Flinders Foundation

Thank you

Your **2025** Impact and Gratitude Report

Your impact by *the numbers*

$2.1 million

invested in better health and care in 2025

Thanks to **your support**, lives were saved, and futures changed, across southern Adelaide and beyond.

$700,000 Patient Care

Helping people receive exceptional care when they need it most

Our supporters' generosity enabled:

- **Life-saving medical equipment** at Flinders Medical Centre
- **Stronger staff wellbeing**, supporting the teams who care for us
- **Clinical care projects** enhancing patient experience and outcomes
- A newly-created **Wellness Program Manager** position at the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer

$82,000

- invested in equipment for vulnerable babies in the Flinders Medical Centre Neonatal Unit

$500,000

- supported the newly redeveloped Child Safety and Wellbeing Health Service, bringing our total contribution to $1.5 million
- Backed an early intervention mental health pilot program, to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people

$1.44m Research

Powering discovery that improves care today and tomorrow

Because of our community:

- **$500,000 supported seed funding,** testing novel ideas and approaches
- **$90,000** invested in PhD scholarships training the next generation of health leaders
- **$464,000 supported research fellowships** accelerating breakthroughs across cancer and other diseases
- **Researchers made significant progress** in cancer research that translates directly into better care and support for families.

Your impact is more than just numbers.

It is felt across our community, in every life touched by your generosity.

A year of *exceptional impact* and progress powered by you

With gratitude,

Ross Verschoor
Executive Director
Flinders Foundation

A message from the Executive Director

I am proud to present your 2025 Impact Report, highlighting what we achieved together to advance health, medical research and patient care.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, and the trust instilled in us by our partners, Flinders Foundation continues to support world-class research and enhanced patient care, helping deliver exceptional care closer to home.

In partnership with the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN)—which includes Flinders Medical Centre and the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer—and Flinders University, we contribute to a thriving health and research precinct serving southern Adelaide and beyond.

As demand for health services grows, so does pressure on the system. Yet every day, your generosity is making a difference through exceptional care and research that is changing lives. This ongoing need drives our commitment to translate research into impact and ensure access to care, regardless of circumstance.

In 2025, your support enabled a $1.44 million investment in health and medical research, backing projects in cancer, heart failure, mental health and chronic pain.

Just over $700,000 also supported patient care through medical equipment, workforce wellbeing initiatives and life-saving technology across SALHN.

We take our role as custodians of donated funds seriously. After much consultation with donors and partners, we refined our funding approach in 2025, strengthening alignment between community generosity, health system priorities, and measurable impact.

This led to the launch of two inaugural SALHN Grant Rounds, supporting **Biomedical Equipment** and **Workforce Wellbeing**, with additional grant programs commencing in early 2026. We look forward to sharing their impact as they enhance care and outcomes.

I sincerely thank our Foundation team and Board for their leadership and dedication. I also acknowledge our recently retired Chair, Alan Young AM, for 28 years of service, and welcome long-standing Board Member, Associate Professor Michael Michael as Interim Chair.

We also honoured the memory of Board member Paul Teisseire, and volunteer, fundraiser and cancer advocate, Robyn Combes, who both passed away in 2025.

Your generosity made our progress possible. Together, we advanced research, enhanced care, and improved outcomes for patients, families and clinicians. This report reflects what we have achieved together.

At its heart, philanthropy strengthens our community. It fuels discovery, supports our health system, and helps ensure people receive the care they need, when they need it. Every contribution matters, and together, we can be proud of the impact we create.

Thank you **for standing with us.**

Enhancing care for patients with cancer, together *because of you*

In 2025, community support played a critical role in advancing cancer care at Flinders Medical Centre and the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer, accelerating research, enhancing clinical capability and improving patient experiences.

Making a difference through cancer wellness

Thanks to you and the wider support of our community, the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer brings world-class research and compassionate care together under one roof.

At its heart is the Flinders Cancer Wellness Centre, a place many describe as a haven, where they feel seen, heard, and supported as whole people, not just patients.

In 2025, your support enabled the appointment of Program Manager Elsbeth Falster (pictured top right), who has expanded the Centre's role and strengthened services to better support people through their cancer journey.

With backing from Dry July Foundation and people like you, new initiatives are enhancing both practical and emotional care.

The Wig and Headwear Library, together with Look Good Feel Better workshops, help patients maintain dignity and confidence while fostering connection with others facing similar challenges.

