

SAHMRI

2024
Philanthropy
Impact
Report





Acknowledgement of Country

SAHMRI acknowledges the Kurna people as the Traditional Custodians of the Adelaide region, where our buildings are located. We recognise the Kurna peoples' cultural, spiritual, physical and emotional connection with their land. We honour and pay our respects to Kurna elders, both past and present, and all generations of Kurna people, now and into the future. We acknowledge the other Traditional Owners who live across South Australia.

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Welcome



Welcome to SAHMRI's 2024 Impact Report.

This is the first time we have presented the vast and diverse impact of SAHMRI research in a report of this style. It is a snapshot of what we see as our foundational mission—research excellence that delivers rapid improvements for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease. We also inform evidence-based health policy that enshrines equity, access and dignity as central to healthier lives.

Having just celebrated our 11th birthday, SAHMRI could be said to be in our 'adolescence'. We are maturing, developing and refining our focus to target research fields in which we have demonstrated world-class expertise. You will see in the following pages these include blood cancers, pregnancy and perinatal development, Aboriginal health and chronic diseases.

We are also honing the methods by which we undertake our research, concentrating on burgeoning technologies such as precision medicine, genomics and novel radiopharmaceuticals.

SAHMRI was established to create better and more impactful connections between government, universities, and hospitals, amplifying research across South Australia and enabling our ecosystem to become stronger than the sum of our parts. The improvements we are delivering go beyond health and beyond South Australia's borders; they are economic, technological and societal and are benefitting people everywhere.

Our many achievements have been made possible by the remarkable generosity of our many supporters—advocates, donors, volunteers and research participants.

Thank you for believing in SAHMRI—with your support, we are creating healthier futures.

Professor Maria Makrides
Executive Director of SAHMRI



Greetings SAHMRI community members.

It is with great excitement and pride that we present our inaugural Impact Report – detailing the breadth of ways that your support of SAHMRI has delivered benefits to people across South Australia and the world.

Since inception, SAHMRI has been focused on research that improves people’s lives, as rapidly as possible. Our iconic building – almost entirely encased in glass – was designed with this ethos in mind. Our signature windows encourage researchers to see the world outside and never forget why they do their incredible life-saving work.

Undoubtedly, SAHMRI is strengthened by the support of our community. It is profoundly fulfilling to know that, in however small a way, we are part of the momentous achievements that you will read about in this report.

We are privileged to be part of this community, and we are honoured and grateful for what you have contributed.

The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC
SAHMRI Board Chair

Kathryn House AM DSJ
Chair of the Public Engagement
and Philanthropy Committee
Member of the SAHMRI Board

We gratefully acknowledge our members who brought the vision of SAHMRI to life and continue to play a key role in our growth and success.

The University of Adelaide

Flinders University

University of South Australia

(each represented by their respective
Vice Chancellors)

Government of South Australia

(represented by the Treasurer, Minister
for Health and Wellbeing, and the Minister
for Industry, Innovation and Science)

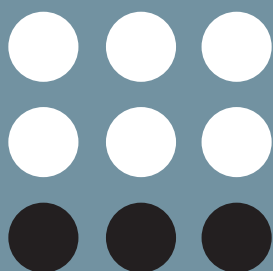
Defeating IBS pain at its source

Up to two-thirds of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) patients are women—a mystery now unravelled by SAHMRI researchers.

A team led by Professor Stuart Brierley, in collaboration with 2021 Nobel Prize winner Professor David Julius' team at University of California, San Francisco, discovered that enterochromaffin cells in the gut, which trigger pain and anxiety, are significantly more active in women. This finding explains the gender disparity in IBS rates and the triggers of IBS.

Having already been involved in the development of an FDA-approved therapy for IBS with constipation, Professor Brierley has a series of novel mechanisms to target for the 3 other types of IBS. He is currently pursuing the development of first-in-class drugs to alleviate chronic IBS pain at the source.

Up to two-thirds of IBS patients are women



Human brain replicas in a dish

Professor Cedric Bardy's lab is reinventing how to study brain disorders by growing human brain tissue in a dish. They can take a skin sample from someone with dementia or Parkinson's disease, induce it to become stem cells, and then convert those stem cells into brain cells. These brain cells grow and form networks that mimic brains, revealing the original donor's cellular or genetic impairments. Now, the team is even 3D printing the cells to create complex brain tissue structures.

This incredible technology allows Professor Bardy's team to conduct world-first experiments into conditions like childhood dementia, Parkinson's disease, and brain cancer, unravel insights into diseases and their progression, and use the brain replicas to screen existing drugs that may mitigate the effects of disease.

Research impact highlights



Unlocking autophagy research worldwide

Autophagy is the body's self-cleaning process where cells break down old and dysfunctional proteins and cellular machinery. When autophagy reduces, cellular debris accumulates and increases ageing and diseases. But if autophagy increases, then debris reduces, which slows ageing. This has led to work worldwide to lift autophagy rates in people—but to date, there has been no way of measuring autophagy rates in humans to know what works. SAHMRI's Associate Professor Tim Sargeant has created the world's first biologically-relevant autophagy test for humans, immediately unlocking autophagy research worldwide.

But the team aren't resting there—they're continuing to develop the technology and hope that one day, you'll be able to take an autophagy test at a GP clinic and get a clear picture of your ageing and disease risks.

The dual lens of clinician-researchers

For Dr David Yeung, working both as a doctor at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and a researcher at SAHMRI provides a dual lens to focus on improving leukaemia treatments while reducing side effects. And for one patient, that dual lens has had a particular impact.

