

THE GOOD NEWS



THE PRINCE CHARLES HOSPITAL FOUNDATION



Since 1986, your generosity has helped drive more than \$78 million in life-changing research, innovative 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.

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

A key highlight of this milestone will be the Jacaranda Gala – inspired by the iconic jacaranda trees that have stood alongside The Prince Charles Hospital for generations. This special event, held on 16 May at The Star, Brisbane, will be our first major gala in more than 15 years. You, your family, and our community are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate everything you've helped make possible.



Tickets are available online at tcg.org.au/gala

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Steve Francia

As we begin our 40th year, I've found myself reflecting not just on what has been achieved, but on who has made it possible. And all the roads lead to the same answer – you.

Every breakthrough in patient care and in research – supporting people today and shaping healthcare for the future – has one thing in common: a community of people who choose to invest in better outcomes. Your generosity has quietly shaped thousands of individual patient stories over the past four decades, often in ways you may never fully see, helping people you may never know.

Many of you give because someone at the hospital has touched your life, while others give because you believe in advancing care and medical research to change and save lives. Both motivations are equally powerful – and together they create something extraordinary. Your support is changing lives today and ensuring generations of patients have hope, care, and better outcomes tomorrow.

In the years ahead, the demand for care and the opportunities for research and innovation will continue to grow. What will not change is the importance of philanthropy and the role of people willing to invest in a stronger, healthier future. To date we have achieved much and I hope you take pride in the role you've played in bringing us to this milestone. I look forward

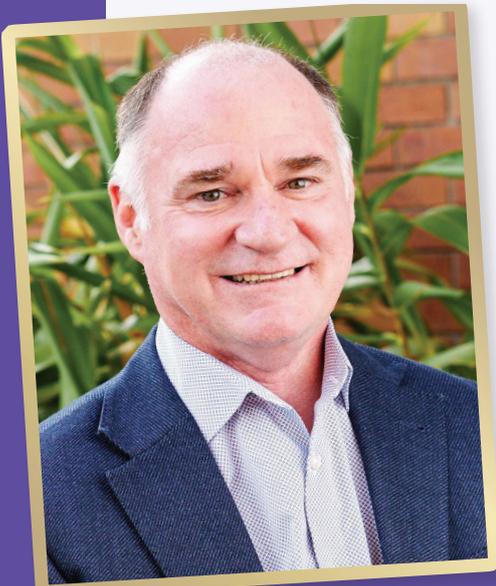
to walking side by side with you into the next chapter. There is so much more we can do and achieve together.

Thank you for being part of this story.

Warm regards,



Steve Francia
Chief Executive Officer
The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation



HISTORY OF THE FOUNDATION

Story of Margie Morton and her family connection

Over the past several decades on The Prince Charles Hospital's campus, jacaranda trees have offered shade and shelter from the elements, as well as a beautiful spot for people to gather outside the clinical environments.

When the hospital Foundation was established on 20 November 1986, the campus's jacaranda trees would have likely just finished their annual bloom.

"There were a lot of jacaranda trees around the site, but they were particularly predominant down around our aged care facility, which was aptly named Jacaranda Village," recalls Margie Morton, Unit Manager of the Internal Medicine and Dementia Research Unit at The Prince Charles Hospital.

"Jacaranda Village was located where the Cognitive Assessment and Management (CAM) Unit, Palliative Care Unit and Mental Health Unit are now situated. There are a couple of the original Jacarandas at the back of the Mental Health Unit as you walk past the Helipad, but they were once dotted all around the village, and each November, when in full bloom, they were truly a magnificent sight. The road, alongside the village was called Jacaranda Drive, and is still there today.

"The Adolescent Mental Health Facility, which opened in 2021 on the grounds of The Prince Charles Hospital, is also called "Jacaranda Place", inspired by the strength and resilience of the jacaranda trees on the site."

Margie's family has a deep connection to both the hospital and the Foundation. Her father was the Chair of the hospital board during the 1980's, and her mother one of the first members of The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation's board. Alongside her family, Margie used to participate in bake sales and other fundraising activities in those early years to raise money for the Foundation to support research at TPCH.

