

Changing the future for people facing upper GI cancers

Delivering personalised support, driving national change, and investing in improved survival



Every number in here tells a human story.

ANNUAL REVIEW 2024-25

Acknowledgement of First Australians

In the spirit of the reconciliation Pancare acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, and sea and the community. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their cultures, and to Elders past, present and emerging.

We celebrate, value and include people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies and abilities.

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At a glance

A snapshot of impact from 2024–25



1,845

episodes of care provided through PanSupport



\$4.7M

raised



7

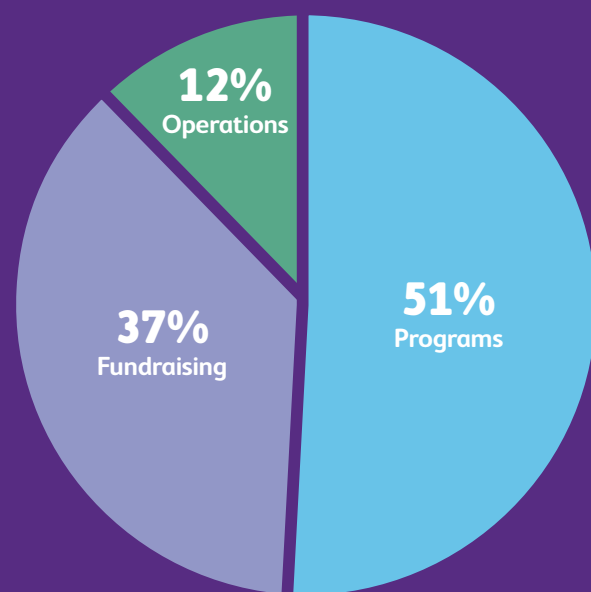
research projects supported



750+

volunteer hours

Where Your Money Went



Telehealth Reach



Pancare's services reached people in every state and territory – urban, regional, and remote.



CEO and Chair's message

"This year was about acceleration."

We began this year with a bold new blueprint: one focused on scale, outcomes, and equity. We knew that building Pancare internally wasn't enough. To drive meaningful change, we had to amplify our external impact. And we had to move fast.

That's exactly what we did.

But our biggest achievement this year isn't about metrics. It's about momentum. Every step forward was guided by listening to people impacted by an upper GI cancer, clinicians, and partners. That's why our next chapter is one of innovation.

We're exploring new models of survivorship research, expanding the Par 5 Marketplace, and investing in people and technologies that can fundamentally shift the experience of upper GI cancer in Australia.

This Annual Review is more than a record of achievements, it's a rallying cry. **It is our proof of concept. Our next chapter is one of innovation, and we invite you to help us write it.**

Doug Hawkins
CEO Pancare Foundation

Pancare was established in 2011 by its founder Professor Mehrdad Nikfarjam (OAM, MD, PhD, FACS). His aim was to improve lives. Over the last 14 years, this aim has grown into a leading Not-For-Profit whose aim is to improve the lives of people impacted by pancreatic and upper gastrointestinal cancer.

Pancare does this by focusing on three key aspects:

- Funding research to improve survival rates and enhance treatment
- Providing support to patients and families
- Advocating and educating the community, government and health professionals

Last year we spent \$2.24 million on these vital areas.

We could only do this because of the:

- generous donations from many people
- Support from the Australian Government for our telehealth services delivered by nurses and counsellors
- hundreds of volunteers who give so tirelessly of their time to assist in fundraising
- incredibly professional and dedicated staff who work in our organisation

We have set ourselves an ambitious three-year plan to lift our service delivery targets to much greater levels.

Our community of cancer patients and their families sadly grows every year. With ongoing help and dedication from all we hope to lift survival rates and provide much needed help to more people and families.

To those who have helped and will help in our journey, on behalf of the Board I say thank you – your efforts make a serious difference in a challenging and relentless journey to fulfill Mehrdad's vision of improving lives.

Clive Appleton
Chairman, Pancare Foundation

A journey of courage and community support

Grant was initially diagnosed with bowel cancer. After scans and talks with medical experts the plan was keyhole surgery, cut the cancer out and to have some follow up chemotherapy. During the operation it was found to be far worse than scans had indicated. Grant came out of surgery with a large cut in his chest and diagnosed with stage four terminal biliary cancer. He was told he had 6-9 months to live and go live your life. Weeks of recovery and start chemotherapy treatment.

The news of his true condition was frightening and life changing. Nearly five years later, Grant has defied the odds and the statistical data battling mentally and physically through various standard of care cancer treatments. These treatments do not fix the cancer but have kept the progression of his cancer to a minimum. During his fight Grant has celebrated many milestones including marriages of his children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and precious family / friend moments including birthdays and Christmas. These experiences have contributed to being a large part of his motivation to keep fighting. There are plenty more for the future.

The journey has not been easy and has become tougher as time progresses. Chemotherapy and other cancer treatments have taken a heavy toll on him physically and mentally. Grant speaks candidly about the emotional strain of living with cancer. Coming from a generation where mental health wasn't really a thing for blokes, Grant didn't initially understand the impact mentally to himself, his wife Debra, his children and family / friends around him.

Time and reflection have given Grant the opportunity to better understand the impacts and how to best deal with them. Grant says talking so honestly and at times brutally about his cancer has made him stronger. Sharing his story is something Grant is passionate about to help others with their own fight. His mental health / emotional wellbeing is critical and has contributed significantly to his ability to fight his illness. Grant is so fortunate to have a huge internal support group around him of family / friends lead by his wife and daily carer Debra.



Grant with James Stewart at a Par 5 event.

“Sharing his story is something Grant is passionate about to help others with their own fight.”

There is nothing Grant and Debra don't discuss but Grant has been able to identify the need to connect with Pancare counsellors at times to review his mental health status and obtain any tools or strategies required to just keep fighting.

Grant says, “JUST TALK”.

Grant, Debra, family and friends have also turned this experience into action. They have established the BUGIC Foundation to help support other people with an upper GI cancer in their own battle. This has included running fundraising events and creation of a children's cancer book to help families explain cancer and treatment to young children, making the journey less frightening and easier to understand. They have participated and supported numerous Pancare initiatives / events contributing funds for research, awareness and support.

Grant is also a proud Pancare Par 5 Ambassador, focusing on raising funds for much-needed research into upper GI cancers. Reflecting on his journey, Grant credits the compassion and care of organisations like Pancare Foundation. The access to nurses, counsellors, and support services helping cancer people navigate the hardest moments is vital. His story is a testament to the strength of the human spirit, the power of support, and the difference that community can make in the lives of people impacted by cancer.

Grant and his family.



This year, we turned strategy into momentum

THE NEXT FRONTIER

Building, connecting, and reaching further

Who we supported

But behind every number was a moment of clarity, comfort, or connection. Whether it was someone newly diagnosed with an upper GI cancer speaking to a PanSupport nurse, or a carer attending their first support group, each interaction meant someone no longer felt alone. In a year marked by uncertainty, we delivered 1835 turning points.

