



RBWH
Foundation

Advancing patient care
and life-saving research

**You give the
precious gift of time.**

Impact Report 2022

Your generosity provides time for researchers to develop breakthrough treatments.

Time for doctors to consider new diagnoses and provide the best possible care for their patients. And time for families to continue to enjoy every precious moment with the people they love, hopeful about what the future holds. You help the RBWH Foundation achieve so much.

Watch how your extraordinary generosity is giving precious time to families:



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Acknowledgement of Country

The RBWH Foundation would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our services are located. We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the State.



L-R: Lisa Smith, Simone Garske, Wendy Barwell, Carly Goya.



2022 RBWH Foundation Board and Foundation Patron. L-R, Front row: Nicole Radice, Board Chair Susan Buckley, Lisa Smith, Deputy Board Chair Kristin Devitt, Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Jim McGowan AM, Adjunct Professor Alanna Geary, RBWH Foundation CEO Simone Garske. Middle row: Dr David Rosengren, Leona Murphy and Nino Di Marco. Back row: John Barton, Luca Fu and John McFarlane.

Message from the RBWH Foundation Chair and CEO

It has been another impactful year for the RBWH Foundation. Every day, we are inspired by the generosity and passion of our supporters, and by the life-saving difference you make to research and patient care.

Without doubt, the highlight of 2022 was being named inaugural Philanthropic Foundation of the Year by the State's peak body for philanthropy, the Queensland Community Foundation. The Foundation dedicates this honour to our supporters, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) health workers and researchers.

Thank you.

Your extraordinary generosity allows us to support some of Australia's brightest medical minds based in RBWH, Surgical Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS), Redcliffe Hospital and Herston Health Precinct research Institutes and Centres.

The RBWH Foundation and our Philanthropic Partners truly are a community of people with shared values, who make a profound impact by working together.

A wonderful example of this collaboration in action is Kim, a 65-year-old patient of RBWH.

In mid-2022, Kim contacted us after being treated for severe pneumonia in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). He was searching for a program of support for former ICU patients, but found nothing satisfactory. The RBWH Foundation saw an opportunity to improve patient experience, and took a bold step.

With your help, we launched our RBWH Foundation Grants which support extraordinary opportunities. The grants can support medical research, but also embrace patient education, care leading up to treatment, support for family members, and creation of healthcare resources – all projects which touch thousands of lives each year. Kim's inquiry, along with feedback from other patients, led to the creation of a peer-to-peer post-Intensive Care Unit (ICU) patient support program, which we are very proud of.

Please enjoy reading this year's Donor Impact Report about how you have helped fund globally-significant research and transform patient care. Your generosity saves and improves lives, and makes a significant difference to people in the community.

Kind regards

Susan Buckley,
Board Chair

Simone Garske,
Chief Executive Officer



RBWH Foundation CEO Simone Garske and Board Chair Susan Buckley

OUR PURPOSE

Saving lives through the extraordinary power of giving.

OUR MISSION

Together, we advance patient care and life-saving research.

OUR IMPACT

We create great opportunities to connect givers to great causes.

Message from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital



As the newly appointed Executive Director of RBWH, I am proud to be leading Queensland's largest hospital. It has been a pleasure getting to know the staff who form the backbone of our hospital, and our patients who demonstrate the strength of the human spirit every day.

I take pride in the level of care that our team of more than 8000 dedicated and passionate medical and health professionals provide to our community. It is comforting to know that with your support, we can go above and beyond in the provision of world-leading research and education, and ever-improving patient outcomes.

Over the past 12 months, thanks to your generosity, more than 20 research projects have been launched across many of our hospital departments.

We have launched the WeCU Family Care Program in the RBWH Intensive Care Unit. A number of patient lounges have been renovated creating calm, private spaces for family meetings. Our Running for Premature Babies NeoRESQ Vehicle has travelled more than 30,000kms transferring babies to hospitals.

Thank you for providing us with these incredible opportunities. You truly are making a difference to the health of Queenslanders, and to the world, and into the future.

Kind regards,

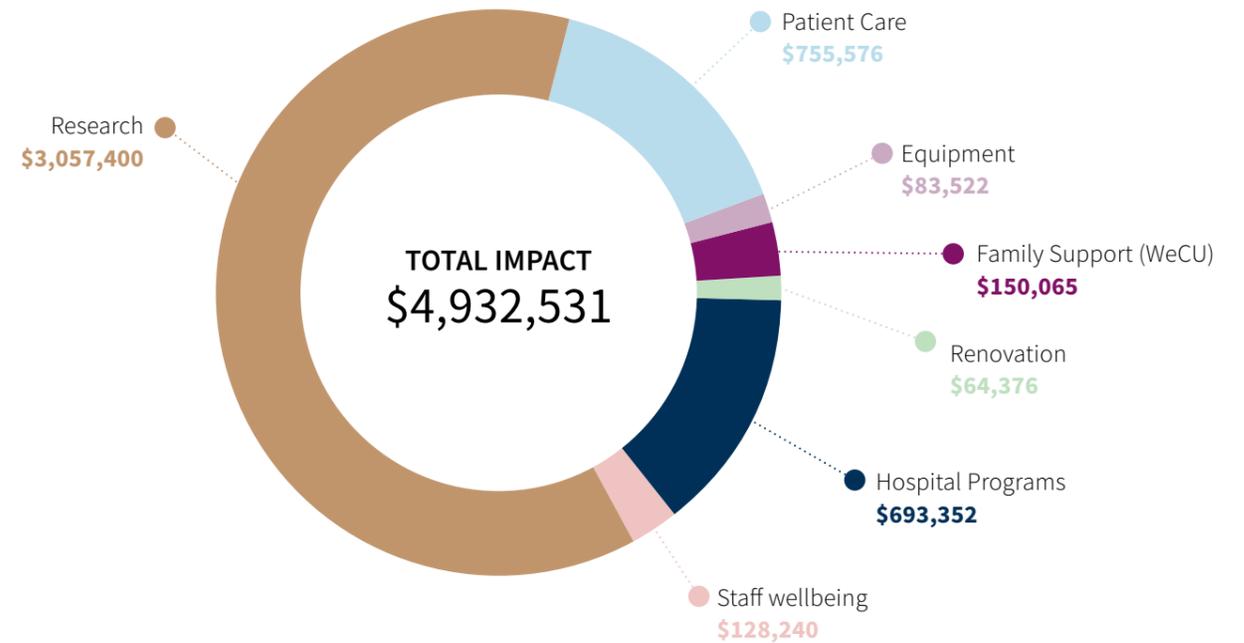
Louise Oriti
Executive Director
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Every day, every healthcare professional bears witness to the extraordinary power of your giving.