"It was always very special, and we would celebrate with a "Jacaranda Afternoon Tea" down in Jacaranda Village in the middle of November when the jacarandas were in full bloom. It was a time to celebrate the service The Prince Charles Hospital provided and the Foundation supported. It was always great fun, celebrated by all staff and always very purple," she said.

Margie remembers that some of the jacaranda trees had to be removed to allow for the redevelopment of the hospital site. However, a cherished keep sake for those board members was created as a result.



Margie's family has a deep connection to both the hospital and the Foundation.

"At the time, the Board was changing over to a regional authority. The carpenters and the groundsmen worked together, saved the wood from the trees that were taken down, and decided to make a memento for all the board members. On their last day, each member was presented with a piece of polished jacaranda wood with an engraved plaque," Margie explained.

"Each piece of polished wood had the crest of the Hospital placed on it with TPCH motto, 'We Serve,' with a little note attached, explaining it was jacaranda wood from a tree on the village site. It was indeed a very special gift which the gardeners prepared, and the carpenters assembled and polished."

YOUR SUPPORT, THEIR BREAKTHROUGHS

Meet the 2025 Research Fellowship recipients

Each researcher you support is working towards one goal: improving treatment and quality of life for patients today and for generations to come.

They dedicate countless hours over many years in search for answers, solutions, and medical breakthroughs. But time alone can't drive progress. Sustained funding is essential, and it's something many promising research projects simply don't have.

Your generosity helps fill that critical gap.

Our Research Fellowships provide three years salary support, giving dedicated researchers the security and stability they need to pursue their own research projects over a defined period.

This long-term commitment from donors like you means researchers can stay focused on discovery, not on finding their next source of funding.

The Foundation offers two Fellowship streams:

- Early-career Research Fellowships for researchers within five years of completing their PhD.
- Mid-career Research Fellowships for researchers more than five years post-PhD.

These Fellowships help talented scientists build momentum, deepen their expertise, and push forward research that has the potential to change lives - all made possible by supporters like you.

Meet Dr Eric Wu

Thanks to your support, researchers such as Dr Eric Wu are pushing the boundaries of what's possible in patient care.

TITLE OF PROJECT:

Development of an Artificial Lung

IN BRIEF:

Dr Wu's project focuses on creating a reliable, portable, and Biocompatible Artificial Lung designed for use outside the Hospital. This innovation addresses a profound and urgent need for people living with end-stage lung failure.

For many patients, an Artificial Lung could become a vital bridge to transplantation. For others who are ineligible for a transplant, it has the potential to serve as a long-term therapy giving them greater mobility, independence, and a dramatically improved quality of life.

What funding from the Foundation's supporters means to Dr Wu

"I am extremely appreciative of the generous support provided by donors to the Foundation. This fellowship offers essential financial resources to advance the Artificial Lung through preclinical development, preparing the technology for future clinical studies. It also provides the stability needed to grow the Innovative Cardiovascular Engineering and Technology Laboratory, enabling me to mentor outstanding research students and staff as we work together to drive the device toward clinical impact," he said.



"Currently, patients with end-stage lung failure may rely on machines like ECMO (external life-support machine), which are large, complex, and keep patients confined to ICUs. These machines are only used short-term and come with serious risks like bleeding, infection, organ damage, patient deterioration due to being bed-bound, muscle deconditioning, and high risk of death," said Dr Wu.

Meet Dr Lisa Jurak

Thanks to your support, researchers are getting closer to answers that could transform care for people living with chronic lung disease including bronchiectasis.

TITLE OF PROJECT:

Pro-MIX Protease-microbiome interactions in bronchiectasis

IN BRIEF:

Bronchiectasis is a chronic lung condition where the airways become damaged, widened, and filled with mucus. This environment makes it easier for harmful bacteria to settle in the lungs, leading to frequent chest infections, inflammation, and worsening lung damage over time.

In bronchiectasis, neutrophils - a type of white blood cell that usually helps fight infections - release powerful enzymes called proteases in excess, damaging the delicate airway tissue. At the same time, bacteria in the lungs, known as the airway microbiome, contribute to this harmful cycle.

While both proteases and the microbiome play a critical role in airway injury, how they influence each other is still not well understood. Through your generous support, this research will investigate this interaction, identifying new biomarkers and treatment targets that could disrupt the cycle of infection and inflammation.