“*This service is amazing. The calls I received from the counsellor helped me so in at such a hard time. Thank you for providing the service.*”

Person living with Upper GI Cancer

Snapshot:

599

people supported through PanSupport over 1,835 episodes of care

85%

were new people coming to our service

Our reach

- Support provided in all 8 states and territories
- Developed First Nations and CALD resources to ensure equity of access work initiated.

From Darwin to Devonport, our services reached communities too often left behind in cancer care. Through telehealth, online support groups, and targeted outreach, we helped bridge the geographic divide, putting trusted support within reach, no matter the postcode. For many families, it wasn't just about access, it was about feeling agency during an otherwise disempowering time.

“*I have found both the nurse and counselling services of utmost value especially as we are based in a regional town. I don't think I could have gotten through this past year without the support of Pancare and the nursing and counselling service. Never underestimate the impact you can have in one person's life. It has rippled out and helped us create an informed and supportive home life as my partner navigates his oesophageal cancer diagnosis treatment and recovery.*”

Partner of someone living with oesophageal cancer

How we advocated

Pancare's voice grew stronger in policy conversations at every level. We elevated the lived experience of people with a diagnosis of an upper GI cancer to the highest levels of decision-making, ensuring their realities shaped policies, not just filled surveys

- Supported 9 submissions to Government, advocating for new medicines for people with upper GI cancer
- State of the Nation launch: a first-of-its-kind sector mapping report outlining the key challenges that Pancare and others need to address to improve the lives of people with a diagnosis of an upper GI cancer
- Advocated for Government funding for our specialist upper GI cancer nurses and wellbeing counsellors.

What we raised

Every dollar raised was more than a donation. It was a commitment to a better future. This funding enabled frontline nursing care, research investment, and national awareness campaigns. More than that, it signalled a growing movement of supporters who believe, as we do, that lives can be saved.

Laying the foundation for future impact

\$4.7M

from donors, partners, and events

- **\$374K invested** in research
- **2 commercial pilot partnerships** launched via Par 5 Marketplace
- **The Next Frontier** – Pancare's new 3-year strategy designed and activated – with clear vision, programmatic focus areas of action, values, enablers, underpinned by a highly collaborative approach.



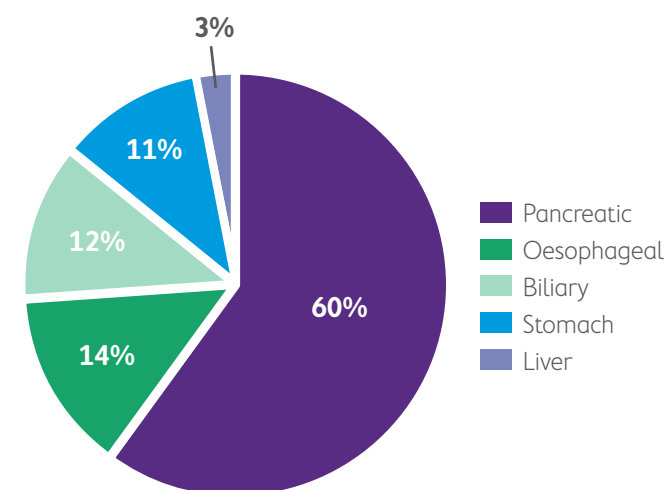
Pansupport

Support that stays with you, every step of the way

PanSupport continues to redefine what meaningful care looks like for people affected by upper GI cancers.

This year, your support enabled Pancare's PanSupport program to deliver **1835 personalised care interventions** to people living with or caring for someone with an upper GI cancer, a significant increase that reflects both growing demand and the trust people place in us. Almost **600 unique individuals** were supported, including over **370 people diagnosed with an upper GI cancer** and **220 carers** connecting with us. A further 450 people attended one of 52 support groups facilitated by the PanSupport team.

Behind every number is a human need, one we meet with practical help, expert knowledge, and deep compassion. Most support centred on **pancreatic cancer (60%)**, followed by **oesophageal (14%)**, **biliary (12%)**, **stomach (11%)**, and **liver cancers (3%)**.



“Amazing service provided, very grateful for the outstanding support I received.”

PanSupport caller

This year's key milestones:

- Developed a **new Model of Care** to guide the work of our team grounded in dignity, empowerment, and best practice
- Finalised over 40 **clinical protocols and procedures** to guide safe, consistent delivery
- Expanded our **telehealth team** to six highly qualified, multidisciplinary professionals
- Launched **eight tailored portfolios** focused on priority and underserved communities, including First Nations and multilingual resources
- From diagnosis to survivorship, or end of life, we help people navigate the system, understand their options, and feel less alone.

Building a foundation of trust

Behind every supportive phone call, nurse-led session, and online resource is a deep commitment to quality, safety, and integrity. In 2024–25, Pancare reached a foundational milestone: the **development and implementation of more than 40 clinical protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs)**.

These procedures **cover everything from emergency escalation and risk management to culturally safe care and volunteer boundary protocols**. For a not-for-profit organisation, this level of clinical governance is rare and speaks volumes about Pancare's operational maturity.

It ensures that every touchpoint, whether online, over the phone, or in person, is backed by a safe, consistent, and high-quality approach. It's how we protect the trust placed in us, and how we scale with confidence.

Three key areas of impact funded by Dry July

Financial Assistance Program

In response to financial toxicity for people with Upper GI Cancer, Pancare supports people affected by upper GI cancer experiencing financial hardship through our Financial Assistance Program.

Due to the current cost of living crisis in Australia demand for the service has grown by 60% over the last year. The program is increasingly funding vital services for people including, access to equipment purchase and hire, mortgage and rent assistance, utilities electric, gas, food security, car repairs, service, petrol and registration, exercise physiology, broadband and phone bills.

Access to a specialist Upper GI Cancer Dietitian

Pancare Foundation funds access to a specialist Upper GI Cancer dietitian where people are not able to access this through their treatment team. There are high unmet needs around managing the specific aspects of diet for people with Upper GI cancer. The adverse impacts of malnutrition are well documented: reduced survival and ability to complete treatment, poorer quality of life and higher costs to the health care system are an all-too-common feature of these cancers.

DRY JULY
FOUNDATION

My Care KITs

Our core resource, My Care KIT (Knowledge, Information, Tools) is a point-of-diagnosis resource to support people with a diagnosis of upper GI cancer and their families. There are 5 disease specific My Care KITs for people with Pancreatic, Oesophageal, Stomach, Liver, and Biliary cancer. They are presented in a spiral bound booklet A5 binder, and features comprehensive, evidence-based information to help people better understand a diagnosis, treatments and pathways through living with an Upper GI cancer.

We distributed 2138 kits.

“The My Care KIT It is full of useful info. I found it really helpful and have sought info in it from time to time.”

Person living with an Upper GI Cancer



A national model for equity in care

With government support, Pancare is building the evidence, infrastructure and influence to shape cancer care across Australia.

Backed by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Pancare is now a driver of systemic change for people affected by upper GI cancers. In 2024–25, we completed our **first government-funded program**, while continuing two others that will shape national care over the coming decade.

