Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation

Impact Report

FY24



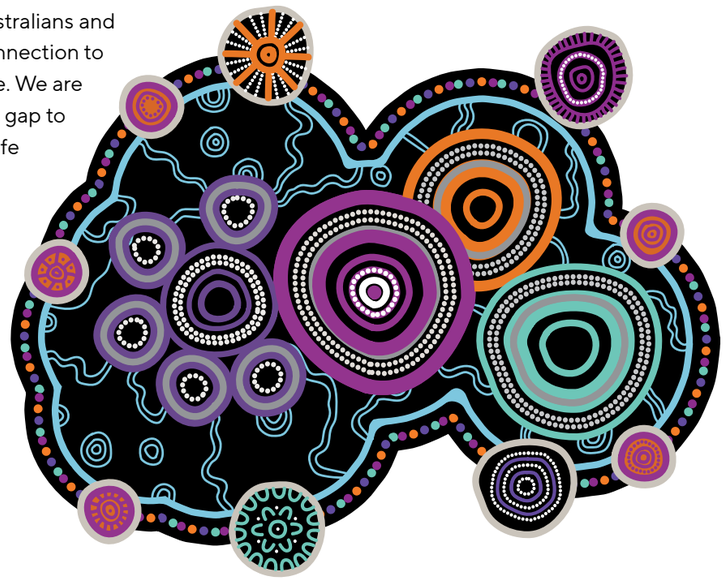
Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation

All in for kids' health

We are the Movement of Many, different people from all walks of life. With one foot at the front line and one in the future, we're here for those who deserve our all. To help all sick kids, no matter where, no matter what.

Acknowledgment of First Australians

Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF) acknowledges First Australians and recognises their continuous connection to country, community and culture. We are committed to helping close the gap to achieve equality in health and life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



"In Unity We Heal."
Artwork by David Williams of Gilimbaa.

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A message from our CEO



"Philanthropy plays a crucial role in delivering the highest standard of clinical care, the best possible patient experience and cutting-edge research that can deliver new therapies and treatments for sick kids."

In FY24, you helped achieve an extraordinary record — the contribution of $52 million to the frontline and future of kids' healthcare!

Thanks to the unwavering support of our 33,000 donors during FY24, Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF) made our largest ever contribution to the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN) in a single year.

Your generosity made it possible for SCHF to provide:

- $36.5M towards clinical care including providing innovative new models of care, advanced medical technologies, and setting up new programs and initiatives.
- $10.9M directed to research, supporting SCHN's bench to bedside model, getting new therapies and treatments to patients faster.
- $4.6M directed to delivering positive patient experiences and support for families, including child life therapists, art and music therapy.

Impact, however, is measured in more than just dollars raised or dollars given. It is measured in the support, innovation and care provided to sick and injured kids and their families, who receive care across SCHN.

From enhancing clinical care and patient experiences to expediting research that will help generations of kids with illness, your support is making an incredible difference every day.

Moving research from benchtop to bedside takes 17 years. This is not quick enough for many sick children. Your support has helped expedite that journey by supporting clinical trials in areas such as pharmacokinetics - an incredibly important field that makes sure the children receiving medications receive the correct dose that has maximum therapeutic benefit, with minimal harm and side effects.

New therapies and treatments such as the Australian-first OCD BOUNCE clinical service are effectively resourced because of you. Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) affects one in 50 children. Since opening in January 2023, the OCD BOUNCE clinical service is now supporting the delivery of the best care to kids where they need it and is helping to keep kids out of the hospitals where they can live their fullest lives in the community with family and friends.

SCHF is excited to help create infrastructure that will benefit children in the future. This year, with your generosity, we exceeded our $75 million redevelopment pledge ahead of schedule, supporting the construction of two new children's hospitals at Westmead and Randwick.

Thank you for standing alongside us. You are ensuring every child gets the healthcare they need, no matter when and no matter what.

Together, we can change the future for sick kids.

Kristina Keneally

Chief Executive Officer
Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation

A message from the Network



"Philanthropy plays a unique role in enabling and enhancing health care. We are so grateful to all the committed individuals and organisations who support our vision for world-leading paediatric healthcare."

Together, we are transforming the future of children's health.

The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN) and the Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF) share a united vision of providing the best possible care for children and young people and we are proud to partner with them in our ambitions to improve health outcomes.

Philanthropy supports transformative projects across our hospitals. The redevelopment projects at The Children's Hospital at Westmead and Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, are progressing, expanding our ability to deliver world-class care in spaces purpose-built for children and young people.

Investment in clinical trials is opening new doors in medical research, driving pioneering therapies for children facing complex illnesses. Programs like child life therapy, which give comfort and relief during challenging procedures, are also possible because of the community's generosity.

In our oncology centres across the Network, philanthropic contributions continue to help accelerate innovative treatments and personalised care, creating better outcomes for young patients and giving families precious moments together. For kids with Inflammatory Bowel Disease, expansion of our clinic enables us to provide care tailored to unique needs, empowering children to lead more active, fulfilling lives.

These initiatives highlight the power of philanthropy to make a profound difference and transform the future of children's health. On behalf of everyone at the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, I extend my gratitude to the Foundation and all who support and share our vision of a world-leading health service for children and young people. Together, we are ensuring every child has the chance to thrive and that their families find hope and resilience in our care.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey.

Cathryn Cox PSM

Chief Executive
Sydney Children's Hospitals Network

FY24 snapshot

Gastroenterology

More than
$1.6 million
for people and projects to improve care for children with gastrointestinal conditions.
See page 14.

Critical care

More than
$2.7 million
for specialist critical care equipment, training, and staff for two hospitals and a statewide specialist emergency transport service.
See page 25.

Redevelopment

$14.2 million
to support new patient and family spaces, research facilities, and specialist centres for complex and integrated care.
See page 18.

Oncology

More than
$6.3 million
in specialist cancer care, research and clinical trials to deliver better outcomes for kids with cancer.
See page 22.

Fellowships

More than
$3 million
to support the best minds in paediatric health to develop their clinical subspecialty and research skills, helping to develop a highly skilled paediatric workforce to drive transformation in kids' health.

Gene Therapy and Advanced Therapeutics

More than
$1.5 million
to support world leading scientists and clinicians to develop and deliver revolutionary treatments for children with rare and genetic conditions.
See page 32.

Clinical trials

More than
$2.2 million
to support essential staff and infrastructure for world-class clinical trials capability.
See page 35.

Mental health

More than
$1.5 million
to support positions in mental health research and care, including therapeutic support through music, art, and movement for young people receiving mental health care.
See page 28.

Neurology and neuroscience

More than
$1.6 million
to support research and care to improve the future for children with brain disorders.