Your impact through giving

With the support of our incredible community of givers, the RBWH Foundation is proud to support RBWH, STARS, Redcliffe Hospital and Herston Health Precinct research Institutes and Centres.

Here's how your support has raised the bar in patient care and community outcomes in 2022/23.



You support the Philanthropic Foundation of the Year

The RBWH Foundation has been named inaugural Philanthropic Foundation of the Year 2022 by the State's peak fundraising body, the Queensland Community Foundation.

The honour recognises the Foundation's commitment, in partnership with our loyal supporters, to advance patient care and life-saving research.

The RBWH Foundation Board Chair Susan Buckley dedicated the award to Foundation donors, as well as our incredible healthcare professionals, health workers and researchers.

Long-time RBWH Foundation supporter, Betty Byrne Henderson AM, was honoured with the 2022 QCF Board



of Governors Award for Outstanding Achievement in recognition of her lifetime of giving.

RBWH Foundation donor and former RBWH bone marrow transplant patient, Thai Dang, and his wife Diamond Tran, were shortlisted for Emerging Philanthropist of the Year.

Pictured above: RBWH Foundation Board Representative Lisa Smith, Deputy Board Chair Kristin Devitt, Board Chair Susan Buckley, Board members Leona Murphy and Sharyn Ghidella, Foundation CEO Simone Garske.

You have invested in these and other life-changing projects



\$125,940
for a Health Worker Wellbeing Program



\$1,000,000
for the Herston Infectious Diseases Institute



\$450,000
RBWH Foundation Research and Patient Care Project Grants



\$200,000
for e-scooter injury research and analysis through Jamieson Trauma Institute



\$150,065
for WeCU - an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Family Care Program



\$148,340
Redcliffe Hospital Research and Patient Care Project Grants



RBWH Foundation CEO Simone Garske, CBCI Director Professor Owen Ung and HBI Clinical Director Dr Michael Wagels.

Your impact close to home and beyond

The Herston Health Precinct's impact and research collaborations are global.

Queensland, Northern New South Wales, Northern Territory, and Pacific Rim

- Queensland's only public specialised adolescent and young adult cancer centre
- State's only retrieval service for critically ill and premature babies
- State's largest neuroradiology service
- Provides 1 in 10 Queensland patient services
- Treats 1 in 5 Queensland cancer patients
- State-wide medical retrievals
- Regional and remote virtual care/ telehealth services
- Regional and remote GP and health care worker education
- State-wide high school 'Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma In Youth' (P.A.R.T.Y.) program
- Disaster response

National And International

- World-first breast reconstruction surgery using 3D scaffold
- 3D scanning, 3D modelling and 3D printing of medical devices, bone, cartilage and human tissue
- Australia's only in-house manufacturing of CD-19 CAR-T cells to treat cancer
- International leader in antibiotic dosing in intensive care
- Access to national and international clinical trials
- Disaster response
- Staff deployment as Defence Force Reservists (Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan)
- Fellowship programs (applicants from United Kingdom, Ireland, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, USA)

You have supported a world-first in 3D surgical innovation

RBWH has a long history of making medical research breakthroughs that keep stride with the most pressing public health priorities.

Thanks to your support of the RBWH Foundation, the groundbreaking research continues – with wonderful outcomes for patients.

In June 2022, RBWH clinical trial patient Moana Staunton underwent world-first reconstructive breast surgery to replace existing silicone implants with a 3D printed bioresorbable scaffold.

The revolutionary 3D breast scaffold procedure paves the way for women and men globally to access a safer alternative to silicone implants.

“But it is not just those experiencing complications from their implants that will benefit, as we roll out our clinical trial in patients just like Moana,” said Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute (CBCI) Director Professor Owen Ung.

“We will be moving into further studies for those who have experienced cancer, changing the lives of women who require a mastectomy and have limited reconstructive options until now.”

The scaffold, made from a 3D printed medical-grade polycaprolactone-PCL which will completely dissolve and metabolise in the body, was finessed between CBCI, Herston Biofabrication Institute (HBI), and German-based MedTech company BellaSeno. It was printed in Germany and sent to Brisbane for the procedure. The scaffold is injected with a patient's fat cells, and leaves nothing but the patients natural tissue within two years.

CBCI and HBI collaborated on this breakthrough treatment. The RBWH Foundation is the proud philanthropic partner of both prestigious institutes.

Other collaborating institutes include BellaSeno, Metro North Health, Department of Innovation, Tourism and Sport's Advance Queensland, and the Herston Imaging Research Facility.

A Phase One clinical trial of the procedure conducted at RBWH will recruit 15 – 20 eligible patients and will run until they each have received two years of follow up.



Breast scaffold patient Moana Staunton.



RBWH Foundation supporter Paul Shih delivers meals to RBWH staff.

A tribute to an extraordinary supporter

Logan business owner Paul Shih is one of our incredible Friends of the RBWH Foundation. The saying that “It is more blessed to give than to receive” has inspired Paul since he was a child. The Chinese character used to represent “give”- 施 – also happens to represent Paul’s surname.

In March 2020, he was waiting for a COVID-19 test at RBWH, when he was touched by the commitment of the hospital staff.

“I looked at all the medical workers (at RBWH) in this high-risk environment, potentially exposing themselves to the virus and I thought I should do something so that the community can appreciate and thank the medical frontline workers.”

Paul inspired the Brisbane’s Chinese Community to donate just over 2100 lunches to RBWH and two other Brisbane hospitals. In the 2022 Queensland lockdowns, Paul again rallied to feed the frontline.

Paul has used the same ingenuity to fundraise for the RBWH Foundation. For the past two years, his highly successful dragon fruit fundraiser, in partnership with the Sunshine Coast’s Royal Dragon Fruit Farm, has been dedicated to the RBWH Foundation. The Foundation has also been beneficiary of Paul’s annual PRET Australia Award Night.

In 2023, the RBWH Foundation nominated Paul for the state’s prestigious Queensland Community Foundation philanthropy awards. The awards honour community members and organisations who make outstanding philanthropic contributions and encourage support for charities.