Completed programs (2023–2025)

Through a \$1.1 million federal grant, Pancare delivered five high-impact initiatives:

- **Employed a specialist cancer nurse**, to ensure we could support more people impacted
- **Developed Australia's first Optimal Care Pathway for biliary cancer**, co-created with **170+ experts**, and translated into **11 languages**
- **Launched a targeted consumer awareness campaign**, reaching over **2 million people**
- **Delivered national GP education**, with **1,354 clinicians** completing accredited modules and **3,800+ podcast downloads**
- **Commissioned an independent evaluation by Deloitte**, confirming that all contractual outcomes were met and longstanding service gaps were addressed.

Current projects underway

Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program

\$3.1M (2024–2027)

Supporting national nursing care models, culturally responsive services, and system-level governance reform.

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, through the Australian Cancer Nursing and Navigation Program.



Upper GI Cancer Diet Hub

\$705K (2024–2027)

Co-designing new evidence-based dietary resources with clinicians, researchers and people diagnosed with an upper GI cancer and carers, shaped by the latest research.

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, through the Cancer Patient Support Program.

Pancreatic Cancer Roadmap

\$368K (2025–2026)

Developing clinical education and national pain management guidance for pancreatic cancer care.

Funded by the Australian Government Cancer Australia.





From the margins to the mainstream: We're advocating to put upper GI cancers on the national agenda

We're no longer just asking for change... we're helping design it.

The Power of a Unified Voice

In 2024–25, Pancare's advocacy efforts reached new heights. Through deliberate, evidence-led engagement, we shifted upper GI cancers from the margins of policy to a part of the national conversation.

This year marked the official launch of Pancare's first State of the Nation report into Upper Gastrointestinal Cancers in Melbourne with Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney officiating the launch. The report laid bare the urgent need for reform and catalysed direct engagement with decision-makers.

Outcomes included

Advocacy Wins That Matter

System change takes time, but this year delivered critical early results:

- **Advocating for the listing of 9 new upper GI cancer medicines**, ensuring that voices of people with upper GI cancers inform medication access
- Hosting the first ever upper GI cancer workshop at the Cancer Nursing Society of Australia Conference with over 70 Australian and International Nurses attending.

Moving forward, Pancare will redouble our Advocacy efforts to shape the national agenda and improve outcomes for people diagnosed with an upper GI cancer.

A united front for change: driving collective impact across the upper GI cancer sector

From advocacy to precision medicine, Pancare is bringing together partners across research, health services, industry and government to facilitate a coordinated, national response to upper GI cancers.

Pancare isn't acting in isolation. In 2024–25, underpinned by the key findings from our State of the Nation Report, we initiated discussions with dozens of stakeholders across the upper GI cancer sector nationally, including government, other patient advocacy and cancer control organisations, medical research institutes, health services, clinical trial networks, clinical quality registries, and industry partners.

As we move to implement our new 3-year Next Frontier strategy, Pancare will take an even more collaborative approach when delivering our Research, Advocacy and Support strategies by working with others under a Collective Impact model.

The Collective Impact framework has been used successfully around the world as a model to bring stakeholders together across complex systems to create positive change. Critical to the model is the role of backbone organisations that coordinate efforts between different groups and drive integrated outcomes.

What's Next for Pancare's Collective Impact efforts?



Informed by our 2025 Consumer Survey, a refreshed State of the Nation report in 2026 will sharpen our focus on unmet needs, guiding collaborative efforts across Research, Advocacy and Support. Key priorities include a partnership approach with a focus on:

- Stronger advocacy for equitable access to treatments and supportive care.
- Increased focus on prevention, early detection and screening.
- Advancing precision medicine through genetics, trials and targeted therapies.
- Promoting the optimal use of data, including clinical quality registries.

“Having been involved in global Collective Impact initiatives in healthcare for over a decade, I've seen firsthand the impact that a highly collaborative backbone organisation can have on patient outcomes. By bringing people together, exchanging knowledge and finding the win-win, we can reduce duplication and maximise impact. This is what patients expect from leaders in the healthcare system and it's fantastic that Pancare has embraced such a collaborative approach.”

Dr Mark Buzza, Head of Research, Innovation & Advocacy, Pancare Foundation

Seeding breakthroughs, scaling impact

Upper gastrointestinal (GI) cancers, including oesophageal, stomach, liver, biliary and pancreatic cancers, are the deadliest group of cancers in Australia today. Combined, these cancers account for almost one in five cancer deaths each year. While many other cancers have seen step-change improvements in survival and quality of life, upper GI cancers sadly have not. This is due to the inherent challenges in diagnosing and treating upper GI cancers, as well as lower research funding levels, which still remains inordinately low, especially compared to their high burden of disease.

At Pancare, we are trying to change that paradigm. We don't just treat research projects as traditional funding; we treat it as a strategic investment.

Since its inception, Pancare has invested \$4.7 million to support upper gastrointestinal cancer research across six key areas: discovering new treatments, early detection methods, personalised medicine approaches, optimal patient care practices, supporting future leaders in the field, and facilitating clinical trials.

Our **\$4.47 million research fund** is actively invested across **23 high-impact research projects** since 2011, each funded for its potential to unlock key unanswered scientific questions that are critical to understand in order to drive research translation and improve outcomes of people impacted by an upper GI cancer.

Every dollar invested is a strategic approach that extends far beyond the lab and will lead to outcomes such as earlier detection and better treatments that will improve survival and quality of life.

One of the key projects supported by Pancare has been the investment of \$921k to help establish three Australian registries focused on different aspects of upper GI cancer research. Collective data from over 15,000 participants nationally is now being actively leveraged for clinical and applied research programs. Importantly these registries serve as a resource to inspire and facilitate hypothesis-driven research into upper GI cancers. These registries also serve as a recruitment tool for conducting important registry-based randomised controlled trials and longitudinal studies.

Pancare has also invested \$2.1 million to identify novel therapies to improve treatment response, overcome chemotherapy resistance and improve survival. These projects have led to the development of clinical trials and new treatment options for patients, offering hope for improved outcomes and quality of life. Funded researchers have shared their work with the international medical community by publishing their work in high impact peer-review journals.

An investment into scholarships by Pancare of \$1.1 million has supported the professional development of 11 early-career medical scientists in leading research institutions across Australia. These researchers have made significant contributions to the international scientific community's knowledge of upper GI cancer complexities.

Pancare's early investment of \$519,000 into Dr Alina Stoita's pancreatic cancer screening research program at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney enabled its expansion into a national surveillance program. This funding allowed for validation of a critical proof-of-concept that led to the establishment of a multicentre collaboration pathway for early detection.

This work has now scaled nationally through the APRISE initiative at the Jreissati Pancreatic Centre at Epworth, which was part of initial program, and has since taken the lead under Principal Investigator Professor Andrew Metz, in partnership with Pankind and others. The APRISE study is now active and aims to assess the feasibility of implementing surveillance protocols among high-risk individuals with a familial and/or genetic predisposition to pancreatic cancer.

This is a clear example of Pancare being a key catalytic funder of upper GI research that has led to translation, national scaling and downstream impact. The funding has helped unlock \$1.2 million in follow-on funding and catalysed an exciting national familial screening program that may never have gotten off the ground without Pancare's initial investment. This is the power of targeted, strategic, and timely research investment.

