness, they will be able to do so in a warm and caring, home-like environment.

With the granting of DA approval, we can now reveal the look and feel of the interior of the long anticipated Hospice.

The much-needed facility has been sensitively designed to feel more like a beach house but with hospital quality clinical care. The architectural design connects the building to nature with interior colours and textures borrowed from the surrounding coastal bush location.

Inside, the Hospice will have a sense of calmness with the overall feel being light,

clean, fresh and tranquil. The soothing and calming interiors are a nod to beach holidays gone by and family time enjoying simple pleasures.

A life-limiting child illness can be an incredibly distressing and overwhelming experience. In Western Australia, there are 2000 children living with a life-limiting condition who may one day need the support of the hospice.

Providing end-of-life care and respite support for families, the hospice has been designed to help families feel as though they're on a break or an escape from their daily routine. They will be able to enjoy time together and create memories, connect with nature and with other families going through similar challenges.

Bedrooms will feel more like those at home and suites will allow families to stay together. There will be a playroom for younger children to have fun and bring laughter into the surrounds. For older children, there will be a space for gaming and other adolescent activities to make them feel at home.



A hydrotherapy pool has been incorporated for children requiring therapy or those who simply want to engage in some playful splashing about. Internal courtyards will bring children and families close to nature and roof gardens will enhance that connection.

"We're immensely grateful to our supporters who are helping us bring a home away from home and a sense of calm and comfort to the WA children and families at the most difficult of times," said Perth Children's Hospital Foundation Chairman, Hon. Ian Campbell.

"Thanks to this remarkable generosity we are proudly building a much-needed service that will help generations of WA children and their families."

Environmentally sustainable design

Eco-friendly building is on the rise as many of us look to build more comfortable homes and at the same time reduce our environmental footprint. The Hospice will incorporate a range of measures to maximise environmental sustainability, including:

- Solar systems
- Glazing and shading to reduce solar gain, particularly to the east and west facades
- Insulation
- Use of local and ecologically sustainable materials
- Waterwise appliances and sanitaryware
- Water sensitive urban design and landscaping, use of local native plants
- Low energy lighting systems
- Efficient heating and cooling
- · Accurate balancing of air handling systems
- Rainwater harvesting for the garden

The project is being benchmarked against the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star Buildings tool with the design achieving an equivalent 5-star rating, representing Australian Excellence.



Greenspace nature play underway

Children and their families will soon have an outdoor sanctuary in which to relax, play and rejuvenate their spirits.

Works are underway on the exciting new \$4 million nature playground outside Perth Children's Hospital following a traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony to cleanse the energy of the land.

The upgrade of the Greenspace, located at the base of the iconic Kid's Bridge, will transform the area into a nature playground incorporating an entertainment space and natural learning precinct. It will provide a place for patients, families and staff on the QEII campus to unwind and escape the pressures of the hospital environment.

Inspired by the healing energy of Country, the design has been guided by Noongar cultural advisors and recognises that the land itself holds a boundless reservoir of energy – an energy that has the power to heal, to provide solace, and to ignite strength within us.

Traditional and contemporary cultural themes are incorporated in the design which pays respect to the rich history and stories of the traditional owners. Woven through are Noongar themes and Dreamtime stories to capture the imagination and embrace healing and connection. Many of the animals, totems and plants in the design reflect those used in Aboriginal healing practices for thousands of years.

The upgrade has been made possible with funding from Perth Children's Hospital Foundation in partnership with Rio Tinto and is expected to be completed by late 2023. WORLD-CLASS EXPERTISE

Guiding the way.

In the relatively new field of paediatric Interventional Radiology, Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) is an emerging leader. And it's all thanks to funding from the Foundation and our incredible supporters.

Interventional radiology is used to diagnose and/or treat various conditions. X-ray, ultrasound or CT imaging helps guide procedures which are less invasive than open surgery, leading to improved patient care through fewer complications and shorter stays in hospital.

Since relocating from London's esteemed Great Ormond Street Hospital in 2018 to take up the Simon Lee Foundation Chair of Paediatric Radiology, Professor Derek Roebuck has set about transforming the hospital into a world-leader in complex radiological services.