Today, the owner of Professional Real Estate Training (PRET) continues to put his values into action and inspire others in Brisbane’s Chinese community.

“I have a few role models who are all philanthropists, and my donations could not possibly match their generous contributions,” said Paul. “However, I can use my personal strength for organising events and influence to fundraise for charities.”

If you have a fundraising idea to support research or frontline staff at RBWH, please get in touch.

Opposite page: PRET CEO Paul Shih.

If you would like to fundraise to advance patient care and life-saving research, scan here or visit rbwhfoundation.com.au





RBWH Foundation grant recipient Senior Ocularist Nicholas Puls.



Learn more about RBWH Foundation Grants



You make extraordinary opportunities possible

In 2022, the RBWH Foundation took a bold new approach to advancing the patient experience at RBWH.

While continuing our strong commitment to medical and health research, our new RBWH Foundation grants that support Extraordinary opportunities have embraced projects such as patient education, care leading up to treatment, support of family members, and the creation of healthcare resources – all projects which touch thousands of lives each year.

The manufacture of 3D printed artificial eyes, prosthetic legs tailor-made in half the time, and a state-wide support

program for families with loved ones in the RBWH ICU are among fifteen new projects now transforming the patient experience at RBWH.

Thanks to support of RBWH Foundation Giving Day 2022 by our committed and dedicated Foundation donors and Team Royal fundraisers, more than \$500,000 in grants were funded.

RBWH Foundation Giving 2022



1513
Donations



22
Fundraisers



15
Grants

Over the past year, you helped the RBWH Foundation fund more than \$3 million in research, including:

12

RBWH Foundation Project Grants

10

Anglo American Burns, Skin, and Wound Care Grants

15

Extraordinary Opportunity Grants



Herston Infectious Diseases Institute

4

Grants

4

Fellowships



RBWH Foundation Grant Recipients

Supporting extraordinary opportunities

RESEARCH

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KATE MCCARTHY,
RBWH Medical Director of Infection Control

An analysis of the patient experience of self-isolation to formulate future strategies that support patients within this model of care and mitigate unintended consequences of self-isolation.

DR KYLIE MATTHEWS-RENSCH, Acting Research Coordinator and Clinical Dietitian

RBWH Dietetics and Food Services

Meeting the nutritional needs for hospitalised patients with eating disorders: the Feeds Needs study.

FRANCES THOMSEN, Occupational Therapist

RBWH Occupational Therapy

A retrospective audit of splinting of radial forearm flap donor sites in patients with head and neck cancer to clinically justify safe timeframes for patients to cease forearm immobilisation and to resume functional use of their upper limb.

PATIENT EXPERIENCE

MEG MILLER, Clinical Nurse

RBWH ICU

Implementation of an in-person and virtual Post Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Patient and Family Support Group.

JAMES READY, Emergency Trauma Centre Social Work Team Leader

RBWH Social Work Services

Backpack Beds for Homeless Patients.

KRISTY WASHINGTON, Social Work Team Leader

RBWH Social Work

Providing digitally disadvantaged older patients with portable radios to keep them stimulated and connected with news, music and the outside world.

DR RYAN SOMMERVILLE, Skull Base Surgeon

RBWH Ear, Nose and Throat Service

Reducing anxiety and trauma for skull base cancer patients by creating a range of resources which outline their healthcare journey, including lived experiences from former patients.

PATIENT CARE

NICHOLAS PULS, Ocularist

RBWH Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Evaluation of 3D printed artificial eyes to refine manufacture through 3D technology, reducing the time and cost of producing ocular prostheses while improving patient outcomes.

SHANA TAUBERT, Senior Speech Pathologist

RBWH Speech Pathology and Audiology

Development and evaluation of a saliva management pathway for patients with swallowing difficulties who attend the RBWH Motor Neuron Disease (MND) Clinic.

PROFESSOR ALISON MUDGE, Clinical Lead

Eat Walk Engage program

RBWH Internal Medicine and Aged Care

An urgent consumer-led need for more awareness and resources about delirium, its prevention and care, delivered nationally across a range of print and digital platforms, to empower consumers, carers and community.

ANDREW MACDONALD, Orthotist/Prosthetist

RBWH Orthotics and Prosthetics

Hydrostatic Casting in Prosthetics - to assess whether new hydrostatic technology (which uses water pressure) to cast for prosthetic legs reduces the need for multiple fitting appointments and the time required for socket manufacture.

MARK CRUICKSHANK, Director RBWH Physiotherapy

Co-designing contemporary and inclusive patient education and information resources for the RBWH Physiotherapy Department.

DR MERRILYN BANKS, Director

RBWH Dietetics and Food Services

Real time patient feedback on food service and consumption to improve nutrition care.

JENNY KIRBY, Senior Social Worker

RBWH Social Work Services

A care plan for patients and/or carers attending a Kidney Supportive Care Service, to improve their ability to remember, use and act upon health-related information.

ANNA MCMAHON, Familial Bowel Cancer Nurse

RBWH Gastroenterology Department

Optimising Inpatient Colonoscopy Preparation to reduce the risk of inadequate bowel preparation and the potential to miss a diagnosis of colorectal cancer.

Pictured above: Sitting L-R: Shana Taubert, Dr Merylyn Banks, Professor Alison Mudge, Frances Thomsen, Anna McMahon, Dr Angela White, RBWH Foundation Board Chair Susan Buckley. Standing L-R: RBWH Acting Deputy Executive Director Sarah Black, RBWH Foundation Board members Adjunct Professor Alanna Geary and Jim McGowan AM, RBWH Foundation CEO Simone Garske, Kylie Matthews-Rensch, Jenny Kirby, Meg Miller, James Ready, RBWH Foundation Board member Nino Di Marco, Nicholas Puls, Board member John McFarlane, Kate Stockley, Derran Hornery, Lisa Smith, Mark Cruickshank, Dr David Rosengren, Andrew MacDonald.



Time for research
with global impact



RBWH Senior Staff Specialist in Haematology Dr Siok Tey.

Local patients accessing new-generation cancer treatment

In 2021, Sunshine Coast cancer patient Graeme Ardern was faced with a harsh reality. After 15 years of extensive treatment, including chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant, his follicular lymphoma had relapsed.

A new type of immunotherapy called CAR T cell therapy was one of very few treatment options available.

Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T cell therapy is a new therapy that reprograms a patient's immune cells to attack cancer cells. In Australia, the publicly funded CAR T cells are manufactured commercially in the USA, which takes 4 – 8 weeks to turnaround and cost about \$550,000 per patient.

Unfortunately, Graeme did not meet the strict Medicare Benefit Scheme (MBS) criteria to receive the US-produced CAR T cell treatment. But he still had a chance – thanks to the generosity of RBWH Foundation donors like you.

RBWH Cancer Care Services ran a clinical trial to manufacture CD19 CAR T cells in-house, rather than relying on overseas laboratories. The RBWH clinical trial is able to manufacture CAR T cells in 12 days at a cost of about \$50,000 per patient.

Graeme qualified for the trial. It meant another chance at life.

“We both felt very privileged for Graeme to receive a spot in the trial as he didn't qualify for CAR T otherwise,” said Mandy Ardern, Graeme's wife.

“He is even more lucky to receive the trial in Australia as many people have had to go overseas for months at a time or have their cells sent overseas for manufacturing to receive this treatment.”

Thanks to your support, RBWH can give some patients access to national and international clinical trials.

RBWH Senior Staff Specialist in Haematology, Dr Siok Tey, says the clinical trial results are encouraging.

“So far we have treated 12 patients, some of whom are now out at 12 months follow-up, which is really quite encouraging considering that they have exhausted all other treatment options,” she said.

Your donations are also supporting research into CAR T cell treatment for other cancers, including bowel cancer, brain cancers and childhood cancers. “There is so much more that we want to deliver for our patients,” said Dr Tey.

Just 28 days after Graeme's treatment, he received extraordinary news. He was in remission.

“Each and every day we feel we have been given the gift time,” said Mandy.



Your support turns brilliance into breakthroughs

Thank you to our wonderful supporters who join with us in fostering and incubating brilliant research careers.

Your support allows our researchers to ask medical questions, collect data, create outcomes, and potentially expand their work through million-dollar National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants.

Accolades also to our clinician researchers, many at the very beginning of their research journeys, who sacrifice so much of their time and energy as they work to solve some of medicine's most perplexing problems.

DR CLARE BURNS

Speech Pathology

Telehealth delivery of an immersive virtual reality therapy tool for communication rehabilitation: A feasibility study.

DR ANTHONY HODGE

Surgery and Perioperative - Anaesthetist

Pharmacokinetic profile and breastmilk excretion of sugammadex in pregnant women.

PROFESSOR PAUL COLDITZ

Women's and Newborns Service - Neonatology

Brain-specific blood biomarkers of injury in the growth restricted newborn.

DR SCOTT FARRELL

Critical Care

Development of small nerve fibre pathology in chronic whiplash-associated disorder.

PROFESSOR LEONIE CALLAWAY

Women's and Newborns Service

Aspirin for the treatment of cardiac dysfunction in preeclampsia.

DR JULIE ADSETT

Internal Medicine: Physiotherapy

Better get moving: Using implementation science to improve hospital mobility

DR AMANDA CORLEY

Surgery and Perioperative

Does longer peripheral intravenous catheter length optimise antibiotic delivery. A randomised controlled trial to reduce interruptions to intravenous antibiotic delivery.

DR ZHEN LIU

Surgery and Perioperative

Saliva tumoral correlation to monitor response to treatment in oropharyngeal cancer patients.

DR MELISSA LAI

Women and Newborns: Neonatology

Towards Custom Fitting CPAP devices for premature Infants – COMFIT

CORY WILLIAMS

Surgery and Perioperative

The co-design and evaluation of an e-health app to improve the perioperative patient journey and facilitate integrated care: A pilot randomised control trial.

MAREE RAYMER

Physiotherapy

Matching multidisciplinary care to patients needs in the state-wide Neurosurgical and Orthopaedic Physiotherapy Screening Clinics and Multidisciplinary Service



RACQ CEO David Carter, Jamieson Trauma Institute Director Professor Michael Schuetz and RBWH Foundation CEO Simone Garske.

Your donations are driving e-scooter safety

A new partnership to fund research into e-scooter injuries has already sourced vital data which could help improve the safety of riders and pedestrians.

RACQ and the RBWH Foundation have pledged a combined \$200,000 to support a three-year collaboration between Jamieson Trauma Institute (JTI) and major Hospital Emergency Departments, including RBWH.

The new research program will incorporate a prospective patient cohort study, retrospective injury surveillance, and data linkage.

RACQ's Principal Technical Researcher Andrew Kirk said the figures provided by the Queensland Office of Industrial Relations Workers Compensation Regulator suggest some people are rushing to work and significantly increasing their chance of crashing.

"The data shows 36% of e-scooter crashes are occurring on the way to work and 29% are happening on the way home. It also revealed Tuesdays are the most common day for an e-scooter crash," Mr Kirk explained.

RACQ CEO David Carter said the findings would be used to shape policy and regulatory responses and better educate Queenslanders on how to be safe on e-mobility devices. Outcomes will also inform public education and awareness campaigns.

"This research will give us a thorough understanding on how many people are ending up in hospital emergency departments with e-mobility related injuries and will allow us to better understand injury patterns, severity, circumstances, and treatment outcomes," Mr Carter said.

Your support for research affects every aspect of community life. Thank you for making a difference in so many ways.

If you would like to donate to more life-saving projects like this visit rbwhfoundation.com.au or scan the QR code





Your impact across the Herston Health Precinct

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH)

RBWH is one of the largest referral, teaching and research hospitals in the Southern Hemisphere. The Hospital provides highly specialised clinical services for Queensland and Australia including maternal foetal medicine, burns and trauma, advanced medical imaging and neonatology.

The nearly 1000-bed hospital employs more than 8,000 staff and treats more than 600,000 patients each year.



Probiotics linked to pregnancy risk in Foundation-funded research

When RBWH researchers began a world-first review assessing the use of the popular health supplement, probiotics, by pregnant women, they expected to find significant benefit.

Instead, the RBWH Foundation-funded research found the exact opposite.

Their review linked the oral supplement to pre-eclampsia, a potentially dangerous complication during pregnancy. The findings led to an urgent call for expectant women to seek medical advice before consuming probiotics in tablet and powder form.

