



good
Friday
appeal
THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

RCH patient, Peter. Photo by David Caird, the Herald Sun.

Showcasing the impact of the

2024 Good Friday Appeal

CHANGING THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH



Thanks to the generosity of the Victorian community, The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Good Friday Appeal is changing the future of children's health. In 2024, the Appeal raised \$23,368,724, which will support life changing and life saving care for patients and support for their loved ones at the RCH and campus partners the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and the University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics.

In 2024, for the first time in the Good Friday Appeal's history, funding will help take the RCH excellence into the regions to support regional paediatric health services - Barwon Health, Bendigo Health, Grampians Health, Goulburn Valley Health, Albury Wodonga Health and Latrobe Regional Health. This important investment will improve the experience and outcomes of children receiving care in regional settings, keep children closer to home and increase capability in the regions, making the pathway to specialist care easier.



RCH patient, Nenorta. Photo by Alvin Aquino.

Every project that receives Good Friday Appeal funding is subject to the RCH Foundation's rigorous granting process, which ensures that the project meets the excellence test and is not something the government would ordinarily fund as part of core business.

It is important to note the following in relation to the granting of funds to the RCH:

1. In some years, the Good Friday Appeal funds support a major project or initiative as the centrepiece, such as Woolworths (via the Good Friday Appeal) supporting the Comfort Kids Program, RCH TV or Child Life Therapy Programs in-perpetuity.
2. Allocation to large projects or initiatives include funds from several years of the Good Friday Appeal, as some projects run over multiple years.
3. Good Friday Appeal funds are used as a priority for funding requests and in some instances, funds may be held over awaiting a hospital grant proposal. We are pleased to advise that all funds from the 2024 Good Friday Appeal have been allocated.
4. Funds raised by the RCH Auxiliaries are directed to specific causes and are distributed over a period of time in line with the funding term of a grant. This contribution is represented as one line within the report.

The RCH Foundation supports excellence across the Melbourne Children's Campus and funds projects across four key areas detailed below. The 2024 Good Friday Appeal funds have been allocated to support a range of projects in these four areas:

- **Equipment and technology:** improve lives using the most advanced equipment and technology
- **Patient and family centred care:** collaborate with family and health care providers to improve clinical outcomes
- **Leadership, education and training:** invest in the best people, and the brightest medical minds
- **Research:** discover cures and transform the future of children's healthcare.

2024 FUNDED GRANTS



ALL CATEGORIES

Various Projects

SUPPORTED BY: RCH AUXILIARIES

Auxiliary funds are all tied for purpose and held until projects are determined.

LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Allied Health and Nursing Development, Education and Leadership Program

(year 3 of 3)

Thanks to support from the Good Friday Appeal, nurses and allied health clinicians at the RCH can gain further education and professional development through the Allied Health and Nursing Development, Education and Leadership Program.

This program has led to the introduction of cutting-edge treatments and interventions across departments including social work and mental health. For example, the orthotics and prosthetics team learnt a new technique for prosthetic hydro-casting for lower-limbs, which leads to greater mobility, independence and outcomes for patients.

EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

MR PET – Operating Expenses

(year 3 of 5)

Supporting the ongoing provision of a dedicated paediatric simultaneous Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Positron Emission Tomography (MR PET) service.

Allied Health Research Capacity Development (Director of Allied Health Research)

(year 3 of 5)

The allied health workforce encompasses 27 professions across the RCH, including physiotherapy, dietetics, speech pathology and social work. It is a large cohort of staff who are passionate about undertaking world leading research that improves patient care.

The Director of Allied Health Research, a position made possible thanks to support from the Good Friday Appeal, will focus on building the research capacity in allied health professionals at the RCH, and research partnerships with The University of Melbourne, MCRI, and academic and industry stakeholders.

Associate Professor Kelly Weir was appointed to this role in 2023. A certified practicing speech pathologist with extensive clinical experience, Kelly will provide leadership within the allied health team, supporting allied health clinicians to undertake high-quality clinical research that identifies, implements and evaluates effective, evidence-led treatments and services for children and young people at the RCH.

Clinical Leader for Trauma, Burns and Surgery Research

(year 5 of 5)

The Clinical Leader for Trauma, Burns and Surgery Research helps the RCH stay at the forefront of trauma care, burns management and surgical research. The RCH is pleased to be able to provide an ongoing role to Associate Professor Warwick Teague.

