



THE PRINCE CHARLES
HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

40 YEARS OF IMPACT

1986 - 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work and walk, and pays our deepest respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past and present, and acknowledges future leaders.

A letter to our supporters

Since 1986, your generosity has helped drive more than \$78 million in innovative research, vital and life-saving equipment, purposeful projects, and compassionate care programs. Because of you, we have been able to help enhance care for patients at The Prince Charles Hospital – and more recently, Caboolture Hospital – when they need it most.

2026 marks 40 years of this remarkable partnership. It's a moment to reflect on what you've made possible, to honour everyone who has played a part in this journey, from incredible supporters like you, to hospital and Foundation staff, volunteers, past patients, researchers, clinicians, and our wider community. This is our opportunity to look ahead together, to the health challenges on the horizon and the impact your support can continue to have.

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A message from our CEO and Chair



Steve Francia
Chief Executive Officer

For years, philanthropy and community support have enabled ideas to become breakthroughs and patient care to deliver real impact.

As we mark our 40th year, this is a moment to pause and reflect on what has been achieved – not in abstract terms, but in real outcomes for people, families, and communities. Since our establishment, more than **\$78 million has been directed to research and patient care** across The Prince Charles Hospital and Caboolture Hospital. That investment has supported earlier diagnosis, new treatment approaches, improved patient experiences, and research that continues to shape clinical practice today – and for years to come.

Behind every advancement is a choice and decision – whether or not to invest in better outcomes, often for people we may never meet and never know. It is from those choices and decisions that we have reshaped how care is delivered within our hospitals and how research expands from early ideas to real-world impact.

Some supporters are motivated by personal experience. Others are driven by a belief in the power of research and innovation to change and save lives. Together, these motivations have created a legacy that improves care today while strengthening healthcare for generations to come.

The demand for care is growing, and so too are the opportunities for research and innovation. What remains constant is the essential role of philanthropy in bridging the gap between what is possible and what can be delivered.

To date, we have achieved so much, and I hope you take pride in the role you’ve played in bringing us to this milestone. I look forward to walking side by side with you into the next chapter. There is so much more we can do and achieve together.

With sincere thanks,



Steve Francia



Chris Morton
Chair

Philanthropy is most powerful when it is guided by purpose, governed with care, and focused on impact.

Forty years ago, the Foundation was established with a clear purpose: to support medical research and patient care through thoughtful, well-governed philanthropy. That purpose continues to guide the Board today.

As Chair, I am deeply conscious of the trust placed in the Foundation by those who choose to give. Stewardship sits at the heart of our role – ensuring philanthropic investment is directed where it can have the greatest impact, governed with rigour, and aligned with the long-term needs of the hospitals and communities we proudly serve.

The outcomes achieved over time reflect meaningful progress today, alongside sustained investment that delivers benefit well into the future. They are the result of strong partnerships and careful stewardship – often long before results are visible.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you for the confidence you place in the Foundation. Your support has helped build an organisation that is trusted to deliver impact today and positioned to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

We are proud of what has been achieved together and remain firmly committed to the responsible stewardship of your generosity in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Morton





Impact at a glance

On behalf of The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, we would like to thank and recognise everyone who has contributed to and supported the Foundation over the past 40 years.

More than \$78 million invested

More than 1,000 Research Grants, including:

PhD
Scholarships

New Investigator
Grants

Research
Fellowships

Innovation
Grants

Experienced
Researcher Grants

Emerging
Researcher Grants

More than 200 pieces of medical equipment

More than 25 patient care projects

**More than 320,000 hospital
volunteer hours since 2012**



Remarkable Research

Medical progress doesn't happen by chance – it happens when research is supported, sustained, and translated into practice. Across heart and lung disease, mental health, ageing, paediatrics, and allied health, research underpins both today's treatments and tomorrow's breakthroughs.

Thanks to committed supporters and researchers over our 40-year history, discoveries have moved from the laboratory into clinics and operating theatres, improving care in measurable ways.

Your support continues to shape the future standard of care.



Remarkable Research

Establishing a Foundation to tackle health challenges of today and tomorrow

Advancements in medical practice and treatments are shaped and accelerated by research. For these developments to flourish, an environment must be created where clinicians and researchers at all levels can exchange ideas freely and where learning is at the forefront.

Chris Morton, Chair, The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation

The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation was established on 20 November 1986 under the then-relevant legislation (*the Hospital Foundations Act 1982*), and over the past four decades, it has contributed to breakthroughs that have changed medical practice and treatment for the better, saving and improving countless lives.

There was an early visit to the hospital from Dr Christiaan Barnard, a renowned surgeon who had performed the world's first heart transplant. Dr Barnard met with the medical staff and hospital board, expressing the need for research to support the work undertaken by hospital staff, particularly in the field of cardiology, and the need to generate public funding to support this vision. In the Foundation's early years, the focus was primarily on heart and lung research, but this expanded to many other areas in the following decades.

Today, the challenges of acquiring grant funding and ongoing support for researchers are more significant than ever. Funding provided by the Foundation, through our community and fundraising initiative The Common Good, has been critical for sustaining the culture of research within both The Prince Charles and Caboolture Hospitals.

Since the Foundation's establishment, it has proudly supported more than 1,000 research grants, launching countless research careers, and underpinning discoveries that continue to save and improve lives now, and for generations to come.



Members of the original board.



Walter Morton holding piece of polished jacaranda wood made as a memento.



Excerpt from first TPCH Foundation newsletter in 1986.



Remarkable Research

Support for all stages of a research career

The Foundation’s Researcher Pathway was established as our commitment to backing researchers at every stage of their careers.

Building on the Foundation’s long-standing New Investigator and Emerging Researcher Grants, the introduction of PhD Scholarships and Early Career Research Fellowships in 2017 created a continuum of support, guiding those new to research through essential training and skills, and onward to the development of research programs during their PhD and post-doctoral studies. Each stage of the pathway progressively advances their research career, preparing them to become the next leaders in their field.