Pancare will continue to collaborate with Jreissati Pancreatic Centre at Epworth and Pankind to ensure that the impact from this important project is maximised.

Pancare CEO Doug Hawkins and Alina Stoita at St Vincents Hospital Sydney.



“Pancare's early investment was pivotal in establishing Australia's first national pancreatic cancer screening program for high-risk individuals. Their support enabled us to validate a proof-of-concept using endoscopic ultrasound, biomarkers and genetic testing, which has since identified new pathogenic variants in 10% of participants. This groundbreaking work has formed the foundation of national screening protocols and helped shape best-practice approaches to early detection and risk management.”

Dr Alina Stoita, St Vincents Hospital and Garvan Institute, Sydney

A national voice in consumer engagement and research co-design

Pancare is proud to be a formal partner in a nanorobotics project led by NanoCube Health, a collaboration across university, industry and not-for-profit partners supported by the federal Cooperative Research Centres Projects (CRC-P) Grant. This project aims to tackle one of the greatest challenges in upper GI cancers – the early detection of pancreatic cancer.

Our role is clear: to ensure we partner with people impacted by upper GI cancers from day one, not just consult with them after the fact.

This year, we led the establishment of a Lived Experience Insights Group (LEIG), consisting of passionate patients and carers eager to contribute their perspectives to optimise novel research. Pancare's role is to ensure that key insights are integrated into the nanorobotic product development process from the very beginning.

What we delivered:

- Created a LEIG made up of people affected by pancreatic cancer from around Australia from diverse geographic locations, backgrounds and experiences
- Partnered with a national health consumer advocacy organisation to design and deliver bespoke training to the LEIG members and support them to be able to work with the researcher team safely and effectively
- Established an innovative model of proactive consumer engagement in upper GI cancer research that will result in product development that is underpinned by consumer preferences and that addresses real patient need.

This is what true consumer involvement looks like: research shaped with, and for, the people it's meant to help.

Pancare is a partner in the Federal Government Cooperative Research Centres Project (CRC-P) grant funded initiative 'Nanorobotics for the early detection and diagnosis of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma' which is led by NanoCube Health.

What is co-design?

In healthcare, co-design means collaborating with people impacted by a particular condition to develop solutions that address their actual needs.



“*Pancreatic cancer is a devastating disease. By engaging patients and carers with lived experience in this novel research project, Pancare will act as an important bridge between researchers and consumers to ensure that the nanorobotic product being developed will be as patient centred as it is technologically cutting edge.*”

Nonie Chan, Project Manager,
NanoCube Consumer
Engagement Project

“*Being part of Pancare's Lived Experience Insights Group gives me hope that sharing my experiences will help guide this important nanotechnology research toward earlier detection of pancreatic cancer. It's reassuring to know our voices will provide valuable insights to the research team as they aim to develop a product that addresses true unmet need.*”

Deborah Moors, Member, Pancreatic Cancer Lived
Experience Insights Group

Par 5

Par 5 continues to redefine how business and philanthropy intersect. In 2024–25, the network welcomed **15 new business members** and secured two new sponsors (**ME Bank** and **Oaktree Capital**) who share our belief that purpose-led procurement can drive meaningful change.

Through the Par 5 Marketplace, the network generated nearly **\$150,000 in passive revenue-share income**, which is destined for upper GI cancer research projects.

Thanks to continued philanthropic backing from the **Robert Bulley Trust**, Par 5 also received a **\$50,000 capacity-building grant** for the second year running.

Corporate momentum also surged. The **Par 5 Advisory Committee** expanded to include leaders from healthcare, real estate, finance, and government, each helping shape a new frontier in business philanthropy, where networks unlock opportunity, shift procurement behaviour, and fund life-changing cancer support.

Par 5 wasn't just a calendar of events, it was a year-long conversation about leadership, purpose and impact. Across boardrooms, golf clubs, and forums, we invited Australia's business community to rethink how they can leverage BAU commercial activity in their organisations, to create passive and sustainable funding for cancer research and drive real change.

“*While it has always been challenging – more recently it has become increasingly difficult to secure funding for cancer research in Australia. The funding model is flawed, which creates a very tough environment and uncertain future for researchers. Sadly, this continues to undermine the progress of new detection and treatment options that patients and families desperately want to see.*

New approaches to funding are needed to ensure Australia has a cancer research sector that can attract talented minds and deliver the science and outcomes we all want. Par 5 funding has been critical to sustaining our project in recent years. It is completely innovative and built on a win-win-win model, and I am proud to be a Par 5 Ambassador.”

A/Prof Kara Vine-Perrow PhD
Targeted Cancer Therapeutics Laboratory
– Group Leader (UOW) & Par 5 Ambassador

Key events



August 2024

At the Par 5 Business Breakfast in Melbourne, we welcomed a new Par 5 Ambassador in Biliary Cancer Patient Advocate, Grant Rutley. Grant captivated the audience of 100+ business leaders, as he shared his story and reminded us that we need to work together to drive more funding into cancer research.



February 2025

Par 5 Melbourne Golf hosted a total of 160 golfers across the morning and afternoon at Royal Melbourne Golf Club's infamous West Course. Teams competed for the inaugural Luke Callen Cup, in memory of our much-loved Par 5 Sydney Ambassador and Pancreatic Cancer Patient Advocate, who passed in March 2024.



May 2025

The inaugural Par 5 Sydney Golf Day hosted 72 golfers at the breathtaking NSW Golf Club. Highlights included welcoming Oaktree Capital as the National Partner of the Luke Callen Cup, and an insightful and inspiring Q&A on stage with Par 5 Ambassadors Associate Professor Kara Vine-Perrow and Keon Stevenson.

July 2025

Deloitte Melbourne hosted 120 business leaders at Par 5 Connect. Deloitte's regional head of ESG provided an insightful keynote, which was followed by a compelling panel session about ESG, that examined the importance of the "S" (social impact) and its alignment with Par 5.



The Outback Long Ride



Across **10,000 kilometres, 46 towns**, and every type of terrain, **Sarah Wheeler's Outback Long Ride** captured the spirit of courage, endurance, and community. Inspired by her father and brother, both lost to upper GI cancer, Sarah set out on horseback with one goal: to ensure no family in regional Australia faces this disease alone.

The response was extraordinary. Locals rode beside her, hosted fundraisers, and shared their stories. By journey's end, Sarah had raised **\$509,080**, one of Pancare's largest-ever single fundraising campaigns.

That funding now supports a **dedicated two-year telehealth nursing position** for regional QLD and NSW reaching an estimated **200 families** who previously had limited access to specialised care.



1 Person's Ride

Sarah Brown rode solo across 10,000 km



1K+ Donors

Individuals, families, and communities rallied behind the cause



\$508,990 Raised

One of Pancare's largest-ever single fundraisers



200 Families Supported

Funded a new telehealth nurse for regional QLD and NSW





When country communities lead, change follows

Regional Australians understand what’s at stake, living hours from treatment centres and facing higher mortality rates. That’s why regional donations led the charge during the Outback Long Ride.