Child Life, Music, and Art Therapy

Almost
$700,000
across two hospitals for staff, programs, and equipment to empower children in hospital to engage and connect through music and play.
See pages 38 - 41.

Hospitals United for Sick Kids (HUSK)

More than
$1.2 million
for HUSK, helping sick kids get back to the things they miss most.

Neonatology and newborn

More than
$1 million
for specialist equipment and research to ensure the best outcomes for the tiniest babies.

Palliative care

$4 million
to support children and families receiving end of life care.
See page 17.

Movement of Many

$841, 000
value of volunteer hours.
See page 36.

In **FY24**
Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation contributed more than

$52 million

to the frontline and future of kids' health.



Impact informed funding

Philanthropy supercharges the care that children receive. It accelerates research and paediatric health outcomes and delivers breakthroughs, milestones, turning points and world firsts.

There is no end to what we can do to improve children's health.

How do we choose what to fund?

We work in partnership with the dedicated health experts across the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network. Experts at the frontline of paediatric health who know what is needed to go the extra mile to provide every child with the exceptional healthcare they deserve.

We thoughtfully prioritise our funding according to their greatest identified need.

Our role is to be a conduit, an enabler and a mechanism for powerful change. We connect donors to the frontline and future of kids' health to transform the landscape of paediatric health and ensure children have:

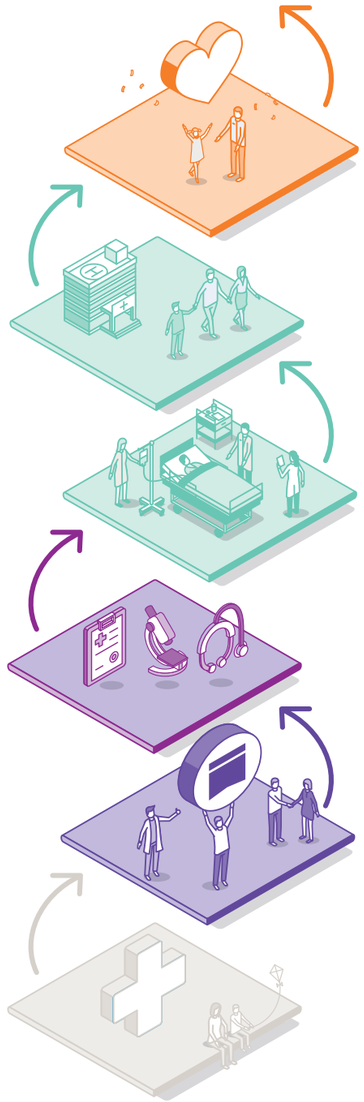
- The best possible care
- Improved healthcare equity
- Improved health outcomes
- A positive patient experience with their families
- Improved wellbeing

We also recognise that despite the best planning, in medicine there will always be unexpected challenges. Whether that's a sudden need for life-saving equipment, supporting cutting-edge research, or helping to expand vital programs. We are responsive to meet these needs as they arise.

Thank you for being part of our Movement.

Theory of Change

Our impact: Every child receives the best possible healthcare, when and where they need it.



To ensure children have

- The best possible care
- Improved healthcare equity
- Improved health outcomes
- A positive patient experience with their families
- Improved wellbeing with their families.

So that children and their families

- Have improved access to the best paediatric healthcare
- Have improved access to new and / or improved treatments
- Benefit from faster translation of research into practice
- Are more able to 'cope', feel supported and content.

Enabling

- State-of-the-art equipment, procedures, and technology
- Reduced barriers to care
- More opportunities for the best talent in child health
- Clinicians and researchers to pursue breakthrough research
- A caring environment where children are positively engaged
- Physical and emotional support for children and families.

We fund

- The best paediatric clinical care
- Transformative research
- Positive patient and family experiences.

Through the Movement of Many

- Our growing community of over 70,000 philanthropists, supporters, friends and partners collaborate to drive transformation in children's health.

The situation

- Existing funding doesn't cover the groundbreaking projects and research needed to transform children's healthcare
- Without SCHF and the generous changemakers we work with, some children will be left without the care that they deserve.

Children will continue to get sick with illnesses, injuries and conditions that require medical treatment, and hospital experiences can be traumatic. Paediatric medicine is rapidly evolving, offering a brighter future for many children. **Philanthropy is needed to make great healthcare excellent.**

Access to the best paediatric healthcare



$36.5 million for

Specialised simulation equipment and training for the **critical care Simulation Centre**, to prepare clinicians working with children and families both across NSW and internationally with the skills and competencies to provide the very best care.

26 clinical fellowships across **2** hospitals to **train the paediatric specialists of the future** in cardiology, nephrology, neurology, pain, sleep medicine, surgery, cardiology, emergency services, intensive care, oncology, epilepsy, community health, and more.

Support for **3** Aboriginal Health traineeships **to build capacity and capability in Aboriginal-led health initiatives,** a cultural competency educator to create a culturally safe environment, and key support positions to deliver Aboriginal Health programs and support.

Purchase and maintenance of Wizzybug powered wheelchairs to **improve independence and quality of life** for children with neuromuscular conditions.

Ultrasound equipment for critical care teams across the Network, **for rapid diagnosis to support early treatment** for critically ill children.

Expert training for neurosurgeons to perform Australia's first single-level selective dorsal rhizotomy (SDR) for children with cerebral palsy.

StealthStation surgical navigation system for **precisely locating structures within the brain** during neurosurgery.

A specialised paediatric ambulance to safely transport the tiniest and sickest kids.

Paediatric video laryngoscopes to **visualise children's airways**.

Specialised life support equipment including Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) to temporarily do the work of the heart and lungs for critically ill babies and children.

19 physiotherapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, dietitians, social workers, clinical psychologists, genetic counsellors and other allied health professionals supporting the **holistic needs** of children and families in hospital.

Nerve conduction and EMG (electromyography) **machines to check how well muscles and the nerves that control them are working**, supporting early diagnosis and treatment, which decreases hospital stays and improves outcomes for kids with neurological conditions.

Clinical care

A holistic approach to Inflammatory Bowel Disease

The increasing prevalence of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) in children is not an issue that hits the news headlines often but with gastrointestinal (GI) issues on the rise, this incurable and chronic condition, which includes Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis, is now being holistically targeted at a newly expanded IBD clinic at The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW).

Thanks to recent philanthropic funding, a new clinical psychologist, dietitian, pharmacist and additional clinical nurse specialist have been employed at the clinic for one year. Each of these new roles helps to support the physical and emotional challenges faced by children with IBD.

"For kids living with gastrointestinal disorders, such as IBD, managing the complex symptoms is part of their daily life and this can cause all sorts of side effects, including impacts on growth, mental health, schooling and physical mobility.