In 2024, the pathway was further strengthened with the addition of Mid-Career Research Fellowships, recognising that researchers at this stage benefit from targeted support to maintain momentum, expand collaborations, and lead larger-scale projects. These fellowships ensure continuity in research careers, enabling researchers to grow their programs, develop leadership skills, and make meaningful contributions to the broader research community.

By offering a program of support across all career stages, the Foundation nurtures talent, reduces attrition, and empowers researchers to achieve their full potential. Crucially, this continuity translates into more established research programs, faster progress from discovery to clinical practice, and better outcomes for patients – ensuring that important health challenges are addressed through sustained research effort and ongoing improvement in care.

“ Having a diverse mix of grants ensures we’re nurturing talent at every stage – keeping promising researchers engaged, driving new discoveries, and making sure that important questions don’t go unanswered. ”

Dr Rebekah Engel, Research and Impact Manager, The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation

Adjunct Professor Jack Bell



“ My research trajectory started in 2011 when I received a New Investigator Grant from The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation. Since then, the Foundation has supported me in mentoring many other new researchers on their journey.

I am humbled to be leading the Allied Health Research Collaborative. I’m also humbled to be leading the most amazing nutrition implementation and education programs that are changing nutrition care practices for older people with hip fractures in Australia and globally. This started in The Prince Charles Hospital with my New Investigator Grant, and is now spreading across global settings, with demonstrated high-level impact across health, knowledge, policy, economic and social domains. ”

Research Grants: New Investigator Research Grant 2011, Emerging Researcher 2017, Innovation Grant 2018, Innovation Grant 2021, Innovation Grant 2023, and Endowment Grant 2024.

Dr Louise See Hoe



“ My partnership with The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation started in 2015 with a New Investigator Grant that helped to establish some key foundations for what was to develop over time into a large, international program of work focused on improving donor heart availability and outcomes following heart transplantation.

This early work was followed by support through a Research Fellowship from the Foundation, which supported my salary for three years to perform the preclinical research that showed a donor heart could be safely preserved outside the body for up to eight hours before being transplanted into the recipient. This preclinical work was critical to the development of a subsequent world-first clinical trial led by Professor John Fraser AO, Professor David McGiffin, and Professor David Kaye, which showed human hearts could travel from Brisbane to Perth (over nine hours) and be safely transplanted into recipients, giving patients a new life. It is so exciting to share that what started as small seed funding with a New Investigator Grant has developed into a major program of work led by the Critical Care Research Group, and is giving life to more patients every day.

The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation was as much a part of our study and success as the collaborative team that performed the research. The Foundation was also a critical driver for my career growth and success in research. ”

Research Grants: New Investigator Research Grant 2015, Research Fellowship 2017, Innovation Grant 2019, and Innovation Grant 2021.



Remarkable Research: Heart

Funding early-stage development of artificial heart

Source: BiVACOR.

At present, the only effective treatment for end-stage heart disease is a heart transplant, and the mission to change that has been the goal of many researchers supported by the Foundation, with impacts felt across the world.

In 2025, a groundbreaking medical milestone occurred when a patient in Sydney became the first in the world to live with the BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart for more than 100 days while awaiting a donor heart. What you may not know is that this moment started more than two decades ago – with vision, strong governance, and an early belief in an ambitious idea that challenged existing approaches. The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, its board, and supporters like you recognised the potential of this work and provided support for the pioneering research that helped turn possibility into reality. Dr Daniel Timms, inventor of BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart, received sustained funding from 2006 through to 2013 for the early development and testing of his device whilst working with Professor John Fraser AO and the Critical Care Research Group.

This artificial heart represents a world-first breakthrough in heart failure treatment, giving patients precious time while awaiting a donor heart and demonstrating the future potential of artificial heart technology as a bridge to life-saving transplants. Fully implanted within the body, the device is designed to replace a failing heart entirely, supporting both left and right heart function. The BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart is currently undergoing human trials in the United States of America as part of an FDA Early Feasibility Study, with related investigational activity also conducted in Australia. This milestone represents a meaningful step forward for patients with advanced heart failure who have had limited treatment options.



Remarkable Research: Heart

Breakthrough in donor heart preservation

More Australians needing a life-saving heart transplant can now receive a second chance at life, following the successful clinical uptake of the Hypothermic Oxygenated Perfusion (HOPE) device. HOPE has revolutionised the practice of heart transplantation internationally.

The Living Heart Project, led by The Prince Charles Hospital's Critical Care Research Group, with pre-clinical work supported by the Foundation, facilitated a world-first international clinical trial with Professors David McGiffin and David Kaye at the helm. HOPE technology keeps a donor heart 'alive' and healthy using a medical solution rich in oxygen and nutrients.

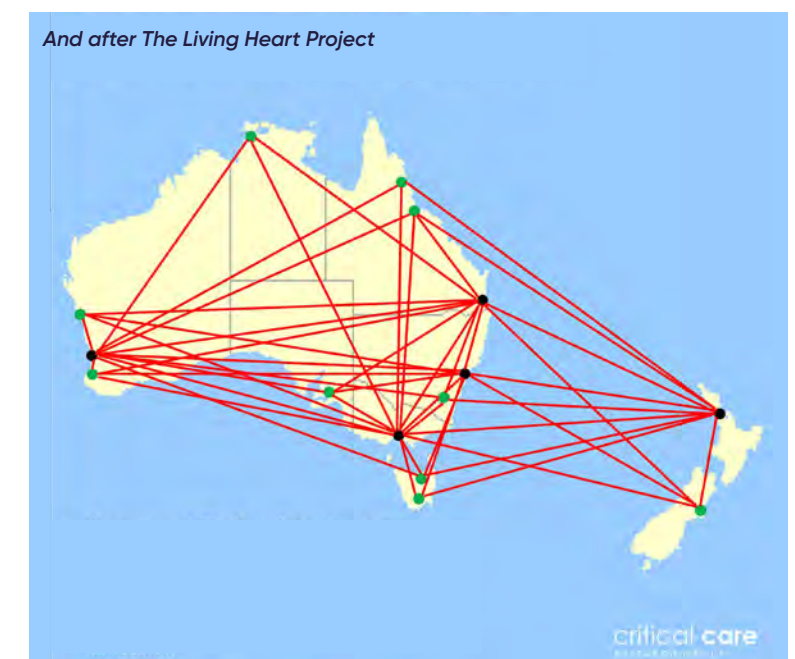
Prior to this innovation, donor hearts were transported in an ice slush, with organ quality and viability declining after four hours. This meant that a large portion of heart transplants weren't possible due to the time and distance that the organ was required to travel.