Donations by State:

State	Regional Donations	Total Value
QLD	248	\$231,528
NSW	674	\$117,919
VIC	99	\$14,529

Reach:

- Donations from every Australian state and territory
- 88 international donors across 10 countries
- 2,000+ new digital engagements after ABC and Landline coverage

Key Drivers of Support:

- National media coverage (ABC, Today, Landline)
- Local fundraising events in Rolleston, Hay, and Moree
- Deep engagement from Pancare’s fundraising team

A report that demands a response

The *State of the Nation* report didn’t just inform. It challenged. It exposed a confronting truth: governments are overlooking the cancers responsible for **nearly 1 in 5 cancer deaths in Australia**.

For too long, upper GI cancers have been hidden in plain sight, bundled with more common cancers or excluded from priority funding. Built on robust data and lived experience, this report is now reshaping national cancer priorities.

And this is just the beginning.

We’re now taking findings to **federal governments, health departments, and policy influencers**, advocating for increased funding investments that support national initiatives that will improve early detection and more equitable access to cutting edge treatments and evidence-based supportive care for upper GI cancers.

The challenge is clear: governments must act – and we’ll keep showing up to ensure that they do.





Ordinary people. Extraordinary impact.

“It’s not about the hours,
it’s about hope.”
Graeme C., Pancare volunteer since 2019

Behind every sausage sizzle, every hospital pack, and every phone call is a story of deep connection. Our volunteers are the first to show up, the last to leave, and often the quiet strength holding a community together.

This year, **155 people** gave their time, hearts, and skills, contributing over **743 hours** across fundraising events, peer support, office help, and hospital outreach. They answered phones, staffed stalls, shared their stories, and stood beside families on their darkest days.

Their impact isn’t measured in minutes... it’s measured in moments. In conversations that offer comfort. In meals that turn strangers into supporters. In a sense of belonging built one generous act at a time.

To every volunteer who carried a box, shared a hug, or stood in the rain, we see you. And we thank you.

Want to be part of something bigger?
Scan the QR code to learn how you can volunteer with Pancare.



When purpose meets partnership

Our award-nominated volunteer training program is the result of a powerful pro-bono partnership with OpenLMS. born of shared purpose and personal connection.

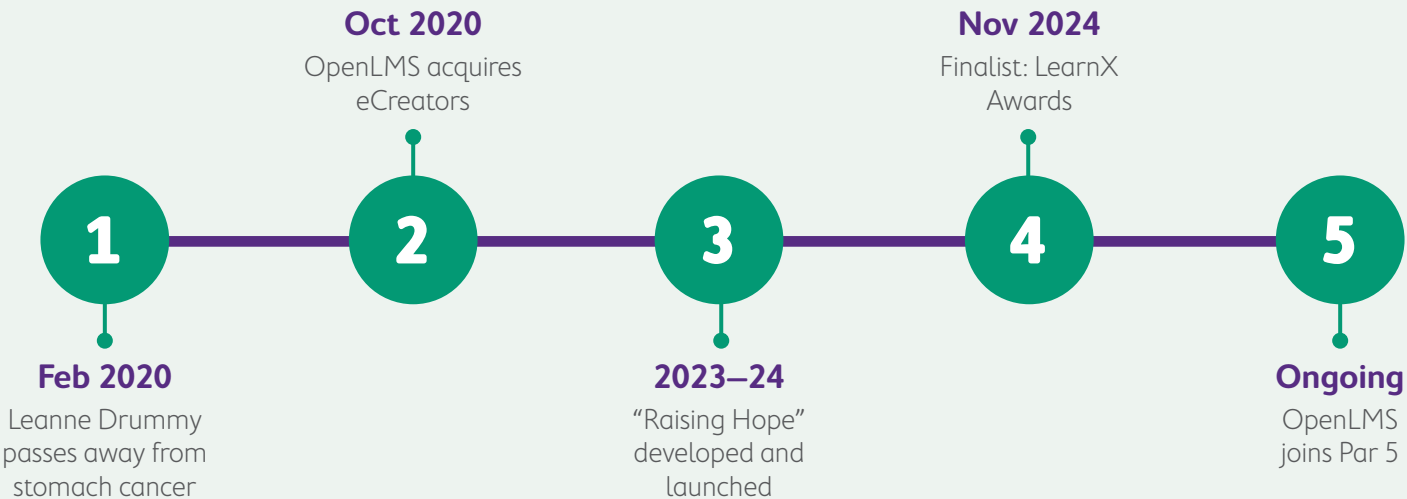
Through a serendipitous meeting between OpenLMS executive **Liam Liddicoat** and Pancare’s CEO **Doug**, a unique partnership was born. OpenLMS, whose HR manager **Leanne Drummy** passed away from stomach cancer in 2020, offered to help build an onboarding program for Pancare volunteers, pro bono.

That offer became “**Raising Hope**”, an award-nominated online training module that sets a new standard in volunteer induction. With content developed by Pancare and built by OpenLMS, the program not only improves volunteer readiness, it also honours Leanne’s legacy.

The training program **won the Platinum Award (First Place) in the category of Best Learning and Talent Development.**

What began as a tribute has grown into a multi-faceted collaboration. OpenLMS is now a **Par 5 partner**, helping support Pancare across operations, events and volunteer engagement.

Partnership Timeline



Every number in here tells a human story.

Caring for those who care: supporting wellbeing at Pancare

Our people give their all. We're investing in giving back, through tools that support mental health, resilience and readiness.

Putting wellbeing into practice

In 2025, Pancare launched **Readiness**, a purpose-built digital platform developed using research from Swinburne University to support the mental health, energy, and performance of our staff.

The platform provides:

- Weekly wellbeing check-ins
- Personal dashboards to track mental health
- Management insights on organisational wellbeing
- A peer support "buddy" system
- 600+ curated resources across stress, sleep, burnout and more
- Mobile and desktop access

Ethical leadership in action

This initiative goes beyond HR. Readiness helps Pancare meet our **psychosocial responsibilities** and builds a culture where emotional and mental wellbeing are seen as essential, not optional. Participation is voluntary and anonymous, and all results are de-identified at the organisational level.

What's Next

- **Ongoing engagement campaigns** to promote use and familiarity
- **Data-informed leadership coaching** based on platform insights
- **Expansion of wellbeing resources** aligned to specific team needs.



We're here, every day, for the people who need us most

Meet some of the dedicated individuals powering Pancare's mission, on the ground, in the lab, and across the country.



Christina
Emotional Wellbeing Counsellor

“Each and every moment in life is precious and this becomes ever so present during a cancer experience. Cancer is incredibly overwhelming for many. Having the space, support and opportunity to be heard and seen, and to discover resources within to navigate the unknown can make a world of difference to someone's wellbeing.”

Prue
Specialist Upper GI Support Nurse

“Being able to provide support to those affected by cancer is such a privilege.”



Haylee
Specialist Upper GI Support Nurse

“To be a nurse in cancer care is to witness courage daily.”