"Our team is very passionate about working together to meet our patients' immediate physical and health needs and to also provide them with holistic care," says CHW Staff Specialist in Gastroenterology, Dr Shoma Dutt, who started as the IBD clinic Team Lead in 2018.

IBD is a lifelong condition that affects the gastrointestinal tract, a tube where food enters and leaves the body. It can also impact major organs of the digestive system such as the liver.

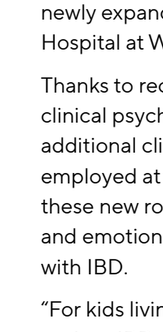
IBD affects how the body absorbs the nutrients needed to grow healthy and strong, and kids living with these conditions often have chronic pain, low energy levels and difficulty controlling bowel movements, as well as nutritional and psychological problems.

The investment to expand the IBD clinic team has made the Gastroenterology department at CHW a 'one-stop shop' for patients, reducing the need for kids to travel to multiple departments to get the care and support they need.

Families now have more ready access to essential nursing support and advice through the clinic helpline. Access to complex new medications has also been simplified with the support of the team's pharmacist.

Christine Au Yeung, the Clinical Psychologist at the IBD clinic, has also been working in the team since early 2024.

Sources: National IBD Action Plan, IBD Research Group (UNSW).



OUTCOMES

→ **Physical and emotional support for children and families**

→ **Children have improved access to the best possible paediatric healthcare**

"A little intervention can go a long way. The need is there, and you can see the impact as soon as a focus is given to a patient's mental health."
- Christine Au Yeung, Clinical Psychologist

Photo: Thanks to recent philanthropic funding four new team members have joined the IBD Clinic at CHW – (from left to right) Clinical Psychologist, Christine Au Yeung; Clinical Nurse Specialist, Trudy Chidgey; Nisha Thacker, Dietician; Noel Singh, Pharmacist.



Tiahn's 230-night stay in hospital

While most 17-year-olds celebrate the new-found freedom of earning their provisional licence, Tiahn (pictured left) spent over 230 days in hospital recovering from two major abdominal surgeries.

Read Tiahn's full story:

GI conditions can often impact a person's confidence and mental health, and Christine ensures every child who comes into the clinic is screened for psychological issues.

"Unless a parent flags a problem, or doctors notice a mental health issue, it can easily go unnoticed. Our simple survey, completed every time a patient comes into the clinic, shines a light on any issues and it can quickly let us know if there are any mental health concerns," says Christine.

As a result of regular surveys, various interventions can be put in place as needed. These services range from providing helpful reading materials and mental health resources to children and their families, to having one-on-one counselling sessions with Christine.

"A little intervention can go a long way. The need is there, and you can see the impact as soon as a focus is given to a patient's mental health. Even some simple mental health support to IBD patients can get them back on track, back to school and enjoying life. The support can be immediate and life-changing."

Shoma agrees with the immediate impact of having a multidisciplinary team focusing on the holistic health of the clinic's patients.

"Christine is able to provide an immediate response, which has been transformative for the clinic. This is the case for all of the new roles – each of them has been able to provide immediate impact. Their work is vital to our clinic and for the support of the children we help."

Since 2014 new IBD cases at CHW have tripled and at least **5,000 Australian** children have IBD.

30% of people with IBD also experience diseases outside the gut, including arthritis, eye, skin and liver diseases.

The CHW IBD Clinic currently has approximately **500 patients** and this is expected to increase to over 600 by the end of 2026.

Up to **30% of patients** have clinically significant mental health problems, including anxiety, depression and PTSD.

Respite and end of life care that feels like home

Caring for a child with a life-limiting illness can be the most daunting experience a family can go through. At Bear Cottage, NSW's only paediatric hospice, your generous support helps create moments of beauty and joy, and precious memories that families can treasure forever.



"Days at Bear Cottage are filled with laughter, play and music despite the fact families are going through the toughest times anyone could ever dream of. We had a little girl here who was receiving end of life care for a brain tumour and she absolutely loved unicorns. On the day she died, I will never forget a unicorn - a little pony with a horn on it - walking down the hallway, walking into her room and laying her head on her pillow. A few hours later she died with that beautiful memory and that was just so special and what it meant to her family and for us to be able to do that just wouldn't happen anywhere else. It's just pure Bear Cottage magic."

- Hayley Foster, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Bear Cottage

236 families cared for at Bear Cottage in FY24.

OUTCOMES

→ **Physical and emotional support for children and families**

→ **Children and families are more able to 'cope,' feel supported, and content**

Hospital redevelopment reaches new heights

The demand for paediatric services is growing. With advances in research and technology, sick children are living longer, many with chronic and complex care conditions.

The redevelopment of SCHN's existing children's health facilities is needed more than ever to meet this demand.

Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF) is proud to harness the power of philanthropy to support the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN) in its vision to reshape the future of paediatric healthcare, with two major projects underway.

Two cutting-edge paediatric hospitals are currently under construction, and both sites have celebrated significant milestones this year.

Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick (SCH) Stage 1 and Minderoo Children's Comprehensive Cancer Centre (MCCCC), and The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) Stage 2 Paediatric Services Building have now reached their full height, marking a major step towards completion.

The 12-storey facility at SCH will house new intensive care services and MCCCC will deliver integrated, specialist cancer treatment and research.

The NSW and federal governments have partnered with the Children's Cancer Institute, Kids Cancer Centre and University of New South Wales to plan and deliver this exciting new project.

The 14-storey Paediatric Services Building at CHW will include the Kookaburra Complex Care Centre, the first of its kind in the country. This multidisciplinary hub will introduce a statewide burns service, advanced intensive care units, world-class operating theatres and research laboratories for life-saving cardiac interventions.

These world-leading facilities will continue to support innovation and discovery, with the brightest medical minds using leading technologies to advance the field of paediatric healthcare for generations to come.

This vision would be out of reach without the generous philanthropic community surrounding SCHF, who have together contributed $75 million to help make this ambitious project possible.



Photo: Topping out ceremony at The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Learn more about the nature-inspired facade designs of the new hospital buildings.

OUTCOMES

- → **State-of-the-art equipment, procedures, and technology**
- → **More opportunities for the best talent in child health**
- → **Children have improved access to the best possible paediatric healthcare**

In FY24
$14.2 million
has been donated by SCHF's generous donors to support new patient and family spaces, and new research facilities as part of the SCHN redevelopment projects.



Artist impression of the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick redevelopment.

"The project presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a brighter future for children and young people across NSW."

- Cathryn Cox PSM, Chief Executive, Sydney Children's Hospitals Network



Clinical care

Hand therapists get kids back to the playground faster

For most kids, the only time they'll end up in hospital is because of a skateboarding mishap, a tumble off the monkey bars, or an accident during a netball game. Each year, more than 5,000 children present to The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) with hand injuries, ranging from minor sprains to more severe breaks.