The use of HOPE has extended donor heart storage time from four to over nine hours, and has been adopted as standard of care around the world. By 2025, approximately 160 successful HOPE-assisted heart transplants were complete, shepherding in a new era of donor heart preservation.

The Foundation's support of this research dates back to 2015, with seven research grants totalling more than \$400,000 – helping to advance a breakthrough that is expanding access to life-saving transplants and improving outcomes for patients and families.



Source: Critical Care Research Group.



Remarkable Research: Lung

Protecting the lungs of Australia's tradies: Tackling the silicosis epidemic

From humble labs inside one of Australia's leading cardiothoracic hospitals to international collaborations and world-first technology.

Tradies are the lifeblood of our communities. From roads and tunnels to homes and workplaces, their work shapes our lives. But for many, this essential contribution has come at a cost: occupational lung diseases like silicosis, caused by inhaling toxic silica dust from mined rock, concrete, tiles, engineered stone, and more.

Silicosis is a severe, progressive disease. Tiny silica particles settle deep in the lungs, triggering the immune system to overreact, causing inflammation and scarring (fibrosis). Over time, this scarring prevents the lungs from functioning properly, making it difficult – or even impossible – to breathe.

World-first technology: the PExA machine

In 2024, through TPCHF funding, researchers from the QLTS gained access to the PExA (Particles in Exhaled Air) machine from Sweden. It is the first time this unique technology has been used to help diagnose silicosis.

▮▮ PExA captures particles from the very deepest part of the lung without invasive procedures. This offers exciting possibilities for early diagnosis, disease monitoring, and tracking treatment response. ▮▮

Dr Simon Apte, Chief Scientist, QLTS

Key research advancements made possible by PExA include:

- A world-first comparison of PExA and bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) to develop a less invasive diagnostic approach.
- Analysis of samples from silicosis patients and healthy volunteers for early disease detection.
- Laying the groundwork for portable, on-site testing for high-risk worksites.

This technology has the potential to revolutionise lung research in Australia, offering earlier, safer, and more accessible detection for those most at risk.

Pioneering treatments: Whole Lung Lavage

Advances in silicosis treatment have also been made possible through Whole Lung Lavage trials. This carefully controlled procedure involves washing each lung with a saline solution under general anaesthetic to remove harmful particles from people with early silicosis.

Professor Dan Chambers first conducted these trials for early silicosis at The Prince Charles Hospital in 2020 – the trial helping identify the abnormal cells driving fibrosis, screen compounds to target these cells, and investigate genetic risk factors.

Supporting research with critical equipment

Research and patient care also rely on specialised equipment. Thanks to generous public donations:

- A vibrating vest device was purchased in 2023 to assist in lung lavage trials.
- A state-of-the-art cell sorter was acquired in 2023, empowering scientists to study specific cells affected by silica and test new interventions.

The future of silicosis research

The next frontier in protecting Australia's tradies lies in early, accessible detection and intervention. Researchers at TPCH are working toward a future where lung screening is portable and on-site, allowing high-risk workers to be monitored before symptoms appear.

By combining the world-first PExA technology with ongoing studies in cell biology, genetics, and treatment trials, scientists aim to:

- Identify early signs of silicosis without invasive procedures, including the development of on-site testing capabilities at workplaces.
- Monitor disease progression in real time.
- Test new treatments and preventative strategies.
- Reduce the burden of occupational lung disease and help tradies continue working safely.

▮▮ Our ultimate goal is to support research that enables portable, on-site testing, making early, accessible lung screening a reality for high-risk industries. ▮▮

Dr Rebekah Engel, Research and Impact Manager, The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation



Dr Simon Apte, Chief Scientist, QLTS



Remarkable Research: Ageing

Expansion of study to improve the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease

Currently, there is no single diagnostic test that definitively concludes that a person has Alzheimer’s disease. However, for over 10 years, a group of Brisbane health professionals – including Dr Eamonn Eeles, a geriatrician at The Prince Charles Hospital – has been striving to change that.

Close to 20 people were part of the first stage of the study called the Dementia Tracer Program – also known as Sterling’s Dream – supported by the Foundation. Now, the group has secured a prestigious national grant worth \$820,000 to support an expanded trial.

“ This phase focuses on detecting earlier changes in Alzheimer’s and determining if our new tracer can serve as an early marker of the disease. Our study aims to improve diagnostic outcomes and guide more effective treatment strategies for Alzheimer’s disease. By enabling earlier and more precise diagnosis, it may optimise the use of current treatments like cholinesterase inhibitors, which are most effective when started early. ”

Dr Eamonn Eeles, Geriatrician, The Prince Charles Hospital

The next phase of the study will include a larger sample size of 140 participants, including 40 clinical patients with mild cognitive impairment or mild Alzheimer’s.



Remarkable Research: Paediatrics

Advancing child health: Machine learning to detect aspiration in children

In 2022, the Foundation supported an exciting research project from the Caboolture region, led by Adjunct Associate Professor Thuy Frakking, called *Application of machine learning to swallowing sounds to better detect aspiration in infants and children*.

Her team is pioneering the development of computer technology that can recognise patterns in swallowing sounds to detect aspiration in infants and children – when food or fluids enter the airway instead of the stomach. If left undetected, swallowing difficulties caused by aspiration can lead to significant health challenges for the life of the child.