Every day, patients and families are welcomed by trained volunteers, Cancer Council services, and McGrath Nurses, who provide compassionate guidance and specialised cancer support.

This integrated approach ensures people can access the care, information, and reassurance they need in one place, making the Centre a truly supportive environment throughout treatment.

Together, this support is creating a more connected, compassionate approach to cancer care at Flinders, where people feel informed, supported, and never alone. Thank you.

Supporting people in the Flinders Infusion Suite

Thanks to ongoing support from our partners, Flinders Foundation continued to support projects that enhance the experience of patients receiving treatment in the Infusion Suite in the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer, focusing on comfort, dignity, and meaningful moments of care.

Cold Cap machines and cold caps, funded by Flinders Foundation, have been helping patients undergoing chemotherapy to reduce hair loss, one of the most visible side effects of treatment.

With the caps in high demand and due for replacement, generous support from Dry July Foundation and community fundraisers ensured new caps could be purchased, allowing patients to continue accessing this important service.

Funding from Dry July also enabled the purchase of an essential ultrasound machine, improving vein location for infusions and reducing discomfort and anxiety for patients.

Because of you, patients feel supported every step of their cancer journey.

Every small moment of exceptional care makes a big difference.

Freemasons with Flinders Foundation and Flinders Medical Centre representatives

Funding life-changing equipment

A $76,995 donation to Flinders Foundation from The Grand Lodge of Freemasons SA & NT, supported by Glenelg Lodge 117, has funded a second Apheresis Machine at Flinders Medical Centre.

The life-saving equipment collects blood stem cells, plasma and platelets for critical treatments including transplants and emerging CAR-T cell therapy. Previously reliant on one machine, the service faced capacity limits.

This investment ensures 24/7 reliability, supports more patients simultaneously, and **strengthens access to advanced cancer care, helping South Australians receive world-class treatment closer to home.**

Supporting patients with groundbreaking equipment and care *thanks to you*

Every piece of equipment funded tells a story, of generosity, innovation, and lives changed through exceptional care.

"For us, this isn't just about thanking the hospital; it's about acknowledging a whole community of people who stood behind Atlas in those early hours and days"

McKinnon family

From a frightening birth to a thriving future

Baby Atlas' start to life was meant to be a long-awaited, joyful moment for the McKinnon family (pictured top right), but that joy quickly turned into a race to save his life, shortly after his birth.

Within hours of being born in a regional hospital, Atlas was transferred to Flinders Medical Centre's Neonatal Unit to begin specialised cooling treatment, using a specialist piece of equipment: the Arctic Sun.

Funded by the support of the Flinders Foundation community, the machine precisely lowers and maintains a baby's body temperature, giving the brain a chance to recover and improving long-term outcomes.

Now, Atlas is continually showing strength and determination thanks to the care he received at Flinders. Without the specialist team and cooling therapy, his story could have been very different.

As he grows, Atlas' family hopes he will understand what he overcame and the people who helped him through it. His journey is now part of who he is.

Technology that gave Simon a second chance at life

He didn't think he would live to see Christmas. In late 2022, Simon Maddaford's liver disease suddenly worsened, and the once-healthy 56-year-old was urgently placed on the transplant list at Flinders Medical Centre.

Simon became the first patient in South Australia to receive a liver preserved using the new Liver Assist™ organ perfusion system. Technology introduced thanks to generous donors, including The Burton Foundation.

The machine improves and, in some cases, restores donor livers once considered too damaged to use.

"I'm just so thankful," Simon said. "My new liver is functioning better than when I was in my 20s." For Simon, this breakthrough wasn't just innovative, it gave him back his future.

Simon Maddaford (far right), with his family

Thanks to you, the transplant team hopes to perform up to 20% more transplants annually, saving more South Australian lives each year.

Research, investing in the future of *exceptional care*

Your generosity supports research at its earliest and most critical stages, giving researchers the confidence and resources to explore bold ideas, gather early evidence, and translate promising science from the lab to the patient bedside.

31 Health Seed Research Grants funded in 2025

Exploring innovative approaches to identify, understand and respond to disease and illness sooner, helping to improve outcomes for people in our community.

New hope for childhood brain cancer

Professor Simon Conn is using seed funding to develop a highly targeted new treatment strategy for children facing aggressive brain cancers.

Simon hopes this new approach could transform treatment by precisely attacking tumours while sparing healthy tissue, offering new hope to families.

