

SAHMRI

2025
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 people's 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.

A SEGMENT FROM SAHMRI'S
INAUGURAL RECONCILIATION ACTION
PLAN (RAP) 2018-2020 ARTWORK
KARRAWIRRA PARRI BY ALLAN SUMNER.

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Welcome



We gratefully acknowledge our 2025 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
University of South Australia
Flinders University

(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)

Hello and welcome to SAHMRI's 2025 Impact Report.

Each year, we are reminded that SAHMRI's greatest strength lies in the people and communities who stand alongside us. Our work is driven by a commitment to improving health outcomes, but its true impact is made possible by the generosity, trust and shared vision of those who support our mission. This report reflects that collective effort, showcasing the many ways our community is helping us build a healthier future for all.

Philanthropy continues to shape and accelerate our work. Every gift, no matter the size, helps our researchers explore new ideas, advance projects with the greatest potential, and respond quickly to urgent health challenges in Australia and around the world. These contributions give us the flexibility to drive innovation in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and post-treatment care.

We are equally grateful for the personal connections that inspire and guide our efforts. Our donors, volunteers, consumers and advocates each bring their perspectives, experiences and stories. Their involvement ensures our research remains grounded in real-world needs, delivering measurable benefits for people across their lifespan.

Thank you for believing in the power and promise of health and medical research, and for choosing to support SAHMRI in whatever way you can. Your commitment enables us to pursue a future defined by compassion, innovation and hope. Together, we are building a legacy that will serve our local, national and international communities for generations to come.

The Hon Hieu Van Le AC
Chair, SAHMRI Board

Professor Maria Makrides
Executive Director, SAHMRI



It is my great honour to write to you as Patron of SAHMRI.

Over the past year, the Institute has continued to make a significant contribution to the health, wellbeing, and reputation of South Australia, nationally and internationally.

As a key part of the state's innovation infrastructure, SAHMRI advances scientific understanding, supports clinical practice, and improves the lives of people and communities.

Its collaborative partnerships with hospitals, universities, and communities create an environment where research is translated into practical outcomes, where evidence informs policy, and where our future scientific and medical leaders are trained.

At the same time, SAHMRI drives economic growth by attracting research investment, supporting skilled jobs, and strengthening Adelaide's standing as a national centre for biomedical innovation.

The 2025 Impact Report demonstrates how this research is translating into real-world benefits, and the difference it is making to the health and wellbeing of South Australians.

At the centre of this work are SAHMRI's four key research themes; Aboriginal Health Equity, Women and Kids, Lifelong Health, and Precision Cancer Medicine, supported by researchers working across clinical data registries, health policy and more.

In 2025, these themes supported work that strengthened culturally informed care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, improved maternal and child health, advanced understanding of ageing and chronic disease, and delivered targeted cancer research to improve treatment outcomes.

The achievements outlined in this report reflect the dedication of researchers, partners, supporters, and community members who share a commitment to improving lives through science and innovation.

I thank all those whose expertise and effort make this work possible and those in our community who provide such generous support.

SAHMRI is showing what can be achieved when vision, collaboration, and determination come together – building a healthier, stronger, and more resilient South Australia for everyone.

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC
Governor of South Australia,
and Patron of SAHMRI

Research highlights

Meet some of the people, projects and equipment behind SAHMRI's research impact

Clinical trial helping blood cancer patients thrive

Chronic myelomonocytic leukaemia (CMML) is a rare and aggressive form of blood cancer which is notoriously difficult to treat, with limited options and a low survival rate.

Now, there is hope on the horizon, with incredible interim results from a national clinical trial testing the first precision therapy for CMML, led by the head of SAHMRI's Blood Cancer Program, Professor Dan Thomas.

Early trial results show remission rates above 70%, compared with usual rates of between 7 and 16%. Many patients in the trial have remained in remission for more than 2 years.

While the trial continues to assess long-term outcomes, these promising signs suggest the new treatment has the potential to improve the outlook for people with CMML, and possibly related blood cancers.

70%
remission rate
up from 7-16%

Research Theme Leaders

Professor Deborah White

Deputy Director and
Precision Cancer Medicine
Theme Leader

Professor Peter Psaltis

Deputy Director and
Lifelong Health
Co-Theme Leader

Professor Stuart Brierley

Lifelong Health
Co-Theme Leader

Associate Professor Kim Morey

Aboriginal Health Equity
Co-Theme Leader

Professor Odette Pearson

Aboriginal Health Equity
Co-Theme Leader

Professor Alice Rumbold

SAHMRI Women and Kids
Theme Leader

Peering inside disease

The Clinical Research Imaging Centre (CRIC), a partnership between SAHMRI and Jones Radiology, features the world's best imaging facilities, including MRI, CT, and PET/CT scanners.

By day, CRIC is a regular Jones Radiology clinic serving the public. However, being based in the SAHMRI building also gives medical researchers access to the full suite of equipment. Our heart, neuroscience, cancer, spinal injury, and clinical trials teams have all carried out studies that cannot be done anywhere else.

This equipment includes the MAGNETOM Cima.X, the strongest 3T Clinical MRI scanner in the world, providing deeper, higher resolution images of inside the body. CRIC also houses the southern hemisphere's first photon counting computed tomography (PCCT) machine, which can visualise inside coronary artery plaques to identify people who are at risk of heart attack, and probe cancer cells like never before.

World-first discovery of new cell type

The Vascular Research Centre, co-led by Professor Peter Psaltis, has discovered an entirely new type of cell that has the potential to revolutionise the future of tissue repair and regeneration.

The cells, dubbed 'EndoMac progenitors', possess the unique ability to transform into two specific types of cells: endothelial cells that form blood vessels, and macrophages that are immune cells responsible for tissue repair and defence. When the team transplanted the cells into mice, wounds that wouldn't usually heal were rapidly repaired.

Researchers have been searching for cells like these for more than a century, in an effort to boost healing in conditions like diabetes, where the body struggles to repair itself properly.

"This could become a game-changer for patients suffering from chronic wounds."

Dr Sanuri Liyanage
EndoMac Researcher

Clinical trials helping make discoveries reality

When SAHMRI's researchers are ready to take their discoveries to the next level and begin human trials, they don't even need to leave the building. SAHMRI's Clinical Trials Platform (CTP) has established itself as one of Australia's leading clinical trial providers, helping to bring South Australian discoveries to the world.

Providing a full suite of services from trial design and operation, to ethics, statistical analysis and reporting support, the CTP is in high demand.

Some of the remarkable SAHMRI projects recently supported by the Clinical Trials Platform include a study examining a medicine for irritable bowel syndrome, precision medicine approaches for chronic myelomonocytic leukaemia, and a cardiac device to improve heart failure outcomes. They have also contributed to a trial exploring how the human gut influences the effectiveness of vaccines, and an international trial of a medicine aimed at reducing the physical symptoms of panic disorder.

Beyond SAHMRI's researchers, the CTP is consistently contracted by companies and research groups across Australia and around the world to support the development of new treatments and medical innovations.





Nanoparticles to suck fatty blockages out of arteries

SAHMRI researchers, led by Professor Christina Bursill, have developed groundbreaking nanoparticles that effectively detect and then “suck” away atherosclerosis fatty blockages, an approach that could transform cardiovascular care. These tiny, 20-nanometre particles are designed to target inflamed macrophages inside arterial plaque – the dangerous buildup that leads to heart attacks and strokes. Once absorbed by the cells, they reduce inflammation, remove cholesterol, and transport it safely to the liver, effectively shrinking plaque and breaking the cycle of disease.