Under Professor Roebuck's guidance, interventional radiology procedures at PCH have grown over the past year, in line with a worldwide trend for minimally invasive, image-guided procedures.

This growth in services is helping save young lives and is ensuring children with complex cases have access to the best possible care close to home.

Australian-first procedure

Interventional radiology supports a variety of medical conditions and specialty areas

including oncology, respiratory medicine and renal disease. Professor Roebuck and his team have performed multiple complex combined cases, including an Australian first that has transformed the life of a young Perth girl (see Lucy's story).

PCH is becoming the leading Australian centre for renal artery stenosis, a condition causing kidney related cases of high blood pressure in children. Professor Roebuck has reviewed a group of children in Adelaide who have since travelled to PCH for life-changing treatment.

Care close to home

The PCH team now routinely performs procedures that were previously only available on the east coast, including preparations required for kidney and liver transplants as well as the management of post-transplant complications. This means sick children now receive the best care at home for a large portion of their treatment, reducing the toll on children and their families. This was particularly beneficial during the COVID-19 pandemic with restrictions in travel.

Lucy's story.

When Lucy came into the world two and a half weeks early, there were no signs that anything was amiss. She fed well, slept well and did all the normal things babies do. But her family's state of baby bliss only lasted a matter of months.

At eight months of age, and with a family holiday to Bali planned, mum Alison had Lucy's chesty cough checked by their GP. Upon hearing what he thought was a faint heart murmur, Lucy was referred to a cardiologist who diagnosed her with the extremely rare condition Mid Aortic Syndrome. This is where part of the aorta – the heart's largest blood vessel which runs through the chest and abdomen – becomes narrow leading to reduced blood flow in the chest, abdomen and lower limbs. Most children with the condition have extremely high blood pressure which is difficult to control and life threatening.

"To everyone around us, Lucy looked the picture of health, however inside her body was a ticking time bomb," said Alison, Lucy's mum.

Lucy was put on four different blood pressure medicines. As she grew, her medicines were increased but over time they became less effective and eventually could no longer control Lucy's dangerously high blood pressure. She developed unpleasant side effects from the medication and her family was told she would ultimately need major surgery to insert a synthetic bypass graft into her weakened body. This operation would come with the risks of bleeding, kidney failure, stroke and death, and if it was successful, it would leave her with a massive scar across her chest and abdomen. Even if they decided to go ahead, the surgery was not available in Perth and the best option was to travel to the UK.

Everything changed when Professor Roebuck was appointed as the Simon Lee Chair of Paediatric Radiology at PCH. Having treated children with this rare condition during his 19 years at Great Ormond Street Hospital, Professor Roebuck assembled a team to help Lucy with a less invasive surgical approach.

In an Australian-first procedure, interventional radiology techniques were used to reopen a long, blocked section of Lucy's aorta through two tiny incisions hidden in skin creases at the top of her left



"She had her seventh birthday in hospital and when she's older she'll know that the best birthday present she ever got that year was her new lease on life."

Alison, Lucy's mum

arm and right leg. The innovative surgery to insert a stent went better than expected and re-established blood supply to Lucy' lower limbs. It also brought her blood pressure down to a level where she now only needs one drug to control it.

Lucy is now a thriving, cheeky eight-year-old with a love of life and bacon! While her medical journey isn't over and her stent will need to be widened several times over the next few years, there is optimism that Lucy's future is now much brighter.

"She had her seventh birthday in hospital and when she's older she'll know that the best birthday present she ever got that year was her new lease on life," Alison said. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Rooms D11 - D2

Investing in the future.

We're committed to helping provide the best possible care for WA's sick kids today and into the future.

Our Fellowships train the next generation of doctors and are split between clinical care and research. They help retain local doctors in WA and attract high calibre clinicians from interstate and overseas. These valuable programs support the continuous improvement in children's healthcare in our state.

Paediatric Radiology Fellowship

Medical imaging is often a key part of the journey for sick kids.