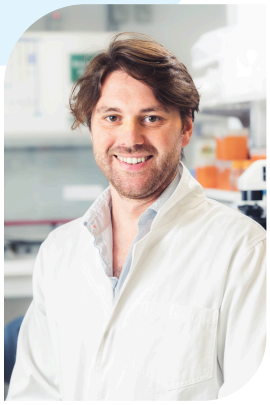
Calmer and safer intensive care units

Through our supporters' investment in seed funding, Dr Anne Mette Adams is developing new approaches to reduce patient distress in intensive care units (ICUs), with the potential to transform care and improve experiences for patients and families across ICUs nationwide.

Improving life with bladder cancer

Dr Luke Grundy is looking at whether a certain drug can reduce side effects for people with a type of bladder cancer.

The project aims to improve daily life and long-term outcomes for patients.



View all projects

View a full list of all of the Health Seed Grant research projects funded in 2025 on our website.

Your generosity *sustains us*

Every advance in care, every moment of comfort, and every step toward a healthier future is strengthened by people who believe in the power of local healthcare.

When partnership meets compassion

Our corporate partners play a vital role in helping us raise funds that drive meaningful change for patients and families.

The Marion Hotel (Hurley Hotel Group) exemplifies this, backing our Tax Appeal with a dollar-for-dollar match to unlock critical funding for research and care.

Their support goes beyond fundraising, providing nearby accommodation for patients like Lyndon, who travelled to Flinders every three weeks for cancer treatment—finding comfort and a safe haven at the Marion Hotel before each infusion.

"Never underestimate the impact you can have on those who walk through the door. Everyone has a story to tell."

Lyndon Beard, patient and Marion Hotel guest

Flinders ICU Nurse Melissa Hall

Supporting care from within

Every day in the Intensive Care Unit at Flinders Medical Centre, Nurse Melissa Hall sees firsthand the importance of local healthcare. From supporting critically ill patients to helping families stay connected while far from home, she understands what quality care truly means.

Five years ago, after witnessing the difference philanthropy makes in her ward, Melissa was inspired to become a regular monthly donor to Flinders Foundation.

"The motivation to support Flinders Foundation was seeing the difference it makes. Their support helps us provide the best care possible."

From funding vital equipment and research, to enhancing patient comfort and supporting staff wellbeing, donor support is felt every day on the frontline.

Melissa's generosity is a powerful demonstration that those who see the impact up close are choosing to give back to support their hospital.

A legacy beyond *a lifetime*

Shaping the future of ovarian cancer support

When Marion McCormack lost her life to ovarian cancer, she chose to leave behind something powerful: hope.

Through a transformational gift facilitated by her brother Peter, Marion created a lasting legacy that is advancing ovarian cancer research and improving care for women facing the disease. Her generosity funded a 12-month Clinical Research Midwife/Nurse position in the Women's and Children's Division, helping to strengthen clinical pathways, deepen understanding, and enhance support for patients—now and into the future.

Marion's legacy shows how one person's kindness can shape care for countless others.

Inspired by stories like hers, many Flinders Foundation supporters choose to give regularly or leave a gift in their Will, helping ensure better health and opportunity for generations to come.

If you would like to leave a bequest or learn about making a gift in your Will to Flinders Foundation, contact our team

Call us on 08 8204 5216 or email
supporters@flindersfoundation.org.au

A longstanding commitment to care

For more than 30 years, Nita Farquharson has supported the Flinders Foundation, inspired by the specialist care she continues to receive at Flinders for a rare neurological condition. Born and raised in Broken Hill, Nita gives back so others can access the same life-changing treatment.

Cancer has profoundly shaped Nita's life, including the loss of her son to melanoma in his 40s. A passionate advocate for research and palliative care, she has seen firsthand the impact of innovation—like a friend who, thanks to a trial breast cancer treatment, lived to see her daughter grow up and become a grandmother.

Nita and her late husband were passionate about supporting cutting-edge cancer technology, and Nita continues to honour this legacy through her ongoing monthly donations.

Through her generosity, Nita honours her loved ones while helping fund research and care that offer families more time and renewed hope.

"I give because if my husband or son were still alive, I would still be buying a Christmas and birthday present for them. I donate to research instead, in their memory."

You are the people who power *our purpose*

Throughout 2025, you came together, raising funds to honour loved ones, strengthen connections, and drive meaningful change for patients and families across southern Adelaide and beyond.