What makes this innovation remarkable is its dual function: the nanoparticles not only treat plaque but also enable advanced imaging for early detection, combining therapy and diagnostics into a single ‘theranostic’ platform.

Preclinical trials have shown promising results, and collaborations with leading scientists in Toronto and Melbourne have already positioned this South Australian breakthrough on the global stage. With heart disease the world’s leading killer, this technology has the potential to revolutionise early detection and treatment, offering better outcomes for millions.

“These nanoparticles don’t just detect arterial plaque; they also suck it up and remove it.”

Dr Victoria Nankivell
Research Scientist, Vascular Research Centre

Shaping Australia’s research future

When SAHMRI PhD student Maxim Buckley began his studies, he didn’t think his work would include influencing government agenda. Now, combining his research and a role as Policy & Research Advisor for the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations, Maxim is driving reforms that matter – fairer stipends for PhD candidates, streamlined grant processes, and better support for students on placements.

His advocacy has informed major reviews such as the Strategic Examination of Research & Development and the NHMRC Research Strategy, and political decisions like extending the Commonwealth Prac Payment to all professions with mandatory placements.

A 2025 survey by Nature revealed Australians to be some of the happiest PhD students in the world, however they consistently reported financial concerns as a main source of stress. By bridging research and policy, Maxim is ensuring Australia’s next generation of scientists can not only survive but thrive.

27



local, national and bi-national registries

collect data from across our region, within SAHMRI's Registry Centre

Registries—the quiet research heroes

Behind every breakthrough, there's a wealth of knowledge, evidence and data. Every day, hospitals, clinics and research teams across Australia generate an ocean of health information. Within it are insights and discoveries only visible when you zoom out and look on a nationwide scale.

So how can scientists and clinicians draw on the vast swathes of information to find the right data and reveal those hidden insights? The answer is Registries.

SAHMRI's network of 27 local, national and bi-national registries collect data from across our region. They're sophisticated science banks where real-world knowledge on the effects of interventions, treatments, outcomes and patient experiences is deposited and withdrawn, providing a rich source of translational and observational research data.

It's yet another way SAHMRI supports researchers and clinicians to improve the quality of care and health outcomes for all Australians.

Research highlights

Virtual tour opens SAHMRI to all

The *Inside SAHMRI* virtual tour is transforming how people experience cutting-edge medical research. Our innovative platform offers an immersive, interactive journey through SAHMRI's world-class facilities. And even better – it's accessible from anywhere, anytime, allowing visitors to explore our facilities and laboratories, delve into the stories of discoveries, and hear researchers speak about their work and their passion.

Designed to bridge the gap between science and the community, its advanced animations and interactive elements showcase the groundbreaking work shaping the future of health. *Inside SAHMRI* has already attracted thousands of visitors globally, empowering the science-curious, patients, educators, students, and health advocates to explore without barriers.

By combining technology with storytelling, *Inside SAHMRI* is redefining outreach and setting a new standard for virtual engagement in medical research.

"We set out to create Australia's most immersive virtual tour of a medical research institute—and succeeded."

Dr Ben Lewis

Inside SAHMRI Producer



TAKE THE SAHMRI
VIRTUAL TOUR

A better way of doing things



LEFT: STEPHANIE TOOLE, MOUNT HORROCKS WINES. RIGHT: JEFFREY GROSSET, GROSSET WINES



From modest beginnings, Jeffrey Grosset and Stephanie Toole have built a Clare Valley wine legacy through Grosset Wines and Mount Horrocks Wines respectively.

The rigour, care and generosity that guides their A-Grade Certified Organic and Biodynamic winemaking also shapes their shared approach to philanthropy.

"We're constantly looking to see if there are better ways to do things," said Jeff. "My vision has always been to produce wines of uncompromising quality that really capture the essence of the pristine Clare Valley landscape."

It's underpinned by the Gaia hypothesis of the earth as a balanced, self-regulating system, named for the ancient Greek earth goddess.

Stephanie had always been quietly, generously philanthropic and as both businesses grew, they wanted to do more together to reflect the Gaia philosophy.

"I wanted to set up something that would endure, a structured environment that would outlive us and be passed to the next generation," said Jeff.

In 2009 the Grosset Gaia Foundation was established as a Private Ancillary Fund. Their initial focus was on education and health for young people, and they brought on Frances Uggias, a former private banker, to instil a deeper level of rigour to their processes. SAHMRI was one of the first recipients.

"We want to support research that is precise and innovative," said Jeff. "We were drawn to Professor Maria Makrides' work into nutrition for unborn babies as it had a practical element – it was directly influencing policy. We liked that it was going to have an impact in a short amount of time."

Over the years the Grosset Gaia Foundation has extended its generosity to causes dedicated to homelessness, domestic violence support, at-risk youth programs and scholarships for regional students.



Jeff and Stephanie's three children are now becoming involved in the Foundation and encouraged to pursue causes that are meaningful to them.

"Integrity is so important to us in how we assess potential recipients of the foundation," said Jeff. "We're ruthless in filtering to find the most worthwhile entities."

SAHMRI has continued to meet the standards of the Grosset Gaia Foundation and their support has evolved over the years, backing several research groups across the Institute including Parkinson's disease research.

"I find it surprising and disappointing that these scientists have to spend so much time applying for grants," said Stephanie. She says with the Foundation's support "they can do what they're good at, and it makes us feel good knowing the impact we can make. We've found it very rewarding."

A current focus is Associate Professor Tim Sargeant's dementia research, identifying

ways of measuring and increasing a cellular recycling process called autophagy to preserve quality of life in later years.

"We like that there's a reasonable chance of a breakthrough," said Jeff. "You can tell that Tim's close. It would be so extraordinary for the Grosset Gaia Foundation to be part of that, and to see it happen for SAHMRI."

And with two winemakers in the house, who decides which bottle they open at night?

"Stephanie buys the wines, so she decides," laughs Jeff.

"I'll have to start slowing down on the wine purchases otherwise the kids will inherit a cellar as well," said Stephanie.

Celebrating Bowen



It was a rare combination of events that bought the Oliver family to SAHMRI.

David and Christina welcomed Bowen into the world in 1993, a brother to Michael and Christopher. By age four, developmental delays prompted a lengthy series of medical investigations. A specialist clinic in their home city Sydney eventually diagnosed MPS VI, a rare, inherited genetic condition for which there were no treatments available.

"When I was told he was missing an enzyme, I just assumed there would be a tablet he could get that would fix it," said Christina. "I thought there would be an answer and there wasn't."

Through a family support group, the Olivers were contacted by a research team in Adelaide led by Professor John Hopwood, who played a major role in establishing the research agenda on which SAHMRI would be founded.

When Bowen was nine he was enrolled in a Phase 2 trial of the novel drug Naglazyme, starting a long and personal involvement between the Oliver family and the Adelaide team.

"It gave us a much deeper appreciation of the research work and dedication involved in the development of therapies, which are so critical to the lives of people like Bowen," said David.

Bowen received weekly infusions of Naglazyme for the next 11 years. The family frequently travelled to Adelaide and enjoyed visiting the

ABOVE: DAVID, CHRISTINA, CHRISTOPHER, BOWEN AND MICHAEL OLIVER.

RIGHT: DAVID AND CHRISTINA OLIVER WITH DR ILARIA PAGINI



“He had a voracious appetite for learning and sharing knowledge.”



Botanic Gardens, the Adelaide Zoo and Haigh's Chocolates, where Bowen was spoiled with tastings from the generous staff.

This therapy restored much of Bowen's health, enabling him to complete high school, obtain his driver's licence and start a Bachelor of Arts. He travelled, developed a keen interest in politics and social justice, and gave back to the Westmead Children's Hospital through peer support.