When Jo Dart was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), her world came crashing down. AML is a rare and aggressive cancer with one of the lowest survival rates of all leukaemias. Thanks to David's expertise and Jo's strength of spirit, after months of intensive treatment, Jo made a recovery and remains in remission.

Several years on, Jo is grateful for a second chance at life to enjoy with her children and grandchildren. She now works with the Finance Team at SAHMRI and is grateful for the treatment she received.

"I wanted to work here because I love SAHMRI," said Jo. "I love what they do for the community, and I knew David's connection here. I've been at SAHMRI for two years now and it's meant a lot to me."

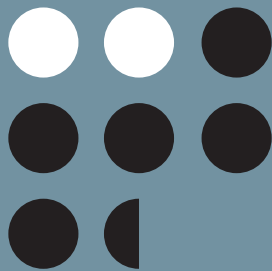
"I'm able to see first-hand how progress in cancer research directly improves patients' lives, and my research is simultaneously informed by understanding what's needed in the clinic."

Dr David Yeung

Research impact highlights

2.75x

the rate of foot amputations in **Indigenous** populations vs **non-Indigenous**



Walk Strong, Walk Tall

The Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity team are working to improve foot health and reduce the complications associated with diabetes in Indigenous communities. Managed by Australia's largest dedicated Aboriginal health research team, the Walk Strong, Walk Tall project actively addresses cultural considerations and community learning and awareness, while also building workforce strategies, service accessibility and system integration to improve Indigenous involvement and engagement with health services.

Amongst other initiatives, they've already increased access to culturally responsive preventative foot programs, and embedded best practice care into existing Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation services of rural and remote health care providers to foster a collaborative approach.

Collaboration for greater impacts

One distinctive feature of SAHMRI is its concentration of researchers from diverse backgrounds and fields, creating research collaborations able to tackle problems from multiple angles. An example is SAHMRI's Aboriginal Infant and Toddler Feeding Study, overseen by Dr Rachel Elovaris whose role spans SAHMRI's Women and Kids and Aboriginal Health Equity research themes. This project focuses not only on developing targeted nutritional strategies for Aboriginal health service providers to prevent obesity and anaemia in Aboriginal children, but also works to bring together the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation's maternal and child health clinics to share information and learning, resources, and guidelines.

The project has additionally built and encouraged workforce capacity regarding skill sharing and knowledge for the good of Aboriginal communities. It demonstrates that collaboration can increase the impact and create multi-faceted, long term sustainable benefits across health services.



Preventing preterm births

Led by Professor Maria Makrides, Professor Robert Gibson and Dr Karen Best, SAHMRI Women and Kids researchers discovered that simple, safe, readily available omega-3 fatty acid supplements can play a significant role in preventing preterm birth. Now – thanks to a blood test the team also developed – they can identify who is both low in omega-3 fatty acids and can most benefit from supplementation with benefit from supplementation, giving their baby the best chance of arriving full term.

With the generous support of the Hospital Research Foundation Group and in partnership with SA Pathology, the Omega-3 Test-and-Treat Program has provided free screening to over 26,000 South Australian women early in their pregnancies. The Program has found that 17% of women have low omega-3 levels, requiring supplementation. Once the program is implemented across Australia, this new approach is expected to prevent around 1,000 babies from being born early each year.

This research is leading to advances in prenatal care to prevent early birth and resulting in changes to health care policies and practices around the world.



“SAHMRI’S work is not only about world class research that improves the health of future generations, but also about improving the health of Australians right now.”

Karen Hayes AM DSJ

Member of the SAHMRI Board

SA’s home of radiopharmaceuticals

Three floors below North Terrace, in a bunker with 2 metre thick walls, is South Australia’s only cyclotron. Operated by the Molecular Imaging and Therapy Research Unit (MITRU), it’s the heart of SA’s radiopharmaceutical manufacturing facility.

Starting at 4am every day, the MITRU Manufacturing Team create lifesaving medicines and cancer therapies used around the state. They take radioisotopes created in the cyclotron and use them to synthesise radiopharmaceuticals before distributing them to hospitals and clinics for patients.

MITRU-manufactured products are helping to save thousands of lives across South Australia. One patient is very close to home – Board Member Karen Hayes AM DSJ received radiopharmaceuticals manufactured at SAHMRI following a cancer diagnosis.

Generations of generosity

Celebrating the Detmold family's extraordinary support for SAHMRI.

For more than a decade, the Detmold family has made a profound impact on South Australia's health and medical research landscape through their support of SAHMRI. Renowned for their leadership in sustainable packaging solutions, the Detmold Group—an iconic family-owned business—has extended its legacy beyond industry by embracing philanthropy across several generations.

The Detmold family first became involved with SAHMRI when Executive Chairman Rodney Detmold's brother was diagnosed with cancer. His treatment was overseen by Professor Tim Hughes, then head of Precision Cancer Medicine research at SAHMRI and Consultant Haematologist at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

"Rodney's brother Phil was also a successful businessman, who unfortunately succumbed to a very aggressive lymphoma," said Professor Hughes. "When I spoke with the extended family after Phil's death, we talked about the urgent need for more research into aggressive blood cancers and my hope that Adelaide could become a centre of excellence in blood cancer research, as well as a centre of cutting-edge clinical care. Rodney was keen to support this aim and asked me how he could help."

Since then, support from the Detmold family has enabled SAHMRI to be at the forefront of technological advances in blood cancer research, playing a critical role in discoveries that have benefitted many across the globe.