Olympian and Flinders University student Sophie Edwards with her father David Edwards

Two wheels, one purpose

Over three days and 310 kilometres, riders in the 2025 Tour de Cure's SA Discovery Tour took on a significant challenge to support the Flinders Foundation. Their efforts directly help fund vital cancer research at Flinders, supporting projects that make a real difference to patients and their families, today and tomorrow, raising nearly **$230,000**.

Beyond the fundraising, the Tour brings together riders, volunteers, and the community; all contributing to a shared goal of improving outcomes for those affected by cancer.

Every kilometre ridden reflects a uniting commitment to preventing and curing cancer, strengthening research, care, and hope for the future.

One night. Lasting impact.

The Ribbon Ball raised **over $450,000** to expand support for cancer-related projects through the Health Seed and Patient Care Grant Rounds.

From challenge to care

Community Fundraising Supporters raised **over $96,000** through challenges like the City-Bay Fun Run, directly supporting patients, families, and frontline care.

Partnerships powering care

Beneficiary funds including the Karen Fitzgerald Fund and Ryan Hodges Fund raised **over $252,000**, supporting vulnerable young people and precision cancer dosing.

Changing lives *beyond the lab*

Flinders University researcher Nadine Smith spends her days unlocking the secrets of cancer biology, working to improve treatments and outcomes for patients.

But for Nadine, the work does not stop at the lab bench. As a Flinders Foundation community fundraiser, she extends her impact beyond research, helping drive better outcomes for patients and families.

"As a cancer researcher, I've seen firsthand how vital community support is, not just for funding research, but for empowering survivors and families.

Flinders Foundation doesn't just invest in science; they invest in patients."

Nadine Smith taking her impact beyond the lab through City-Bay Fun Run

Volunteering with *Hart*

Volunteer Tracy Hart

Our supporters come from all walks of life, united by a shared belief that together, we can improve outcomes for patients and families when they need it most.

What began as a simple desire to give back and meet new people soon became something far more meaningful for **Tracy Hart**, one of our longest-serving and most dedicated volunteers.

In 2020, Tracy's world changed when her brother sadly passed away after an 18-month battle with pancreatic cancer. From that moment on, her connection to the Foundation became deeply personal.

Through her unwavering commitment, Tracy has become a familiar and much-loved presence at our events, generously giving her time, energy, and heart.

Volunteers like Tracy quietly change lives, one moment of care at a time.

"I value the friendships I've made through volunteering, and I know that I'm doing this in honour of my brother. I hope that one day, no other families have to go through what we have been through."

join us

Be part of something meaningful, in your way.

Join our community of supporters, volunteers and donors today.

Creating a lasting impact through *legacy giving*

In 2025, Ralph and Pixie Ernst's legacy continued to make an impact at Flinders, funding a PhD scholarship for emerging researcher Travis Croft and driving cutting-edge prostate cancer research.

"I'm incredibly humbled to receive a scholarship generously funded by a grateful patient. I hope to honour Ralph and Pixie's legacy by making a meaningful impact on the lives of men affected by this disease."

Travis Croft, PhD Emerging researcher scholarship recipient

Travis works with the Prostate Cancer Research Group at Flinders University, led by Professor Luke Selth, exploring new treatments designed to stop cancer cells from growing.

Early findings suggest these treatments may also help prostate tumours respond to immunotherapy, something that has previously been ineffective in prostate cancer.

With prostate cancer the second leading cause of cancer death in Australian men, there is an urgent need for better treatment options, particularly for advanced disease.

Current treatments for metastatic disease lower testosterone, which can significantly affect quality of life.

"Our goal is to develop a treatment strategy that could ultimately cure metastatic prostate cancer. Ralph and Pixie's legacy is helping us move closer to a future where metastatic prostate cancer is no longer life-limiting," says Travis.

Be a part of what comes *next*

Scan here to ensure Flinders Foundation can continue to fund exceptional research and care well into the future.

Looking ahead *with gratitude*

In 2025, we strengthened patient care, backed bold research and ensured community generosity translated into measurable impact, **thanks to you.**

As careful custodians of your support, we remain committed to transparent, impact-driven funding that aligns with health system priorities and delivers meaningful outcomes.

To our donors, partners, volunteers, clinicians and researchers—thank you. Your commitment, expertise and compassion are what make this progress possible.

Together, we are shaping a future where exceptional care and life-changing research are available to everyone, without exception.

Flinders Foundation
Exceptional care. Without exceptions.