These kids and their families can expect to spend significant time in the CHW Emergency Department waiting for X-ray results, treatment and follow up appointments.

However, research has shown that these wait times can be significantly reduced by engaging paediatric hand therapists to manage lower-grade hand injuries.

Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation has supported CHW's Occupational Therapy team to expand its hand therapy service and implement a best-practice model of care.

The expansion has doubled the service's capacity, creating 40 additional outpatient appointments per week. Kids with lower-grade hand injuries can work with a therapist and often avoid traditional casts, requiring less time off school and a faster return to daily life.

The expansion has seen multiple benefits, reducing treatment times for patients, freeing up clinicians to focus on more complex cases and providing training to the next generation of paediatric hand therapists to ensure this vital care continues well into the future.

With sprains and breaks a normal part of growing up, the expanded hand therapy service at CHW is helping kids get back to being kids as quickly as possible.

5,000+ Children present to the Emergency Department at The Children's Hospital at Westmead each year with hand injuries.

2,000+ Additional outpatient appointments per year.

OUTCOMES

→ **More opportunities for the best talent in child health**

→ **Children and families experience fewer barriers to accessing care**



Over the last year, KCC Nurse Educator, Sara, has oriented 16 new staff to the oncology ward and facilitated 13 study days for 105 nurses.

Photo: Sara Hulbert, KCC Nurse Educator, SCH

Clinical care

Keeping oncology nurses at the forefront of medical advances

Thanks to research and rapidly advancing treatment options, kids with cancer are more likely to live longer than ever before.

The specialised area of paediatric oncology is constantly evolving, with new treatment plans, clinical trials, equipment and new ways of administering medications improving patient outcomes.

Today, certain childhood cancers can be cured with targeted therapies unheard of a decade ago. More traditional treatments like radiation and chemotherapy are also improving, resulting in fewer side effects and long-term health complications.

These developments are especially exciting for the 99 oncology nurses working in the Kids Cancer Centre (KCC) at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick (SCH). While this team are dedicated to achieving great outcomes for kids with cancer, the dynamic environment means an increased demand for these nurses to stay informed on the best evidence-based care.

For the KCC nurses, learning on top of an already busy workload is not easy. The newest treatments and latest clinical trials are not always published in real time, or accessible in traditional nursing literature. Treatments are often tailored to each individual child, with different guidelines for each.

Thanks to the generosity of Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation donors, a dedicated Nurse Educator, Sara Hulbert, is now helping the nurses at the KCC to stay on top of the latest research and treatments.

Day to day, Sara works closely with the SCH clinical trials team to understand current and upcoming trials relevant to the oncology nurses. This information is used to identify training opportunities, with Sara taking a lead role in developing tailored training programs.

As Sara works in the hospital and is aware of each child's patient profile, including their individual treatment plan, she can deliver training to the right staff, at the right time.

Sara's busy schedule reflects the importance of her role. Over the last year, she has oriented 16 new staff to the oncology ward, and facilitated 13 study days for 105 nurses - 55 of whom were from outside oncology or external to the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network , including nurses from regional hospitals in NSW and Adelaide and Canberra. Her role has also involved mentoring postgraduate nursing students.

Looking ahead to 2025, Sara is finalising training programs to meet the increased demand expected when the Minderoo Comprehensive Children's Cancer Centre at SCH opens. By sharing her knowledge widely, Sara is helping nurses deliver the best care to their patients, aligning with the Foundation's vision to create a world where every child receives the best healthcare, when and where they need it.

OUTCOMES

→ **State-of-the-art equipment, procedures, and technology**

→ **Children have improved access to new and / or improved treatments**



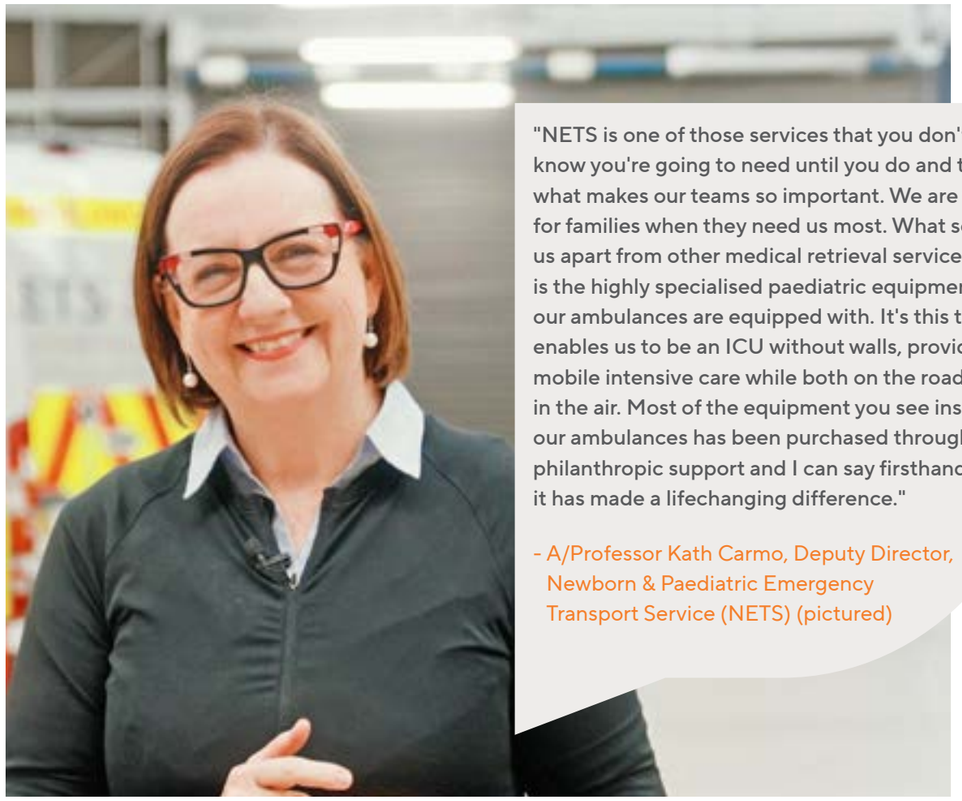
In FY24, **4,000** sick and injured children across NSW were collected and cared for by NETS.

Clinical care

Specialised emergency care across New South Wales

The Newborn and Paediatric Emergency Transport Service (NETS) is the state-wide emergency service for sick or injured babies, infants and children needing transfer to a specialist perinatal or paediatric centre.

Today, NETS provides a service to over 250 hospitals in NSW, the Australian Capital Territory and beyond. NETS is staffed by a dedicated team of doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers, technical and support staff who maintain a 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week service.