"The Detmold Group has supported SAHMRI in the hope that it may help researchers make breakthroughs and advance medical science, to the benefit of everyone," said Rodney.

The Detmold family's contributions have funded powerful pieces of research equipment at SAHMRI. Their latest support was instrumental in acquiring South Australia's first spectral analyser, a state-of-the-art tool revolutionising medical research including

cancer, haematology and blood disorders, heart health, immunology, infectious diseases, metabolic and endocrine disorders and neuroscience.

Flow Cytometry Facility Manager and McMahon Family Fellow, Dr Randall Grose, hailed the technology as "a game changer", explaining it allows researchers to explore up to 50 parameters per cell, compared to the previous limit of 20. "This technology is unlocking new insights across these complex diseases, paving the way for groundbreaking discoveries and improved healthcare outcomes," he added.

Founded in 1948, the Detmold Group exemplifies excellence in both corporate and social responsibility. Under the leadership of CEO Sascha Detmold Cox, the group continues to champion sustainability and inclusivity. In 2023, the company achieved gender parity on its board and exceeded industry standards with a 37% female workforce.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Detmold Group established Detmold Medical, producing 145 million face masks for frontline workers. This initiative not only safeguarded healthcare professionals but also showcased the company's dedication to addressing urgent societal needs.

In December 2024, the Detmold Group launched ambitious global sustainability goals, including commitments to net-zero emissions, increased use of recyclable materials, and sourcing renewable energy.

These initiatives underscore the family's vision for a better future – one that harmonises business success with environmental stewardship.

Through their generosity, leadership and commitment to innovation, the Detmold family have cemented their place as champions of both industry and community. As we celebrate their enduring partnership with SAHMRI, we are reminded of the profound difference one family can make in shaping a healthier, more equitable world.



TOP: PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: PIPPA DETMOLD (GROUP MANAGER COMMERCIAL EXCELLENCE), RODNEY DETMOLD (EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN), ZOE DETMOLD (CEO, DETMOLD VENTURES), SASCHA DETMOLD COX (CEO, DETMOLD GROUP)

BOTTOM: PROFESSOR TIM HUGHES



We extend our heartfelt appreciation to McMahon Services—another remarkable South Australian family-led business—for their partnership with the Detmold family and their shared commitment to supporting Flow Cytometry at SAHMRI through the establishment of the McMahon Family Fellowship.

A legacy for South Australia

There are few South Australians who could claim a stronger philanthropic legacy than James and Diana Ramsay.

With a history of giving spanning 50 years, the Ramsay's generosity is estimated to exceed \$120 million. This includes their bequest of \$38 million to the Art Gallery of South Australia, at the time the single biggest gift to any art gallery in Australia's history.

"James and Diana's philanthropic journey was driven by a profound sense of social responsibility, deeply rooted in their upbringings and a shared desire to improve the lives of others," said Kerry de Lorme, Executive Director of the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation.

"Their wealth came later in life and as their funds grew, so did their generosity. They had more than they needed and wanted to share it with others."

Both James and Diana had medical professionals in their families, which fuelled their commitment to advancing medical research. In 1927 James's father Sir John Ramsay, a renowned surgeon, was a founding Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and later chairman of the Launceston General Hospital.

Reflecting this continuing spirit of advancing medicine, SAHMRI is today one of the largest beneficiaries of the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation, receiving nearly \$2 million in committed support to date.

The Foundation's first major investment at SAHMRI was seed funding for Resilient Futures, a project aimed at building life-long resilience and wellbeing skills in young people aged 16-20.

This program resulted in the development of evidence-based approaches to support mental health, which matured into a SAHMRI-supported commercial entity Be Well Co. After reaching more than 40,000 people across 50 organisations, Be Well Co was sold to The Oranges Toolkit to continue evolving its services on a national scale.

The other major area of support is the Ramsay Bioinformatics Fellow, established in 2015 and dedicated to analysing vast amounts of biological data to advance research, precision medicine and improving patient outcomes.


"The James and Diana Ramsay Foundation has been a critical partner in the tremendous success of bioinformatics at SAHMRI, and in founding the South Australian Genomics Centre in 2020," said the Centre's Scientific Director Professor David Lynn, who's also Director of the Computational & Systems Biology Program at SAHMRI.

"Genomics data can now be generated at huge scale but the complexity is in the analysis, otherwise the data is essentially useless. The Ramsay Bioinformatics Fellow plays a crucial role in supporting the advanced data analysis and interpretation demands of our large user base, whose requirements are only going to increase in the coming years."

Kerry says there's no question that James and Diana would be proud to see the wide-reaching impact of their philanthropy.

"I think they would be glad that their funding has taken a risk on early projects like Resilient Futures, which has paid off and become an independent commercial entity, and seeing how far bioinformatics has come in a short space of time. Very proud indeed."



