

# vitality



**Thanking  
you for your  
support**

**New donor  
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announced**

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kindness from  
a dedicated  
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physical for  
Olivia's Walk  
for Wellness**

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# Thank you!

Thank you for your generous support in 2024, which included:

Over  
**\$130,000**

from the Christmas Appeal for our Spinal Unit

**\$3.7 million**  
from bequests

**\$123,429**

from the Tax Appeal for our Eating Disorder Unit

**\$54,746**

raised from the Dry July campaign



Over  
**\$1.1 million**

raised from the Olivia's Walk for Wellness campaign

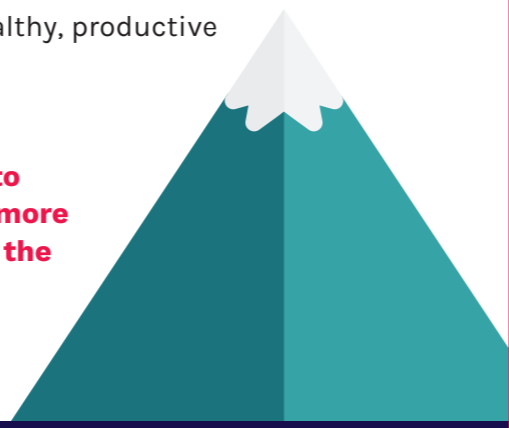
## An Austin Health first Three Peaks Trek 2025

**This November, staff and supporters of the Austin Health community will embark on the incredible Three Peaks Trek, summiting Mt Timbertop, Mt Buller and Mt Stirling over three unforgettable days.**

This adventure isn't just about breathtaking views, it's about making a difference. You can support those undertaking the trek to raise vital funds towards Austin Health's mission of helping people live healthy, productive and fulfilled lives.



Scan to learn more about the trek.



## A message from Cameron Goodyear



Last year our generous community of donors contributed \$8 million to Austin Health. Through your incredible support we've been able to invest in new equipment, research, health services and support for patients and staff.

It's thanks to donor support that we now offer a machine perfusion program for organ transplants. This program helped us perform more life-saving transplants than ever before in 2023-24.

We've seen fantastic generosity in our appeals throughout the year, including our recent Christmas Appeal to enhance the Spinal Unit for patients and their loved ones. Find out how your donations are helping patients with life-changing spinal injuries on page 7.

In this edition of Vitality, we also look back at the success of last year's Olivia's Walk for Wellness and we thank two remarkable volunteers for more than 100 years of service to Austin Health.

Thank you for your ongoing support - you really do make a difference to patients, staff, families and carers every year.

Your generosity is helping shape Austin Health and realise our vision for the future through exceptional care, discovery and learning. I look forward to continuing to share our journey with you.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cameron Goodyear'.

Cameron Goodyear  
Chief Executive Officer (Interim)

# A centre for transplantation excellence made possible by your support

Building on our track record for excellence in transplantation, Austin Health is currently developing the Australian Centre for Transplantation Excellence and Research (ACTER). Thousands of Australians wait for organ transplants each year and sadly many never find a suitable donor. One of ACTER's goals is to improve access and equity in transplants, while uniting our transplant streams, research and education under one roof.

A project like this requires great investment and we are so grateful that more than \$2.5 million in philanthropic commitments have been made for ACTER-related projects so far.



## Sharing transplant advancements

In 2024 ACTER hosted several events with leading international guest speakers sharing advancements in the field of transplantation, such as the Advanced Liver Disease Symposium, the Cytomegalovirus and Transplant Infectious Diseases Symposium and the Smallwood Oration.

In October, a four-day program of lectures and panels culminated in the prestigious Smallwood Oration, which was delivered by Professor of Transplantation Chris Watson from Cambridge University, on the past, present and future of organ preservation.

All the Smallwood Oration events included patient perspectives, which was a particular highlight in a truly inspiring week and reflects ACTER's commitment to ensuring patients inform the transplant care we deliver.

We thank the many donors and supporters who joined us for events in 2024 and have donated to transplantation services over the years.



## A second chance at life

When a patient has a successful organ transplant, they can go from being near death to making a remarkable recovery within a short period of time. This miraculous experience was described by one patient during the Smallwood Oration – liver transplant recipient Jessica Chappell.