"NETS is one of those services that you don't know you're going to need until you do and that's what makes our teams so important. We are there for families when they need us most. What sets us apart from other medical retrieval services is the highly specialised paediatric equipment our ambulances are equipped with. It's this that enables us to be an ICU without walls, providing mobile intensive care while both on the road and in the air. Most of the equipment you see inside our ambulances has been purchased through philanthropic support and I can say firsthand that it has made a lifechanging difference."

- A/Professor Kath Carmo, Deputy Director, Newborn & Paediatric Emergency Transport Service (NETS) (pictured)

OUTCOMES

→ **State-of-the-art equipment, procedures, and technology**

→ **Children have improved access to the best possible paediatric healthcare**

$10.9 million to drive transformational research

Clinical trials infrastructure and key personnel to support clinical trials across SCHN, with the **expertise to run internationally competitive** clinical trials across multiple clinical specialities.

New Clinician Researcher Fellowship Scheme supporting **4** exceptional PhD-qualified medical, nursing, and allied health staff to have 2 protected days for research each week for a 2 year period.

Learning Health Systems initiative, developing the scalable infrastructure to **harness clinical data for rigorous healthcare embedded research** to improve child health outcomes.

Membership of **key research collaboration initiatives** including Luminesce Alliance, Sphere, and Sydney Health Partners, bringing together world-leading paediatric medicine researchers and clinicians.

Key staff for the EPIC Lab (Engineering Prototypes and Implants for Children Lab), working with **modern 3D technologies** to develop solutions for the gaps in care for children with nerve, muscle and bone disorders.

Top-up funding for competitive research funding schemes including the Medical Research Future Fund, for **key projects of national significance**.

Research projects across fields including neurology, respiratory, oncology, critical care, integrated care, renal and newborn care.

Starter grants and PhD scholarships to **support emerging researchers**.

Continued support for **7 innovative projects kickstarted** by SCHF's Greenlight Program in 2020.



Helping children access evidence-based mental health care close to home

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) affects around one in 50 children. More still are affected by its related disorders, such as body dysmorphia, skin picking, hair pulling and Tourette Syndrome.

Children hospitalised with obsessive-compulsive and related disorders have some of the longest and most expensive hospital stays and require access to specialised, targeted treatment. Young people with OCD also have the highest hospital readmission rates.

Thanks to the generous investment from Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation donors, the OCD BOUNCE clinic, established in early 2023, supports delivery of high quality care to kids in the community, where they need it most.

With an increased need for mental health services following COVID-19, the clinic has received more than 80 patient referrals from Sydney, regional NSW and interstate.

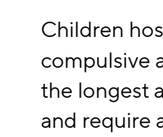
The OCD BOUNCE team deliver evidence-based treatments to patients and upskill clinicians across the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network and in the community, ensuring kids across Sydney and beyond receive high standards of care close to home.

Each child receives targeted treatment from a team of specialists including child and or adolescent psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and family therapists. This approach has been effective in keeping kids out of hospital, engaged at school, and living their best life with family, friends and in the wider community.

"Seeing patients make such big changes in their lives in a relatively short period of time is something I cherish in my work at OCD BOUNCE. When they're able to use public transport, go out for coffee, eat dinner with their family again, or leave the house and shut the door behind them – I love sharing all these wins with them," said Dr Katelyn Dyason, Psychologist and Research Lead.

The team's work has been widely recognised. In September 2023, the OCD BOUNCE team were invited to the inaugural Youth Mental Health Summit at Parliament House to present their innovative, evidence-based work in advancing OCD treatment and bridging the treatment gap.

The team were also invited to present at the National Allied Health Virtual Research Forum in April 2024, sharing their work with an audience of allied health researchers and policymakers from around Australia.



OUTCOMES

→ **Children have improved access to new and / or improved treatments**

→ **Children benefit from faster translation of research into practice**

Source: https://kr.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/articles/2024/01/ocd-bounce-bridging-treatment-gap

"Seeing patients make such big changes in their lives in a relatively short period of time is something I cherish in my work at OCD BOUNCE. When they're able to use public transport, go out for coffee, eat dinner with their family again, or leave the house and shut the door behind them – I love sharing all these wins with them."

- Dr Katelyn Dyason, Psychologist and Research Lead



Photo: (From left to right) Dr Iain Perkes, Clinical Academic Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, SCHN; Seona Wilson, Clinical Nurse Consultant; Dr Katelyn Dyason, OCD BOUNCE Clinical Psychologist and Project Manager.

Significantly, the research learnings from OCD BOUNCE are transferable to other areas within mental health care.

As project lead Dr Iain Perkes reflects, "Through innovation in service delivery and capacity building within mental health services, OCD BOUNCE is translating clinical research into practice transforming care for children and young people with OCD."

Learn more:

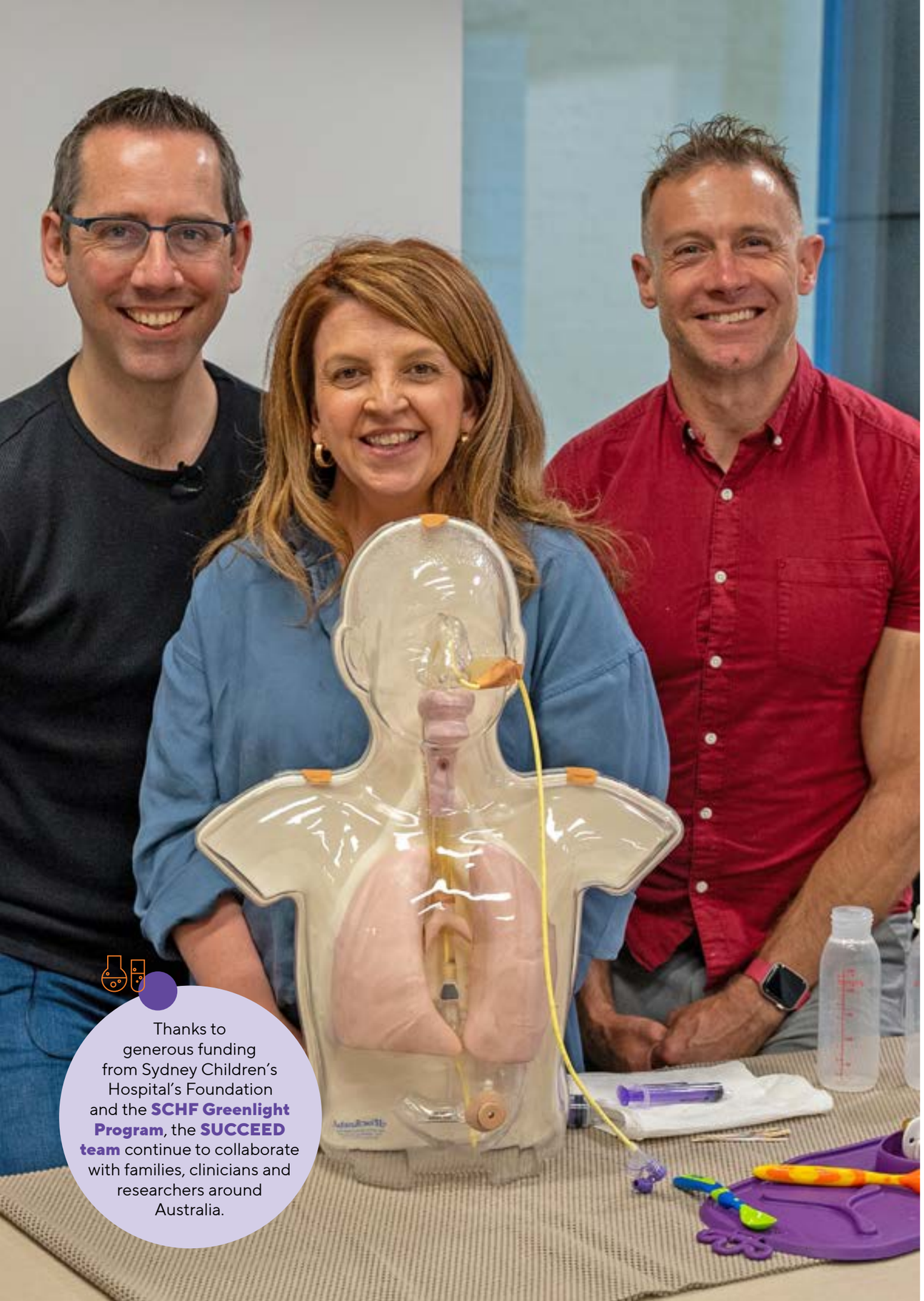




1 in 50 children have obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).



3 years of funding to establish a specialist community-based model of OCD care.



Thanks to generous funding from Sydney Children's Hospital's Foundation and the **SCHF Greenlight Program**, the **SUCCEED team** continue to collaborate with families, clinicians and researchers around Australia.

Research

Bringing the joy back to mealtimes for children and families who tube feed

Parents shouldn't have to visit a hospital just so their child can eat. Sadly, this is the situation currently affecting thousands of Australian families who tube-feed their children.

Child feeding disorders can be caused by conditions such as premature birth, cancer, heart disease, cerebral palsy, cleft palate and autism. When children are unable to safely eat or drink to ensure their healthy growth and development, they need to be fed by a tube passed into the stomach or intestines.

Most mealtimes happen outside of clinic hours without the support of doctors and nurses, and often a single caregiver takes responsibility for feeding. Tube-feeding has its risks, and can feel daunting for parents and carers to learn the skills they need to keep their child alive. Many of these carers report feeling lonely and isolated by their experience.

This need is what inspired former SCHF-funded Fellow Dr Chris Elliot, who co-founded the SUCCEED Child Feeding Alliance.

SUCCEED's vision is a world where children with feeding disorders thrive. SUCCEED's principles are to be guided *by families, for families*, especially in helping families new to feeding difficulties benefit from the experience of those who have already lived through them.

Thanks to generous funding from Sydney Children's Hospital's Foundation and the SCHF Greenlight Program, the SUCCEED team continue to collaborate with families, clinicians and researchers around Australia to understand and bridge the gap between *current care* and *brilliant care* for families who tube feed.

Learning from families what is needed to support others, they have launched Australia's first-ever research-informed online resource for families of tube-fed children, created new communities of experience and expertise, and continue to develop research-informed online resources in different languages. They have just launched training workshops to support caregivers in learning how to safely tube feed while making meals fun for the child and family members, reclaiming the joy of mealtimes again.

The SUCCEED team has a bold vision to support parents around the world to gain confidence and become part of a community of shared experience. Ultimately this will reduce the number of hospitalisations needed for tube-fed children and relieve some of the challenges caregivers and children face.

Learn more:

OUTCOMES

→ **Children and families are more able to 'cope,' feel supported, and content**

→ **Children benefit from faster translation of research into practice**

Photo: (From left to right) Dr Chris Elliot, Paediatrician, SCHN; Anna Lerardo, parent; Nick Hopwood, Professor of Education, UTS - co-founders of SUCCEED Child Feeding Alliance Limited with a donated Hungry Manikin at a tube feeding workshop.



Research

Precision care for kids thanks to clinical trials research and advanced therapeutics

Paediatric medicine is constantly evolving, as researchers and clinicians all work hard to make treatments safer, more effective, less invasive, and more personalised to the specific needs of each child.

Clinician-researchers like Dr Steven Keogh, an oncologist providing Blood Transplant and Cellular Therapies at The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW), are not only delivering the best evidence-based care to kids now, they are sharing their knowledge internationally to support better care for kids everywhere.

For children with blood cancers and conditions like sickle cell disease, this research has been transformative.

"Sickle cell anaemia is a genetic disease. When children with sickle cell anaemia progress through life, they have what's called sickling crises, they can get severe pain and blocked blood vessels that impair organ function.

"A bone marrow transplant is the only curative therapy for sickle cell disease," said Dr Keogh.

The clinicians and researchers at CHW have collaborated with world experts over many years to understand how to get the best outcomes for bone marrow transplant recipients.

Drawing on this research, Dr Keogh and his colleagues analyse a child's blood results to calculate the exact amount of chemotherapy needed to stop blood cell production processes and prepare for a transplantation. Too small a dose can lead to a failed treatment, but too much would be highly toxic and cause sickness.

"The pharmacokinetic lab is using 25 years of research and publications so that kids today can benefit from it and get the maximum chance of cure," said Dr Keogh.

For some kids, conditions that used to be life limiting can now be cured

Dr Keogh and his team recently published two of the world's largest studies to help kids needing bone marrow transplants.

Learn more:

OUTCOMES

→ **Children benefit from faster translation of research into practice**

→ **Clinicians and researchers can pursue breakthrough research**

Photo: Dr Steven Keogh and colleagues help children at home and around the world, delivering precision medicine, conducting research, and sharing their knowledge.



Research

Funding the future: supporting clinical trials

It's resource-intensive to run paediatric clinical trials, particularly complex and early phase trials. With an average of 17 years until research translates to clinical care, it can take an entire childhood to get the latest treatments to practice.

Clinical trials provide the opportunity for patients to access new and novel treatments at the earliest possible time.

With the support of donors, Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation proudly funds crucial clinical trials infrastructure and key critical trial research staff across the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network. Through this dedicated and skilled workforce that support and enable clinical trials across the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, every child can have access to the newest and best treatments.