“Our family's connection with the Adelaide team continued to deepen over all this time. The success of his treatment was a beacon of light for families like ours, struggling with a diagnosis of a rare disease,” said Christina.

Bowen tragically died from an unexpected seizure at the age of 20.

To celebrate his memory, the annual Bowen Oliver Oration at SAHMRI was established.

“The oration was born out of our understanding of how critical communication of ideas is, both among researchers, and to government and the public,” said David.

After a decade of inspiring presentations by eminent Australians including researchers, journalists, science communicators and business leaders, the family evolved their support into The Bowen Oliver Communicator Award.

“Bowen had a voracious appetite for learning and, most importantly, sharing knowledge. We think it's fitting that an award named in his honour will help young scientists at SAHMRI with their quest to communicate their work to the world.”

The Award recognises scientists who are developing their skills to communicate their ideas, enabling them to continue their valuable work.

The inaugural 2025 recipient of the award was Dr Ilaria Pagini, a passionate science communicator with an international reputation for her research into chronic myeloid leukaemia.

“We're happy to do whatever we can do to help,” said David. “Research can be a very thankless area but we're so grateful for what it did for Bowen. The treatment gave him a good life.”

“There is a huge majority of people who somewhere in their lives have brushed up against the work that SAHMRI does, and it has changed their lives for the better.”

A sweet partnership



Alister and Sue Haigh have been on the journey with SAHMRI since the very beginning.

"SAHMRI wasn't even a hole in the ground when we became involved," said Alister. "Raymond Spencer (then SAHMRI's Chair) was really excited about the project; he was the driving force behind it. You couldn't help but get inspired by it. Once it was built, I said the window cleaners aren't going to like it."

While the building was under construction, Alister and Sue had the opportunity to tour the heavily reinforced bunker which would become home to South Australia's first cyclotron. This particle accelerator produces radiopharmaceuticals crucial in high-precision diagnostic imaging and targeted therapies.

"It was exciting to have a cyclotron here in Adelaide and not have to rely on one interstate," said Alister. "It's a unique benefit SAHMRI offers to South Australia."

Alister celebrated his 60th birthday in the SAHMRI auditorium and used the opportunity to introduce more of their friends to the Institute, while at the same time raising funds for research.

"We thought we could offer something a bit different for the event," said Sue. "We wanted to show more people what SAHMRI was all about."

The Haigh's family involvement with SAHMRI extends beyond the philanthropic. With a background in nursing, midwifery, infant welfare, parent education and health counselling, Sue wanted to draw on her medical background to give back in a meaningful way.

"It's important to contribute in ways that appeal to you," said Sue. "It's very well to donate money, but I was as much interested in using my skills to make a practical contribution as well."

Sue was introduced to Professor Maria Makrides, who was then leading a research project looking at the connection between omega-3 and preterm births – a project now being rolled out nationally. Sue volunteered with the trials, assisting with data entry and de-identifying case notes, until Sue's own daughter gave birth to twins.





"It's been really nice getting to know Maria and to watch her go from leading a research group to leading SAHMRI as Executive Director. I'm proud of what she's achieved," said Sue.

Alister and Sue are continuing a family tradition of philanthropy and have plans to involve the next generation of Haigh children in their giving as well.

"Dad was a long-term member of Apex, whose clubs support their local community," said Alister. "He instilled in us the importance of giving back in some form, whether it was donating chocolate products or funding."

"When we give more significant donations it's to projects that we really want to follow through and see fulfilled, it's not just writing a cheque. It's important to us to see the impact of our support."

LEFT: SUE HAIGH AND DR KAREN BEST, RIGHT: ALISTER HAIGH AND DR ED ROBINS AT SAHMRI'S CYCLOTRON



Fighting together for better health

The Hospital Research Foundation Group has been a stalwart supporter of community health and wellbeing for more than six decades.

"In 2025 alone we invested \$26.9 million into our mission, having a real impact on healthcare not only in South Australia, but nationally and internationally," said Professor Paul Flynn, Group Chief Executive Officer.

Through its 11 charities, The Hospital Research Foundation Group supports medical research and patient care in hospitals, community health initiatives and even delivers its own allied health services.

The Hospital Research Foundation Group has been one of SAHMRI's major benefactors, awarding millions of dollars in grants to a wide range of research projects including cancer, dementia, heart disease and cardiovascular health, Indigenous health, aged care, preterm birth and perinatal health.

"Throughout our history, our focus has remained consistent: strengthening our capacity to fund high-quality research, support patients and families, and ensure donor generosity is translated into measurable health impact," said Paul.

"Our partnership with SAHMRI is grounded in a shared commitment to excellence and impact. The Institute brings together world-class researchers across multiple disciplines, and that collaborative model aligns strongly with our own philosophy. The work undertaken at SAHMRI addresses some of the most pressing health issues facing Australians."

Importantly, the partnership is built on trust and alignment – ensuring that every dollar granted to SAHMRI is directed towards research with the potential to make a life-changing difference.



"We are immensely grateful for the ongoing support of The Hospital Research Foundation Group, which has generated significant research advancements at SAHMRI," said Professor Maria Makrides, Executive Director. "As a major partner we're indebted to the generosity of the Foundation and by extension, the many people who have entrusted their donations to both of our organisations."

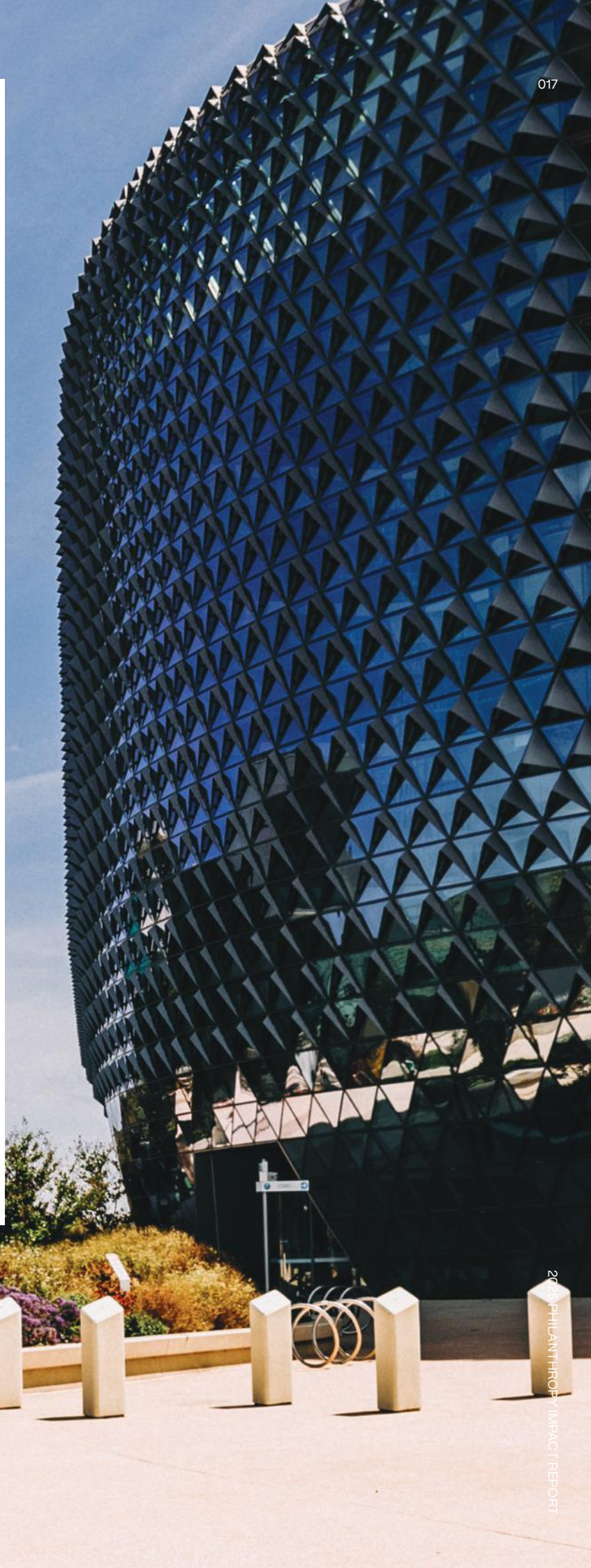
In addition to its many ongoing grants, The Hospital Research Foundation Group supported two new projects at SAHMRI in 2025. Associate Professor Thomas Sullivan was awarded a three-year fellowship to develop statistical methods to improve the design and analysis of infant nutrition trials.