Joanna
Emotional Wellbeing Counsellor

“Holding space for people to share their challenges and explore their strengths can make a meaningful difference to someone's experience. It can't be underestimated.”



Alison
Care Coordinator

“To gain a firsthand perspective on what is going on for people during their cancer experience and to have a role in supporting them is a true privilege.”



Tiff
Specialist Upper GI Support Nurse

“As a cancer support nurse, I strive to provide not just care but compassion, helping people with a diagnosis of an upper GI cancer and carers navigate their journey with understanding and hope.”



From lab bench to real-world change: powering research that delivers for people diagnosed with an upper GI cancer



○ Dr Antonia Cadell

Research Aim

This study aims to investigate the role of JNK activity within specific subcellular compartments in pancreatic cancer and determine if novel therapeutic agents that target JNK in triple negative breast cancer could also be effective in treating pancreatic cancer. The findings from this research could lead to the development of new, targeted therapies for people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.



○ Dr Omali Pitiyarachchi

Research Aim

Establishing a correlation between tumour marker levels in the explant medium and the behaviour of cancer cells within the tissue can validate the utility of your explant model for predicting therapeutic responses. This approach could facilitate real-time monitoring of treatment efficacy and enable timely adjustments to therapy based on individual patient responses.



○ Dr Michael Lee

Research Aim

Alternative splicing is a process in which different versions of the same protein with subtly different functions are made from the same genetic code. Pancreatic cancer utilises this process to gain a selective growth advantage over normal cells. PRMT5 inhibitors inhibit this process. This project aims to better understand how it works to better select people who will benefit from this treatment.



○ Dr Natalie Costano-Rodriguez

Research Aim

Understanding the crosstalk between autophagy and microbial lactate in stomach cancer. Assess the crosstalk between lactate and autophagy pathways in the 6 human populations with varying degrees of GC risk and disease stages.



○ Dr Yi Ma

Research Aim

The aim of Dr Ma's project is to determine the role of PAK in PDAC tumorigenesis through the use of novel PAK inhibitors as well as PAK knock down (KD) and knock out (KO) PDAC cell lines. His work will also assess the effect of PAK inhibition on PDAC autophagy as well as immune evasion, both of which are important mechanisms contributing to PDAC tumorigenesis.



○ Dr Ian Luk

Research Aim

The aim of Dr Luk's project is to establish and validate a series of genetically-defined mouse models of biliary cancer mimicking human disease. The project will develop a much-needed animal model of biliary tract cancer which will be used to test new drugs and drug combinations to combat this disease.

Jane's story

Jane has been a dedicated Pancare volunteer for over seven years, inspired by her late father's diagnosis with pancreatic cancer. Determined to make a difference, Jane began volunteering to raise awareness and funds for Pancare's mission. Her commitment has been unwavering, she's supported the team with data entry and general admin tasks and has proudly volunteered at more than 50 Pancare events, where her energy and compassion shine.

Jane's enthusiasm for helping others and her deep connection to the cause make her a beloved member of our community. In 2024, Jane stepped into the role of **Volunteer Coordinator**, working closely with our Volunteer Manager to support and guide fellow volunteers. Her leadership, warmth, and dedication continue to inspire everyone around her. Jane is a true example of the impact one person can make, and we're incredibly grateful for everything she brings to Pancare.

“I can't save lives, but I can raise the funds that might.”

Jane Diggins, volunteer since 2018



Micro moments

Over the past year, Jane has contributed an outstanding **157 volunteer hours**. In her role as Volunteer Coordinator, she has onboarded 63 new volunteers to the program.

Festival of Sports

“Volunteering with Pancare is my way of giving back, after my mum's diagnosis, Pancare's support meant everything to us.”

Unite for Hope Brisbane

“I lost my dad to pancreatic cancer, volunteering is my way of helping others facing the same journey.”

Par 5 Breakfast

“Volunteering keeps the memory of my dad alive.”

Support4Pancare Crew

– Running Bunnings BBQ in Victoria

“After losing three cherished friends, we feel compelled to support a cause that brings hope and raises life-saving funds for pancreatic cancer.”

Unite for Hope Sydney

“A friend passed from an upper GI cancer just one month after diagnosis, raising awareness is deeply personal to me.”

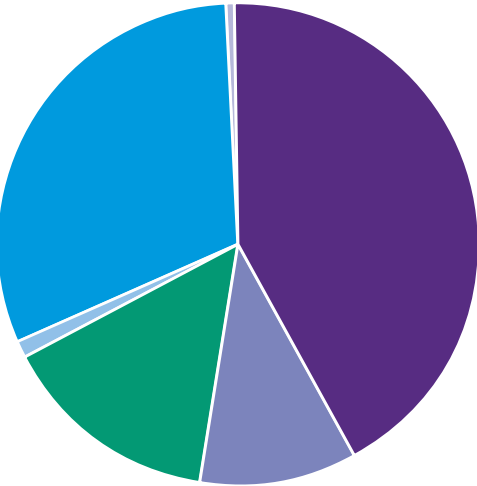
My Care KIT Assembly day at Head Office

“It was great to feel useful, and to meet the other volunteers. I loved it.”

Your dollar at work

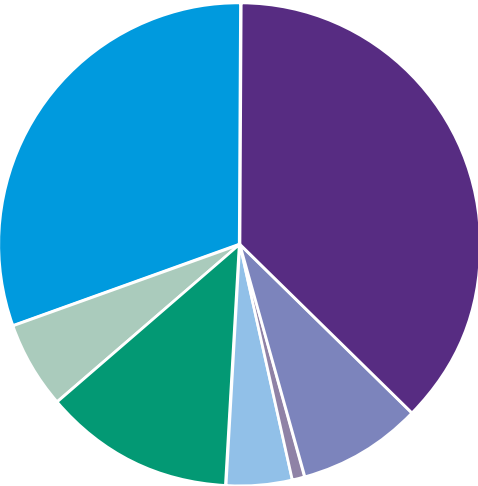
FINANCIALS	FY25	FY24
Revenue		
Donation, Grants & Bequests	\$2,039,841	\$1,748,169
Fundraising Events	\$513,197	\$960,931
Corporate Partnerships	\$711,186	\$788,556
Provision of Goods	\$58,283	\$26,938
Government Funding - Commonwealth	\$1,487,643	\$708,111
Other	\$17,818	\$65,985
TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,827,969	\$4,298,690
Operational Expenses		
Fundraising	\$1,676,136	\$1,695,369
Administration	\$372,787	\$381,458
Depreciation	\$43,716	\$37,017
Total Operational Expenses	\$2,092,639	\$2,113,844
Surplus	\$2,735,330	\$2,184,846
Program Investment		
Advocacy & Awareness	\$195,807	\$451,925
PanSupport	\$574,403	\$796,637
Research	\$257,198	\$391,179
Government Projects	\$1,364,992	\$708,110
Total Program Investment	\$2,392,401	\$2,347,852
Post Program Investment Surplus / (Deficit)	\$342,929	(\$163,005)