Through the support of the Movement of Many, funding helps quicken the translation of critical discoveries, transforming them into new and improved treatments, procedures, prevention strategies and cures, furthering our mission to make a true difference to kids' health, both now and for the future.



OUTCOMES

→ **Children benefit from faster translation of research into practice**

→ **Clinicians and researchers can pursue breakthrough research**



Patient experience

$4.6 million for positive patient and family experiences

Child Life Therapy activity trolley to provide **personalised therapeutic activities and toys for kids in hospital** and other items to help young patients cope with painful or difficult procedure.

Interactive aquarium in the Emergency Department, where children can see their drawings come to life.

Oneview patient portal that allows patients to communicate with family/friends/educators, access entertainment/education material and order meals.

More than **300 interactive murals, 'magic art' and digital activations** and more than **20,000 Disney-themed** care bags to support kids through their health journey.

2 internships, internal publications, and other **support for the Chronic Illness Peer Support community (ChIPS)**.

Supporting HUSK to fund projects, people and research dedicated to **helping sick kids get back to the things they miss most**.

Support for **Ngala Nanga Mai Arts in Health project for Aboriginal families** in La Perouse, and feasibility study to run the program in Western Sydney.

Gift cards to support families in needs to purchase essentials.

16 music, art, and child life therapists and other allied health specialists who work with children to help them engage with care and improve their hospital experience.

Patient experience

Using therapeutic play to empower kids in hospital

Hospital stays can be scary for kids. Impending medical procedures, ongoing treatment and being separated from friends and family can leave them feeling lonely, anxious and afraid.

That's why Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF) have made it a priority to make sure sick kids are as comfortable as they can be in hospital.

Game-changing therapy for kids in hospital

This year, SCHF is proud to support Australia's first two Child Life Therapy (CLT) Technology Specialists.

Lauren at the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick and Teneile at The Children's Hospital at Westmead have introduced state-of-the-art tools including Virtual Reality (VR), interactive gaming, and robotics to make medical procedures and treatments more comfortable, accessible, and engaging.

Lauren and Teneile use gaming to help kids connect with friends and fellow patients in virtual worlds like Pokémon, Minecraft and Fortnite. Games that involve a journey or quest are helpful during long procedures such as burns dressing changes that can occur for up to one hour at a time, keeping kids engaged so they don't lose focus and become distressed.

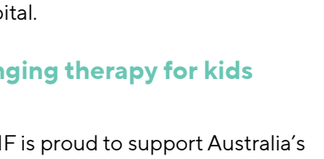
In collaboration with the Rehabilitation team, gaming has also transformed therapy sessions, encouraging patient mobility, socialisation and enjoyment. Teneile's patients use adaptive switch controls to help create a set up that is comfortable, giving them autonomy and control over their experience in hospital.

Lauren uses the interactive video game Fruit Ninja to help her young patients set fun goals as part of their individual physiotherapy programs, using virtual reality to slice more colourful fruits. She has also created a virtual hospital environment with Mario Kart Live – using its colourful, familiar scenes to recreate the journey from the waiting rooms to the pathology treatment rooms and to demonstrate the steps involved in a blood test.

These live images of the hospital environment help kids to become more familiar with each setting, resulting in significantly less anxiety on the day.

"Gaming offers so much more than meets the eye!" says Teneile.

"It can foster connectedness, collaboration, problem-solving and distraction, and gives patients back some choices and control which they may at times feel they have lost."



OUTCOMES

→ **A caring environment where children are positively engaged**

→ **Children and families are more able to 'cope', feel supported and content**

Thanks to our generous donors SCHF is proud to support Australia's first two Child Life Therapy Technology Specialists.

Photo: Child Life Therapy (CLT) Technology Specialists, Lauren (left), Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick and Teneile, The Children's Hospital at Westmead.



On average, **200** patients benefit from the use of the MRI Practice Program at CHW each year.

Patient experience

Empowering children to successfully undergo MRI scans without anaesthetic

Anyone who has undergone an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan will tell you that being inside the MRI machine is loud - and confined. For children, this experience can be overwhelming and even traumatic.

As MRI scans are highly sensitive to motion, some children require general anaesthetic (GA) to prevent movement and ensure a good scan result.

To reduce the need for GA during scans, the MRI Practice Program at The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) uses a mock MRI machine to simulate the MRI experience, preparing the child for how the machine looks, feels and sounds.

Cathy Quinn is the co-head of the Child Life Therapy department at CHW. She says the MRI Practice Program uses a holistic approach to help children cope with MRI procedures.

The program includes essential components such as age-appropriate education, preparation, and coping strategies. It benefits children by reducing their anxiety, building emotional resilience, and minimising the need for general anaesthetic, also making it both cost-effective and efficient in reducing wait times.

The program can improve the chances of a more successful procedure while ensuring a more positive experience for both the child and their family.

Funding from the Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation donor community has been essential to the program's continuation and growth. Since its introduction, the MRI Practice Program has been hugely successful, with 94% of kids aged between 4 and 8 years going on to have an MRI without GA.

Christina Howe is a Child Life Therapist at CHW and works with children to help them face their fears of having an MRI.

"The most rewarding part of my role is to watch the transition of young patients' mindset about their upcoming MRI," says Christina.

"When I first meet them, they often feel unsure, nervous, and scared. Parents also express concern about their child's ability to cope with the MRI requirements.

"Throughout the practice session, patients are given the opportunity to build coping skills through education and play in a fun and non-threatening environment. Over the years, I have witnessed many children transform their mindset from "I can't do this, it's too hard" to "I can do this, it's actually easy!" Seeing this transition firsthand has been such a highlight of my time working in this program."

Learn more about the MRI Practice Program:

OUTCOMES

→ **Physical and emotional support for children and families**

→ **Children and families are more able to 'cope,' feel supported, and content**

Transforming Critical Care: The Curtain Project

The Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation (SCHF) Art Program is passionate about utilising the power of art to improve the hospital experience for patients, families and carers.

Strict infection control measures in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick (SCH) has prevented the installation of art, limiting the opportunity for engagement and inspiration in an environment where it's needed.

Determined to overcome this barrier, the SCHF Art Program has launched the Curtain Project. This first-of-its-kind initiative in Australia has seen the plain blue ICU curtains replaced with a vibrant scene of native Australian plants and animals, designed by artist Marc Etherington. Inspired by original artworks from SCH patients and their siblings the new curtains have transformed the ICU space, providing a much-needed sense of comfort and connection.

Pioneered by SCHF's Art Program, the Curtain Project explores innovative design approaches to enhance the experience of children and their families during critical care.

The project is a powerful example of the integration of art in medical settings.



Learn more:

Image: Marc Etherington used artworks from patient and siblings to create the design for curtains.