The services provided by Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) are highly commended by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists. The department is the only centre in the Southern Hemisphere with four paediatric interventional radiologists and a Chair in Paediatric Radiology – one of only two in Australia. Way Out

Dr Michael Paddock relocated from the UK to take up a Fellowship and train under the watchful eye of PCH's respected interventional radiologists. During his tenure, Dr Paddock has been working toward a PhD focusing on the imaging of suspected physical abuse in children. He won a prize for presentation of his research at the Australian and New Zealand Society for Paediatric Radiology annual conference. As a Fellow, Dr Paddock has had an original research article published in the leading international peer-reviewed journal, *Pediatric Radiology*, with several further articles pending publication. He was also invited to author a chapter of the European Society of Radiology's eBook for undergraduate education in Radiology.

"The funding of Fellowships in PCH's Department of Medical Imaging has allowed for the recruitment of a high calibre Fellow who is well regarded internationally," said Dr Craig Gibson, Head of Department of Medical Imaging, Perth Children's Hospital. "With Michael's intentions geared towards becoming a Consultant in Australia, this will be of great benefit to the sickest and most vulnerable children in WA."

Oncology Fellowship

When children in WA receive a cancer diagnosis, PCH becomes their second home. The hospital is the sole provider of children's cancer care in WA and long hours are spent at hospital undergoing treatment and care.

The Oncology Fellowship ensures these children receive state-of-the-art clinical care whilst clinicians are trained as international experts in this specialty area.

As a second year Advanced Trainee, Dr Sarah Trinder, cares for young patients and is involved in several ground-breaking projects including:

- Research to identify immunotherapy targets in childhood cancer which could lead to new, less toxic cancer therapies
- A study assessing real world treatment of infant acute lymphoblastic leukaemia
- The Zero Childhood Cancer Project, based at Sydney Children's Hospital, identifying targeted treatments for children with high-risk cancers, and
- A pilot trial assessing virgin coconut oil as a mouthwash for the prevention of oral mucositis (inflammation and ulceration) in childhood cancer patients.

Simulation Suite Fellowship

PCH's world-class Simulation Suite is improving the quality and safety of patient care. Medical and nursing staff gain hands on experience of high-risk medical events in a safe, simulated environment. Over the past year, the Simulation Fellow has designed and facilitated immersive scenarios to meet the needs of a variety of teams including medical and nursing staff in general paediatrics, intensive care, emergency medicine and post anaesthetic care. Scenarios typically focus on clinical management and crisis resource management including communication, teamwork, leadership and situational awareness.

With a significant increase in mental health presentations to PCH, the Fellow has created a one-day immersive course in paediatric de-escalation. This builds skills and confidence in staff in non-mental health settings such as Emergency and inpatient medical wards enabling them to manage these complex situations. The training involves realistic, immersive scenarios including a dysregulated adolescent, a non-verbal autistic patient and restraining an absconding patient.

Overall, in 2022, 175 healthcare professionals per month attended simulation training with the majority of participants saying that as a result they're now better prepared to respond to changes in a patient's condition.

Clinical Research Education Fellowship

In the dynamic world of medicine, new interventions and strategies are regularly emerging.

The Clinical Research Education Fellow helps PCH healthcare staff keep up to date with the latest in gold standard care by providing training in clinical research skills.

The only one of its kind in Australia, the Fellowship is instilling a culture of research amongst healthcare personnel so that evidence-based medicine is applied to daily clinical practice.

Demand for the Fellow's services is high with 884 clinicians using research training to enhance their research skills. Currently there are 2,300 active subscribers to the research education program list.

The Fellowship is demystifying the research process, building research capacity at PCH and beyond, and improving the quality of care for children and their families. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Cooking up confidence for teens.

Teaching Kitchens is an innovative program getting young people with Type 1 diabetes into the kitchen to learn healthy lifelong habits.

Living with Type 1 diabetes (T1D) as a teen isn't easy. There's a lot to keep track of every day – managing your insulin, monitoring blood glucose levels, exercising regularly and maintaining a healthy diet.

In an Australian first, Perth Children's Hospital is teaching teens with T1D, practical cooking skills so they can create nutritious meals on their own, understand mindful eating and be empowered to make healthy food choices.

