

# Auricle

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# Fun facts

Here's a snapshot of the Public Affairs and Communications team's output since the beginning of the pandemic (1 March 2020 through 7 May 2021):



MEDIA INQUIRIES – 604

PHOTOS TAKEN – 14,504

FACEBOOK REACH -  
4,070,626

VIDEOS PRODUCED - 323

POSTERS AND SIGNAGE  
PRODUCED – 155

MEMOS AND CIRCULARS  
PRODUCED - 159

Cover: Lance Collins, who has MND, is able to enjoy meals with his family again, thanks to the assistance of his Obi Robotic Feeder. Image: Geelong Advertiser.



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Auricle is edited and produced by Barwon Health's Public Affairs and Communications Department.



## Message from the Chief Executive

Now that we're midway through the year, it's instructive and interesting to look back at what has changed compared to the first six months of 2020. The pandemic continues to devastate some communities around the world, and we have seen in Victoria how quickly we can both adjust to "normal" life again, only to return to the restrictions that are required during a significant outbreak.

Of course, there has also been a lot happening outside of COVID-19. Here at University Hospital Geelong, Building B has opened two of the newly refurbished operating theatres to create more capacity for elective surgery, while the Swanston Centre redevelopment is progressing well, with new inpatient rooms, a revamped therapy space and new courtyard now complete. Construction has also started on our new Kids Rehabilitation Centre at

the McKellar Centre, which is a fantastic community-funded project supported by the Barwon Health Foundation that will make a difference to families across the Barwon South West region. The community will be pleased to see the recent State Government budget announcements for Barwon Health Surf Coast Community Hospital and the expansion of paediatric services in the Emergency Department. The Barwon Women's and Children's also continues to progress with detailed planning well advanced.

In response to the Royal Commission into Mental Health, it's been encouraging to see significant investment in mental health that will make our services more accessible in the community. This includes the recent announcement for a new five -storey Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Services Community Hub in central Geelong, which will help people in our region get better access to community based treatment and support. The Hub will complement our new Mental Health Hospital in the Home program, as well as the new acute mental health unit at the McKellar Centre that is now in the construction planning phase.

A huge part of our success in keeping COVID-19 out of Geelong has been the fantastic efforts of the community and all of our healthcare workers across the Barwon South West region. We are now working with rural health services, the Primary Health Network and other community providers on the rollout

of the vaccination program with carefully planned logistics, administration, promotions and services. After just over three months of the rollout, the Barwon South West Public Health Unit has administered more than 80,000 vaccine doses, with more than 43,000 at the former Ford site in just two months. It was a huge effort to transform the Norlane site into a community vaccination hub, and it's very rewarding to see hundreds of people vaccinated there each day.

We have been fortunate to experience a taste of "normal" life again; however, the past month or so has shown how quickly this virus can spread and impact our community. The latest restrictions have taken a toll on everyone in the community and I want to specifically thank our staff who have shown agility and resilience in the way they have responded to the changes.

I am enormously proud of the way Barwon Health has responded to the recent challenges, whether it is keeping our aged care residents safe, responding to more people seeking care in the emergency department, or delivering more babies. I appreciate all the work and commitment of our staff in responding to our community.

Frances Diver | Chief Executive

## INTERNS LEARN THE ROPES OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT

*Three management interns have joined Barwon Health for a six-month program aimed to develop future leaders for the health system.*

The Australasian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM) program offers clinicians and graduates the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the health sector, as well as skills relevant to health management.

Intern Harrison Thorn said the program was about introducing people into the management side of healthcare, equipping them as future health managers.

"We're doing work with Barwon Health's strategy planning team, but other interns around the state are working in service provision, risk, policy, and other departments that cover the business side of healthcare," he said.

"We have received a great level of support and we're lucky to be able to work with members of the executive and staff across the organisation, both clinical and non-clinical."

Barwon Health Strategy and Planning adviser Simon Montgomery said the ACHSM interns had made meaningful contributions during their time at Barwon Health.



*Health management interns Lucy Bertino, Sabrina Pilla and Harrison Thorn have joined Barwon Health for six months.*

"It's a program that not only benefits the interns, but is also a great investment in developing future leaders in the health system and brings support and new perspectives across a range of our projects," he said.



## GETTING GREENER

*Biodegradable denture cups, paper pill cups and sugar cane injection trays are Barwon Health's latest move to become more environmentally-friendly.*

The recent switch to these eco-friendly products will cut back on significant waste, with 1.5 million plastic pill cups previously used every year.