OUTCOMES

→ **A caring environment where children are positively engaged**

→ **Children and families are more able to 'cope,' feel supported, and content**

Inspired by original artworks from SCH patients and their siblings the new curtains have transformed the ICU space, providing a much-needed sense of comfort and connection.

770+
Critically ill and injured children cared for in the ICU at SCH each year.

Patient experience

How philanthropy kickstarted world leading child-centred care for neurodivergent kids

The hospital environment can be daunting for anyone, with its bright lights, strange noises, unfamiliar people and constant hustle and bustle. For children and young people living with behavioural or psychological conditions, hospital visits can feel impossible.

The Anaesthesia department at The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) has recognised that our healthcare system needs to work for everybody. The Quiet Pathway at CHW offers new, world-leading solutions for neurodivergent patients.

Thanks to Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation and our generous donors, The Quiet Pathway is a tangible step toward equity of medical access and quality of care for kids with complex needs.

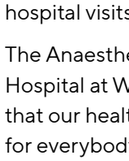
The Quiet Pathway provides patients and their families with calm and coordinated care to reduce over-stimulation, distress and trauma in hospital – be it for a blood test, a dental check-up or complex surgery. The care is personalised and patient-centred.

Program Coordinator Stephanie Crescini meets with the patient and their family on arrival at CHW. They are then fast tracked through at the designated consultation room where the treatment can be given, with the option for an anaesthetist to attend and administer general anaesthetic if required.

"The Quiet Pathway program delivers a pathway that not only accommodates but prioritises the needs of children with high level needs and ensures we begin to empower them to continue accessing healthcare - sparking pivotal change for the future," Stephanie says.

Thanks to the support of our generous Movement of Many, programs like the Quiet Pathway enable children to access world-leading medical care, continuing the Foundation's mission to ensure that no child in need of treatment is left behind.

Learn more:



→ **Children and families experience fewer barriers to accessing care**

→ **Children have improved access to the best possible paediatric healthcare**

"The Quiet Pathway program delivers a pathway that not only accommodates but prioritises the needs of children with high level needs and ensures we begin to empower them to continue accessing healthcare - sparking pivotal change for the future."

- Program Coordinator, Stephanie Crescini



Inset photo: Program Coordinator, Stephanie Crescini.

The Quiet Pathway can transform a child's access to treatment, and several parents and caregivers have described its positive impact:

"Everyone seemed to know who he was and what the issues were before we got there, which was awesome. So, I didn't have to explain it, in front of him."

"So, it's a much better streamlined process, and less traumatic for him and for us, and it wasn't only preoperatively, it was postoperatively as well."

"I wish all the hospitals had this sort of facility."

"On the day itself, it would not have been possible to have received better medical treatment or care or to have had a better outcome. Everything went as planned without any complications and that is due entirely to the hospital staff. I simply cannot commend them highly enough we are very grateful that they removed so much of the stress from the whole experience."

Meet the Movement of Many

The Movement of Many is our community of philanthropists, supporters, friends and partners, who collaborate to drive transformation in children's health.

Sunny's Cafe: a cheerful community hub

For more than 20 years, Sunny's Cafe provided warmth, relaxation, and a welcoming place to eat a hot meal and drink a coffee for patients, families, staff and visitors at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.

A much-beloved cafe and a cheerful community hub, Sunny's contributed all profits to support the Foundation.

It was with a heavy heart that SCHF made the difficult decision not to renew our retail lease for the cafe this year.

As a fundraising organisation, the Foundation does not have the expertise to continue operating a competitive and profitable cafe in the current climate, and so we decided it was time to step aside for a more experienced hospital operator.

Commencing with a phased withdrawal of the lease, Sunny's Cafe officially closed on Wednesday 26 June 2024.

"With rising food and other costs, and increased food outlets in the local area, it became more challenging for SCHF to operate the much-loved cafe. SCHF and our amazing retail staff have loved delivering great food and coffees to thousands of families over the years but this decision will allow us to focus on our donors to raise the vital funds for the hospital to care for the same kids and their families," says Tanya Sarina, Director of Donor Experience.

We are all proud of the impact Sunny's Cafe had on the community at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, and we are grateful to all staff, volunteers and visitors for their dedicated service and support over the years.



Double the Impact

We wouldn't be able to do what we do at Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation without the army of volunteers who tirelessly support our team at fundraising events, in our offices and at the hospitals we support.

Meet mother-and-daughter volunteering duo, Denise and Deidre.

Both started volunteering with SCHF in late 2023 at a Christmas event in Martin Place, Sydney. Hooked ever since, they have continued to work together at several SCHF events.

In recognition of their work they have also recently become Volunteer Team Leaders, a new leadership role created to help support and guide other SCHF volunteers.

"Volunteering together is a fun way for us to give back, but spending time together is a bonus for us," says Deidre.

SCHF's diverse group of more than 7,000 volunteers come from all walks of life and are an essential part of the Foundation's mission. Not only do they enable our team to focus on other projects and tasks, but they also expand the Foundation's reach and message into the wider community, helping to raise funds for the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN).

"Our many volunteers live and work in many communities across NSW. This gives us a reach into those communities which we wouldn't otherwise have. They are both our helping hands and our megaphone for spreading our important message. We need them to ensure we can keep doing our work and we can't thank them enough," says Kylie Elliott, SCHF's Volunteer Lead.

Denise, who trained as a nurse and now works in clinical research, decided to start volunteering to give back in a way she knew would have a direct impact:

"I love paying it forward and have always enjoyed helping others. I love everything about SCHF and knowing I am indirectly helping children and their families."

Deidre, a trained chef, School Manager at Youth Off the Streets and a volunteer at her local rugby league club, says volunteering at SCHF has introduced her to new people and communities.

"I've done things and met people who I probably wouldn't have, had I not been volunteering with SCHF. We are all doing it for the same reason, we are giving it a go and learning new skills that we are taking back to our own communities."

Find out more about volunteering with SCHF:

16,730 hours volunteered by more than **2,000** volunteers at **162** events (and other activities).

$841K donated value of **volunteer hours**.

Nearly **7,000 volunteers** in the SCHF program.





A profound gift and a lasting legacy

Leaving a gift in your Will, no matter how large or small, is a powerful way to make a positive difference.

Legacy gifts can harness the power of collective giving to fund the highest and most urgent priorities to have the greatest impact on children's health, long into the future.

Thank you to our generous gift in Will donors who are helping to equip our hospitals and healthcare services with what they need for many years to come.

Contact us

Connect

Visit **www.schf.org.au** for more information about how you can get involved.

Connect with us on social media **@schf.kids** to be inspired every day by stories and news.

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With your help we can go all in to change the future of sick kids. Please use this QR code if you would like to make an online donation today.

Make a donation

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Sydney Children's Hospitals Foundation