Following a successful pilot program in 2022, the hands-on workshops funded by the Foundation are now in full swing. From pasta dishes and rainbow beef stir fry to quesadillas, participants get busy in the kitchen learning to make a variety of dishes, along with handy tips for cooking at home.

Perth Children's Hospital Endocrinologist and Telethon Kids Institute Diabetes Exercise Research Lead, Dr Vinutha Shetty, says food is a large part of managing T1D. "This program aims to give teenagers the skills and confidence needed to manage their T1D through the teenage years and into adulthood," said Dr Shetty.

"As a child is developing and gaining independence, the food and nutrition responsibility shifts to them. We want to help this transition to be positive for healthy sustainable habits.

"By empowering teenagers with healthy skills for life, we can reduce the risk for cardiovascular disease and health care costs."

Type 1 diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases that affects around 1200 children and adolescents in WA. Perth Children's Hospital Foundation is proud to fund the Teaching Kitchens program so that young people with T1D can discover new recipes for life.



Sixteen-year-old Peter took part in the Teaching Kitchens pilot program and said it taught him to make healthy choices, as well as mindful eating and other useful tips to cook on his own.

"I have made some of the meals from the program for my family and have also started to make some meals from a cookbook for diabetics."

Peter, Participant



INNOVATIVE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Seeing is believing: Creating clearer vision.

From the moment you wake up, your eyes are at work. They're taking in what's around you from objects to colours, movement and more. But for children with eye conditions, it can be a daily struggle to see things clearly.

Keratoconus is a progressive eye disease that causes the cornea to become thinner over time. Kids with keratoconus experience blurred vision, short-sightedness, sensitivity to light and sometimes even acute pain or sudden loss of vision.

If left untreated, the condition can deteriorate and severely impact a child's vision as they get older. Around 1 in 5 patients ends up having a corneal transplant or graft, followed by months of treatment and lifelong care.

But corneal crosslinking changes all that.

A corneal crosslinking machine uses ultra-violet light in the presence of special drops to strengthen the cornea to stop the progression of keratoconus. The technology isn't new, it's been used on adults since the 90s, but it's only recently been approved for use in children and teenagers.

Dr. Marina Rayside, a Paediatric Ophthalmologist at Perth Children's Hospital, says many studies show that corneal crosslinking is very effective for paediatric patients. "Thanks to funding from Perth Children's Hospital Foundation, we're now able to offer WA kids access to corneal crosslinking in the public healthcare system for the first time," said Dr Rayside.

"This helps to ensure kids with keratoconus don't lose their vision, while also improving quality of life and reducing disruptions to their schooling."

Keratoconus affects around 1 in 2000 people and is most common during puberty, but it can be diagnosed in children as young as four.

"Paediatric keratoconus is known to be more aggressive and to progress faster than in adults, meaning the likelihood of needing a corneal transplant is also much higher. That's why it's crucial to treat children early, before the disease progresses," said Dr Rayside.

The new corneal crosslinking machine is expected to reduce corneal transplants and grafts at Perth Children's Hospital by 50%. And for children receiving corneal crosslinking, it means their vision will improve without the need for further surgery, allowing them to get on with enjoying the beauty of life.



From blurry to brilliant.

Nine-year-old Emmanuel was the first patient to receive corneal crosslinking at Perth Children's Hospital.

Emmanuel has been wearing eyeglasses since he was five, but it was only recently that his vision began to deteriorate. He was diagnosed with keratoconus and the highest level of astigmatism in his right eye.

"He was struggling to read or watch anything from a distance and always needed to look at things up close. Sometimes, if you stood near him, he wouldn't even be able to recognise you," said Emmanuel's Mum, Alice.

Emmanuel recently received corneal crosslinking on his right eye. If left untreated, his condition could worsen as he gets older.

"Now when he tries to watch TV or look at the tablet, he doesn't complain, unlike before he would usually say straight away, 'Mum it's hard'," Alice said.

Emmanuel bounced back quickly after having the procedure. "I don't even feel like he had the surgery, he didn't feel any pain afterwards."