A trailblazer in his field, Warwick plays an important role in trauma, burns and surgery, continuing to develop the RCH as a national and international leader and ensuring the RCH can continue to provide the best care to children and young people.

Enhancing quality and safety in health through simulation-based education

(year 2 of 2)

Thanks to support from the Good Friday Appeal, the RCH will continue to provide staff education through training by simulation.

Using state of the art medical technology, the RCH Simulation Team creates rare, high risk and critical patient events, as well as common clinical situations, to practise teamwork, communication, and technical skills. The Simulation Program gives staff the opportunity to receive feedback on their communication skills through simulated scenarios using trained actors.

The program aims to enhance clinical skills, decision making, communication and teamwork among staff, ultimately leading to better patient care in all situations staff may be faced with, including critical and everyday situations.

It doesn't just benefit RCH staff and patients - healthcare professionals from across Victoria, Australia and even internationally are able to access training through the program. Over 18,000 participants have participated in training through the program since 2015.



The RCH Simulation Program



Professor of Paediatric Emergency Medicine - Professor Franz Babl

Professor of Paediatric Emergency Medicine

(year 1 of 5)

The RCH's Emergency Department is Australia's largest paediatric Emergency Department. Not only does it help sick and injured children, but it also supports world-leading research.

Thanks to support from the Good Friday Appeal, the RCH is able to engage a Professor of Paediatric Emergency Medicine, Professor Franz Babl, to undertake vital research to improve emergency care.

This research will improve emergency care for all children and young people, both at the RCH and beyond. The funding will also allow the RCH to expand its research into areas including concussion, neck injury, bronchiolitis, acute mental health, bell's palsy and sepsis.

Travelling Scholarships

SUPPORTED BY: UNCLE BOBS CLUB AND PIED PIPERS

(annual scholarship)

Travelling Scholarships are annual prizes awarded to staff members at the RCH to strengthen their knowledge and expertise in their chosen field. Made possible thanks to the support of Uncle Bobs Club and the Pied Pipers through the Good Friday Appeal, these scholarships allow staff to travel and undertake further education, participate in research or complete workplace experience, leading to improved care for RCH patients.

The scholarships have recently enabled staff from areas including Cardiology, Oncology, Rehabilitation, Respiratory and Sleep Medicine to attend international conferences, symposiums and site visits, undertake Fellowship Programs and complete training at other world leading paediatric centres like The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto.

Uncle Bobs Neuromuscular Fellowship

SUPPORTED BY: UNCLE BOBS CLUB

(annual fellowship)

The RCH Neurology department is one of the busiest child neurology services in Australia.

In addition to general neurology, the department provides subspecialty care for children with epilepsy, muscle disorders, strokes, genetic conditions affecting the brain, demyelinating disorders including multiple sclerosis, and movement disorders.

The Uncle Bobs Neurology Fellowship, made possible thanks to the support of Uncle Bobs Club through the Good Friday Appeal, gives a junior paediatric neurologist the opportunity to work in this busy department. This training allows them to develop specific expertise in managing neurological conditions, which make up one third of all paediatric referrals to the RCH.

The 2024 fellow is Nadia Truong.



PATIENT AND FAMILY CENTRED CARE

Child Life Therapy in the ED

(year 1 of 3)

The RCH will be expanding its Child Life Therapy program to the Emergency Department, to reduce stress for patients, families and staff, and help make a visit to the hospital a more positive experience for everyone.

Through using evidence-based techniques and strategies such as medical play and procedure education and support, Child Life Therapy focuses on the needs of children, ensuring attuned and individualised trauma informed care, which can reduce anxiety, creating a space where patients and their families feel supported. Plus, the incorporation of Child Life Therapy to the Emergency Department will lead to improved patient flow, and a more positive experience for staff and families.

Child Life Therapy Programs (Educational Play Therapy Procedural Support)

SUPPORTED BY: WOOLWORTHS

(annual program)

Thanks to support from Woolworths through the Good Friday Appeal, children and young people at the RCH are supported by a team of dedicated Child Life Therapists through the Child Life Therapy Program.

Child Life Therapists engage, educate and empower children to promote effective coping strategies throughout their hospital journey. The program not only reduces anxiety in children, but it can also prevent the need for more complex medical intervention. Approximately 500 Child Life Therapy sessions are provided per month across the RCH.