What the funding from the Foundation's supporters means to Dr Jurak

"There is very little research going on in Australia in regards to Bronchiectasis – it is a critically under-funded and under-researched area," said Dr Jurak. "Honestly, I can't really describe the impact that this fellowship is going to have. Because of this fellowship, I'm able to pivot my research from severe asthma and cystic fibrosis into a new area, so it's allowing me to take ownership of my own research and contribute something meaningful to research."



"This will enable earlier detection of high-risk patients, reduce exacerbations, and slow lung damage. Ultimately, these advances will improve long-term health outcomes, extend quality of life, and reduce the burden of chronic respiratory disease on patients and the healthcare system," said Dr Jurak.

Meet Dr Avishka Wickramarachchi

Thanks to your support, researchers are advancing innovations that could make VA ECMO safer and give critically ill patients a stronger chance of recovery.

TITLE OF PROJECT:

A novel solution towards reducing complications and encouraging cardiac recovery during VA ECMO

IN BRIEF:

Venoarterial extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VA ECMO) is a vital treatment for patients with cardiorespiratory failure, providing life-saving support until a long-term solution can be implemented. However, the cannulas used during current treatment place the patients at high risk of complications such as stroke, oxygen deprivation of vital organs, and overloading the heart. This worsens the patient's condition and contributes to high mortality (> 50%), prolonged hospital stays, and significant ICU costs.

There is a clear and urgent need to reduce these cannula-related complications. Through your generosity, this research aims to develop a novel cannula that can deliver oxygenated blood throughout the body while actively supporting cardiac recovery.

What funding from the Foundation's supporters means to Dr Wickramarachchi

"I am incredibly grateful. Without these people, we wouldn't be able to push this frontier in cardiovascular engineering. To have someone else contribute to this advancement in innovation is really amazing," said Dr Wickramarachchi.



"Clinical translation of the novel cannula will impact short-and long-term outcomes for VA ECMO patients by ensuring they survive the treatment itself without disability, while also enabling recovery of their native heart such that additional risk-laden treatment options aren't required," said Dr Wickramarachchi.

CHILD LIFE THERAPIST

You're helping sick and injured kids feel safe, supported, and seen

More of South East Queensland's sick and injured kids have access to dedicated Child Life Therapy services because of you and other remarkable supporters of The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation.

Thanks to this generosity, July of 2025 marked a milestone. The Child Life Therapy program was expanded with the first Child Life Therapist, Lucy, commencing at Caboolture Hospital and a second therapist, Lisa, joining Meenu at The Prince Charles Hospital. Your kindness has created a level of support and service that simply didn't exist before.

Chief Executive Officer of The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, Steve Francia, said the appointments reflect the generosity of the community standing behind the hospitals.

"We were proud to fund the very first Child Life Therapist at The Prince Charles Hospital in 2022, and we're equally proud to add another one at TPCB and also extend support of that role into Caboolture Hospital," Mr Francia said. "The Foundation has committed \$900,000 across multi-year funding for the Child Life Therapist roles across the hospitals we are proud to support. None of this would be possible without our generous community."

Lucy, Caboolture Hospital's Child Life Therapist, divides her time between the Paediatric Ward and Paediatric Emergency Department. Previously a Paediatric Occupational Therapist, she has long been passionate about supporting neurodiverse children.

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

Lisa, TPCB's second Child Life Therapist also brings a paediatric Occupational Therapy background to her new role.

"I chose to work as a Child Life Therapist because I love witnessing the immediate impact our role has – not only on the child but also on their family and the multidisciplinary team. Using our understanding of child development and targeted interventions, we empower children to take an active role in their care and develop coping skills. What I love most is that no child is the same, and each day is different, combining creativity, fun, and medicine in meaningful ways."

Because of you, children in both hospitals now have someone by their side to guide them through difficult and sometimes frightening moments, helping them feel safe, supported, and seen.

This is the difference you make.



The Prince Charles Hospital Child Life Therapists, Lisa and Meenu

SUPPORTING RECOVERY

One step at a time

Because of you, patients recovering from serious illnesses and major surgeries, including heart and lung transplants, now have access to upgraded outdoor facilities that support their rehabilitation and help them regain confidence in everyday activities.