Dr Emma Solly's two-year project grant will support the development of a nanoparticle delivery system capable of delivering a specific microRNA inhibitor to diabetic wounds, with the aim of restoring diabetes-impaired blood vessel growth and wound healing.

"We look for projects that combine scientific excellence with clear translational potential," said Paul. "Funding decisions are made through a competitive grants process, so only the best and brightest are successful. We're proud to fund many ongoing projects and Fellowships within SAHMRI, across our full scope from pre-birth to end-of-life, and in healthcare areas that are important to our supporters."

The Hospital Research Foundation Group is particularly drawn to projects that foster collaboration across disciplines and institutions, tackle an unmet need or comorbidities, and have the potential to influence clinical practice and patient outcomes.

"Our ultimate goal is impact – and SAHMRI has a proven track record of delivering world-class research that translates to better care," said Paul.



Country living



and a generous heart

Lin Huddleston was a power house on the land and to those who knew her.

Born in 1933 in Wilcannia as Elinor Laura Fitzgerald, she was sent to Adelaide to the then-Presbyterian Girls' College, returning to manage the family-owned Burragan Station in northwestern New South Wales when her father died.

Over 60 years on the station, Lin expanded the property to some 135,000 acres, running up to 9000 sheep and several hundred cattle.

Regarded as a very hard worker, she would tackle any tasks on the farm.

"During shearing, she would slaughter sheep to feed the shearers and wasn't afraid to get in the cattle yards at branding time," said Peter Mann, her long-term accountant and executor of her estate. "There is little doubt that she was some tough lady."

A steely and determined woman, Lin won awards for her wool exhibits and also enjoyed great success in horse racing.

She married Lawrence (Laurie) Huddleston, a station hand on the property, much to her mother's disapproval. Lin and Laurie did not have any children and lived on the farm with Lin's beloved chihuahuas until Laurie's death in 1998.

In 2007 Lin moved to a Broken Hill nursing home and when she died in 2012, a portion of her estate was used to establish the Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation.

"Lin was a private but generous woman who wanted to use her success to give back in a deeply meaningful way," said Peter.

SAHMRI has been a beneficiary of the Foundation, receiving more than \$400,000 for heart disease and cancer research. This has provided significant support to purchase new equipment, and to fund vital research projects, improving the quality of life for those living with heart disease and cancer.

A life of



family and service

Brian Burt's philanthropy has been driven by strong family values instilled from a young age.

"I come from a family of volunteers and givers," said Brian. "It was just what you did."

A retired Principal, Brian was born and raised in Clare and taught in primary schools in the Mid-North, Gawler and the Barossa. He was also a Rotarian for 49 years, supporting dozens of initiatives including polio eradication and literacy programs in Sarawak, Rwanda and India. The Goodwill Children's Villages in India were particularly special to Brian and his wife Ann and Brian has received eight Paul Harris Fellow Awards from the Rotary Foundation.

Following the tragic and unexpected death of their daughter in 1997, Brian and Ann turned their philanthropy inwards, raising their four grandchildren and supporting their son-in-law.

When Ann was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia in 2010, they began supporting cancer research. This culminated in a Light the Night event for the Leukaemia Foundation in 2015.

Sadly, Ann passed away 10 days before the event.

After attending a tour of SAHMRI in 2022 and a chance meeting with Chair the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC and his wife Lan Le OAM in the foyer afterwards, Brian decided to direct more of his attention to health and medical research.

"I was most impressed with what I learned about SAHMRI during the tour. I began sponsoring a Window of Hope in Ann's memory, and the more involved I became with SAHMRI, the more I wanted to help," said Brian.

"On top of making regular donations, I also now advocate for the Institute among my friends. I tell everyone I know that SAHMRI is helping us live better lives."

Brian has also decided to include a gift to SAHMRI in his Will. His children and grandchildren support his decision to leave a legacy to medical research and embrace the family's philanthropic tradition.

"Our family has always been included in our philanthropy and been taught that's what life is all about. I am proud of the way they are now helping organisations in their own communities."

Light and hope

Two great Australian companies have made a significant impact at SAHMRI through the vision and generosity of one man, Nicho Teng.

As Managing Director of Greaton and founder of Haneco Lighting, Nicho has proudly supported SAHMRI since 2018, giving hundreds of thousands of dollars to cancer and heart health research.

"When I first discovered SAHMRI, I was so impressed," said Nicho. "It's a great hub for health and medical research collaboration, concentrating all that knowledge and expertise in a single location."

Property development company Greaton has created visionary projects in Adelaide such as transforming the Adelaide General Post Office into a luxurious Marriott Hotel. Its reach also extends across Australia, including the landmark redevelopment of The Ribbon in Darling Harbour, housing IMAX Sydney and the W Sydney hotel.

But what most excites Nicho is Greaton's commitment to sustainability, with a focus on supporting people, fostering collaborative relationships, developing quality products and reducing environmental impact.

"It's all about returning benefit to the community and giving back," said Nicho.