RBWH Women's and Newborns Service Director of Research, Professor Leonie Callaway, said the study's findings initially took her team by surprise as it had long been thought that probiotics were beneficial during pregnancy.

"It goes to show that natural products we assume to be safe need to be carefully examined for pregnant women," said Professor Callaway.

Preeclampsia is a condition which affects about 15-thousand women in Australia and potentially their unborn babies, every year.

"Preeclampsia impacts every part of the body which means it also affects the placenta and can sometimes result in babies being born small and also preterm," said Professor Callaway.

"Babies born prematurely have a risk of a range of complications throughout their adult lives."

Professor Callaway stressed there was no suggestion low-dose probiotics found in yoghurts, kombucha or kimchi products were a risk.

Boondall first-time mother, Mellissa Ikitoelagi developed preeclampsia and had an emergency caesarian to deliver daughter Aurelia almost three months early.

Aurelia spent her first 76 days in the RBWH Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"I do have a history of hyper-tension, but there was no explanation for why I developed preeclampsia," explained Mellissa.

Aurelia's first birthday was dedicated to the RBWH Foundation and in lieu of gifts, family and friends made donations which exceeded \$2200.

Pictured top left: Professor Leonie Callaway, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Women's and Newborn Services (WNS) Director of Research.
Top right: Mellissa Ikitoelagi and daughter, Aurelia.

Herston Biofabrication Institute (HBI)

HBI is the first research institute of its kind – advancing knowledge and technology in 3D scanning, 3D modelling and 3D printing of medical devices, bone, cartilage and human tissue.

STARS (Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service)

STARS is a 182-bed public specialist rehabilitation and surgical service which delivers acute long-stay specialist geriatric and rehabilitation care, and elective short-stay surgery services. STARS health professionals are conducting research, including rehabilitation research to improve recovery.

Perinatal Research Centre

The Perinatal Research Centre is committed to improving perinatal health through world-class biomedical and clinical research, and translating research advances into clinical practice and better health outcomes for mothers and babies.

Herston Infectious Diseases Institute

The Herston Infectious Diseases Institute (HeIDI) was funded by RBWH Foundation donors through the RBWH Foundation Coronavirus Action Fund. HeIDI provides a vehicle to drive local, national and international collaboration that advances infectious disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment and tracking.



Research Alliance for Urban Gooi Health (RAUGH)

The Alliance leads world-class research and evaluation to substantially accelerate Australia's progress towards closing the gap in life expectancy and achieving health equality for urban First Peoples in greater north Brisbane.

Jamieson Trauma Institute

The Jamieson Trauma Institute is revolutionising how trauma services are delivered - bringing together a unique and integrated group of services including intensive care, burns, rehabilitation and military medicine to conduct cutting-edge trauma research to save lives.

Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute

The Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute brings together professionals involved with breast cancer diagnosis and treatment, primary care providers and researchers with the ultimate goal of preventing and finding a cure for breast cancer.

Burns, Trauma and Critical Care Research Centre

Conducting research to advance treatment and care for burns and critically ill or injured patients through world-class, evidence-based clinical practice.



RBWH Cultural Capability Officer Geoff Binge.

You give time for life-saving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples health research

The Research Alliance for Urban Goori Health (RAUGH) was established in 2021 to improve the life expectancy and achieve health equality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in greater Brisbane North.

With funding assistance from the RBWH Foundation, RAUGH is researching ways to improve early diagnosis and mortality rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with bowel cancer in the north Brisbane health catchment.

“We know that participation rate in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) and follow-up diagnostic colonoscopy is lower among Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous Australians,” said project lead Dr Jonathan Leitch.

“We also know that over 90% of bowel cancers can be successfully treated if diagnosed early.”

The project will identify barriers to bowel cancer screening and follow-up diagnostic colonoscopy from the clients, clients’ family members and the healthcare team’s perspective.

The research team will develop culturally appropriate pathways and a whole-of-health-system lens so that bowel cancer screening and diagnostic colonoscopy are more accessible and appealing for Indigenous people.

Thanks to your generous support, the RBWH Foundation is investing in these RAUGH research projects:

- A conceptual model of integrated care pathways between primary and tertiary mental health care
- Models of Integrated Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Care partnerships to address health equity for First Nations People
- Unmet needs in prostate cancer care for indigenous men and their communities

If you would like to donate to more life-saving projects like this visit rbwhfoundation.com.au or scan the QR code:



RBWH Foundation Raises it for Redcliffe Hospital

Since launching in late 2020, the passionate Raise it for Redcliffe community has raised over \$500,000 for more than 30 projects. This includes life-changing patient care, health research, staff wellbeing projects, and ‘touch of home’ renovations which have enhanced the patient experience.

Run by the RBWH Foundation, in partnership with Redcliffe Hospital, Raise it for Redcliffe Hospital has seen momentum grow among the businesses, schools and community of the Moreton Bay and Redcliffe Peninsula region.

“How we care for others says a lot about the kind of people we are and the kind of community we want to live and work in. The more we care together, the greater the potential impact for good.” Chris Allison, Regional Manager, Lewis Leisure, Raise it for Redcliffe Impact Partner.



Eat Walk Engage resources, including board games, dementia puzzles, reading glasses, weighted lap dogs, headphones and portable radios, to help patients at a stressful time.

Refurbishment of the Rehabilitation Unit lounge, dining and courtyard area.



State-of-the-art 3D technology for urology research to help men with prostate cancer.



Hygienic, re-usable devices and headphones to calm anxious patients of all ages during surgery.



A new gazebo so hospital staff can have a break in fresh air.

Breast pumps to assist new mothers in need when they are separated from their babies and need equipment to express milk.



HeIDI Interim Director Professor Jason Roberts and Drake Research Fellow Amy Legg.

You give researchers time to discover infectious diseases cures and treatments

New guidelines for interpreting antibiotic blood levels in intensive care unit (ICU) patients at risk of potentially fatal sepsis is being developed by inaugural Herston Infectious Diseases Institute (HeIDI) Drake Research Fellow Amy Legg.

The Herston Infectious Diseases Institute was launched in 2021, thanks largely to the extraordinary generosity of Sunshine Coast philanthropists Keith and Glenda Drake to the RBWH Foundation. The Drakes donated to the RBWH Foundation Coronavirus Action Fund during the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of protecting future generations from the deadly impact of infectious diseases.