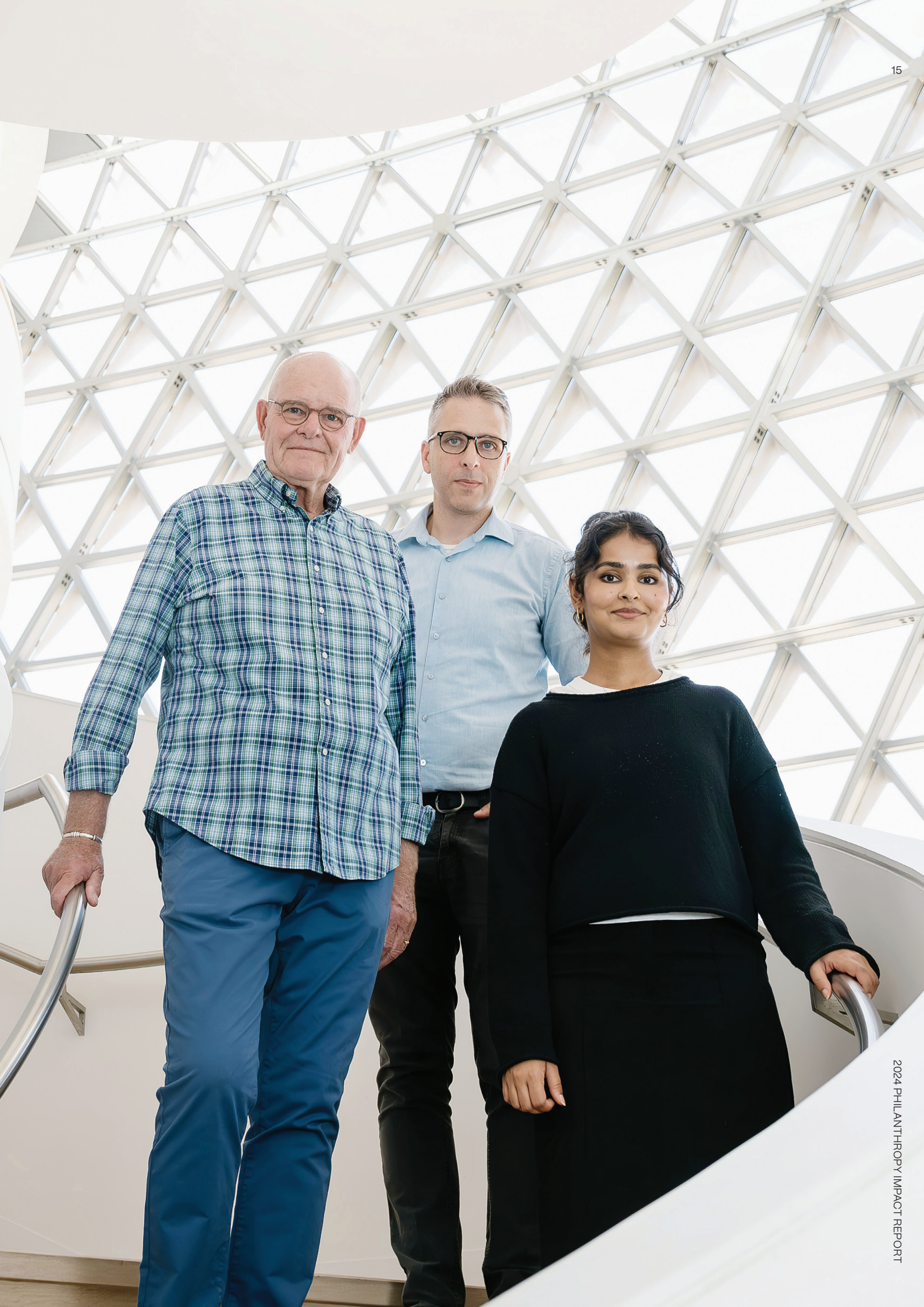


"I've had good fortune in life,
and want to share this through
philanthropy and to hopefully
help others.

SAHMRI is proudly South Australian
with a strong international reputation.
I choose to support their research
into dementia, which I've had the
sad experience of observing
through family.

Seeing how funds are used while
I'm alive gives me confidence in
what will be achieved after I'm
long gone. It's wonderful to know
you are part of the solution."

Bill Williams, leaving a gift in his Will to SAHMRI, with
Associate Professor Tim Sargeant and Dr Sanjna Singh





The true cost of research

Over his distinguished career, Emeritus Professor John Hopwood AM set the bar for innovative research and impactful results.

Treatments resulting from his research have helped thousands of Australians enjoy longer, better lives.

Professor Hopwood, who prefers simply John, was fortunate to receive support for his efforts. By contrast, he's seen plenty of incredible researchers struggle to get the funding they need for their work. Now, he's telling some hard truths about research funding. He also believes philanthropic donations can change the course of Australian science.

"Philanthropy is a great thing; it does several great things. But one thing it doesn't often do is fund a whole research program," said John. "It costs millions and millions to run a research program."

"As a result, the majority of research in Australia is funded through government agencies."

That, however, comes with complications. Federal funding is extremely limited. In 2024–2025 the Australian Government R&D investment was only 0.52% of GDP – compared to the OECD average of 0.74%. And that is spread across every field of research and development, not just health.

In John's experience, the funding provided is tied to well-defined research projects with pathways to outcomes.

But he says that limits blue-sky thinking and true innovation... and it's holding back a vibrant medical research sector.

That's where John believes philanthropy can help bridge the gap between a new idea still building in someone's mind, and the limited pool of government funding. Philanthropic support can be the seed funding to explore a new direction or take an inventive approach to a problem.

"It's good to have money you can use without restrictions. It lets you be more inventive," said John.