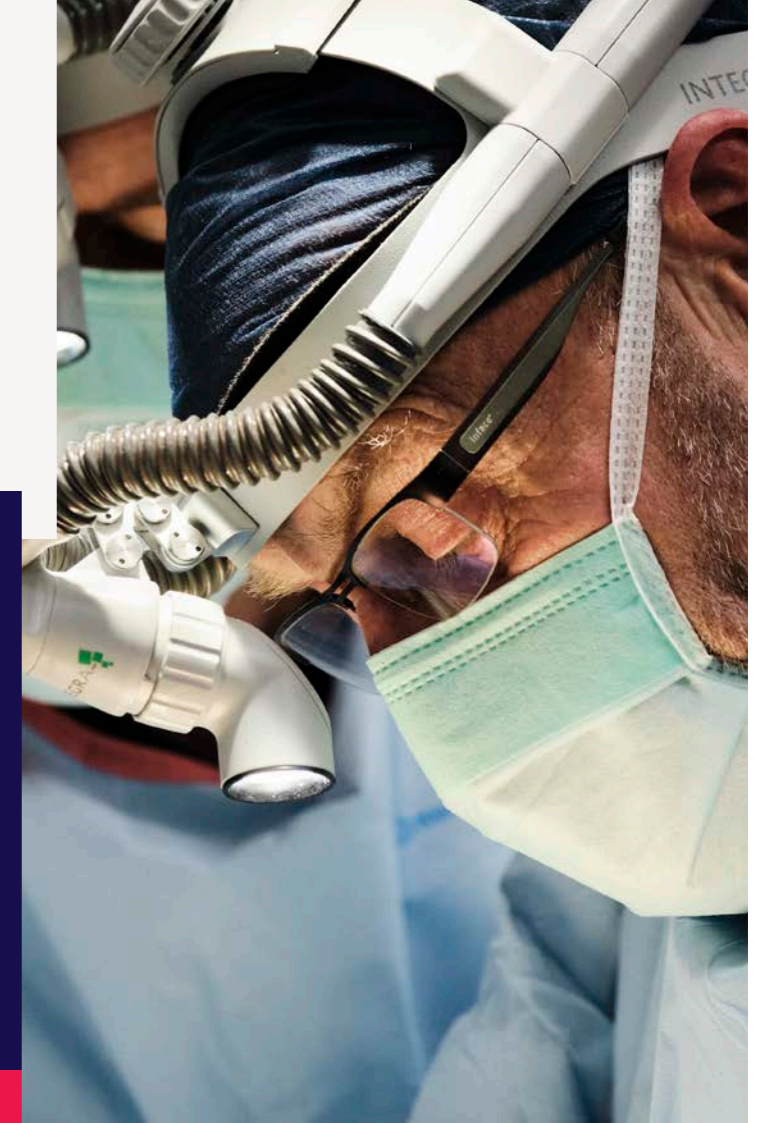
*"The day I received the call – more than 400 days after being waitlisted – the joy was bittersweet. For me to live, someone else had to die. Somewhere in Victoria, while my family was praying I would survive surgery, another family was mourning their loved one."*

*The miracle of transplantation is not just about one life saved; it's about entire families, entire communities touched by the selfless gift of donation."*

Jessica Chappell



Scan to listen to our Talking Transplant podcast, which includes an interview with Jessica (episode five).



# 30 years of kindness: Robert Charles Bulley

The late Robert Charles Bulley OAM (13 October 1924 – 29 September 2019) was a humble, yet extraordinary supporter of Austin Health, leaving a legacy that continues to make an impact. Over three decades Robert's generosity has supported the hospital in countless ways, guided by his deep desire to help others.

Robert's first gift to Austin Health in 1993 started a 30-year partnership of giving which continues today through the Robert C Bulley Charitable Fund, a fund that Robert established. The fund has contributed approximately \$300,000 to meet critical needs identified by the hospital. His generosity has supported a variety of initiatives, including lifesaving equipment and expanded programs to benefit patients and staff alike.

Awarded a posthumous Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to the community, Robert's legacy is a testament to his remarkable kindness. While modest about his contributions, Robert's giving was always purposeful. His fund continues to honour his values, with its latest commitment being an expanded staff wellbeing program for the Emergency Department.

Robert's story reminds us of the profound impact one person can have. His legacy of generosity will continue to benefit the community for years to come, ensuring his kindness lives on in the lives of those he helped.



Rick Horvat and Mercedes Welsh from the Robert C Bulley Charitable Fund (pictured middle) recently visited and met with Vincent Ramos (right) and Anna Mascitti (left) from Austin Health. They were provided a plaque in appreciation of their dedication and support.

# Christmas Appeal for our spinal patients

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters the 2024 Christmas Appeal for Austin Health was a resounding success! This year the appeal focused on improving the Spinal Unit, 3 North, creating new spaces for patients with life-changing spinal injuries.