Sepsis kills approximately 5000 patients each year in Australia [1] and ensuring fast access to the right antibiotic at the right dose is crucial to ensure every chance at a good outcome for patients.

“At RBWH we have access to assays (evaluations) that use a blood test to measure the amount of antibiotic in the patient’s body,” explained pharmacist Amy Legg.

“Some patients with sepsis have a low level of antibiotic because of changes going on in their body, while other patients have a high level, especially if their kidneys have been damaged by the infection. A low level can mean the drug is not effective, and a high level can cause side effects.”

“We are also planning on undertaking a wider research project into how antibiotic drug levels are being used at RBWH and if they are helping to maximise treatment outcomes for patients.”

The research is being conducted in collaboration with infectious diseases doctors and pharmacists, and ICU doctors and pharmacists. One outcome will be a set of guidelines to enable all sites to use and interpret antibiotic blood levels in patients.

Your support is helping HeIDI fight infectious disease, through:



Drake Research Fellows

4 Per Year



Early Career Research Grants

3 Per Year



‘Research into practice’

1 Translational project a year

Success in winning grants

The RBWH Foundation is proud to be actively involved in seeking external grant opportunities through external funders and philanthropic organisations for RBWH, STARS and other Herston Health Precinct research institutes.

The Foundation offers administrative support for clinicians throughout the grant application process, including writing and reviewing grants, submission and administration of funding, for medical research and patient care initiatives.

The RBWH Foundation has sourced the following research and patient care grants:

Mental Health Team

\$121,000

To provide support to First Responders who engage with military and veteran suicide.



Jamison Trauma Institute

\$108,000

Study into reducing inappropriate medications for low back pain in the Emergency Department.

Colorectal Cancer Researcher Salary Support & Training

\$30,000

Surgical Spine Fellow

\$80,000

Social Work

40 Christmas Food Bags for ICU Families.

Specialist Maternity Bereavement Support

40 families supported through their loss.



You Can Centre

50 Welcome Packs valued at **\$4,900**

for adolescent and young adult patients with cancer.

New Mums in Financial Need

50 Breast Pumps valued at **\$2,200**

Neonatal ICU parents

25 Noise Cancelling Headphones valued at **\$4,500**



Adolescent Mental Health Unit

\$18,000 For Gaming and Musical Equipment for the **240** Young people admitted, on average, each year.



Going above and beyond for patients and families

In 2022, the RBWH Foundation helped RBWH expand its vision of creating “Queensland’s kindest hospital” by embedding the family and patient experience as a key priority. A wonderful outcome is the new WeCU Family Care Program for the RBWH Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

There is little to prepare families and friends when a loved one requires intensive care treatment.

As one of the Southern Hemisphere’s largest trauma hospitals, the RBWH ICU treats patients from as far afield as regional and remote Queensland, Northern New South Wales, the Northern Territory and Pacific Rim. For many of those families, anxiety is compounded by additional difficulties, such as finding accommodation close to the hospital in a city far away from home.

“We know families are frightened and overwhelmed when they come to the ICU. They need information on the condition of their loved one, on where to stay and how to make sense of the complex medical system they are now a part of.”

“Most of all they need to know the staff and volunteers have the time and resources to help them through all of this,” says Angela O’Malia, RBWH Director of Social Work.

Thanks to your support, the new WeCU Family Care Program is making time in ICU easier.

It is giving tired and worried families practical and emotional support, often provided through RBWH social work assistants, like Georgia Janas.

Georgia said: “WeCU helps distressed families in so many ways. It means providing information on how to navigate the hospital, transport, emergency accommodation, and meals. It’s also about making sure there’s always a friendly face there to greet families and loved ones, remember their names, and know their stories.

“The WeCU program has enabled me to form relationships with families and support them when they are dealing with possibly the most traumatic time of their life. I can facilitate visits to their loved one’s bedside, liaise with clinical teams – but also be there for chats, laughs and hugs when they’re needed.”

WeCU has been funded as a two-year pilot through the generosity of RBWH Foundation supporters who understand that supporting families is essential to patient wellbeing.

By December 2022, **4,361 family members** of ICU patients received assistance, including:





L-R front: Cienna Jones-Umina. Back: Bianca Jones-Umina, WeCU Patron Leona Murphy, RBWH brain injury patient Alexa Leary, Russell Leary, Wil O'Dwyer, Mat Jones-Umina.



Learn more or join the Crew!

An incredible family helps other families after experiencing devastating loss

It is thanks to extraordinary supporters like the Jones-Umina family, that the RBWH Foundation has been able to establish WeCU.



Nikias Jones-Umina.

During 2022, Mat and Bianca Jones-Umina from Brisbane raised an extraordinary \$20,000 to support families and parents with loved ones in ICU.

The family's desire to help others came about after their personal experience.

In 2021, their much-loved son Nikias was found at home unconscious and not breathing. Nikias, just 17 years old, had collapsed after his brain switched off his breathing, leading to a cardiac arrest. Nik was revived by paramedics and rushed

to RBWH ICU but passed away with his family by his side five days later.

His death was caused by a condition called Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). SUDEP occurs in about 1 in 1000 adults and 1 in 4500 children each year.

"When Nik was in ICU we noticed a gap in care for families. There was no designated space that as a family we could go and sit, nowhere private where we could cry, no space where we could withdraw from the horror that was unfolding."

"As a family we felt raising funds to go towards a family room would support other families and honour Nik's memory."

Bianca and Mat Jones-Umina

The RBWH Foundation pays tribute to the kind legacy of Nikias and his family.

Time for kindness

There is always a smile on offer from the enthusiastic and committed volunteers of the RBWH Foundation Compassion Crew. This dedicated team willingly give their time every week to ensure the care and comfort of patients and visitors at RBWH and STARS.

In 2022, our volunteers:



Helped > 12,000 people find their way across Herston Health Precinct



Gifted > 2400 items to patients including books, magazines, activity packs



Helped 344 patients in need



Interacted with **> 26,000** people



Helped > 600 patients access laundry



Distributed **914 items** of clothing, footwear and toiletries

If you would like to fundraise to advance patient care and life-saving research, scan here or visit rbwhfoundation.com.au





RBWH NeoRESQ team prepare to transfer Evie.

You help transport precious babies home and to life-saving care

In February 2023, the Sunshine Coast's Evie Dunlop became one of about 650 critically ill or premature babies rushed to RBWH neonatal experts for life-saving treatment.