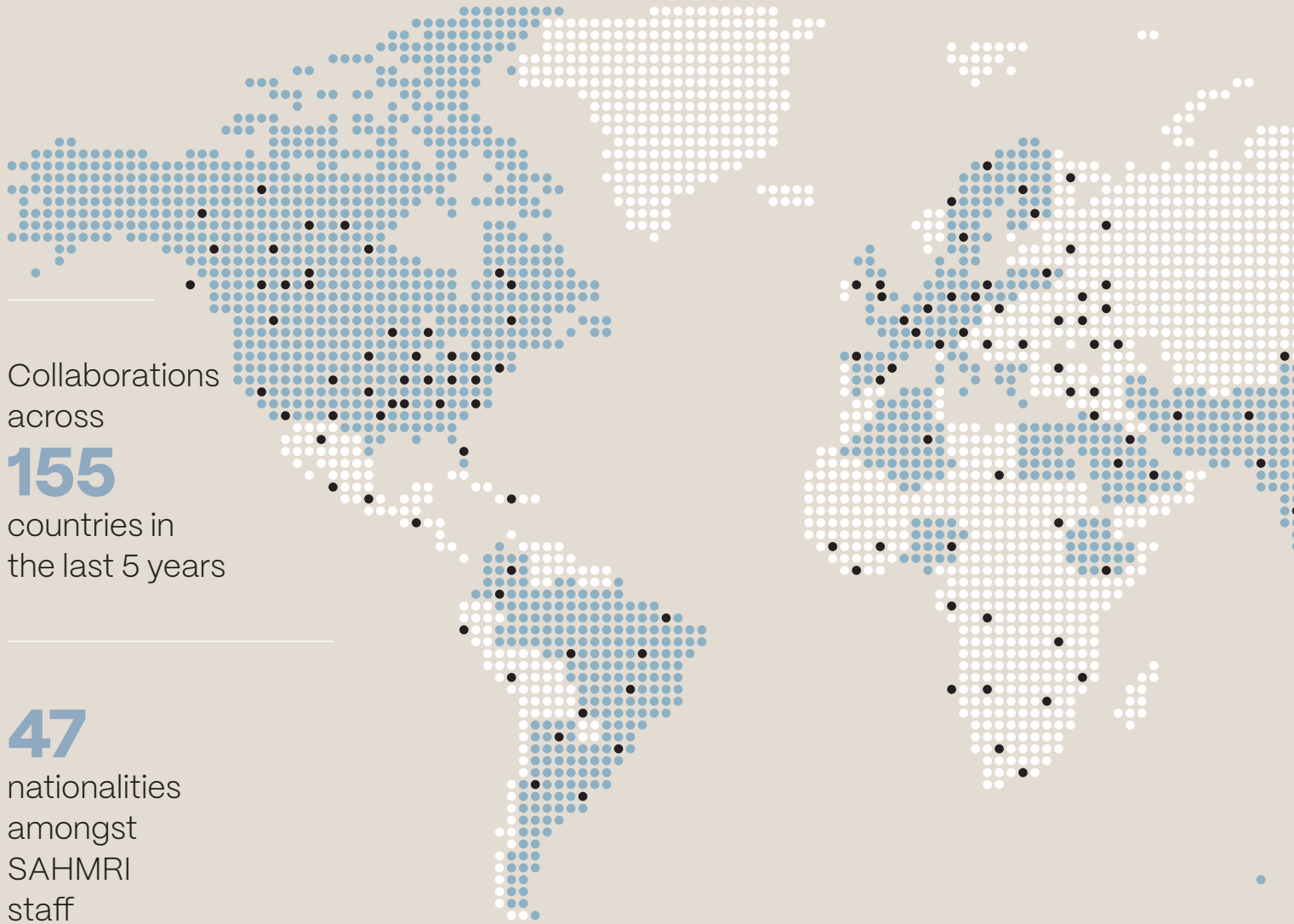
In fact, John and his wife Barbara insist their own donations to SAHMRI not be restricted to specific projects, to create that scientific freedom.

Using seed funding to show their innovation is feasible increases a researcher's chances of tapping into government funding sources to build a larger research program. And that's particularly important for young researchers trying to get their start as a research leader.

"Often, it's the young people who have brilliant thoughts. But they're not being funded because they don't have a track record," said John.

"Researchers spend 30% of their time, maybe more, writing applications for government grant funding. You want our researchers to be rolling up their sleeves and getting into it with a bloody good idea, instead!"

"Research shouldn't need a clear pathway and have to lead to an expected outcome in order to receive funding. Get it back to the discovery process, then science will be better off."



Collaborations
across
155
countries in
the last 5 years

47
nationalities
amongst
SAHMRI
staff

10%
of staff are
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait
Islander, including

3
at Board and
Executive level

~400
research
publications

54
grants

~175
PhD students

51%
of our research
leadership and

50%
of our Board
and Executive
are women

SAHMRI in numbers 2024

1,300

BRIGHT Walk
participants

927

tour participants

93

volunteers

7,674,245

Social media reach

281,391

Website visitors

Nearly

3,000

donors, including
individuals, organisations
and foundations

3,850

articles published
about SAHMRI's
research

2,472

Domestic

1,378

International

3

legacy gifts in
Wills totalling

over \$1m

Potential media reach

9.4m

Broadcast (TV, radio
and print) audience

4.8b

Online
audience

Counting blessings

Helen Walker OAM lived a life of extraordinary achievement, despite facing many health challenges.

At age 18, Helen contracted rheumatic fever. Moving to Swan Hill for health reasons, she nevertheless found the energy to support her local community. Her many years of extensive volunteer work and service saw her named Swan Hill's Citizen of the Year.

When she turned 49, Helen started experiencing difficulties in walking. She was diagnosed with Pompe disease, a rare and fatal metabolic disorder that damages nerve and muscle cells. At that time the disease was barely known, even by medical professionals who told Helen there were no treatments available and no cure.