While Emmanuel still requires some post-surgery follow ups, his parents are hopeful they'll start to see improvements in his eyesight.



"Now when he tries to watch TV or look at the tablet, he doesn't complain, unlike before he would usually say straight away, 'Mum it's hard.'"

Alice, Emmanuel's mum

INNOVATIVE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Harnessing tech for the wellbeing of little warriors.

Having access to the most advanced technology in paediatric healthcare is essential to improving patient outcomes now and into the future. Over the past year, we've helped fund new equipment and innovations to support vital care.

Simulating female patient scenarios

Until recently the state-of-the-art Simulation Suite at Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) was home to only one aging adult male manikin. Its masculine features and restricted movement didn't provide a realistic view of female scenarios, while outdated software meant the tech could no longer be supported.

The manikin family has recently received a much needed upgrade with the addition of the Nursing Anne Simulator – a wireless simulator that represents an adolescent female manikin aged 12-16 years. It allows a wide range of mobility and functions to enhance realistic scenarios for effective staff training.

High Fidelity Simulation Coordinator, Dr Jonathon Mould, says the new manikin fits perfectly into teenage scenarios. So far she has been used to simulate an intoxicated teen in the Emergency Department. She has also been put through her paces in a helipad transfer scenario, where she became unresponsive and required resuscitation, and in more general cases such as shock syndrome and post-surgery situations.

Innovations for newborns

Around one to three babies in 1000 live births develop abnormal brain function due to lack of oxygen during birth. A baby is diagnosed soon after birth based on history, blood tests and examination, but this alone isn't always accurate, potentially leading to a misdiagnosis and incorrect treatment. Thanks to the funding of a portable brain wave recording device, we're improving the identification of this issue in babies who are born far from appropriate health facilities. The equipment provides faster recording of the baby's brain waves, delivering vital information on brain health in a much shorter time frame.

Advanced breathing support

Premature babies often require ventilator support. This is usually delivered by a conventional ventilator, however there are times when additional ventilation support is required to give infants the best chance at survival.

The LifePulseJet Ventilator is a microprocessor-controlled infant ventilator that's used alongside a conventional ventilator. It's capable of delivering between 240 and 420 breaths per minute, minimising lung trauma and limiting the severity of lung diseases such as Pneumonia.

Effective temperature control

The Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at PCH cares for WA's sickest children. This includes those affected by trauma, sepsis, respiratory disease and those requiring life-saving cardiac, neurological, spinal and general surgery. In many situations, targeted temperature management is integral to their care. Controlling their temperature can assist in preventing seizures, brain injury, cardiac arrhythmias and reduce metabolic demands.





A much-needed addition to PICU, the Arctic Sun temperature management system helps control a patient's temperature while minimising the risk of pressure injuries. So far, it has seen a significant (33%) reduction in pressure related injuries in high-risk children.

Revolutionary visualisation for microsurgeries

Each year, around 50 to 60 children in WA are born with a cleft lip and palate. As they grow, these children can struggle with speech, eating, hearing and dental problems. To give these children the best chance in life, the palate repair needs to be meticulous.

The operation involves a very delicate dissection of tiny, fragile muscles in the soft palate so they can be repaired. Previously, the procedure was performed using low power magnification, with only the surgeon able to see the palate being operated on. Now, with cutting edge visualisation technology, the view is magnified, bright and clear on a 3D monitor. The Vitom 3D is making it easier for surgeons to perform complex microsurgeries, resulting in better surgical and patient outcomes.

Leading imaging technology

New ultrasound biomicroscopy equipment is ensuring the Ophthalmology team at PCH can provide world class care to children with various eye disorders. The technology provides detailed images of the anatomy at the front part of the eye, that greatly assists with diagnosis and decision making for a variety of disorders including childhood glaucoma, congenital cataract, ocular trauma and ocular tumours.

Only a few paediatric ophthalmology centres in Australia are currently using this technology – the most advanced of its kind.

Helping kids to be active

Our ongoing commitment to funding Kids Rehab at PCH, ensures families who can't access funding, receive specialised equipment for children in rehabilitation.