The Child Life Therapy team, in conjunction with Creative Services (the hospital's in house video team), also develop peer modelled preparation videos for patients so they can better understand things around the hospital. Examples include A child's guide to nebulisers and Let's Learn About... lead aprons. These videos are widely viewed by the community on the hospital's website and YouTube channel.

Chronic Illness Peer Support (ChIPS): Providing Opportunity and Connection

(year 2 of 3)

The Chronic Illness Peer Support (ChIPS) program at the RCH has been transforming the lives of young people aged 12 to 25 living with chronic illnesses for 30 years.

With support from the Good Friday Appeal, ChIPS provides a supportive community for those navigating the complex world of chronic illness. It offers young people the opportunity to connect with each other through organised activities and twice yearly camps. There are currently 135 young people registered with ChIPS and up to 700 young people have participated in the program since 1993.



Harry Brown, ChIPS Program Manager



Comfort Kids Program

SUPPORTED BY: WOOLWORTHS

(annual program)

The Comfort Kids Program, supported by Woolworths through the Good Friday Appeal, aims to reduce the pain, anxiety and distress associated with medical procedures for children and young people receiving treatment at the RCH. The program offers preparation and on the day support to patients undergoing medical procedures, like blood tests, immunisations and dressing changes, as well as resources and coaching to parents to enhance their ability to support and advocate for their child. Comfort Kids supports both inpatients and outpatients to plan for the best possible procedural outcomes. Approximately 400 patients are supported by the program each year.

Further, the Comfort Kids team collaborates with colleagues across the hospital to provide leadership, education, training, consultation and support in the management of procedural pain, ensuring all patients have the best possible experience. They also provide outreach education to groups external to the hospital to ensure that children from wider Victoria are also well supported in coping with medical procedures.



Comfort Kids clinician, Emma McDonald

Garden Program Vision: A Breath of Fresh Air

SUPPORTED BY: WOOLWORTHS

(year 3 of 3)

The RCH Therapeutic Garden Program delivers dedicated therapeutic programs for patients and families across three specialised garden spaces at the hospital. The programs include a combination of individual and group horticulture activities and creative experiences, designed to distract from pain, decrease stress and provide relief. The gardens also offer a quiet, calming environment for staff, patients and families, providing an alternative space to the hospital wards.

The RCH Therapeutic Garden Program is funded by philanthropy, including support from Woolworths through the Good Friday Appeal. Drawing on extensive research demonstrating the physical, mental and social benefits of providing patients with access to garden spaces, the RCH is extending the program, resources and accessibility of its gardens to reach more patients across the hospital.



Bendigo Health Service patient, Dominic

GFA Regional Initiatives for 2024-25: Bendigo Health Service

**SUPPORTED BY: VICTORIAN
GOVERNMENT**

(year 1 of 1)

From building an all abilities rehab playground co-designed by clinicians and patients, to prioritising learning and development initiatives across nursing, allied health and intensive care, new funding will foster fun and creative play as an enabler of improved patient experiences and outcomes, while also helping to attract and retain highly qualified staff across the Loddon Mallee region.



GFA Regional Initiatives for 2024-25: Barwon Health Service

**SUPPORTED BY: VICTORIAN
GOVERNMENT**

(year 1 of 1)

From saving babies' lives thanks to resuscitation training and new video equipment, and increasing patient care and outcomes by using specialised ultrasounds, to upskilling nursing staff in response to a surge in eating disorders, funding will support critically ill children and young people of all ages across the Barwon area.

GFA Regional Initiatives for 2024-25: Latrobe Regional Health

**SUPPORTED BY: VICTORIAN
GOVERNMENT AND CADBURY**

(year 1 of 1)

From upskilling staff to create Gippsland's first neurodevelopment outpatients' clinic, and purchasing new equipment to detect and manage eye disease, through to increasing the capability of nursing staff by purchasing specialised training equipment and offering RCH secondments, funding for Latrobe Regional Health will change and save the lives of Gippsland children, in particular by allowing early detection and management of a range of conditions.

GFA Regional Initiatives for 2024-25: Grampians Health Service

SUPPORTED BY: VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

(year 1 of 1)

Providing care for a catchment area of 250,000 people, Grampians Health will be supported to acquire new state-of-the-art resuscitation, ultrasound and anaesthesia equipment to continue to provide the best care locally for women and babies with high-risk health needs.