We are so grateful for every donation, big or small, that helped make this transformation possible. Together, we've taken another step in delivering the best possible care to those who need it most.

Thank you for your support and for helping us create brighter experiences for patients and their loved ones.

## Messages from donors during the appeal

*"My family and I try to help different causes as much as we can. Every family is touched by some kind of health challenges, sooner or later."*

Dragana

*"Regular happy visitor! Staff are always helpful and friendly."*

Sheila

*"I want to assist the recovery of patients."*

Ian

*"In appreciation of the care I received in the past."*

Vivian

Your kindness and compassion raised over \$130,000, which will go directly towards creating a patient lounge and outdoor retreat. These enhancements will make a real difference for patients and their families, providing spaces that are connected to nature to promote healing and hope during long stays in hospital.



Spinal patient Corey Hogan (with his mum Shelley) appeared in the Christmas Appeal. Corey spent almost eight months at Austin Health recovering from an accident which resulted in quadriplegia in 2024.

# Women of West Heidelberg go above and beyond



The Women of West Heidelberg, a vibrant group based at Banyule Community Health, have shown extraordinary generosity by raising \$5,000 for the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre (ONJ Centre).

This heartfelt contribution, raised over several years through market stalls selling crafts and other handmade treasures, honours the deep connection many members have with the ONJ Centre.

*“For over a decade, we have come together not just to support one another but to make a difference in our community,” says Wendy Ogden, a proud member of the group. “In that time, we have donated more than \$10,000 to various causes close to our hearts.”*

The Women of West Heidelberg is more than a fundraising group.

*“Our mission is to create a safe, welcoming and healthy space for women to connect, to celebrate their achievements, and to give back to others,” Wendy explains.*

With many members having received care at the ONJ Centre or worked at Austin Health, this donation carries a profound personal significance. It is a tribute to the past, present, and future members and patients, reflecting the group’s dedication to compassion and community.

Thank you for your heartfelt support.

*Pictured left to right: Wendy Ogden and Jenny de Domenico from the Women of West Heidelberg present a donation to Lara McMaster and Penelope Sanderson from Austin Health, alongside Mick Geary (Banyule Community Health CEO).*



# Getting physical for Olivia’s Walk for Wellness

The 2024 Olivia’s Walk for Wellness was a spectacular celebration of fun, fitness and togetherness, inspired by the lyrics of Dame Olivia Newton-John’s 1981 hit, ‘Physical’. With neon colours, leg warmers and retro aerobics vibes, participants embraced the theme, turning the event into a joyful, energising throwback.

We are incredibly thankful for everyone who took part in Olivia’s Walk for Wellness, supporting patients at the ONJ Centre. Together, we raised over \$1.1 million! This incredible achievement ensures patients can continue to access free, evidence-based wellness therapies like exercise physiology, art therapy and massage.



*Olivia’s niece Tottie Goldsmith, husband John Easterling and daughter Chloe Lattanzi at the starting line.*

# Celebrating Mary and her amazing gift



Last year Mary Schofield generously gave a bequest to the ONJ Centre. Her gift of close to \$1 million will make an impact across a number of projects, including a major advanced surgical device with the capacity to deliver precise, minimally invasive surgery.

A former ONJ patient, Mary began her journey with cancer in 2012 and sadly passed away in 2023. Strong willed and determined, she was dedicated to supporting cancer causes and found Olivia Newton-John's work with the ONJ Centre a particular inspiration.

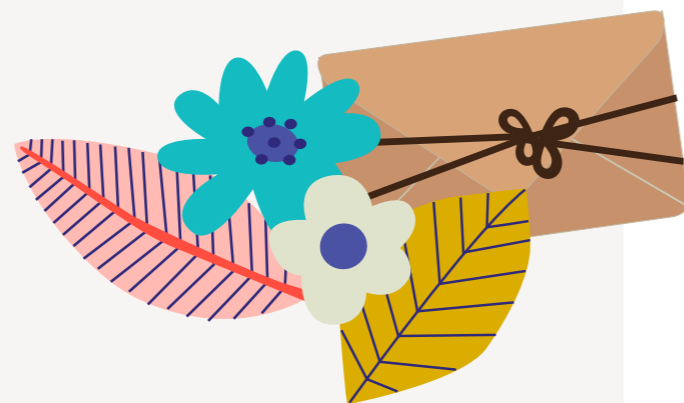
We thank Mary, and all of those who have contributed vital philanthropic support to this important project that will shape a brighter future for our patients.