Revenue



■ Donation, Grants & Bequests
■ Corporate Partnerships
■ Government Funding - Commonwealth
■ Fundraising Events
■ Provision of Goods
■ Other

Expenses



■ Fundraising
■ Administration
■ PanSupport
■ Government Projects
■ Advocacy & Awareness
■ Depreciation
■ Research

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	FY25	FY24
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,221,826	\$1,296,312
Trade and Other Receivables	\$87,400	\$69,525
Inventories	\$30,651	\$66,206
Other financial assets	\$80,000	\$80,000
Other assets	\$142,340	\$184,871
Total Current Assets	\$1,562,217	\$1,696,914
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	\$82,606	\$96,452
Intangible assets	\$21,381	\$52,705
Lease assets	\$61,608	\$67,616
Total Non-Current Assets	\$165,595	\$216,773
Total Assets	\$1,727,812	\$1,913,687
Current Liabilities		
Payables	\$286,599	\$316,390
Lease Liabilities	\$61,108	\$71,891
Provisions	\$320,279	\$449,393
Contract liabilities	\$402,112	\$793,545
Total current liabilities	\$1,070,098	\$1,631,219
Non-current Liabilities		
Provisions	\$86,768	\$54,451
Total Liabilities	\$1,156,866	\$1,685,670
Net Assets	\$570,946	\$228,017
Equity		
Accumulated Surplus	\$570,946	\$228,017
Total Equity	\$570,946	\$228,017

Donors

Category	Donor Name	Campaign / Purpose
Platinum Donors (\$50,000+)	Major Donor (Anonymous)	Unrestricted / Restricted Support
Platinum Donors (\$50,000+)	Platinum Donor	Long Outback Ride
Platinum Donors (\$50,000+)	Platinum Donor	Bequests
Platinum Donors (\$50,000+)	Corporate Sponsorship	Par 5: Marketplace
Platinum Donors (\$50,000+)	Platinum Donor	Par 5: Program Development
Platinum Donors (\$50,000+)	Platinum Donor	Major Donor – Unrestricted
Platinum Donors (\$50,000+)	Platinum Donor	Major Donor – Restricted
Platinum Donors (\$50,000+)	Dry July Foundation	T&F Grant – Restricted
Platinum Donors (\$50,000+)	BeiGene AUS Pty Ltd	T&F Grant – Restricted
Gold Donors (\$20,000–\$49,999)	Corporate Sponsorship	Par 5: Sponsorship
Gold Donors (\$20,000–\$49,999)	Gold Donor	Major Donor – Restricted
Gold Donors (\$20,000–\$49,999)	Gold Donor	Major Donor – Unrestricted
Gold Donors (\$20,000–\$49,999)	Gold Donor	Bequests
Gold Donors (\$20,000–\$49,999)	Gold Donor	Pakenham Race Day
Gold Donors (\$20,000–\$49,999)	Gold Donor	Youth Lab Lunch
Gold Donors (\$20,000–\$49,999)	Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia	T&F Grant – Restricted
Gold Donors (\$20,000–\$49,999)	AstraZeneca Australia	T&F Grant – Restricted
Anonymous Major Donors	Anonymous Donor	Major Donor – Unrestricted
Anonymous Major Donors	Anonymous Donor	Major Donor – Restricted
Anonymous Major Donors	Anonymous Donor	Community
Anonymous Major Donors	Corporate Sponsorship	Par 5: Marketplace
Anonymous Major Donors	Anonymous Donor	Par 5: Philanthropy
Anonymous Major Donors	Anonymous Donor	Lecky's Electrical Wholesale Golf Day
Major Donors	Servier Australia	T&F Grant – Restricted
Anonymous Major Donors	Lecky's Electrical Wholesale Golf Day	Lecky's Electrical Wholesale Golf Day
Anonymous Major Donors	Anonymous Donor	Par 5: Philanthropy
Anonymous Major Donors	Major Donor – Restricted	Major Donor – Restricted

Key Notes:
Platinum Donors: \$50,000+
Gold: \$20,000–\$49,999
Anonymous/Major Donors: Up to \$20,000

 Pharma

Top 8 community events

Event	Amount
Long Outback Ride	\$481,660
Splash of Purple Ladies	\$40,883
Gold Coast Marathon	\$42,229
Mount Kilimanjaro Trek	\$39,138
Pakenham Race Day	\$30,902
Christine Constantinou - Dinner Dance	\$21,440
The Grangers Foundation Golf Day	\$20,000
Youth Lab Lunch	\$20,000

Top events

Event	Amount
Festival of Sport 2024	\$259,238
Unite for Hope	\$161,668
Jet Ski Raffle	\$40,940



Board of Directors



Clive Appleton

Clive Appleton has extensive experience in property and funds management and property development, having worked for several of Australia’s leading retail property investment, management and development groups. Clive’s executive experience includes Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director roles with Gandel Retail Trust, Jennings Group, The Gandel Group Pty Limited and APN Property Group.

In addition to his Chair position on the Board of Pancare, Clive is also a Director of Perth Airport Pty Ltd and Perth Airport Development Group Pty Ltd.

He previously held directorships with Aspen Property Group, The Gandel Group, Vicinity Centres and APN Property Group.

“I am honoured to be serving as Chair of the Pancare Foundation Board. This wonderful organisation that is devoted to both research and care for those directly impacted by pancreatic cancer has an important role to play in our society. It is vital that we continue the search to find a cure; we must redouble our effort to eradicate these diseases forever.”



Dr Mehrdad Nikfarjam

Dr Mehrdad Nikfarjam is one of the country’s leading liver, pancreas and biliary surgeons with extensive training and education, gained in both Australia and the USA. His belief has always been that no cancer patient should be denied an opportunity for the best available care. He completed his medical degree MBBS (Hons) at Monash University in 1997. During his surgical training that followed he was awarded a PhD from University of Melbourne, supported by a Surgeon Scientist Scholarship from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (R.A.C.S). He completed his surgical Fellowship in Australia in 2007 (F.R.A.C.S), before continuing with specialist’s surgical training in the USA.

He has publications in leading surgical journals, including the highest ranked surgical journal, Annals of Surgery and he has been involved in pancreatic cancer studies published in the highest ranked journal, Nature. He is the lead investigator on several prospective studies on the treatment of pancreatic and liver disorders and is collaborator on the pancreatic genome project with the Garvin Institute, NSW. Dr Mehrdad Nikfarjam has also contributed to the supervision of several surgical trainees, Honours and PhD students.



Rod Cairnduff

Rod Cairnduff is a CPA with more than 25 years’ experience working across the finance sector. For the past six years Rod has run his own firm while serving on the board of a number of not-for-profits, giving valuable advice and direction in regard to financial sustainability and longevity.



Douglas Rowe

Douglas’ experience in the metals industry began with his family’s Victorian business since 1977, which led to a management role with the Poseidon Group of Companies before moving to the mining, mineral and metal oxide industry. Douglas founded Southern Recycling in 1992 and Ecocycle Industries in 1996. Douglas founded Recycal in late 2010 and took over his old silver and mercury business CMA Ecocycle in late 2013; growing each nationally. Douglas enjoys devoting his time to those less fortunate and is involved in a number of charities and mentoring programs.