“ In less than five years, our collaborative team of clinicians and scientists across multiple health services and universities utilised advancements in modern machine learning techniques of ‘deep learning’ to develop world-first technology that automatically detect swallowing sounds and diagnose aspiration in preterm babies, infants, and children. ”

Thuy Frakking, Adjunct Associate Professor

The next step is to embed this technology into a clinical app, which could:

- Increase clinician capacity and capability to diagnose swallowing impairment in babies born prematurely.
- Eliminate the need for exposure to radiation used in current methods of detection.
- Prevent the incidence of aspiration and the related healthcare costs for managing acute or chronic lung conditions.
- Prevent poor growth and developmental outcomes in preterm babies.

This project has the potential to change practice on a global scale. Never before has technology been able to automatically detect swallows and identify aspiration from swallow sounds in preterm babies. Hospitals, clinicians, and families around the globe could benefit from earlier, safer, and more accurate detection of aspiration, reducing complications and improving long-term outcomes for millions of infants and children.

A provisional Australian patent (AU2025902147) was granted in 2025, which recognises co-invention across Metro North Health and Griffith University, and further highlights the pioneering nature of this work.

Purposeful Projects

Great care stems from dedicated clinicians, and is undeniably strengthened by the spaces that support patients and their families.

In 2020, the Foundation expanded its focus to purposeful, patient-centred projects - enhancing infrastructure, reimagining spaces, and bringing ideas to life that once seemed out of reach. Through agile partnerships, creative thinking, and the unwavering generosity of supporters, we've delivered meaningful improvements that hospitals could not achieve on their own.

These legacy spaces will now create comfort, calm, and care for patients for decades, inspiring change across hospitals in Queensland and beyond.

And it all began with you.



Purposeful Projects

It takes a village: Transforming dementia care in Queensland hospitals

For people living with dementia and other cognitive impairments, their surroundings can significantly impact their mood, behaviours, and overall well-being.

This is why a thoughtful redesign of the outdoor area of The Prince Charles Hospital's Cognitive Assessment and Management (CAM) Unit – the extended care ward for patients with dementia and other cognitive impairments – was designed in collaboration with frontline clinicians and geriatricians. Now known as 'Charlie's Village', the unit's outdoor space was transformed with the construction of built-in facades of a post office, café and bakery, hair salon, general store, a hotel (aptnly named The Prince Charles Hotel) and a bus/tram stop.

There are a lot of studies that show that environmental factors are one of the biggest triggers for someone with cognitive impairments or dementia having responsive or reactive behaviours. In those studies, they highlighted that modifying the environment reduces the rate of the escalation of changed behaviours and can help to speed up patient recovery and make them ready to return to their usual environment.

Khera Kim, Nurse Practitioner, Delirium and Dementia Service, The Prince Charles Hospital

The village facades do more than delight – they create destinations that may jog memories and elicit feelings of nostalgia, while encouraging patients to maintain independence, mobility, and social interaction.

"The staff unanimously agree that the Charlie's Village design effectively supports individualised patient care, promotes meaningful relationships among patients and their families/loved ones and encourages social interaction among patients," said Khera.

"I think this layout and environmental modification should be a gold standard in any institution or any hospital

setting looking after someone with dementia or cognitive impairment. We need to put a lot of effort into making it a dementia-friendly space because it doesn't only have a positive impact on the patient, but it also impacts the well-being of their primary carer, their family, as well as our staff who are looking after them."

This unique, village-like space was funded through the Foundation's 2022 Giving Day and constructed in 2023. It is believed to be the first of its kind in an Australian public hospital, and its success has inspired a second initiative at Caboolture Hospital.

Next stop - Caboolture Village

Scheduled for completion in mid to late 2026, like Charlie's Village, Caboolture Village will provide destinations that spark nostalgia and engagement. The space will include a post office, with other facades potentially featuring a woodworking shed, farmhouse kitchen, and payphone – continuing the tradition of creating environments that support independence, social interaction, and well-being.

This approach is now drawing attention from a wide range of public and private hospitals, as well as aged care facilities, all keen to learn from the design and outcomes of Charlie's Village. It demonstrates how thoughtful, evidence-based environments can transform dementia care far beyond a single site.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Foundation has been able to fund initiatives like Charlie's Village and Caboolture Village, which not only improve care at The Prince Charles and Caboolture Hospitals but also inspire better dementia care across the broader healthcare sector.





Purposeful Projects

Spaces that heal: Bringing play back to hospitals

Restoring a beloved retreat at The Prince Charles Hospital

A sick or injured child who has to stay in hospital may be bored and filled with worry. Having a place to play, however, can bring smiles and laughter back to their little faces and even support recovery.

In 2024, the play area in The Prince Charles Hospital's paediatric ward reopened following an extensive revamp funded through The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation's third annual Giving Day in 2023. This area had been closed for four years due to pandemic-related infection control measures. Once a much-loved space for children and their families, it had been sorely missed – but thanks to the support and generosity of the community, it was brought back to life.

Having a place to play means they can complete their gross motor skills and their fine motor skills. This is also about improving their cognitive, emotional, and social well-being, and we need to provide that holistic service to our patients.

Rachael Patterson, Registered Nurse, The Prince Charles Hospital

The average stay of children within this ward is between two and five days. As a result, inclusions within the area were carefully considered to help keep the hospital's littlest patients and their siblings entertained during their stay. Features include a colourful bubble tube, dimmable fairy lights, a hand-painted custom mural by Lisa Dot Design, height-adjustable table and chairs, and a specially curated selection of books, games, and toys appropriate for a variety of ages. Colours and materials were carefully chosen to create a calming, inviting environment, while maintaining strict infection control standards.

Constructing playful places for Caboolture Hospital

Opened in 2024, the refreshed paediatric ward at Caboolture Hospital was created as the hospital expanded to meet the needs of a growing community. With more beds and more families relying on care, the Foundation, through its The Common Good initiative, and the local community were determined to ensure that this growth included a special environment children deserved – a place where they could play, explore, and feel comforted even while unwell.

The children's retreat offers a safe, colourful, and engaging space for young patients and their siblings. Eye-catching Healing Ceilings artwork provides a welcome distraction,

while thoughtfully designed play areas encourage movement, imagination, and social interaction. Families can find a moment of peace knowing their children are supported and cared for in an environment designed to ease stress, spark joy, and nurture well-being.