GFA Regional Initiatives for 2024-25: Goulburn Valley Health

SUPPORTED BY: VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

(year 1 of 1)

New funding will enable children to receive highly-specialised, life-saving respiratory care within the Goulburn Valley for the first time, thanks to new equipment and training. Funding will also be used to create two part-time emergency nurse practitioner roles, support scholarships, and upskill staff delivering Hospital in the Home care, thereby keeping more children out of hospital, and servicing increased demand.



Goulburn Valley Health patient, Ava



GFA Regional Initiatives for 2024-25: Albury Wodonga Health

SUPPORTED BY: VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

(year 1 of 1)

This funding will allow Albury Wodonga Health to establish a Paediatric Hospital In The Home Program, invest in advanced medical equipment including an ultrasound machine for paediatric echocardiograms, and enhance workforce training and upskilling initiatives. Ultimately, it will allow the service to provide comprehensive, family-centered care to children in the region, ensuring they receive the support and treatment they need to thrive.

Implementing a Vascular Access Specialist Team at RCH

SUPPORTED BY: RUN FOR THE KIDS AND 3AW

(year 1 of 3)

Around half of all children admitted to the RCH will benefit from a new service aiming to improve their experience of having a drip or catheter inserted.

Thanks to the generosity of Run for the Kids and the Good Friday Appeal, children receiving care at the RCH will be supported by a team of highly skilled nurses, specialised in the insertion of peripheral intravenous catheters (PIVCs).

PIVCs, more commonly known as cannulas or drips, are used to deliver lifesaving medications and fluids to patients across the RCH. Having a canula inserted can be distressing and leave children and families with bad memories of their time in hospital. This can then go on to impact their future experiences of health care.

The Vascular Access Specialist Team (VAST) will work closely with patients, families, and clinical teams to improve this experience, enhance staff education, and create a patient-centred approach to inserting PIVCs.

The generosity of 3AW will enable the purchase of a new ultrasound machine to support the VAST and the insertion of PIVCs.



VAST nurses Eloise and Mary

Mother Goose Program

SUPPORTED BY: UNCLE BOBS CLUB

(annual program)

The Parent-Child Mother Goose (PCMG) Program is specially designed for parents and caregivers to enhance the parent-child bond through rhymes, songs and stories.

Through the program, carers gain skills and confidence to help them during their children's crucial early years, while children benefit from early experiences with language and communication. The PCMG Program is particularly beneficial for families experiencing isolation or disadvantage, families with developmental concerns for their child, and families with English as a second language.

Thanks to the generosity of Uncle Bobs Club, the PCMG Program is made available to the community through the RCH Early Childhood Intervention Service. Over 1,000 families have been supported through the PCMG Program since it commenced.

RCH Health Literacy Project

(year 1 of 3)

Recent findings have shown over half of all Australian adults have low health literacy. There is a need to empower future generations of Australians by developing accessible, reputable health information.

The RCH Health Literacy Project aims to create a range of new, engaging and inclusive digital health resources with and for young people, to elevate the voice of the child. The project will expand on two current health communications initiatives - the RCH National Child Health Poll and RCH Kids Health Info.

Through understanding children and young people's perspectives, this project aims to increase community health literacy, helping to keep them well, and out of hospital.

Thanks to the support of the Good Friday Appeal, the RCH can extend its unrivalled reach as a trusted online source of children's health information, leading to better outcomes for young people in Australia and beyond.

Melbourne Children's Campus Mental Health Strategy

SUPPORTED BY: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND DECJUBA

(year 4 of 5)

The Melbourne Children's Campus Mental Health Strategy has been established to revolutionise the way the RCH approaches mental health for children, young people and their families. By providing a clear framework for evidence-based prevention, care, and advocacy, the strategy aims to educate the workforce and elevate the wellbeing of children and young people and set a new standard in mental health support.

Supported by the Federal Government and Decjuba Foundation through the Good Friday Appeal, this multi-year strategy is making strides in transforming child and youth mental health care, education, and research. Over the past three years, it has increased engagement with lived experience advisors, launched a world's first evidence-based Clinical Practice Guideline for children and young people with anxiety, developed staff training programs in mental health literacy and skills, and has six active research projects on the go.



Professor Harriet Hiscock, Program Director of the Melbourne Children's Campus Mental Health Strategy

RCH TV programs for patients and families

SUPPORTED BY: WOOLWORTHS

(annual program)

Made possible thanks to support from Woolworths and the Good Friday Appeal, the RCH is keeping patients engaged, connected, and educated through RCH TV.