By chance, Helen saw Professor John Hopwood AM talking on television about his work in glycogen storage disorders and reached out to him. A friendship was born and Professor Hopwood – who would later become a SAHMRI researcher and Board Member – contacted international colleagues to learn more about potential treatments for the brutal condition.

Professor Hopwood also contacted three other Pompe patients in Australia and helped establish the Australian Pompe Association (APA), with Helen as President.

In recognition of her community work and for those living with Pompe disease, Helen was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2007.



"I try to count my blessings and not my burdens, but some days are easier than others," said Helen. "Every day that I press on and persevere is my way of saying 'blast you' to the disease."

Sadly, Helen never got to see the outcome of her efforts as she died in 2012, three years before Pompe treatment was available in Australia.

Helen left a gift in her Will to SAHMRI to support research into lysosomal storage disorders like Pompe disease. It was the first legacy gift SAHMRI had received.

Helen's message was to never give up and to fight on relentlessly. She greatly believed in the importance of medical research and this spirit lives on at SAHMRI, and through the work of the Australian Pompe Association.

A best dressed life

Helen Uppington was born the youngest of fifteen children in 1949 and couldn't wait to be grown up like her siblings, ready for life to start.

And once she got started, Helen didn't stop.

"Never, ever did I hear Helen say, 'Carol, let's have a rest,'" said good friend Carol Rymer. "Her indomitable spirit and boundless energy exhausted me. Helen loved life and loved living."

Throughout her days, Helen was known as the life of the party. She was immaculately dressed for every occasion, dancing in stilettos at never-ending social events and taking home a best-dressed trophy from a Melbourne Cup event.

In addition to her bustling social calendar and enviable wardrobe, Helen had a big heart. She volunteered with many organisations including the Women and Children's Hospital, Meals on Wheels and the Walkerville Football Club. She also dedicated her later years to teaching English around the world, adding to her many travels alone, with family and with friends.

As one of Helen's final, generous acts, she chose to leave a significant gift in her Will to support medical research at SAHMRI, enabling researchers to continue making new discoveries.

Helen had visited SAHMRI on a tour with a Legacy group many years ago, in honour of her second husband Brian Uppington who served in the Navy.



After receiving her own treatments in later years, leaving a bequest to SAHMRI was a fitting way for Helen to acknowledge the impact medical research had on her life and the ones of those she loved – allowing that indomitable spirit to continue for as long as possible.

Helen will be remembered for her generosity and the joy she brought the people around her.

"Her vibrant personality brightened everyone's day. She was open-hearted, courageous, and above all, inspirational," said Carol.

The inscription Helen's family chose for her headstone reflects her radiant spirit: "She did it her way."

Investing in community

High above Adelaide's city centre, the offices of LK Law are dominated by striking pieces of Indigenous artwork.

"This one is by Gloria Petyarre, one of the famous Petyarre sisters from Utopia, north of Alice Springs," says Skip Lipman, LK Principal, pointing out one piece in particular. "Everything here tells a story of the artist's community."

LK's involvement in Indigenous communities goes beyond supporting artists. They structure their philanthropic commitments around several pillars: access to justice for everyone, advancing community programs which care for the most vulnerable in our society, and supporting the visual arts, in particular Indigenous and emerging artists.

"Supporting Indigenous programs is important to us because it's one of the great areas of disadvantage we, as a society, need to grapple with. Working in law, we see far too often how disadvantage affects people," says LK Principal Scott Foreman.

As part of this commitment, LK supported a scholarship for SAHMRI Masters student Courtney Hammond, an Eastern Arrernte/Tanganekald woman. Courtney's Masters project evaluated the effectiveness of collaboration between health and social service organisations providing services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in northern Adelaide.

"We're helping ensure these programs continue to help the people who need it, through recommendations for strengthening these partnerships and outcomes," says Courtney. "LK's support let me concentrate on that work. I was trying to work full-time and study full-time, but the support meant I could focus on the project and make sure it delivered its full value."

Courtney's work has now evolved into developing and delivering a new program to prioritise culturally safe foot care in Indigenous groups at higher risk of amputation from diabetic complications.

"I get to work with students and turn that into a fun activity, and also turn that into a conversation about careers in health," she says, lighting up about her interactions with students. "One student told me after our session she decided she wanted to be a scientist, and it was the best day of her life."

For Fiona Luu, one of LK's lawyers, it's these unexpected impacts that inspire her to participate in the firm's philanthropy programs.

"I have a health research background and it's been exciting to see LK's contributions lead to a big impact for the organisations we work with. Courtney and the SAHMRI team are doing really important work and it's rewarding to support that, however we can."



The gift of giving

Opera singer. Computer chip engineer. Winemaker. Farmer. Counsellor. Building a home on national TV.

It's fair to say that Nick and Cate Foskett aren't ones to shy away from tackling a challenge. After meeting SAHMRI's Professor Maria Makrides, it was clear the challenge of preterm births was to be next on their list.

"When we first met Maria, her passion became our passion," says Nick. At the time, Professor Makrides (now SAHMRI's Executive Director) was running a major trial into the effects of omega-3 fatty acids on preterm births. As a result of that trial, national guidelines for the care of pregnant women now recommend omega-3 testing and supplementation.



"Something that we helped fund got rolled out nationally. It's helping lots of people," says Nick.

"We love that SAHMRI research becomes policy quite fast. And we're seeing real-world impacts from the research," adds Cate. "We decided that we loved what is happening here, and we wanted a long-term relationship with SAHMRI."

The Fosketts are now supporting Professor Alice Rumbold's GIFT Trial, which examines the health and economic impacts of supplementing maternal breast milk with donor milk for preterm infants. Currently, many receive formula, which often comes with feeding difficulties and longer hospital stays.