For children, this space supports cognitive, emotional, and social development, helping to maintain a sense of normalcy during what can be a frightening experience. For parents and carers, it offers reassurance that their children are in an environment created with their needs and happiness in mind.





Purposeful Projects

From surviving to thriving: Reimagining the ICU environment to optimise patient outcomes

Architecture by Architectus Conrad Gargett. Photographer: Chris Wardle.

When someone you love is critically ill, every detail in their care matters, including the environment where patients are cared for.

Yet for decades, Intensive Care Units (ICUs) have been some of the most overwhelming spaces in a hospital – with harsh lighting, constant alarms, and activity at all hours.

Research confirmed the impact: despite sufficient sleep being essential for healing, being cared for in a standard ICU bed during the day was like resting in the middle of a motorway; at night, peak noise levels were of similar loudness to common power tools, constantly disrupting patients' sleep.

How did this impact patients' recovery? Patients were surviving their ICU stay, but many weren't thriving afterwards. They described hallucinations, nightmares, cognitive decline, and long struggles to return to work or daily life – with the environment itself contributing to patients developing new problems that can affect them long after hospital discharge.

A new approach made possible by you

Professor John Fraser AO, Founder and Director of the Critical Care Research Group (CCRG), first conceptualised the idea in 2017. More than five years later, with the support of the Foundation, CCRG began transforming years of research into a practical, life-changing design.

From the outset, the goal was bold – to reimagine what an ICU could be, not from the clinician's or architect's perspective, but through the eyes of the patient – something that had never been done. ICU patients were invited to share their stories. Engineers, architects, builders, medical companies, ICU staff, researchers, patients and their families worked side by side to reshape every element of the environment.

Five years of collaborative development, powered by the generosity of the Foundation's supporters, culminated in the official unveiling of two ICU of the Future bedspaces in December 2022 at The Prince Charles Hospital.

The redesigned bed spaces brought together a world-first suite of innovations, each one designed to reduce stress, improve sleep, and support healing:

- Digital windows that create views of nature in rooms without windows.
- Circadian lighting to mimic natural daylight and help people sustain their normal day-night rhythms.
- Reducing the number and location of the alarms to avoid disturbing patients.
- Acoustic panels to absorb noise.
- A softened architectural design that reduces the clinical feel and helps patients relax.
- State-of-the-art beds and reconfigured equipment that improve comfort and clinical efficiency.

Every element reflects the same commitment: to give patients not just the chance to survive – but the chance to thrive.



Architecture by Architectus Conrad Gargett. Photographer: Chris Wardle.

Local application – global impact

Since its inception, the ICU of the Future has captured interest across Australia and worldwide. Hospitals and research institutions began exploring how these innovations could shape the next generation of intensive care design, with several in south-east Queensland seeking guidance on how to maximise the learnings from this project within their own institutions.

The ICU of the Future is another example of the global impact that's made possible when people come together for the common good.

/// We are incredibly grateful for people who've contributed their time, their expertise, and given money to this project. Without their support, this wouldn't have happened. ///

Dr Oystein Tronstad, Project Manager and Lead, Clinical Research, Critical Care Research Group, The Prince Charles Hospital



Compassionate Care

Each year, hundreds of thousands of people rely on the busy public hospitals we help to support for compassionate care in their time of need.

Some of those grateful patients who've received care within these walls have been inspired to give back. They have joined their family and other community members through The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation programs to help ensure that future patients experience the same comfort, dignity, and support during their hospital journey.

It is this generosity and spirit of philanthropy that have enabled several compassionate care programs within the hospitals to come to fruition, enhancing the care already delivered by skilled clinicians and hospital teams and creating a lasting impact for patients and families.



Compassionate Care

Caring for the children who visit The Prince Charles and Caboolture Hospitals

When The Prince Charles Hospital opened its dedicated children's health services in 2012, including an Emergency Department, short-stay ward, and specialist outpatients clinic, it brought integrated, child-friendly care closer to home for northern Brisbane families.

As those services grew, so did the understanding that children need more than exceptional clinical treatment – they need comfort, clarity, and a sense of control in moments that feel anything but predictable.

Your support helped the Foundation take a pivotal step in 2019, when we first received funding through Hospitals United for Sick Kids (formerly Curing Homesickness) and its corporate partners. That moment laid the groundwork for a long-term commitment to children's health across both The Prince Charles Hospital and Caboolture Hospital. Since then, your generosity has helped fund over 20 pieces of vital equipment, enhanced patient care, improved clinical environments, and strengthened family-centred services – representing an investment of more than \$1.5 million by the Foundation in paediatrics to date.

Within that broader journey sits one of the most transformative developments: the Child Life Therapy Program.



Compassionate Care

From first steps to lasting change: The impact of Child Life Therapy

Hospitalisation can be overwhelming for any child facing pain, unfamiliar procedures, or the fear of the unknown. In 2022, the Foundation funded the very first Child Life Therapist at The Prince Charles Hospital – a one-year pilot that also became the first role of its kind in a Queensland public hospital Emergency Department.

It was a clear demonstration of the impact of philanthropy: helping introduce new models of care, addressing emerging needs, and enhancing the support available to children and families during stressful moments. In that first year alone, Child Life Therapist Meenu supported around 2,000 children and their families, with more than 60% of those patients aged six or younger.

Using play, positive distraction, controlled breathing, and trauma-informed care, Child Life Therapists help children feel safe and in control during medical procedures. These early experiences matter – a positive hospital encounter in childhood can reduce fear and trauma, shaping how a person relates to healthcare for the rest of their life.

“Working closely with families, I collaborate to create coping strategies that provide a sense of control in challenging situations. Play within the hospital environment fosters a feeling of well-being and safety – that ‘felt safety’ helps me connect with children even when they’re highly anxious.”

Meenu, Child Life Therapist, The Prince Charles Hospital

Meenu's words capture the heart of the program: when families feel included, informed, and supported, the hospital experience becomes less frightening and more empowering.