Through the in-house TV shows Be Positive and Hospital Lingo, RCH TV helps to promote children's understanding of hospital and healthcare experiences, while also empowering children and creating a positive hospital experience.

In the past year, RCH TV segments attracted approximately 8.4 million views on the RCH YouTube channel, with hundreds of patients tuning in each week to watch Hospital Lingo from their hospital beds. A child's guide to hospital videos have received 86 million views on YouTube and they are watched in 176 countries (there are only 195 countries in the world).

WADJA Health Service

(year 4 of 5)

Thanks to the Good Friday Appeal, the Wadja Aboriginal Family Place (Wadja), provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and their families at the RCH with culturally safe, respectful and timely services.

Dedicated case managers provide emotional, cultural and practical support to both inpatients and outpatients. Wadja's paediatric clinic service addresses the complex medical and social need, while also providing a comfortable space for families to enjoy a yarn or a cuppa.

The incredible impact of Wadja extends further than just its patients. Since 2009, the Wadja team has developed a reputation within the community, working closely with local Victorian Aboriginal organisations, including the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service and the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, to provide service delivery and referral pathways for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



Selena White, Manager of the Wadja Aboriginal Family Place and Annette Gaulton, Case Manager



RESEARCH

Clinician Scientist Fellows

(annual fellowship)

The RCH attracts the best medical minds from across the world to create a brighter future for patients. Thanks to the Good Friday Appeal, the Clinician Scientist Fellowship program offers clinicians protected and funded research time to find new cures, treatments and medications for the biggest health problems facing children. In any one year there are approximately 20 fellows at various stages of their five year fellowship.

Six new fellows were appointed in 2024, with their research studies spanning a range of areas, including improving care for children with sepsis, demonstrating the cost effectiveness of precise surgical intervention for drug-resistant epilepsy, and improving support for parents and carers to navigate end of life decision making.

Creating evidence for telehealth-delivered neurodevelopmental assessments

(year 1 of 3)

Thanks to the Good Friday Appeal, the RCH and MCRI are coming together to undertake research to provide clinicians with guidance and evidence-based information on how to best deliver telehealth developmental assessments. Patients accessing healthcare via telehealth appointments have increased following the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is vital children and young people with complex neurodevelopmental needs are given accurate and timely diagnoses and appropriate plans to manage their symptoms. This funding will ensure the quality and accuracy of assessments, so patients receive the best possible care.

Generation Victoria (GenV): Establishment and Campus Value

(year 2 of 2)

Generation V (GenV), is Australia's largest child and parent research project. Based in Victoria, GenV looks at how children grow and develop, how people age, and how health changes across generations.

Made possible thanks to philanthropy, including support from the Good Friday Appeal, the Victorian Government and the Paul Ramsay Foundation, this project aims to enhance the prediction, prevention, and treatment of various child health issues such as preterm birth, allergies, and anxiety. GenV will help researchers, communities and policy makers to improve the health and wellbeing of families at the RCH, across Victoria and Australia over the long term.

To date, over 100,000 participants have signed up for the study, which has recruited families across every birthing hospital in Victoria.

Gene-STEPS: Shortening Time of Evaluation in Paediatric Epilepsy Services

(year 3 of 3)

Thanks to the Good Friday Appeal, the Melbourne Children's Campus is part of an international, multisite study that focuses on the impact of rapid genomic sequencing (GeneSTEPS) in infants with epilepsy. Rapid genomic sequencing allows clinicians to detect rare genetic diseases within weeks rather than months.

GeneSTEPS is the first study to be conducted by the International Precision Child Health Partnership, an international group of world-leading paediatric specialists, including the RCH.

Two years into the study, the results are promising. The project team has found that rapid genome sequencing identified the genetic cause of a baby's epilepsy in 43 per cent of children. Fifty-six per cent of children who received a diagnosis had their treatment plan changed as a result of the study.



Healthy Trajectories: A child and youth disability research hub

(year 3 of 4)

Children with disability are among the most complex patients at the RCH. This makes it incredibly important to develop an innovative and research-based approach when it comes to the management of disability-related health and social issues. Thanks to the support of the Good Friday Appeal, Healthy Trajectories - A Child and Youth Disability Research Hub at the Melbourne Children's Campus - is helping transform the lives of children with disability and their families.

