

New funding to shape the future of childhood cancer research

At the Telethon Kids Cancer Centre, we have always believed in the power of collaboration and community support. We have recently celebrated a milestone that wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering generosity of the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCCRF) and your supporters. Your dedication has not only fuelled groundbreaking research but has also helped us secure one of Western Australia's biggest-ever philanthropic donations.

The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation will contribute a transformative \$135.5 million over the next decade to advance our mission of improving outcomes for children with cancer. This significant funding will build on the vital work being undertaken at the Cancer Centre and Perth Children's Hospital. Additionally, Perth Children's Hospital Foundation (PCHF) will make a multi-million dollar contribution over the next five years, with an option to extend, and The University of Western Australia will add up to \$9 million to this collaborative effort.

This donation allows us to expand clinical trials, advance research into safer and more effective treatments, close the gap in cancer outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and undertake exciting new collaborative laboratory research. Most importantly, it ensures that children in Western Australia can access world-class treatment right here at home.

Professor Nick Gottardo, a Head at the Cancer Centre and Head of Oncology and Haematology at Perth Children's Hospital, said this amazing donation will build on the world-leading research we are already undertaking and ensure kids in WA can be treated right here in WA.

"It will advance our pre-clinical discovery pipeline to significantly improve outcomes for kids yet to be diagnosed with cancer, to discover more effective and less toxic treatments that will be adopted worldwide, and to improve the lives of kids impacted by cancer globally," said Professor Gottardo.

This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the foundation laid by ALCCRF over the years. Your support has been instrumental in helping us establish a research environment that shows a proven model and attracts significant further investment. Your support has contributed to over 324 peer-reviewed journal articles, 77 students and trainees, 37 honours students, 4 masters students, 22 PhD students, and countless research projects dedicated to identifying more effective and safer cancer therapies, notably immunotherapies.

Your generosity has funded some of these projects, including our work to develop new immunotherapies for childhood cancer patients through world first child-specific laboratory models. Because these models more accurately represent childhood cancers, we have used these to test new immunotherapies across a range of cancer types.

We can now identify immunotherapies that will specifically work in children, who unlike adults, still have a developing immune system. By having these bespoke child-specific laboratory cancer models, we can identify and prioritise the best treatments to take forward into clinical trials, providing the shortest possible path to the clinic to benefit children with cancer. We are incredibly excited by the discoveries enabled to date by ALCCRF.

The journey to ensuring all kids with cancer survive and thrive is far from over. The need for ongoing support remains critical as we continue to push the boundaries of childhood cancer research. Together, we are not just funding research; we are changing lives. We look forward to continuing this important work alongside you and achieving even greater successes in the future.

Thank you to ALCCRF and your amazing supporters for your ongoing commitment to making a difference in the lives of children with cancer.

Associate Professor Joost Lesterhuis
Head, WA Kids Cancer Centre

Emma Stone
General Manager, WA Kids Cancer Centre



L-R: Emma Stone, Professor Nick Gottardo, Elizabeth Perron, Professor Jonathon Carapetis, Associate Professor Joost Lesterhuis.

WA Kids Cancer Centre

You may have noticed that we look a little different. Now known as The Kids Research Institute Australia, the Telethon Kids Institute has undergone a change of name and logo as it launches the strategic plan for the next decade to achieve the vision of happy, healthy kids.

The Cancer Centre will no longer have “Telethon” in our name but will continue our strong relationship. As part of The Kids Research Institute Australia, we – the WA Kids Cancer Centre – will continue our groundbreaking work to ensure all kids with cancer survive and thrive.