The success of that first pilot, combined with rising demand – including over 48,000 paediatric presentations across both hospitals in the 2024/2025 financial year – made it clear that Child Life Therapy is essential for children, families, and clinical teams. Thanks to supporters' generosity, what began as a single pilot role has now grown into a permanent service across two hospitals. In July 2025, two additional Child Life Therapists joined the team – a second at The Prince Charles Hospital, and a first-ever for Caboolture Hospital.

“Coming to a busy and unfamiliar environment can be an anxious time for children and their families, especially when kids are feeling so unwell. My goal is to make the experience a little easier and more comfortable.”

Lucy, Child Life Therapist, Caboolture Hospital

Together, these roles represent a \$900,000 investment in Child Life Therapy alone – part of the Foundation's broader commitment that is reshaping paediatric care for thousands of children and their families each year. Today, paediatrics is one of the Foundation's core focus areas, reflecting both hospitals' rapid growth and the rising need for children's services across our region.

Compassionate Care

A legacy of care: Hospital volunteers making a difference every day

Since 1978, the Charlie's Angels volunteers have been an integral part of The Prince Charles Hospital, providing compassionate support to patients and visitors during some of their most vulnerable moments.

In 2013, The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation was entrusted with the management and facilitation of this much-loved volunteer program.

The Charlie's Angels program has continued to grow in both scale and reach. From January 2025, volunteers expanded their support into the Kallangur Satellite Health Centre, extending the same warmth and care beyond the hospital campus. Many volunteers have a deeply personal connection to The Prince Charles Hospital or Kallangur as former patients, visitors, carers or staff, bringing empathy and lived experience to their roles.

Today, the Charlie's Angels collectively provide over 500 hours of support each week across more than 30 areas on The Prince Charles Hospital campus and at the Kallangur Satellite Health Centre. Their contributions range from welcoming and assisting visitors at hospital entrances to engaging one-on-one with patients in wards and units to offering practical assistance to staff across the hospital.

Our volunteers work alongside dedicated hospital staff, offering practical support and bringing comfort, kindness and human connection in moments that matter most.

Maree Adams, Volunteer Program Manager,
The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation

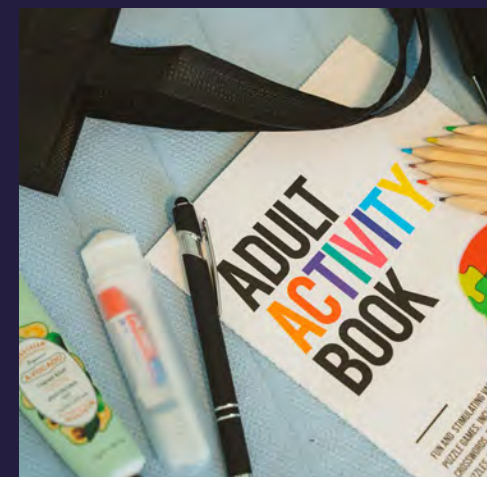
The program is proudly supported by long-standing partner, Kedron-Wavell, whose sponsorship has helped sustain and strengthen volunteer services over time.



The Foundation has also been proud to manage the volunteer program at Caboolture Hospital since July 2022. Along with greeting members of the public and assisting with wayfinding, the volunteer service has been expanded to provide broader assistance to patients, staff and members of the public throughout the hospital.

Since 2022, the Caboolture Hospital volunteer program has grown from just 12 volunteers to more than 50, now contributing over 300 volunteer hours each week. Together, these volunteers play a vital role in creating welcoming, supportive hospital environments, making a difference every day.

'Little' comforts making a big difference for vulnerable patients



Being rushed into the hospital can be a frightening, disorienting experience, and for some vulnerable older patients, they don't have time to pack their things or anyone to bring them some belongings. Comfort packs were introduced by the Foundation in 2025 as a way to provide extra care, comfort, and dignity to anyone who may have found themselves in this position.

Each pack includes essentials like a toothbrush and toothpaste, hand lotion, fresh shorts, and a puzzle book – small items that make a big difference in a patient's comfort and recovery.

In the first three months of the program, more than 1,500 comfort packs were funded for patients at The Prince Charles Hospital.

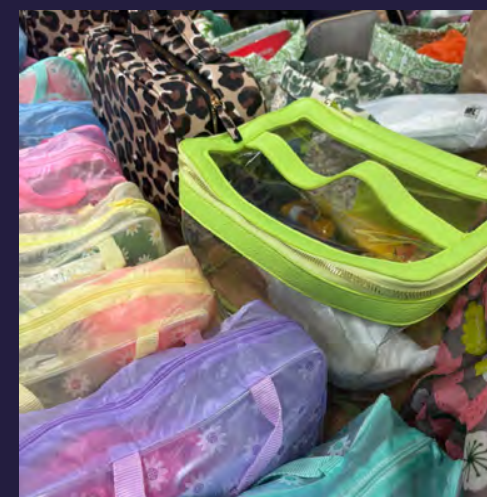
Therapy dogs a 'pawsitive' addition for patients and staff



Since 2022, the Foundation has supported around 300 Delta Therapy Dogs visits that have brought excitement and joy to wards across both The Prince Charles and Caboolture Hospitals.

These furry visitors have been described as 'pawsitive' additions for staff and patients, encouraging connection and communication during what can be a challenging time.

Community generosity, patient-centred impact



For the past five years, our local community has shown deep compassion for patients receiving mental health care at The Prince Charles Hospital. On campus, three adult mental health facilities support patients whose stays may range from a few days to much longer – and for some, that time is spent without visitors.

What began as a small request for practical donations of toiletries at Christmas has grown into a much-loved annual toiletry gift pack program. Each year, supporters come together to create thoughtfully prepared packs, helping patients feel seen, cared for, and remembered during a time that can be especially isolating. Since the program began, around 500 gift packs have been donated, and in 2024, growing community support allowed the program to expand to Caboolture Hospital, reaching even more patients when they need it most.

Exceptional Equipment

A lack of funding can often limit a hospital's ability to access the most up-to-date medical equipment, particularly with the rapid pace of technological advances. However, these advances can make a huge difference in providing timely, precise and effective care for patients.