Paul McDonald

Paul has over 40 years of national and international industry experience in the engineering/property design, construction, development, and funds management sectors. He has an Honours degree in Civil Engineering & a Science degree in Mathematics & Psychology. Among many senior executive roles over this period, Paul was most recently an Executive Director with Lend Lease (Melbourne and Sydney), the founding CEO of the MAB Corporation (Melbourne) and Managing Director of Chord Capital (Melbourne). Paul currently holds several Board positions and is passionate about his role with Pancare.



Angeline Nicholas

For over 20 years Angeline has led marketing and digital teams across corporate and non-profit organisations including News Corporation, eBay and Qantas. She has been an active board member both domestically and in the UK and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Angeline is currently a senior communications advisor in NSW Government.



Kate O’Sullivan

Kate O’Sullivan is a seasoned Executive General Manager and CEO, recognised for her exceptional ability to lead both strategic and operational teams. Her current roles include serving as a Board Director at the Essendon Football Club, Chairperson of the Prahran Market Board Pty Ltd, Director at the Melbourne Royal and Director Moonee Valley Racing Club, among other prestigious leadership positions. Her areas of expertise span investment, marketing, client relationship management, and business strategy.

We honour every story

Our work is shaped by the people behind every statistic and every milestone.

We honour those we've lost, their courage, their legacy, and the love they leave behind.

We stand with those who are grieving, holding space for the families, friends and communities forever changed by loss.

We walk beside those in treatment, offering strength, compassion and hope for brighter days ahead.

And we celebrate those who have survived, their resilience drives us to keep pushing for a future where more stories end with recovery.

Every story matters. Every life remembered, every battle fought and every milestone reached reminds us why this work must continue, and why we must continue it together.

Every day, Pancare is there, providing hope, care and support to families affected by pancreatic, liver, stomach, biliary and oesophageal cancers. But there is still so much more to do.

Your involvement truly changes lives. Whether you give your time, share your story or make a donation, you're helping to rewrite the future for people facing upper GI cancer.

Join Us – Here's How You Can Make an Impact



• Fund Ground-Breaking Research

Help accelerate new treatments and improve early detection by supporting innovative research.

• Become a Volunteer

Use your time and skills to create lasting change.

• Leave a Gift in Your Will

Build a legacy that will support families for generations to come.

• Become a Monthly Donor

Provide consistent care and support, all year round.

• Start a Fundraiser

Rally your network around a cause that matters deeply.

• Partner With Us

Work alongside us as a business, foundation or community group to deliver long-term impact.

• Share Your Story

Inspire others and help raise awareness by sharing your experience.

What your investment delivers

\$500

Allows us to advocate for the listing of new medicines for people with an upper GI cancer

\$350

Supports Research into early detection of Upper GI cancers for those at high risk

\$100

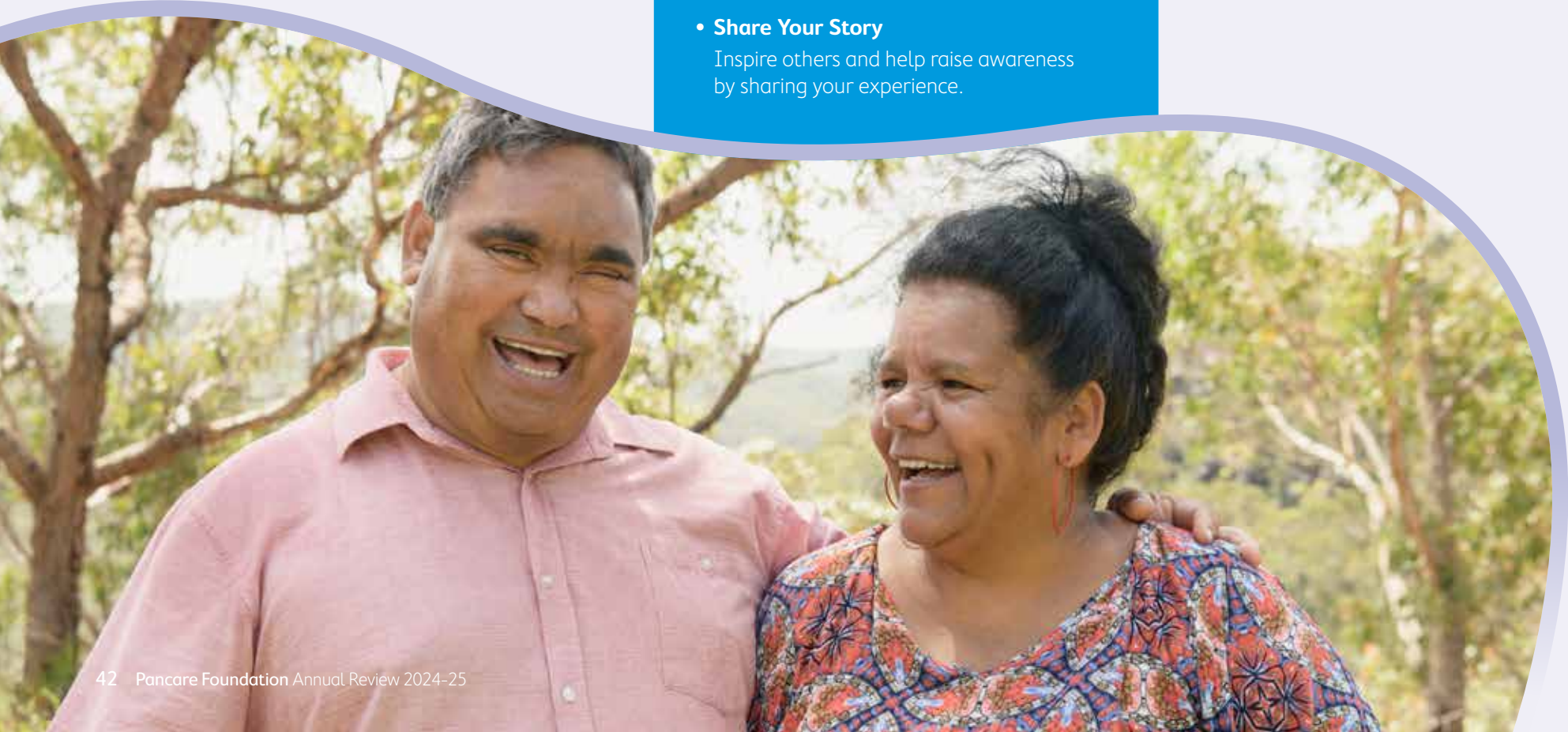
Enables a patient or carer to attend a monthly online support group

\$60

Supports families coming to terms with a cancer diagnosis through specialised information

\$40

Helps provide targeted information to someone recently diagnosed with cancer



Together, we are
changing the story
for upper GI cancers.



Pancare Foundation

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www.pancare.org.au



The Pancare Foundation is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). The Pancare Foundation has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status with the Australian Tax Office. Donations over \$2 or more are tax-deductible. ABN: 89 797 016 686.

**Scan to get
involved and
make your impact**