This collaborative hub conducts consumer-engaged research and harnesses the strengths of campus partners to affect a new vision for children with disability, their families and carers, with potential for significant Victorian, national and international impact. It aims to increase inclusion and participation for children and young people with disability by targeting potential barriers and inequalities and addressing the research priorities they identify as crucial. The interdisciplinary research performed at the hub will address practice and policy gaps, making a life-changing difference to patients.

MCRI Research

(ongoing funding)

The Good Friday Appeal is helping to support the research capability and output of the MCRI and the RCH.

MCRI is Australia's leading child health research organisation and benchmarks within the top three children's medical research institutes globally. MCRI aims to improve the prediction, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of rare and complex diseases and common conditions affecting children and young people.

This vital research is making a life changing difference to children not just in Australia but across the world. From developing new treatments for inherited and chronic kidney disease to bioengineering prosthetic heart valves, the MCRI is transforming the health and livelihoods of a generation of children and their families.

TOTAL XVII - TOTAL therapy Study XVII for the newly diagnosed ALL and Lymphoma

SUPPORTED BY: RUN FOR THE KIDS

(year 4 of 5)

Thanks to the Good Friday Appeal's Run for the Kids, newly diagnosed patients with paediatric acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) and lymphoblastic lymphoma have been able to access the latest in personalised medicine through a trial.

Known as the TOTAL Therapy Study XVII or TOTAL 17, the trial is an international collaboration led by St Jude Children's Research Hospital in America.

Once enrolled, the patient's blood and bone marrow samples are sent to St Jude, where clinicians use state-of-the-art tools to identify specific cancer-causing gene combinations. This provides the child with the opportunity to receive treatment specifically designed to fight their type of cancer. Over the past two years, 61 RCH patients have been enrolled in the program.

Recruitment for the trial ceased in mid-2023 due to meeting enrolment targets. The patients enrolled will continue to have follow up, including neurocognitive assessments.

The overall aim of the trial is to reduce the toxicity of treatment, maximise the quality of life and improve the cure rate for children with ALL and lymphoblastic lymphoma.



TOTAL XVII Study participant, Bobby

Royal Children's Hospital Neuroscience Advanced Clinical Imaging Service (NACIS)

(year 2 of 3)

The Neuroscience Advanced Clinical Imaging Service (NACIS) is a one-of-a-kind service at the RCH. Advanced brain imaging technology and imaging processing techniques make the invisible appear visible. Thanks to the support of the Good Friday Appeal, NACIS is improving long term outcomes and quality of life for young patients with brain tumours and epileptic disorders.

The NACIS team can help to identify particular lesions in the brains of patients with epilepsy, which were unable to be accurately detected before the establishment of the service. They also use the technology to assist surgeons to identify safe surgical road maps for precise brain mapping and surgical execution, as well as assessing patients post-surgery to ensure the best possible outcomes.

Precision Newborn Health: targeting high risk infants to improve lifelong health

(year 3 of 4)

Every day, the RCH Newborn Intensive Care Unit cares for some of the country's sickest and most vulnerable babies. These babies, born early or with complicated medical conditions, are often at high risk of having significant health issues throughout their life, requiring ongoing care.

Thanks to support from the Good Friday Appeal, the RCH established the Precision Newborn Health Program in 2022. This innovative research program is working towards improving precision in predicting infants at high risk of health and developmental problems. The program aims to create personalised intervention programs targeted at those most at risk to improve their outcomes.

Type 1 Diabetes Immunotherapy Program at MCRI/RCH

(year 4 of 5)

Type 1 diabetes is diagnosed in two to three children per week at the RCH and is currently incurable. However, thanks to the support of the Good Friday Appeal, a science and research program conducted by the MCRI and the RCH is offering new hope.

Now in its fourth year, the program which also works closely with the Australasian Type 1 Diabetes Immunotherapy Collaborative, is investigating immune-based therapies to both prevent and treat type 1 diabetes in existing patients. This important trial aims to improve developmental outcomes, quality of life and mental health outcomes while reducing suffering and mortality rates.



Professor Jeanie Cheong, Project Lead for the Precision Newborn Health Project



 contact@goodfridayappeal.com.au

 03 9292 1166

 goodfridayappeal.com.au

 @goodfriappeal

 @goodfridayappeal

 @goodfridayappeal