The hospitals we support are serving rapidly growing communities, which, in turn, increases demand for their services. As such, having the most up-to-date equipment on hand is key to elevating what is possible for patients today and in the years to come.

Philanthropy bridges the gap between what hospitals are required to have and what they can only hope to acquire for the benefit of their patients. Support from corporate partners, community members, individual donors, and those who generously leave a gift in their Will ensures clinicians have the advanced equipment they need to deliver exceptional care.





Exceptional Equipment

Robotic surgery: Precision care for life-changing outcomes

A state-of-the-art robotic arm has been transforming orthopaedic surgery at The Prince Charles Hospital for the past several years. Funded by the Foundation in 2019, this technology enables surgeons to provide more accurate surgeries than traditional methods, with less pain and faster recovery. The Prince Charles Hospital was the first public hospital in Queensland to offer this level of precision to public patients.

Since 2019, the hospital's surgeons have performed more than 2,350 robotic-arm-assisted joint replacement surgeries. Today, the machine is used for 100% of partial knee replacements and around 60% of total knee replacements.

The robotic system allows surgeons to plan procedures virtually and target only the damaged portion of a joint, reducing the risk of soft-tissue trauma and improving outcomes. Partial knee replacements can be two to three times more accurate than manual surgery, and some patients even return home the same day.

For larger surgeries, including total knee and hip replacements, the technology ensures implants are positioned with precision, supporting long-term mobility and quality of life. Hip fracture patients also benefit, with faster rehabilitation helping them regain independence more quickly.

"The robotic-arm machine has had very positive outcomes for our patients – lower infection rates, decreased length of stay in hospital, and consistent short-term revision rates," says Dr Anthony Silva, Director of Orthopaedic Surgery, The Prince Charles Hospital.

// This personalised surgical experience reduces the chance for soft tissue damage and the size of the exposure site, which in turn helps to optimise the outcome and recovery for the patient. //

Dr Simon Perkins, Orthopaedic Surgeon, The Prince Charles Hospital

The Foundation's \$2 million contribution was its largest single investment at the time, demonstrating the real difference philanthropy can make. For patients across Queensland, this technology is more than innovation – it's life-changing care that keeps people moving, active, and living well for longer.

Exceptional Equipment

Equipment that strengthens care across hospitals we support

Through the generosity of donors, hundreds of pieces of equipment have been funded for The Prince Charles Hospital and Caboolture Hospital, strengthening care across wards, theatres, and clinical services. This includes a single bequest from a generous donor that enabled the purchase of more than 75 pieces of life-saving equipment, ensuring clinicians have the tools they need to deliver faster, and more effective care for patients every day.



MRI Exercise Bike is a specialised pedalling device used during cardiac MRI scans to stress the heart, helping clinicians detect heart problems that may not be visible at rest.



Automatic Fraction Collector to automatically separate tiny particles in samples, making research faster and more precise.



3D printer to rapidly prototype injured organs such as the heart for evaluation of treatment methods.



Virtual Reality Goggles to distract anxious patients from medical procedures by taking them on a virtual adventure.

Social Enterprise and Events



Social Enterprise

Cafes and catering contributing to life-changing outcomes

When the Foundation entered into an agreement with The Prince Charles Hospital to take over the operation and management of the hospital canteen in November 1994, the goal was twofold: to improve the experience for staff, patients, and visitors, and to enhance the fundraising revenue dedicated to supporting ongoing medical research.

What emerged was something ahead of its time – a social enterprise model built on purpose as much as performance.

“A social enterprise is a business that exists to make a positive impact in the community, rather than maximising profit for owners or shareholders.”

Vincent McFarlane, Chief Financial and Commercial Officer, The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation

From the outset, the idea was simple. Every meal served, and every coffee brewed, would do more than nourish people passing through the hospital. It would strengthen the Foundation's ability to make a lasting impact and complement donations received from the public.

By the late 1990s, the impact was clear. In the 1998-1999 financial year, the cafeteria activities delivered more than 20% of the total surplus, strengthening the Foundation's ability to support the hospital's research program. In 2007-2008, there were almost 400,000 transactions at the cafe, made by a wide range of people – hospital

staff grabbing coffee between shifts, families seeking a moment of normality, and patients and visitors finding comfort in something familiar. Each interaction became an opportunity to connect people to the Foundation's purpose.

Since the 1990s, the Foundation's social enterprise has grown significantly, now including five sites across three locations and employing a team of more than 80 staff. In 2020, The Cafe for The Common Good was proud to receive the Lord Mayor's Business Award for Outstanding Social Enterprise, recognising the model's commitment to excellence, sustainability, and community impact.

In the 2024-2025 financial year, our cafes, catering service and vending machines collectively recorded just under one million transactions.

The cafe and catering businesses stand as a powerful reminder that impact doesn't always look obvious. Sometimes it looks like a morning coffee before a long shift, a shared lunch during a difficult day, or a catered meeting that helps fund future breakthroughs. These small moments, repeated thousands of times, are quietly shaping better health outcomes.



Events

Ekka Strawberry Sundaes: An iconic treat's legacy will live on

The Ekka Strawberry Sundae program was a cherished part of our journey at The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation for 35 years, bringing joy, connecting communities, and raising vital funds for medical research.

While the Strawberry Sundae has been a staple at the Ekka since the 1950s, it was in the late 1980s that the Foundation became the official charitable organisation for the iconic treat, with all profits going towards medical research at The Prince Charles Hospital. And even though the researchers supported by the Foundation and the sale of these sweets are based in Brisbane, the work they conduct is globally significant.

This fundraising opportunity was small and humble when it started in 1989, but by 2024 it had swelled to a mammoth operation with five busy sites across the Brisbane Showgrounds during the Ekka.

An operation of this size required nine months of planning and the involvement of more than 2,000 incredible volunteers to scoop and serve these special treats in support of The Prince Charles Hospital.

It was the volunteers who ensured the sundaes were always made and served with love, too. Many of the people who donated their time to volunteer at the show had a connection to The Prince Charles Hospital in some way, and volunteering was often a way for them to give back to a hospital that helped them or their family in a time of need.