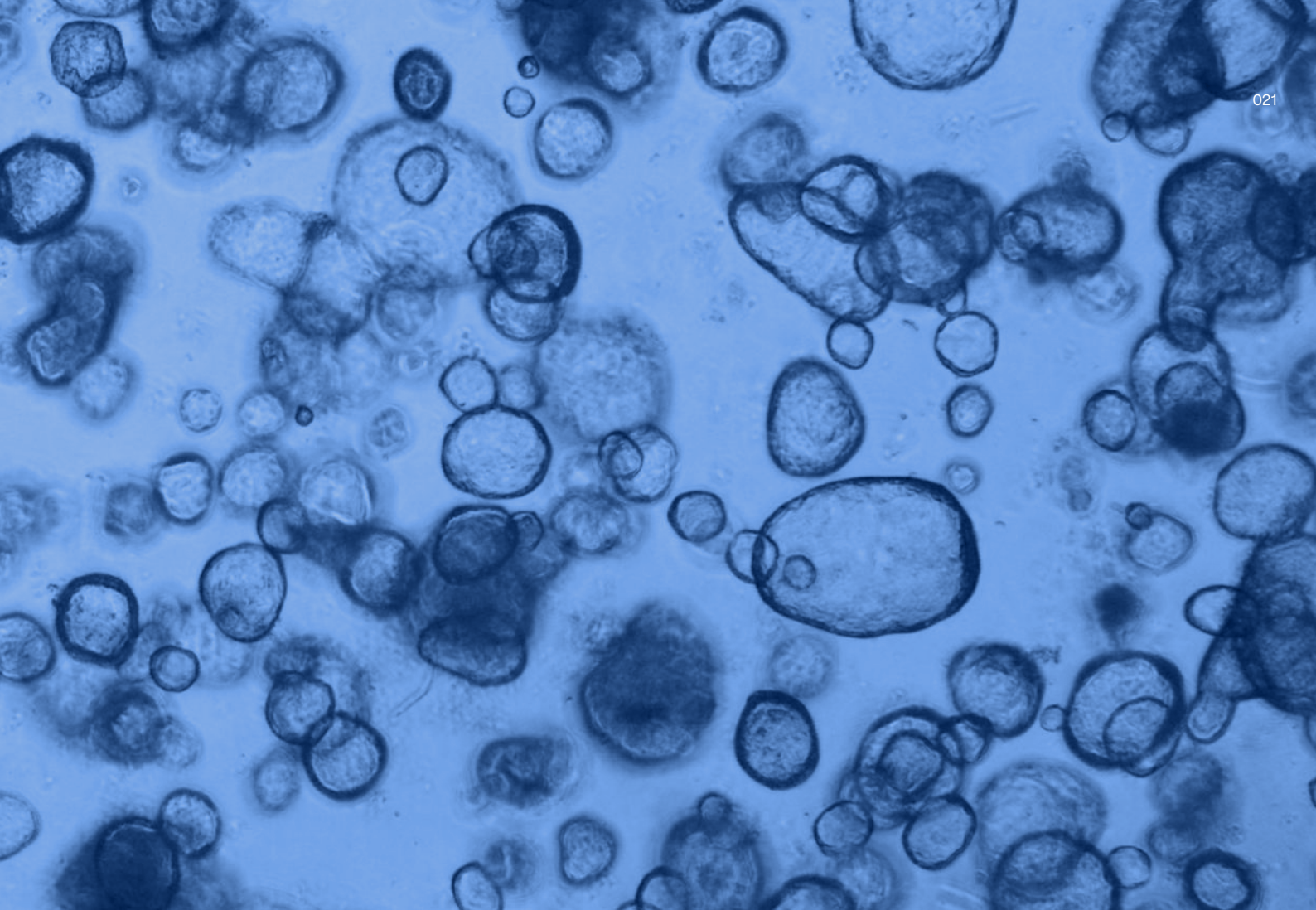
"We like supporting SAHMRI because we can see the results, and it's translating into social benefit. We're in a position to act as an example and showcase what SAHMRI does for the community. We're proud that we can help."

Nicho founded Haneco Lighting in 2011 in Adelaide to provide cutting-edge LED lighting technology, helping customers embrace sustainable practices with a strong focus on renewable energy.

Haneco's most recent support of SAHMRI has funded an innovative project using 3D human tissue 'organoids', to test for genetic changes and drug sensitivity in stomach cancer patients.

Led by Associate Professor Susan Woods, the trial is a major step towards tailored therapeutics for people whose cancers are often undiagnosed until well advanced, by which time treatment options are typically expended within a year.

Since organoids are derived from a patient's own tissue, they reflect individual genetic and molecular characteristics. They therefore offer a uniquely personalised approach that can accurately predict how an individual will respond to different treatments.



ABOVE: GASTRIC
ORGANOIDS
GROWN FROM
PATIENT TISSUE.
IMAGE CREDIT:
THARINDIE SILVA,
GUT CANCER
GROUP

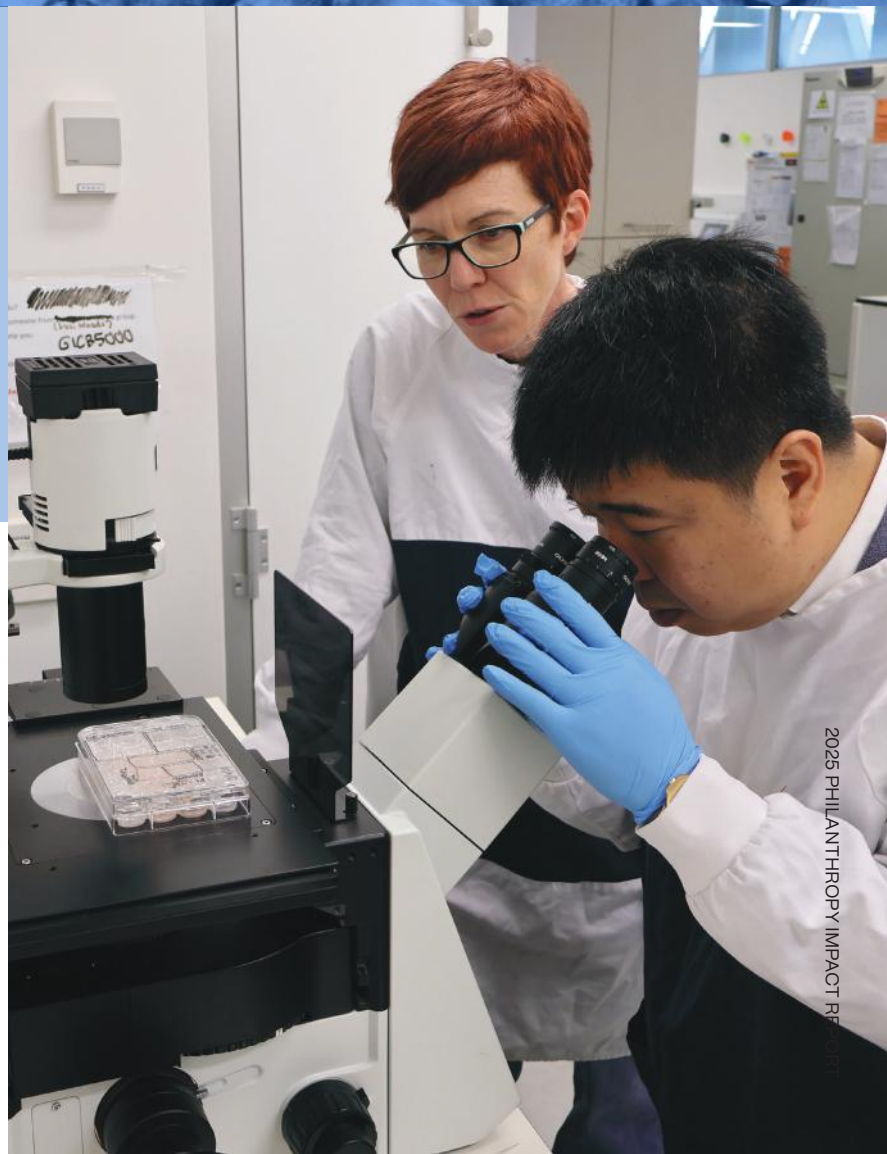
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RIGHT:
ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR
SUSAN WOODS
AND NICHU TENG

"Haneco Lighting's investment has given us a fantastic opportunity to make significant strides towards improving the lives of patients living with this terrible disease," Susan said.

And for Nicho, there's a satisfying synergy between Haneco Lighting and SAHMRI.

"We provide the light, and SAHMRI provides the hope," said Nicho.

"We all have experiences with cancer, it affects everyone. If we can share the value of what SAHMRI creates, if we can help other people see that, it's a good thing because medical research benefits everyone."



210

PhD
students

53

grants
awarded

340

research
publications

45

nationalities
amongst
SAHMRI staff

11%

of staff are Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander

3

at Board and
Executive Level

5

legacy gifts
totalling more than

\$660k

59%

of our research
leadership and

50%

of our Board
and Executive
are women

social media reach

11.6m

SAHMRI in numbers 2025

website
visitors
242.9k

750
tour
participants

5870
articles about
SAHMRI's
research

430
people attended
an event at
SAHMRI

3889
domestic

1981
international

700
donors

potential
media reach

broadcast
audience **28.1m** 200%
INCREASE
ON 2024

online
audience **4.3b**



We've
reached
into the
past
to

DIFFERENTIATED
ENDOTHELIAL-
MACROPHAGE
(ENDOMAC)
PROGENITORS
FORMING
INTRICATE,
BRANCHING,
VASCULAR
STRUCTURES.