New mother of twins Jessica and her husband Michael jumped at the chance to be part of this clinical trial.

PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: PROFESSOR ALICE RUMBOLD, CATE FOSKETT, NICK FOSKETT.



"It actually took a bit of the stress away from me as a first-time mum, knowing that as part of the GIFT trial, the boys would have the option to potentially have donor milk," said Jessica. "We were really happy to be part of this research that could benefit so many babies in the future."

Knowing the study they support can provide benefits for the whole family adds another layer of satisfaction for the Fosketts. They recently visited Professor Rumbold's group to see how their support was helping drive those benefits.

"We really appreciate working with Alice. In our last meeting, we got to see where they do the work, the equipment, and met the statisticians our funding supports. It made it very real to us," says Cate. "Data is nothing unless you can work with it. It was nice knowing we could help make that possible."

Their SAHMRI relationship has proven to be a huge personal reward for the Fosketts, who are heartened to see how their support has helped shape life-changing research.

And for Nick, it's the potential for long-term benefits that excites him most. "I'm driven by the possibility to help give a large number of people a much longer life; a much better life... and if you can help health outcomes by supporting fundamental research, then it really is a gift that greatly benefits society."

Harnessing collective philanthropy for a healthier future



DR ELYSE PAGE
AND FIRST
CLASS HONOURS
GRADUATE LUKE
QUINLAN

In 2024, SAHMRI established the Discovery Circle – a collective of individuals who pool their generosity to turn bold ideas into groundbreaking discoveries.

Each member's annual contribution of \$5,000 is a catalyst for change by supporting an early or mid-career researcher at SAHMRI. Shortlisted candidates pitch their projects at an annual Discovery Vote event, then Circle members cast their vote for one to be supported with the combined funds.

"I could have just made a donation, but I like how the Discovery Circle connects me directly to SAHMRI's researchers," said Kathryn House AM, Discovery Circle member. "They have so much potential. I'm hopeful that supporting SAHMRI's researchers can enable all of us to have disease-free lives."



DR ELYSE PAGE
AND JESS SIMONE

The inaugural recipient of the Discovery Circle Award is Dr Elyse Page, for her groundbreaking research on acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) in children. Her project focuses on identifying biomarkers to predict which patients are at risk of developing ALL in the central nervous system, paving the way for earlier interventions and the development of more targeted, less toxic treatments.

Dr Page and her team have already achieved significant milestones with the Discovery Circle funding, securing PhD candidate Luke Quinlan to create a novel cell system replicating the central nervous system environment, and initiating patient recruitment and sample collection to advance biomarker discovery.

For Dr Evelyn Yap OAM, the decision to support the Discovery Circle was deeply personal.

"My sister's battle with triple-negative breast cancer is a stark reminder of the urgent need for research breakthroughs. I also watched my colleague's ten-year journey battling adenoid cystic tongue cancer, defying grim odds. Both stories underscore the pivotal role of research," said Dr Yap.

"SAHMRI represents hope, a beacon in the face of life's unpredictable challenges."

This isn't the first time Dr Page has received funding through the power of collective philanthropy.

Jess Simone was ten years old when she was diagnosed with ALL. Health and medical research advances mean Jess is now a cancer-free adult.

"While I was having treatment I saw a lot of friends pass away, and family members also died from cancer," Jess said. "I realise how important research is because without it, there is no way we will find a cure. Without research, I wouldn't be here now."

Since her treatment and recovery, Jess's family have devoted themselves to supporting cancer research, hosting several fundraising parties at their home for up to 250 guests.

In 2021 Dr Page received a \$100,000 grant thanks to the united efforts of the Simone family and friends to support her crucial research, which is giving people like Jess the gift of life.





Community efforts

LIONS CLUB
OF RICHMOND
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS AND
VOLUNTEERS

In 2024, the Lions Club of Richmond celebrated 60 years of serving the community and their first year supporting SAHMRI.

Housed in a repurposed school gymnasium, the Club runs an impressively large operation. In addition to selling donated goods through one of the largest op shops in the state, they also collect and process scrap metal, e-waste, clothing, cardboard, paper, books and more.

"In some ways we're a recycling centre," said David Frith, secretary and long serving member. "A huge volume of materials goes through this club every month."

The proceeds from the Club's activities are returned into the community, supporting a wide range of local causes. In 2024 they chose to turn their attention to SAHMRI.

"Everyone knows someone who's been affected by cancer," said president Di Goldsworthy.

"In just the past year, two of our thirty members have started going through treatment. I know there's a phenomenal amount of funding going into research already but it's not enough."

The Lions Club of Richmond has established an Honours scholarship in blood cancer research, supporting two students per year for the next four years. These scholarships will boost the careers of eight researchers and help them continue working towards better outcomes for those living with cancer.

"We want to add our support, by funding research in South Australia and keeping the best scientists here in the state too," said Di.

This substantial contribution is the result of a small but dedicated group of volunteers contributing more than 1,500 hours per month. When asked what keeps bringing them back to the shed, Di and David both laughed.

"A touch of insanity helps," said David.

"I enjoy the community and the people who work here," said Di. "We all get on well and everyone's happy to help. We know we're all working towards a worthwhile cause."



One shared passion between the Festival of Motorcycling SA (FOMsa) and SAHMRI is an appreciation of quality equipment and unique machines.

"We want to improve the image of motorcycling in South Australia," said Rob Elliott, President of FOMsa.