The success of this program for more than three decades is a testament to the incredible volunteers and the Foundation's community. These contributions have left an incredible mark on the Foundation and the lives of countless patients.

With rising costs and risk, the Foundation made the hard decision in 2025 to step back from delivering the program. This ensured that our resources could be better directed towards our core message of funding life-saving research and patient care.

We are so proud of all that the Strawberry Sundae program has helped to accomplish over 35 of our 40 years of operation, supporting medical research, providing vital equipment, and enhancing patient care across Brisbane and beyond. We are deeply grateful to everyone whose hard work and generosity helped make the program a success, ultimately resulting in helping patients live healthier for longer. To everyone who has been part of it, including those who have generously volunteered their time over the years, and in some instances, decades – thank you. Your dedication has made a real difference in the lives of countless patients.



Events

Giving Days: Our community's gift to care

Since 2021, Giving Day has become a vibrant annual tradition – a chance for local businesses, hospital staff, corporate partners and community members to come together in support of their local hospital.

Across five Giving Days, this collective generosity has funded vital improvements: new equipment, refreshed patient spaces, and enhanced comfort and care initiatives that make a real difference for patients and their families. Of note, outcomes made possible include Memory Lane, Charlie's Village and Sky Garden.

Greater than fundraising alone, Giving Day is a celebration of community, bringing people together through markets, volunteer efforts, and community support. Giving Days have shown what's possible when a community rallies around shared values of compassion and well-being. It's a tangible example within a 40-year legacy of how your support helps transform lives, strengthen the hospital, and build a healthier, more connected community for years to come.



Sky Garden, The Prince Charles Hospital: What was once a tutorial room and small, enclosed balcony has been transformed into a pleasant environment for hip fracture patients. Funded through the 2021 Giving Day.



Memory Lane, The Prince Charles Hospital: A hallway lined with historical images of Brisbane to encourage older patients to get moving, reminisce, and support their recovery. Funded through the 2022 Giving Day.

Fundraising cycle gives back to transplant research

In moments of profound adversity, when life-saving care leads to recovery, many people feel a deep sense of gratitude – and a desire to give back for the care and second chance they have received.

In 2006, Mary and Mal Long felt this pull and founded the Cycle of Giving to honour Mal's donor heart family and the transplant team who supported him on his journey. The very first ride brought together 18 cyclists, mostly members of Mary's swim squad at the time, who pedalled to raise funds for vital transplant research at The Prince Charles Hospital.

The ride was held on the Sunshine Coast for a little over a decade, with the course taking riders through breathtaking scenery all the way to Brisbane. In 2019, the Cycle of Giving continued to grow in popularity and size and was integrated into the Tour de Brisbane, which now accommodates over 5,000 riders in its annual event.

“The Cycle of Giving recognises that behind every heart transplant is a family who made a most selfless decision in their darkest moments. We ride in honour of their courage and in gratitude for the gift of life they have given to others.”

Mary Long, Founder of Cycle of Giving

In 2025, Mary took the ride back to where it first began and was joined by members of her club, the Sunshine Coast Bicycle Touring Club.

“Today, the event continues to raise awareness of organ and tissue donation – and funds vital research. The Cycle is and always will be a way for us to continue to acknowledge Mal's donor and their selfless family, as well as his transplant team. These are people who are always in my heart and mind for the Cycle and will not be forgotten,” said Mary.

Funds raised through Cycle of Giving support vital transplant-related research, including a named grant awarded in honour of the event and all it represents.

ECHO Australia Conference



For more than two decades, the ECHO Australia Conference has been a leading event in the field of cardiovascular ultrasound. With Professor Gregory Scalia AM and colleagues at the helm, it has equipped thousands of clinicians with advanced echocardiography skills – improving diagnostic accuracy and patient care.

Since its inception, around 8,600 attendees have participated in interactive sessions with world-leading practitioners. The Foundation has supported the event since 2015, helping it grow and investing proceeds into vital research at The Prince Charles Hospital.

This hallmark event in cardiovascular ultrasound is now considered Australia's leading echocardiography conference.



Blue Sky Research Program



A bold vision for better health

At The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, our purpose is simple and ambitious: helping people live healthier for longer. To achieve this, pioneering treatments, advanced technologies and breakthrough research must come together – and that requires bold investment.

Enter the Blue Sky Research Program



What is the Blue Sky Research Program?

The Blue Sky Research Program is an impact fund created to accelerate the next generation of heart and lung treatments in Australia over the coming decade.

By connecting brilliant scientists with visionary supporters like you, the Blue Sky Research Program aims to unlock discoveries with the potential to transform care, prevent disease progression, and radically improve survival and quality of life.

With \$2 million in seed funding provided by the Foundation, the aim is to provide more than \$10 million of support by 2032.

Our belief is simple – no one should die waiting for a heart or lung transplant.

Flexible funding to fuel innovation

The Blue Sky Research Program is designed to fuel innovation at its earliest and most critical stages, with untied funding giving the brightest scientists the freedom to pursue bold ideas that traditional funding schemes often overlook. This program will support researchers to:

- Test transformative new approaches to repairing heart tissue, regenerating damaged lungs, and preventing disease progression.
- Accelerate translational research, moving ideas from discovery to clinical trials faster.
- Strengthen collaboration across multidisciplinary teams to spark novel solutions.

A specially-curated Blue Sky Research Advisory Committee, comprised of leading experts, will oversee grant selection to ensure excellence, transparency and a relentless focus on real-world patient outcomes.

The moment to act is now

Professor Dan Chambers



“Innovation in transplantation has never been safe or certain – from the first transplant to today. It has always required courage, vision, and belief. The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation's Blue Sky Research Program keeps that legacy alive.”

Head of Research, QLTS

Professor John Fraser AO



“For patients facing the longest and darkest journeys, research is the step that turns hope into a future. Bold research doesn't just shorten the journey – it transforms the future for patients who need it most.”

Director, Critical Care Research Group, The Prince Charles Hospital



You can help people
live healthier for longer



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