These tiny patients travel in the expert care of the RBWH NeoRESQ Service, a specially trained medical team which can deploy to central and south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales at a moment's notice.

Once babies are well enough, they are then transferred back to a hospital closer to home in the Running for Premature Babies NeoRESQ vehicle, proudly supported by the RBWH Foundation donors.

"I felt so helpless with everything that was going on, but when I met the (NeoRESQ) team, I felt so reassured that Evie was in good hands," said Danielle Dunlop, Evie's mother.

Danielle's wife, Sianna, had experienced a trouble-free pregnancy. During labour at a Sunshine Coast hospital, however, Sianna suffered a life-threatening pregnancy complication called HELLP (Hemolysis, Elevated Liver enzymes and Low Platelets) syndrome, a rare form of pre-eclampsia.

Evie was born distressed with meconium aspiration syndrome, a severe form of respiratory distress caused by inhaling her own faecal material. The medical team decided the critically ill baby's best chances were with RBWH neonatal experts and Evie was medivacked in the care of NeoRESQ.

"They were professional, kind, and sent us a photo of Evie in the helicopter. It was so hard watching her leave and receiving the photo was so special and meant a lot."

Sianna was also transferred to RBWH and on Valentine's Day, after 10 days of treatment, Evie was finally well enough for NeoRESQ to return her to the Sunshine Coast.

"We have been totally blown away by what services are offered - things we had never heard about that make such a massive difference in people's lives every day," said Danielle.

"We are beyond appreciative. These donations have made such a big impact in our journey. We can't say thank you enough!"

Evie finally went home after 17 days in hospital and temporarily remained on oxygen to aid her recovery. Her doting parents couldn't be prouder.

"She is a very smiley and cheeky girl, and is loving her life at home!"

Thank you for helping keep the NeoRESQ service on the road - and keeping families together.



Our community of extraordinary givers

You belong to a compassionate community

It is only with the support of our incredible community of givers that the RBWH Foundation can support the brightest medical minds to go above and beyond in the provision of world-leading research and the improvement of patient outcomes.

Our supporters, large or small, are connected by compassion and a desire to help others in the community.

For donors like Valerie and Colin, medical research is an investment in the future.

“Our forefathers who supported medical research are the reason so many people are living healthier and longer lives and we must continue to support the work they started,” explained Valerie.

The retired couple has tragically lost both of their adult children to cancer. Their son Warren passed away from melanoma in 2010 and their daughter Cheryl Lee-Ann, to lung cancer, in 2019.

“Losing your children is not what one expects in life, and it has left us with a huge void. To honour their memory, we decided to donate to medical research now, hoping that with the wonderful research and breakthroughs, other families would not have to endure the loss and pain we feel every day.”

“Over the years we have experienced families and close friends suffer and some losing their lives to various illnesses especially cancer,” said Valerie.

“There are so many illnesses that deprive people of a healthy and pain free life and research is the only way forward to eliminating some of these debilitating diseases.”



Valerie Meanwell and Colin Meanwell.

Valerie and Colin’s impact has been extraordinary.

Their focus at RBWH has been Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and cardiology. Their generous donation provided the RBWH Emergency Cardiology Research program with base data that enabled the research team to be successful in this year’s highly competitive Medical Research Future Fund round.

“Our philosophy is ‘give what you can, when you can, to make a difference to maybe your life and other people’s lives and suffering,’” said Valerie.

“The amount of money one donates is not important; the important issue is that people donate what they can when they can. I call it giving back.”

Opposite page: In July 2022, ADCO Constructions dedicated its annual Community Day to the RBWH Foundation, refurbishing an outdoor garden area on Level 5 of the RBWH Dr James Mayne building. About 20 staff members generously volunteered their time to create a tranquil place of healing for intensive care patients and their loved ones.



RBWH Consumer Advisor Dale Trevor and RBWH Dietitian Researcher Bronwyn Segon.

Corporate partners with big hearts

RBWH researchers are assessing whether wearing multi-sensor body monitors, similar to those used by athletes to gauge energy expenditure, can help detect and minimise weight loss experienced by burns patients.

The research is one of ten grants made possible through the extraordinary corporate philanthropy of global miner, Anglo American. In 2020, Anglo American donated \$1 million to the RBWH Foundation for medical and clinical research in burns, trauma, wounds and skin culture. It was the largest corporate gift in Foundation history.

The guiding principle was for outcomes to also benefit regional Queenslanders, people living in rural and remote areas, and for research outcomes to be shared internationally.

“When someone suffers a burn injury (or other traumatic injury), the body releases a range of hormones aimed at initiating healing and fighting off infection,” said lead researcher and RBWH Director of Nutrition and Dietetics, Dr Merrilyn Banks.

“As a result, many burns patients lose a significant amount of weight due to their higher calorie requirements, but it’s difficult to establish they need more calories until they lose the weight.”

Weight loss in burns patients can delay healing and cause problems for graft surgery and specialised burns garments.

“We are trialling four different types of devices due to different injury sites and to determine what types of devices are most acceptable to patients to wear,” said Dr Banks.

“We are also working very closely with the CSIRO on this project, utilising their expertise in wearable technology in health.”

This research would be unable to be undertaken without the generous support of Anglo American,” said Dr Banks.

The RBWH Professor Stuart Pegg Adult Burns Centre is recognised as a world leader, with one of the lowest mortality rates internationally due to a tradition of research and patient care excellence.

Collaborations like these harness the best of Australian research. The benefits are felt by patients here in Australia, but ultimately contribute to improvements in health worldwide.



Beryl Quayle holding a photograph of RBWH Foundation bequestor Winifred Allen.

The Power of a Gift in Will

Leaving a gift in your will to advance patient care and life-saving research is a powerful gesture with lasting impact. For philanthropist, Winifred Allen, support of medical research was important not only for future generations, but also to protect those she loved.

As a retired agricultural researcher who specialised in seed analysis, Winifred had a passion and curiosity for medical advancements and medications.

Long-term friend, Beryl Quayle, says her dear friend supported about 25 charities during her lifetime and left a substantial gift in will to four medical institutions, including the RBWH Foundation.

“I am proud of her because her bequest will make such a difference to so many people,” said Beryl.

Although Winifred never had children of her own, she was known as ‘Grandma Win’ to Beryl and husband Michael’s daughter and nieces.