IMAGE CREDIT: DR
SANURI LIYANAGE
AND PROFESSOR
PETER PSALTIS,
VASCULAR
RESEARCH
CENTRE, SAHMRI
AND UNIVERSITY
OF ADELAIDE



solve
Professor
Peter Psaltis
tomorrow's
health
challenges.

Looking forward, looking back

The Wyatt Trust is one of SAHMRI's largest benefactors, donating more than \$2 million in grant funding since the Institute's inception.

Dr William Wyatt (1804–1886) was a surgeon by training who went on to hold many official positions during his lifetime in Adelaide. When his children pre-deceased him and his wife Julia, he established the Trust that now bears his name, which has distributed more than \$75 million to causes across South Australia.

"Dr Wyatt's original intent to support South Australians experiencing poverty is what still drives our grant making and operations today," said Stacey Thomas, Chief Executive Officer.

When SAHMRI was established, the Wyatt Trust initially took an interest in the Resilient Futures program — a three year project aimed at building life-long resilience and wellbeing skills in young people within disadvantaged communities.

This funding was in collaboration with the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation, another major SAHMRI supporter. The partnership earned national recognition, receiving Philanthropy Australia's Best Large Grant Award in 2016.

"Supporting translation of research that would have a practical and tangible impact on South Australians was appealing to the Wyatt Trust," said Stacey. "Our partnership with the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation was born out of a desire to work with partners that shared similar values and principles, and Resilient Futures provided such an opportunity."

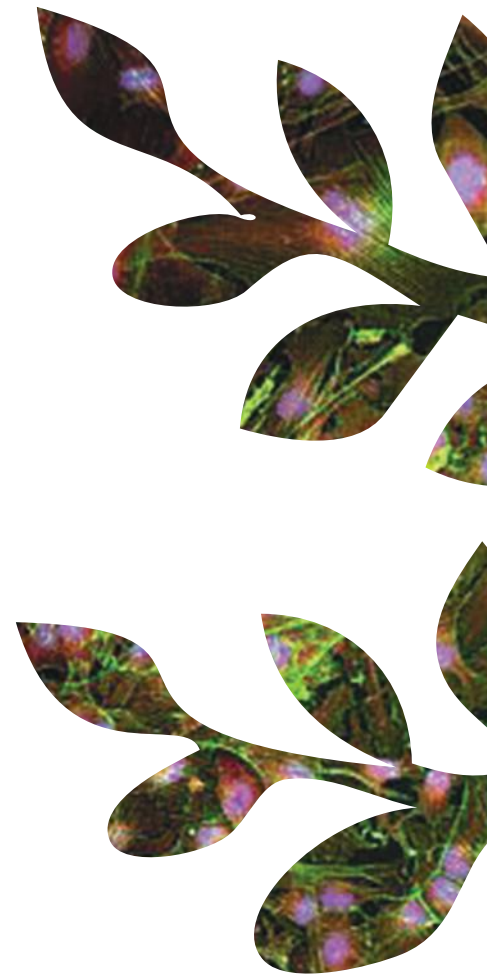
The Wyatt Trust then lent support to SAHMRI's Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity Theme. The Cultural Pathways Program was developed in response to community-identified needs for more holistic, culturally centred care addressing

social and emotional wellbeing and the social determinants of health such as housing, food security, transport, cultural connection and mental health.

The Program implemented a structured and culturally grounded framework involving goal setting, empowerment, and coordinated referral pathways to respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and support individuals.

During the 1830s Dr Wyatt was appointed the third interim protector of the Aborigines in South Australia. The protector's role was to enforce the Aboriginal Protection Act, which gave powers to forcibly remove Aboriginal people, including children, without reason and place them onto reserves or places controlled by the State. This instigated a long and chequered history between Dr Wyatt's legacy and the Aboriginal community, which in recent years has been addressed by the Wyatt Trust through a truth-telling project undertaken by Dr Jennifer Ampetyane Caruso.

"The Wyatt Trust's journey towards reconciliation is ongoing; we are constantly learning and striving to work in ways that acknowledge our past while looking at how we can do better in the future," said Stacey.





"Supporting the Cultural Pathways Program was a way for us to provide dedicated support to the Aboriginal community and SAHMRI's approach that covered all social determinants, rather than one particular health indicator."

IMAGE CREDIT: DR INUSHI DESILVA,
LABORATORY FOR HUMAN
NEUROPHYSIOLOGY & GENETICS,
SAHMRI AND FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

PROFESSOR
ODETTE
PEARSON AND
ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR
KIM MOREY



For thousands of years, Aboriginal people gathered at Adelaide's Karrawirra Parri (River Torrens) to share knowledge. Today, on those same riverbanks, SAHMRI's Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity theme leads research that centres Aboriginal knowledge and ways of doing, to improve health care not only for Aboriginal people, but for all Australians.

Meaning "house river place" in the Kaurna language, and also reflecting a Kaurna story of the Milky Way, Wardliparingga is the only dedicated Aboriginal health research unit embedded in the very conception of an Australian health and medical research institute.

Conversations on culture

This places the principles and practices of Aboriginal health research at SAHMRI's core. Leading its charge are two proud Aboriginal women – Associate Professor Kim Morey and Professor Odette Pearson.

For Kim, an Anmatyerre and Eastern Arrernte woman recognised for her work in chronic disease and policy, and Odette, an Eastern Kuku Yalanji and Torres Strait Islander woman with experience in health services research, full Aboriginal involvement is central to creating culturally safe and accessible hospitals, clinics, and aged care services.

"For anybody, the healthcare system is big and difficult to navigate. There are unfamiliar environments, many different and unconnected services and programs, interpersonal challenges like good communication between healthcare providers and patients – it can all be very foreign," said Odette.

"Even more so for Aboriginal people, because the Australian health system was not built to provide culturally appropriate models of care. It means that healthcare is not always accessible, safe, or meets the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people."

"The number one way we achieve improved models of care is by actually involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their development," she said.

Successful health models are those incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' views on social determinants of health, social and emotional wellbeing, and cultural determinants of health, through their involvement and decision making.

Involving community at every level of research benefits more than Aboriginal groups, said Odette. "The community centred principles that we use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research are beneficial for all people."

"It means that research is responding to a community priority, is informed by lived experiences, can develop models of care or generate evidence responsive to community needs and aspirations. And that translates into more benefit and richer outcomes."

Kim added that their work has directly transformed the health system. "Our evidence has been used to develop models of care in hospitals and primary care. It's informed workforce models, with an increase in Aboriginal health practitioners in chronic health conditions affecting Aboriginal populations. And it's prompted investment in workforce training so all practitioners can respond more effectively to people of different cultures."

"Having an Aboriginal workforce is vitally important to the delivery of healthcare and to leading research, bringing a unique lived experience, knowledge and communication to the work that you can't get otherwise."

Where do they see the most significant impact in the future? Kim answered without hesitation, "I'd be investing in our next generation, because that's where we'll get the biggest impact. Working across systems – health, housing and education."

Philanthropic support continues to boost Wardliparingga's research, with donors including LK Law, Fay Fuller Foundation, Wyatt Trust, Intract Australia, Peter Kittle Toyota, McMahon Services and CMV Foundation Insasmuch.