"Motorcycling gets bad press too often and we want to overcome that. We're aiming to increase the visibility and awareness of motorcycling in a more positive manner and encourage good riding practice for motorcyclists."

Since 2021, FOMsa has supported SAHMRI as their charity partner, initially supporting bursaries for PhD students and now raising funds towards research equipment.

The first FOMsa bursary recipient Khalia Primer, a PhD candidate researching the vascular complications of diabetes, greatly appreciated the support of FOMsa while studying at SAHMRI.

"Having access to cutting-edge technology means I can design the best possible experiments to help develop new therapies for diabetic complications," she said.

In 2024 FOMsa's community fundraising efforts purchased a microplate reader for SAHMRI, used to measure chemical and biological reactions in small samples placed in a microplate. It is a piece of equipment that will be used by hundreds of PhD students at SAHMRI across its lifetime.

"We love our wheels and riding, and we want to give back to the community through our fundraising events," said Rob. "We hope that with the ongoing support from fellow motorcyclists and the community, FOMsa can continue to be a positive force for motorcycling in South Australia and do some good for medical research."

KHALIA PRIMER ACCEPTING HER BURSARY IN 2021 WITH MEMBERS OF THE FOMSA COMMITTEE: MICHAEL GRIFFIN, RUSSELL HUGHES, ALAN KERNICH, LEW HYLTON, ANDY BEDFORD, AND ROB ELLIOTT.

"In 2020, I received a shock diagnosis of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML). I was extremely fortunate to enter a world-first clinical trial by SAHMRI and the new drug Asciminib has worked fantastically. I'm feeling well, able to enjoy family time and my amazing job with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

I completed the Noosa Triathlon in November 2024 and raised \$10,000 from family and friends to support CML research at SAHMRI. I will be forever grateful to Professor Tim Hughes and his team for all the work they do, enabling people like me with CML to live life to the full."



JANET ANDERSON

Five bright years

\$1.5 million
raised in five years

3,702
participants

14,834
donors

156
volunteers

630,000+ km
walked during the
events and training

The BRIGHT Walk (2020–2024) has been SAHMRI's largest community event of the past decade. Thousands of people across the state have taken part, sponsored by their generous friends and family, and supported by charitable corporate and media partners, plus an army of volunteers – all coming together to boost health and medical research in South Australia.

We warmly thank everyone who has taken part in this event, particularly our premier partner Insurance Advisernet Foundation for generously matching funding every year.

Fran Whittingham has raised nearly \$5,000 for research at SAHMRI across three BRIGHT Walks, and volunteered behind the scenes.

"I have always been an active person and continue to be, after surviving breast cancer and the full chemo/radiotherapy experience a couple of years ago," said Fran.

"I truly value all the work that SAHMRI does for research. I have visited SAHMRI on an Open Day and was blown away by the work they do and the commitment the teams make to their critical roles. I've been very happy to support where I can, through the BRIGHT Walk and volunteering."



FRAN
WHITTINGHAM
AND BOB HARRIS
AT THE 2022
BRIGHT WALK
FINISH LINE



Volunteering with SAHMRI



Liliana always knew that she wanted to be a tour guide one day.

"When I was thinking about retirement, I knew I wanted to start volunteering. I love people and I love South Australia—our beautiful nature and beaches, our wonderful institutes. I want to promote everything great about the state and SAHMRI is as South Australian as I am."

Liliana began volunteering with SAHMRI in 2024, leading weekly public tours through the building and showcasing its fascinating research.

"I love seeing the curiosity on the visitors' faces, the light bulb going off in their head when they realise all the incredible research that's happening here," said Liliana. "Everyone can relate to SAHMRI's work and people on the tour will often tell me their own personal experiences with cancer, dementia, pregnancies—and how much it means to see this great work taking place right here in Adelaide."

For Liliana, volunteering isn't just a way of giving back, but also a deeply rewarding experience.

"I get as much out of volunteering as the tour participants. I love learning new things and having a bit of fun along the way."

Our wonderful volunteers also contribute to the Open Days and other events throughout the year, supporting SAHMRI's mission to create healthier futures.

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Platinum supporters (\$100,000+)

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**SAHMRI gratefully thanks
the 2,645 donors who gave
other amounts in 2024.**

**We acknowledge the 59
generous people who have
remembered SAHMRI with
a gift in their Will.**

**We also recognise the
ongoing legacy of the 10 donors
whose bequests
have been received.**

Lifetime giving

We acknowledge and thank the supporters who have made significant contributions of \$25,000+ to SAHMRI.

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 Cancer Council NSW
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 Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation
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The impact of giving

I hope you enjoyed reading our inaugural Impact Report as much as we've enjoyed creating it. There are too many wonderful stories from our supporters and friends to include in this first edition; we look forward to sharing more.

We value the community's backing for our research which is delivering healthier lives here in South Australia and globally. In addition to our donors, volunteers, Board and Committee members, I also want to thank our clinical trial participants. Your involvement plays a crucial role in translating scientific discoveries into meaningful improvements in human health.

To the consumer groups and community members who contribute to our research, we extend our sincere thanks to you for your time, generosity, and willingness to share your experiences and insights. Your participation is invaluable, ensuring that our research remains purposeful, impactful, and truly reflective of the needs of the communities we serve.

My team and I look forward to continuing to work with you and achieving the next breakthrough together.

Hazel S Jourdin

Head of Philanthropy and Strategic Engagement

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Creating healthier futures

SAHMRI is South Australia's flagship not-for-profit health and medical research institute.

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