

THE GOOD NEWS

YOUR IMPACT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

STEVE FRANCIA

Dear Friends,

Thanks to your generosity, the past financial year has been filled with incredible and tangible impact. The Foundation distributed around \$7 million to support research, equipment, and patient care programs across The Prince Charles Hospital and Caboolture Hospital. These investments are already helping to change lives, and I'm so grateful to you for making them possible.

One particular update that I'm proud to share with you is that the Foundation is currently supporting over 280 active research grants.

These grants help to provide the time, tools, and funding that researchers need to drive the next wave of medical breakthroughs. From early-career investigators to experienced researchers, each grant is a step toward better health outcomes for all of us. And it's all made possible by people like you.

I also want to recognise our remarkable hospital volunteers. Over the past year, they've generously given more than 46,000 hours of their time across The Prince Charles Hospital, Kallangur Satellite Health Centre, and Caboolture Hospital. Their kindness and care are felt by patients and families every day. What a wonderful group of people!

As we look ahead to our 40-year milestone in 2026, I hope you'll continue to be part of this journey. We can't wait to celebrate with you.

Steve



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Thank you to Bill (pictured here with family) who shared his story as part of our end-of-financial-year tax appeal.

IMPACT ON RESEARCH

Behind every medical breakthrough is a dedicated researcher – and often, a supporter like you who made their work possible.

That's why The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation is committed to supporting a clear research pathway, from early ideas through to long-term impact. By funding a variety of grants – including **New Investigator Grants**, **Emerging Researcher Grants**, and **PhD Scholarships** – we help early-career researchers build confidence, capability, and momentum. “These entry points are often where new ideas take shape and where lives begin to change,” says Dr Rebekah Engel, Research Manager for The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation.

But our support of researchers doesn't stop there. We also fund **Research Fellowships** for mid-career and established researchers to build lasting programs of work, as well as **Innovation Grants** and **Collaborative Seed Grants** that support bold ideas and cross-team collaboration. “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,” says Dr Engel.

“The treatments of today are informed by the research investment of the past. That's why continuing to invest in research now is essential to improving health outcomes for future generations.”

IMPACT ON PATIENT CARE



Bill with grandkids Evie and Henry

We have been blown away by the generosity of our community of supporters in recent months, helping us raise close to \$127,000 for lung disease research through our end-of-financial-year tax appeal.

This funding will be put towards work done by talented researchers, based at The Prince Charles Hospital, who are studying a fault in the DNA's “protective cap” they think could cause healthy lung cells to die. They believe this fault in the DNA's “protective cap” could be the key to earlier diagnosis and more treatment options for IPF and other deadly lung diseases. This funding will help them continue this vital work and move closer to answering unanswered questions.

We are deeply grateful for the compassionate supporters who enable us to have such a positive impact on patients now and into the future. Thank you.



Dr Viviana Lutzky – Researcher

Research Award receipts for 2025

VOICES OF GRATITUDE

Earlier this year, a group of business professionals swapped their boardrooms for bikes and rode more than 1,000km in just seven days, from Coffs Harbour to Brisbane.

It was all part of the 2025 Brisbane Chain Reaction Challenge, and every kilometre was powered by a shared purpose: to help sick kids get the care they need.

The conditions were tough. Long days in the saddle, steep climbs, and the unrelenting Australian sun (and rain!) demanded true grit and determination.

But this extraordinary team of 30+ riders pushed through – supporting each other, digging deep, and never losing sight of why they were riding.



Chain Reaction riders supported each other on thier journey



Their efforts raised more than \$250,000 for The Common Good, which is helping fund a second Child Life Therapist at The Prince Charles Hospital. As home to one of Queensland’s busiest Children’s Emergency Departments, this additional specialist role makes an enormous difference for young patients, families, and staff—using play, distraction, and emotional support to reduce fear and anxiety during treatment.

It’s a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when people come together with a common goal. Thanks to this inspiring group, more children and families will now receive the extra support they need during some of the hardest moments of their lives.



40 YEARS
1986 - 2026

The theme for our 40-year milestone is jacaranda. We'll share more about why soon.

LOOKING AHEAD

Did you know that next year marks 40 years of The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation?

That’s four decades of generosity, care and community – a legacy built by people like you. Whether you’ve donated, volunteered, or simply shared in our mission, your support has helped fund remarkable research, compassionate care, purposeful projects, and innovative equipment for those who need it most.

This milestone is a celebration of everything we’ve achieved together to change – and save – lives.

As we prepare for this special milestone, we’d love to hear your stories. Maybe the Foundation has touched your life, or someone you love received care at The Prince Charles Hospital or Caboolture Hospital.



Your memories are an important part of our shared history, and we’d love to include them in our 40-year reflections.

If you have a story to share, please email us at 40years@tpchfoundation.org.au. While we’ll be reflecting on the past, we’re just as excited about the future – and we can’t wait to share our vision for the next generation of life-changing research, treatment, and care.

THE FABRIC FLOOZIES

A small community group of sewers from the Coolangatta Seniors, known as the "Fabric Floozies," have handcrafted over 30 fidget blankets for patients with dementia at The Prince Charles Hospital.

The fidget blankets, which are made with love, take several hours each to piece together and embellish with a range of materials, offering patients some sensory stimulation.

"There are 25 squares that we cut in a production line from donated pieces and our own. Each square has items added, pom poms made, knitted pieces, crochet, all squares are then joined in rows and layered with wadding and a backing," said Karen from the Fabric Floozies.

Khera Kim, Nurse Practitioner, Dementia and Delirium service at The Prince Charles Hospital, explained that sensory stimulation

is one of the known interventions in supporting people living with dementia as it can assist in reducing symptoms such as agitation, aggression and wandering. "It can also help improve mood and sense of positive well-being, enhance engagement, support regulation of sleep-wake cycle, support maintenance of motor function and sensory integration," she said.

"There is a great value for resources like fiddle blankets, fiddle mats and fiddle sleeves – particularly for people with more advanced cognitive impairment who are not able to engage with others in a more mainstream manner."

Thank you to the Fabric Floozies for your creativity and compassion. It has had a wonderful impact on some of the hospital's patients.



COMFORT PACKS



This year we have also been raising money to purchase Comfort Packs for older patients who visit the hospital in their time of need.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our donors, we will be able to provide 500 comfort packs to older patients in The Prince Charles Hospital's geriatric ward.

These packs – containing comforts like a toothbrush and toothpaste, a clean pair

of underwear 'shorts' and a puzzle book – will make a huge difference for patients who need to stay in the hospital unexpectedly and have no one to bring them belongings when they're hurt or sick.

We are deeply grateful for the compassionate supporters who enable us to have such a positive impact on patients now and into the future. Thank you.