Running frames like the Framerunner allows kids with conditions affecting their mobility or balance, the opportunity to experience the many physical, mental and social benefits of participating in sports. Essentially a three-wheeled 'running bike' with a saddle, the Framerunner has a specially designed frame that allows children to easily propel themselves forward using one or both feet.

As technology finds new approaches, we'll continue to evolve and adapt the opportunities in paediatric healthcare to meet the changing needs of sick kids in WA.

Welcome Baby to Whadjuk Country.

Building connection to Country in a baby's first 1000 days is important in shaping their cultural identity and sense of belonging.

As Elder, Aunty Roma makes her way around the intimate room of families, she performs a moving ceremony to welcome each baby to Country.

It's a coming together to celebrate their birth and connection to the traditional lands, on which they are born. And it's the firt time in a long time that Traditional owners have held this kind of ceremony in WA.

For the parents, it provides an opportunity to celebrate their child's connection to family, community and Country. It gives them a sense of identity and belonging right from the beginning, which extends to the parents as well.

The little ones will go into life knowing who they are and the Country they belong to, so they can take pride in their Aboriginal culture, their traditions and their identity.

To mark the special occasion, each baby was presented with a keepsake headband and certificate. It was followed by a performance from a local Aboriginal dance troupe and celebration lunch.

The event, held on Noongar country in August 2022, was hosted by the Aboriginal Health Team, Child and Adolescent Community Health. The organisers said it left such a positive mark on the community, that they are now planning to ensure it becomes an annual event for Aboriginal families. Perth Children's Hospital Foundation is grateful to have helped bring this event to life by funding the inaugural ceremony. The event not only provides an opportunity to connect babies to the land on to which they are born, but also unite the child's family with other families, Elders, local agencies and the community.

As it continues to build momentum, the Welcome Baby to Country event will serve as a platform for families to foster a future where their children can flourish and thrive, strong in culture and identity.



Keeping kids smiling.

Having a needle can be daunting for many children, but through game changing technology, we're creating positive experiences that are redefining the fear of needles.

Anyone with children who have ever needed to receive a needle, will vouch it can be a traumatising experience for them. They're often very anxious and distressed, which can lead to negative experiences leading up to, or during, a procedure.

If only you could distract them, relax them, so they don't realise what's happening? That's exactly what we've helped set out to do!

Making treatment fun

Virtual reality (VR) is often associated with the gaming industry, however it's fast becoming beneficial in paediatric healthcare.

Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) is now home to several Smileyscope devices – VR headsets used to help children feel more relaxed and remove the fear of needles ahead of surgeries and procedures.

It works like this: the child puts on the headset and escapes to a different place to provide a distraction from what's really happening around them in the moment.

They could be enjoying an underwater adventure with sealions, hanging out at the beach, or relaxing by the river.

The immersive experience has been designed to coincide with medical procedures. For example, when a nurse is cleaning a needle insertion site, the patient will see waves lapping at their arms. When receiving the needle, the child will see fish nibbling to create a similar sensation.

By giving children something else to focus on, they can relax, allowing the nurse to calmly carry out what's required.

Lighting the way to kinder experiences

Over 60% of children admitted to PCH need an intravenous catheter (IVC) so they can receive intravenous treatment. While the insertion of IVCs is one of the most common procedures, it can be among the most challenging for kids and clinicians.

Failed IVC attempts cause pain, distress and delay treatment. In the long term, it can negatively affect a child's ongoing healthcare and their emotional and mental wellbeing.

New tools like the Transilluminators and AccuVeins are making it easy to identify an appropriate vein and guide the IVC into them. Using what's known as 'cold lights', the Transilluminator can be held under a baby's hand, arm or foot to illuminate veins not visible to the naked eye. AccVeins work in a similar way but use an infrared light.

Clinical trials have shown a 92% success rate of first insertion and a reduction in pain.

Thanks to our support, these tools are now being used at PCH in the wards and treatment areas, which is helping create positive experiences for anxious kids.

Positive impact of Smileyscopes

60% reduction in pain

48% reduction in anxiety

75% reduction in caregiver distress

48% reduction in need for restraint

Clinical trials have shown a 92% success rate of first insertion and a reduction in pain.