Kim and Odette, and the workforce they lead, are rewriting the narrative of health equity. By elevating Aboriginal leadership and designing inclusive systems, they are ensuring every Australian – regardless of background – can access safe, effective care. And with continued support, Wardliparingga will keep driving systemic change, ensuring health equity becomes a reality for all.

The best start in life

Babies across Australia will be more likely to be born at full term and healthier thanks to SAHMRI research into omega-3 fatty acids.

Every year, thousands of Australian families experience preterm birth. Babies born early miss vital time to develop and face lengthy hospital stays, higher risks of complications and, tragically, death.

SAHMRI Executive Director Professor Maria Makrides has devoted decades of research to antenatal care. Leading a team including Professor Robert Gibson, Associate Professor Lisa Yelland and Dr Karen Best, they found that omega-3 supplements can significantly reduce the risk of preterm birth in women with low omega-3 levels.

Yet, until recently, there was no pathway in the health system to identify women low in omega-3.

SAHMRI's world-first Omega-3 Test-and-Treat Program, led by Dr Best (Pregnancy and Newborn Health Program Lead) and delivered in partnership with SA Pathology, is changing that.

Since 2021, free omega-3 testing combined with tailored supplementation advice has been embedded into routine antenatal care in South Australia, translating research science into everyday practice.

More than 33,000 pregnant women have been tested to December 2025, with 17 per cent identified as having low omega-3 receiving targeted supplementation advice to help protect their babies.

Confirmation that the Omega-3 Test-and-Treat Program is feasible and ready for national rollout was published by the team in the Medical Journal of Australia in 2025.

"While the Test-and-Treat program is now part of routine care here in South Australia, we've also

seen strong interest in the program nationally and internationally," said Dr Best.

David Cox, SA Pathology's Directorate Manager, Genetics and Molecular Pathology, said, "This collaboration reflects SA Pathology's commitment to providing high-quality, evidence-based diagnostic services that support maternal health. We want to increase access to the Program by engaging with health and research organisations across Australia and would like to see it added to the Medicare Benefits Schedule."

The tangible benefits of the South Australian program have been a catalyst for the Program's national expansion. Associate Professor Ecushla Linedale (Director of Translation and Implementation) is leading the national scale-up efforts and strengthening translation pathways to support wider adoption.

"Our vision is clear – to give every baby the best start in life by making omega-3 testing and advice a standard part of maternity care Australia-wide," she said.

For new mum Amy Christie, the program made a personal difference.

"I consider myself very healthy but was unaware of any risks of being low in omega-3," said Amy. "My doctor checked my omega-3 levels as part of my routine pregnancy blood testing. When I received the results, I found out I was low and started supplementing."

Baby Amber was born healthy and full-term at the end of 2025.

"I am so grateful I was able to learn about the importance of omega-3 in pregnancy," said Amy.

As well as the crucial partnership with SA Pathology, the Omega-3 Test-and-Treat Program has received support from other organisations including Health Translation SA, the Thyne Reid Foundation and The Hospital Research Foundation Group.



ABOVE: DR KAREN BEST, RIGHT: AMY CHRISTIE WITH BABY AMBER.

Rachel's party



Rachel Krieg certainly knew how to throw a party.

As a co-owner of The Howling Owl gin bar and the Rhino Room performance venue, Rachel was well known throughout Adelaide's comedy and performing arts scene.

"Rachel lived many lives," said her husband Mick. "She found herself going from one role to another and she's always had an affinity for music and the performing arts. She came up with the name for the Howling Owl and wanted it to be a safe space for everyone."

Rachel was very generous in spirit, advocating for marginalised people and the LGBTQ+ community. She supported many causes and hosted events to raise money for homeless people, refugees and Aboriginal communities.

When Rachel was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019 it came as a huge surprise, as she had no symptoms. After an operation, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, Rachel went into remission.

Unfortunately, the cancer returned in 2023.

"The doctors told us early on that they no longer talk about cancer being cured, they talk about being in remission instead," said Mick.

"That was quite a surprise to us. One of the biggest things I learned is that catching the primary cancer in time is critically important. Once it spreads you can only slow it down."

Rachel and Mick became interested in SAHMRI's research into immunotherapy, which helped Rachel in the later stages of her treatment.

"We found out they had been treating the wrong type of cancer. If Rachel had immunotherapy sooner, it might have made more of a difference," said Mick. "That's what made us so passionate about SAHMRI's research."

When Rachel died in February 2025, aged just 50, the performing arts scene rallied to find a unique and fitting way to celebrate her life.

"Adelaide Comedy's final Rhino Room Late Show during the Adelaide Fringe usually fell around Rachel's birthday, and she would always turn that into her birthday celebrations. Craig Egan had the great idea for that show to become Rachel's Party," said Mick.

In March 2025 the Late Show sold out quickly. The community generously donated the ticket sales, artist fees and proceeds from the bar, along with additional donations from patrons, to support cancer research at SAHMRI.

"The first event was amazing," said Mick. "As a group of friends and family it was a great opportunity to get together. I think when you've had a loss like that, people want to give – they want to feel like they're doing something."

In 2025 donations in Rachel's memory exceeded \$13,500. Rachel's Party will return to the 2026 Adelaide Fringe in March and is planned to be an annual event.

"I'm looking forward to the one in 2026," said Mick. "I think Rachel would have been very proud of what we've done. She would have been slightly embarrassed; she didn't like to be in the limelight but deep down she would have been extremely glad of raising more awareness of cancer. She wanted people to talk about it more, it would have meant a lot to her."

"Rachel was always trying to help people. She was the most caring person I ever met, and that's how most people would have remembered her."

LEFT: RACHEL KRIEG, PHOTO SUPPLIED BY MICK KRIEG

RIGHT: RACHEL'S PARTY ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS EDSEER



The power of the vote



ABOVE:
DR JULIAN
CAROSI. LEFT:
KATHRYN AND
IAN SARGENT

Now in its second year, the Discovery Circle has grown in members and impact, playing an increasingly important role in advancing SAHMRI's early and mid-career researchers and their life-changing work.

Discovery Circle members' annual gift of \$5000 engages them directly with SAHMRI's rising stars. At an annual presentation evening members hear from a host of talented emerging researchers and vote on which of their projects receives a \$100,000 award to boost their efforts.

2025 winner Dr Julian Carosi is using the funding to create advanced cell models as he targets harmful protein accumulations in the brain that contribute to dementia.

"It was a privilege to share my research vision with the Discovery Circle donors, to connect with them and discuss their thoughtful questions about dementia," Julian said.

"I'm deeply honoured and grateful to the donors and thrilled about the new knowledge this award will help unlock."

Thanks to the rise in generous donors joining the Discovery Circle, runners up were awarded \$20,000 for their projects too. The grateful recipients were Dr Georgina Irish for her project on increasing donor utilisation and improving allocation for kidney transplant recipients, and Dr Naranie Shanmuganathan who is seeking to unravel the mechanisms involved in blast phase chronic myeloid leukaemia.

Founding Discovery Circle members Ian and Kathryn Sargent first took an interest in SAHMRI after reading about blood cancer research and being introduced to the Philanthropy and Strategic Engagement team through a friend. From there, it was an easy decision to join the Discovery Circle.

"We value having a voice in the research we support," said Kathryn. "It is both empowering and engaging. I particularly enjoy hearing from the early career researchers, whose intelligence and passion are truly impressive."

"We appreciate staying informed about the depth and sophistication of health and medical research in South Australia," said Ian. "We are very proud that SAHMRI's work has helped so many people around the world."