“Win had a general interest in anything medical,” explained Beryl.

“My husband was sick for about 15 years, and she always wanted to know what medications he was on and how all his ailments were going.”

The RBWH Foundation is honoured to have been left bequests by many valued former patients, staff and community members. A gift can range from a sum of money, to shares,

a property and more. These generous gifts have helped the RBWH Foundation support the highest level of patient care and clinician-led life-saving research.

Beryl said Win would be delighted to know her gift to the RBWH Foundation would support cancer research with international impact.

“We all have family members who have died from cancer so Win would be absolutely thrilled to know that it has gone to cancer research,” said Beryl.

“She would want to know every detail of what was going on.”

Leaving a gift in your will to the RBWH Foundation changes the lives of so many. To these incredible donors, thank you. Your contribution not only supports those in our care but contributes to life-saving research.

For more information about leaving a Gift in Will, please scan the QR code.





RBWH Head and Neck Surgeon Dr Ryan Sommerville.

You give time for skull base cancer research

When Upper Caboolture primary school principal Vicki Baker was diagnosed with skull base cancer in 2018, the outlook for people with this cancer was so grim that Vicki's GP warned her not to Google it.

"My life was going along really nicely then one ordinary day a doctor is mentioning my name with the C word in it," said Vicki.

At the time, her only wish was to live long enough to hold newborn twin granddaughters, Maisie and Millie.

Thanks to the extraordinary contributions to RBWH skull base cancer research, the survival rate for patients like Vicki has improved from 40% to almost 90% in the two years post-treatment.

Morgan's Foundation, the charity arm of the national stockbroking and wealth management firm, is one of the main supporters of this research.

"When I heard the story of skull base cancer, I thought it had direct connections with Queensland cancer sufferers," said Morgans Private Client Advisor, Will Anderson.

Skull base tumours are located in the delicate tissue between the skull, head and neck, making them some of the most complex and challenging types of tumours to treat. In Queensland, one of the major causes is advanced skin cancer that has travelled directly to the skull base or travelled through nerves towards the brain.

RBWH Head and Neck Surgeon and lead researcher, Dr Ryan Sommerville, wants to keep improving outcomes for patients like Vicki.

He and his team collaborate with other research facilities located on the Herston Health Precinct,

including the Herston Imaging Research Facility (HRIF) and Herston Biofabrication Unit (HBI).

"3D printing (at HBI) is a large part of how we will teach the future generation of surgeons, and how we will plan our operations as our experience in this grows," said Dr Sommerville.

"It will also allow us to show our patients the complicated interaction between their tumour and the anatomy of skull base."

"Some of our projects have been completely dependent on the funding we have received through the RBWH Foundation and our Skull Base Fund donors," said Dr Sommerville.

"Ryan's efforts in this field are inspirational and his knowledge and passion are infectious. Queensland could be a leader in the research of better outcomes for patients with this cancer," said Will Anderson.

Vicki has now survived skull base cancer twice - and appreciates every day with her family. Those little granddaughters are now three years old.

"Cancer can happen to anybody so we need to put as much money into research as we possibly can," said Vicki.

These wonderful stories, about people and families in our community, would not be possible without philanthropic support like yours.

Opposite page: RBWH skull base cancer patient Vicki Baker, husband Russell and granddaughters.

The extraordinary passion of our health workers and researchers

Of all the support the RBWH Foundation receives throughout the year, the effort that is closest to home is the involvement of the dedicated health workers and researchers based at RBWH, STARS, Redcliffe Hospital and Herston Health Precinct research Institutes and Centres. Every day, these wonderful people go above and beyond to help patients, families and the community. For them to give of their personal time to help raise spirits and funds is truly inspirational.

Thank you for joining us in advancing patient care and life-saving research.



Metro North Health Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Adjunct Professor Alanna Geary.



Nursing Research Fellow Dr Amanda Corley.

Fundraising for Nursing and Midwifery Research

When it comes to championing Team Royal colleagues, Metro North Health Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Adjunct Professor Alanna Geary literally walks the walk.

A marathon mission to raise awareness and funding, dubbed 'Catch the Chief', saw her walk almost 200km on a treadmill over six days in May 2022 at five Metro North hospitals, including RBWH, and two health facilities.

She challenged staff and the general public to match her efforts by becoming a regular donor to the RBWH Foundation. The campaign raised an impressive \$6000.

"Research provides the context for how we work as nurses and midwives," said Adjunct Professor Geary.

"We put research into clinical practice and ensure that what we are providing is up-to-date, evidence based, and enables us to provide the best possible care for patients who come through our doors."

If you would like to donate to more life-saving projects like this visit rbwhfoundation.com.au or scan the QR code:



RBWH Nursing and Midwifery research in 2022



35 research projects



13 PhD students



5 PhD students completed



Midwifery researcher Emma Shipton with mother Kayla Eriksson and baby Charlotte.



RBWH maternity patient Anna Holden and premature twins Bobby and Marylou.

Midwifery research to improve breastfeeding rates

When midwife Emma Shipton first began work at RBWH, she thought research was strictly the realm of doctors.

“I thought that to be a researcher or to do a PhD, wasn’t something that would be achievable for me as a midwife,” said Emma.

A strong research culture at RBWH, however, changed Emma’s mind and with the support of a RBWH Foundation scholarship, her Australian-first project may influence national antenatal models of care.

Her survey of more than 250 women will assess whether care by an obstetrician, GP or midwife influences the length of time a mother breastfeeds her baby.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends women, if they can, breastfeed exclusively for the first six months of their baby’s life. The most recent data, the 2010 Australian National Infant Feeding Survey, shows just 15% of babies are being exclusively breastfed at five months.

“The women I speak to say breastfeeding is their goal, so I think any research that focuses on how we can potentially help them achieve that goal is going to change practice moving forward,” said Emma.

Emma is supported by a culture of nursing and midwifery research within RBWH.

“Nurses and midwives are working on the frontline, they work with women face-to-face and they know what the issues are,” said Emma.

“They’re really well placed to be able to assess what women need and want, so they’re the best people to be doing this kind of research.”

We thank Emma and all the other nurses and midwives who do so much to care for families.

If you would like to donate to more life-saving projects like this visit rbwhfoundation.com.au or scan the QR code:



Opposite page: RBWH cancer patient Victoria Faure-Evrard.



Thank you for giving the gift of precious time



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