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THANK YOU

Our amazing Ambassadors.

Thank you to all our awesome Ambassador children and families who bravely share their stories in the name of helping other sick children.

Two of our Ambassadors, Mary and Sam, eagerly took on new challenges this year to help other kids.

They were part of our exciting brand campaign launch and also made a splash in the 400m Kids' Swim, as part of the iconic Euroz Hartleys Port to Pub Swim with Hotel Rottnest.

Mary, who has cystic fibrosis, trained hard to build her skills and endurance for the event, and raised a whopping \$1,065.

Sam has a strict daily routine of medication and therapy to keep asthma attacks at bay. But he loves to swim, and nothing was holding him back from taking part. Sam raised an amazing \$850. Together with his teammates, they raised more than \$2,000!

"The Port to Pub was a great experience that brought everyone together for the right reason and I can't wait to do it again next year," Sam said. Funds raised by the Kids' Swim are helping fund Move to Improve, an innovative Perth Children's Hospital research program that harnesses "exercise as medicine" to improve the lives of kids with chronic diseases such as cancer, type 1 diabetes, cerebral palsy, burn injuries and cystic fibrosis.

Mary and Sam were also part of our team of Ambassador children who got behind the lens for an in-hospital photo shoot of some famous Perth faces at our brand campaign launch in May.

Thank you, Mary and Sam and all of our Ambassador children and families who so generously give up their time to help others in need.

THANK YOU

It takes a village.

Our amazing community goes to great lengths to help WA's sick kids.

From running marathons, to shaving heads and hosting Halloween parties, every year our supporters raise thousands of dollars for Perth Children's Hospital Foundation. For this, we're incredibly grateful and say a massive thank you to all our community fundraisers.

Thongs to Stay Strong

One of the year's most amazing feats was by 'Marathong Man', Sam Henson-Thompson.

A surf club coach, Sam was inspired to run a marathon to help sick children and chose the most Aussie footwear for the task – a pair of thongs.

Despite having never run a marathon before, Sam completed the 42.2 km course from Fremantle to City Beach via PCH in sweltering 36 degree heat. He finished in an outstanding 4 hours 42 minutes. Running in Heatwaves – a thicker, more robust type of thong – Sam finished the course in 44,280 steps with just five blisters to show.

Sam's ingenious fundraiser gained nationwide media attention and raised an impressive \$16,891 for Perth Children's Hospital Foundation. The money will help us support WA's sick children get well and stay well.

Thank you Sam, for your incredible support and commitment to the kids of WA.

Thank you.

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Over the past year, an amazing \$7.99 million in grants has been donated to Perth Children's Hospital to help WA's sick kids get well and stay well. Thank you to all of our donors.

Major Supporters

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Christmas Lighters - Individual Fundraisers Conor's Rare Journey - Sam Brown Ellery Family - Cameron and Meredith Ellerv Ellie Dunne Collective - Gail Dunne Euroz Hartley Port to Pub -Ceinwen Roberts Haunted Hallows Fundraiser -Melinda Batten Gift Stall - Nancy Chiam, Janet and John Revnolds HBF Run for a Reason -Individual Fundraisers Lions Club - District 201W1 Lions Club of South Perth -Anita George Little Folk - Noel Kenny Nancy Chiam North Perth Bowls Club -Angela Horwood Northern Boards - Ellen Edwards PCH Tennis Classic - Bob Stevenson Perth Firefighters Committee Putt4dough Golf Day -Colin Janssen (WAIITA) R&R Robotics - Rob Darrington School of Special Education Needs - Shirley Henderson SIMPEC Christmas Party - Jo Carroll Snowflake Winter Ball - Victoria Martelli (Kind Hearted) Sweet Charity - Margaret Booth Thongs to Stay Strong -Sam Hensen-Thompson Vault Fitness Charity Spin -Todd Duffridge and John Kirchner Vietnamese Generous Hearts WA -Angie Nguyen

Zweck Fashion Gala - Klara Forrest (Zweck Fashion)

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Thank you for your generous support. It really is making a difference to the lives of sick kids in WA and across the world.



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