After gaining further insight into SAHMRI's research Ian and Kathryn have expanded their giving to support the Precision Cancer Medicine team and their work in blood cancer research. They plan to continue as Discovery Circle members for the foreseeable future, for the unique opportunity to meet with and directly support early-career researchers, who can struggle to pursue their brilliant ideas because of very low grant funding rates.

"We feel fortunate to be able to contribute, and it is deeply rewarding," said Kathryn. "The sense of fulfilment that comes from giving is incredibly satisfying."

"The challenge is choosing where to cast our Discovery Circle vote, because every researcher is so deserving," said Ian. "The quality and importance of their work makes every decision a difficult one."



Supporting SAHMRI's mission

The Public Engagement and Philanthropy (PEP) Committee is comprised of experienced, talented and connected members of the public who are passionate about championing SAHMRI's mission to create healthier futures.



Kathryn House AM DSJ, Chair

Kathryn House is a SAHMRI Board Member, Chair of the PEP Committee and founding Discovery Circle member, who contributes fundraising and donor engagement experience to support life-changing research. A community leader and philanthropist, she's passionate about connecting people with causes that create real and lasting change, believing philanthropy plays a powerful role in accelerating impact.

"I was drawn to support SAHMRI after learning about its world-class research and its ability to turn discovery into real health outcomes. With family and friends who have faced serious health challenges, I have seen how lives are affected when solutions are not yet available."

Wee Chan

Wee Chan is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants with more than 30 years' experience advising businesses and families on taxation, governance and strategy. He served for 16 years on the Board of the Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation and brings skills in financial supervision, risk, and long-term planning to the PEP Committee.

"I'm motivated to support SAHMRI because of its role in advancing health and medical research. Like many others, my family have benefited from advances in medicine and health science. Serving on the PEP Committee is a practical way to give back and help strengthen SAHMRI's impact."



Scott Mosen

Scott Mosen is Head of Business Development at Life Ed Australia (Healthy Harold), amassing more than 25 years of leadership experience across retail and not-for-profit sectors, including Guide Dogs SA/NT and the National Heart Foundation of Australia. He has served as a board member of the Leaders Institute of South Australia, committee member of the Adelaide Business Collective, and is a proud Fellow of the Governor's Leadership Foundation.

"I'm passionate about purpose-driven organisations and delivering measurable impact through strategic leadership. I joined the PEP Committee to support SAHMRI's mission of advancing health and medical research, driven to create a healthier future for the community."





Peter Joy

Peter Joy is a communications and business strategy expert of more than 40 years. He has been Managing Director of international agency Young & Rubicam, founder and owner of his own successful business JAM, Executive Chair of Brand South Australia, Chair of Barossa Australia, Chair of Rundle Mall Management and served on several other prominent local boards.

"I believe that translating the benefits of medical research is not just about physical outcomes but also about clearly communicating those benefits and ensuring that the South Australian community understands and values the importance of the work being undertaken by SAHMRI."

Karen Hayes AM DSJ

With some three decades of governance experience, Karen Hayes champions inclusive leadership. She specialises in strengthening the board-executive relationship and amplifying women's leadership, health and education agendas. Most recently CEO of Guide Dogs Victoria, she was a founding member of Breast Cancer Network Australia, a co-founder of the Australian chapter of the International Women's Forum, and a Director of the Melbourne Football Club.

"My passion lies in ensuring South Australia remains a leader in medical research, delivering impactful solutions worldwide. I'm dedicated to using my skills to enhance our marketing and philanthropy initiatives, driving our commitment to a healthier future for all."



Dr Evelyn Yap OAM, OSJ

Dr Evelyn Yap brings more than 30 years of medical, governance and community leadership to the PEP Committee. A Partner at Benson Radiology, with senior appointments at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital and BreastScreen SA, she is a Fellow of RANZCR and the Australasian Association of Nuclear Medicine Specialists. Her board experience in philanthropy, community engagement and multicultural advocacy informs her commitment to building public trust, donor engagement and research with meaningful impact.

"Through my clinical work and lived experience, I understand the hope individuals and families place in medical research for earlier detection and better treatments. SAHMRI is a beacon of hope for everyone."



Healthier Futures Thought Leadership Series

In 2025 the Healthier Futures Thought Leadership Series brought together some of SAHMRI's brightest minds and most passionate advocates for health and medical research.

Across a series of breakfasts, lunches and lectures guests learned about perinatal health, reframing pain, making healthier brains, advances in cancer treatments, and the machines working at light speed to drive SAHMRI's research.



"Another excellent gathering, thank you all. So much intelligence and devotion and worthwhile research! And such youth!"

Beverley Harvey

SAHMRI in the community

Science Alive!

SAHMRI sponsored the Health Science Zone at Science Alive! which saw more than 22,000 young people, their families and their teachers visit the Adelaide Showground over three days.



"At SAHMRI, our research is ultimately about improving lives. Translating complex science into something real and relatable is at the heart of what we do—because when people can see and understand the work, they can also feel its purpose."

Dr Ilaria Pagani, blood cancer researcher and Science Alive! volunteer



"I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to you and your team for one of the most interesting, informative and enlightening visits ever undertaken by our group. Congratulations on being world leaders in your research and achievements."

Bruce Phillip, Lockleys
Combined Probus Club

Tours of SAHMRI

Almost 750 people visited SAHMRI in person in 2025 to tour the building, getting up close to the research labs, facilities and the scientists behind the scenes.

Community Visits

SAHMRI researchers and staff made several community visits to present their latest research to various clubs and interest groups.

"Professor Stuart Brierley's enthusiasm with his research and the world-first results he is achieving are truly worthy and encouraging. Who would have thought that lizard saliva is a worthy healer in people with chronic pain? There were so many questions afterwards and we all appreciated SAHMRI's time with us."

Colin Hentschke, President of the Glynde
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the 595 donors who gave
other amounts in 2025.**

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

**We also recognise the
ongoing legacy of the
14 donors whose bequests
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We acknowledge and thank the supporters who have made significant contributions of \$25,000+ to SAHMRI.

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The impact of giving

We thank all of our supporters who contribute to SAHMRI's groundbreaking research each year. This includes donors and partners, volunteers, consumer groups, clinical trial participants, and our Board and committees. Every one of you reflects the values of philanthropy that help us create healthier futures together. Thank you.

There are many opportunities to support SAHMRI. If you would like to make a positive impact on health and medical research our team look forward to hearing from you.

Make a Gift to Research

As a not-for-profit institute and registered charity, donations to SAHMRI are tax-deductible. Gifts of any size are appreciated and support our researchers in their mission to solve the world's greatest health challenges.

Regular Giving

Research takes time and resources, and your ongoing support will help our scientists to build momentum to achieve their next breakthrough. A regular monthly donation can play a vital role in funding the tools and supplies crucial to our researchers.

Giving in Memory

Sponsor one of SAHMRI's iconic Windows of Hope virtually from just \$20 a month, in memory or celebration of a loved one. We also gratefully accept donations in lieu of gifts at memorials, directly benefiting life-changing research.

Gifts in Wills

One of the most significant ways you can help find treatments and cures for today's greatest health challenges is to leave a gift to SAHMRI in your Will. A bequest to research is a gift of good health for future generations to come.

Discovery Circle

The Discovery Circle supports innovative projects by early and mid-career SAHMRI researchers. With an annual donation from \$5000, members can vote at an annual event to determine which researcher receives the cumulative funding.

Corporate Partnerships

Our partnership programs connect your organisation with our research community and drive critical discoveries. Tailored engagement opportunities are available at different levels including corporate sponsorship and workplace giving initiatives.

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