*"I cannot tell you how grateful I am for the support of our donors, and how much of a difference this will make. They have made a huge impact here for the betterment of the community."*

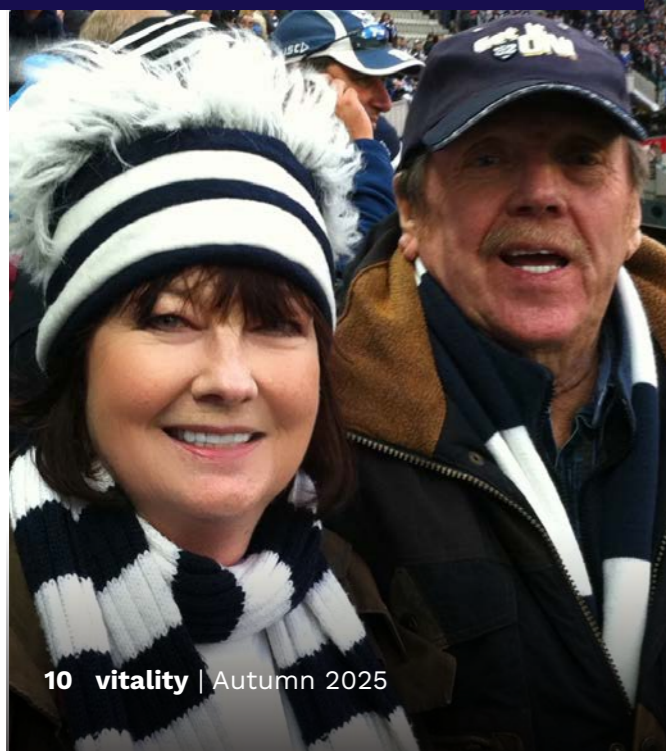
Professor Damien Bolton,  
Head of Urology

We are deeply grateful to be able to celebrate Mary's joyful and generous spirit and acknowledge her legacy. Remembering Austin Health in your will is a simple and powerful act.

**Reach out to us for more information on what your gift can accomplish by emailing [giftsinwill@austin.org.au](mailto:giftsinwill@austin.org.au) or calling 03 9496 5753. Every gift in every will makes a difference.**



Alan Currie, a friend of 50 years, says: *"Mary and husband Stuart loved travel, classic cars, the Rolling Stones, their business Silver Classics and the mighty Geelong Cats - indeed in Mary's case, all cats, especially her adored Missy. I know Mary was pleased to offer the Austin her support in the form of a bequest."*



# Thanking two extraordinary volunteers: 100 years of service

Yvonne Dunt and Claire Weaver, two extraordinary volunteers from Austin Health's Diamond Creek Opportunity Shop, were inducted into the Victorian Public Healthcare Volunteer Honour Roll on 19 November 2024. This prestigious recognition honours their combined 101 years of dedicated service, embodying the spirit of community and selflessness.

The Diamond Creek Auxiliary was established in 1973 and became active in local fundraising activities. After opening the Diamond Creek Op Shop in 1980, its growing success prompted the auxiliary to focus efforts on the shop. The auxiliary (under the Friends of Austin Health) has raised a total of over \$4 million to support the hospital - a remarkable achievement made possible by dedicated volunteers like Yvonne and Claire.

Yvonne, a cornerstone of the auxiliary since it began, has served in many leadership roles, including president and secretary. Claire is known for her unwavering commitment after 50 years of service, taking two buses to attend her volunteer shifts. The auxiliary raised \$86 in its first year, compared to \$247,355 in 2022-23 to support Austin Health. These growing funds have enabled the purchase of essential medical equipment improving patient care, such as a perfusion machine, a surgical microscope and anaesthetic machines.

To celebrate their achievements, Yvonne and Claire received bouquets crafted with foliage from Austin Health's campus, thoughtfully designed by horticultural therapist Steven Wells. Their induction into the honour roll highlights the profound role of volunteers in strengthening public healthcare and supporting the community. We thank them for their extraordinary service and generosity.



Top: Claire Weaver  
Above: Yvonne Dunt

# Visit Austin Gifts today

Proceeds from all purchases are donated to Austin Health – so your gift will keep on giving.



Level 3  
Harold Stokes  
Building,  
Austin Hospital



[austin.org.au/  
giftshop](https://austin.org.au/giftshop)



@austingifts



\*Offer ends at midnight on 1 April 2025. Offer of 10% off applies to all items online with discount applied at checkout.

## Stay in touch!

You can contact us directly on (03) 9496 5753 or [foundation@austin.org.au](mailto:foundation@austin.org.au). Follow us on social media to learn more about what is happening at Austin Health.



@austinhealth\_

@onjcancercentre



Austin Health

Olivia Newton-John  
Cancer Wellness &  
Research Centre



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