The quicker patients can build strength and independence, the sooner they can return to the things, and people they love.

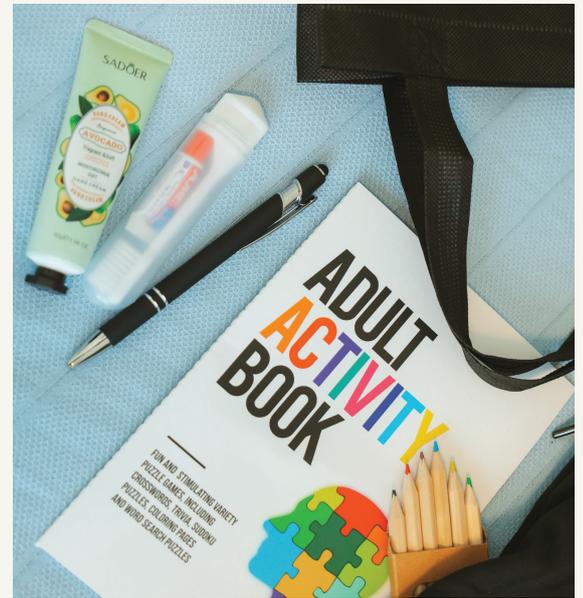
Opened in January, this refreshed outdoor area next to the Rehabilitation and Acute Stroke Unit (RAS) includes a wheelchair-accessible garden bed, inviting seating, and pathways with practical 'obstacles' like sliding doors, bridges, and stairs. These features give patients the chance to practice real-life mobility skills in a safe and supportive environment, helping them regain independence step by step.

The space was designed to be welcoming and motivating, particularly for transplant and stroke patients, while including practical elements that prepare them for everyday tasks before heading home.

The rehabilitation team is thrilled, and patients visiting weekly have been watching the progress with real excitement. Because of your generosity, this space is giving patients confidence, independence, and hope, helping them take the next steps toward reclaiming their lives.



The rehabilitation pathway has practical 'obstacles' like sliding doors



COMFORT PACKS:

Small things, big difference

Comfort Packs have been making a huge difference for vulnerable patients at The Prince Charles Hospital, who have suddenly found themselves in hospital without the chance to bring even the most basic essentials.

Each pack includes items like a toothbrush and toothpaste, hand lotion, fresh shorts, and a puzzle book. They may seem small, but when someone is frightened, unwell, and unprepared, these simple comforts can ease anxiety, restore dignity, and support recovery.

And thanks to the extraordinary generosity shown during our TPCH Giving Day 2025 Appeal (including support from many of you!), more than 1,000 Comfort Packs have already been provided to patients who needed them most.

Hospital staff and patients have been deeply moved by this kindness. They asked us to pass on their heartfelt thanks to you and to everyone who helped make these moments of comfort possible.

MEET OUR AMBASSADORS:

Champions for The Common Good

Because of supporters like you, people whose lives have been touched by The Prince Charles Hospital or Caboolture Hospital are choosing to give back.

Our Community Ambassadors Program, launched as part of our 40-year milestone, celebrates these personal connections and shows the real difference your generosity makes.

Each Ambassador carries their own story - experiences that inspired them to step forward, share their passion, and strengthen the bond between the hospitals and the communities they serve.

They're a testament that the care, support, and lived experience you share can make a real difference for others.

Whether it's visiting schools and community groups or championing initiatives like Giving Day, these amazing Ambassadors show what can happen when people like you come together for The Common Good. They prove that anyone who's been touched by exceptional care can pay it forward, helping patients and their families feel supported and hopeful.



COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

- **Bill Van Nierop**
IPF survivor and lung transplant recipient
- **Anita Demchenko**
Lung transplant recipient
- **'Big Jon' Twartz**
Multiple sepsis survivor
- **Rhys and Sharon Hoole**
Heart transplant recipient and his proud mum
- **Kate Phillips-Taylor**
Heart and lung transplant recipient
- **Ivy Webb**
Grateful past patient and carer
- **Anne Pitcher**
Grateful family member turned ICU volunteer, giving back to TPCH
- **Barbara Thompson**
30-year local resident and proud supporter of Caboolture Hospital

Rhys, 'Big Jon' and Bill, Community Ambassadors for The Common Good