Barwon Health's latest strategic plan has outlined the importance

of finding sustainable options that reduce the organisation's carbon footprint, resulting in new products, including the sugar cane injection trays that are now being used for the COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

Other initiatives have also adapted a "reduce, reuse and recycle" approach, such as removing single use medicine cups, and patients bringing their own overnight bag instead of receiving a disposable thermoplastic patient clothing bag.



*Speech pathologists Alice Stewart, Amy Tischhauser, and Courtney Skontra with the new endoscopy equipment.*

## CUTTING SPEECH PATHOLOGY WAITING TIMES

*The arrival of new endoscopy equipment will dramatically reduce the waiting list for speech pathology services at Barwon Health.*

Speech pathologist Courtney Skontra said the new endoscopy stack and two videoscopes would play a pivotal role in service expansion.

"The new equipment will see significant growth in endoscopy-based assessment and treatment of swallowing, voice and some upper airway conditions, such as paradoxical vocal fold movement, in both inpatient and outpatient settings," she said.

Credentialed senior speech pathologists will advance their scope of practice, dramatically reducing the waiting times for these services, while (Ear, Nose and Throat service) ENT continues to support the services for medical opinion and follow-up as required.

## SATISFACTION GUARANTEED WITH CLINICAL ENGINEERING

*Congratulations to Clinical Engineering for receiving ISO 9001 re-certification following an independent audit for high quality and standards.*

The department is responsible for managing a wide range of medical devices and technologies throughout Barwon Health sites, its affiliates and other medical sites in Geelong and surrounding areas.

This re-certification achievement confirms a commitment to quality, customer

satisfaction, compliance to regulatory requirements, managing resources, employee engagement and continuous improvement.

This marks 19 years since first being issued with the certification and an average customer satisfaction score of 9.7 for the past 10 years.



## NEW STAFFCARE WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICE

*Barwon Health's StaffCare Women's Health service is now operating on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week.*

Led by Dr Margaret Somerville, all aspects of women's health are catered for in the service, including family planning, pre-pregnancy counselling, pregnancy advice, and menopause advice. Dr Somerville has previously worked at St Vincent's Hospital and the Royal Women's Hospital

before moving to Geelong and entering general practice in 1994. To book an appointment, Barwon Health employees should book via HotDoc ([https:// www.hotdoc.com.au/medical-centres/geelong-VIC-3220/barwon-health-staff-care/doctors](https://www.hotdoc.com.au/medical-centres/geelong-VIC-3220/barwon-health-staff-care/doctors)). Alternatively, staff can email [staff.care@barwonhealth.org.au](mailto:staff.care@barwonhealth.org.au), or phone 4215 3220.

*Pictured: StaffCare Women's Health service GP Dr Margaret Somerville.*

## INTRODUCING THE BARWON BIOBANK AND DATA LAKE

*A new initiative is developing a system for healthcare providers and researchers to analyse data and samples, while protecting consumer privacy.*

Vast quantities of data and biological samples are collected on a daily basis at Barwon Health and researchers have identified that these samples could be used to continually improve services, as well as to discover new treatment and prevention strategies.

The Barwon Health and Deakin University partnership has launched the initiative called the Barwon Biobank and Data Lake.

The Data Lake will link a request for research consent to a highly-protected environment in which people with approved projects can work on (but never remove) de-identified data and samples. Researchers are now seeking input from the community to help design and implement the Data Lake. To get involved, email [research@barwonhealth.org.au](mailto:research@barwonhealth.org.au).

## NEW LASER MACHINE FOR UROLOGY SURGERIES

*Barwon Health has secured a new state-of-the-art laser machine that can vaporise painful kidney stones and support the treatment of men with prostate conditions.*

The Lumenis MOSES 2.0 laser device is the first of its kind in any Australian hospital and will use the very latest medical laser technology to manage about 350 urology patients each year.

The equipment's main benefit is a cost effective approach that allows for quicker operations and reduced recovery time in hospital, leading to shorter waiting lists, according to Barwon Health's urological surgery director Richard Grills.

Mr Grills said the device had equipped the region to better manage patients with urinary tract calculi and benign prostatic disease.

"The fact that University Hospital Geelong has made this technology available to public health patients demonstrates Barwon Health's commitment to innovation and having the best equipment for our patients," he said.



*Director of urological surgery Richard Grills with the Lumenis MOSES 2.0 laser device.*

"On top of offering a quicker surgical procedure, this device will allow patients with urinary tract stones to spend less time in hospital and it reduces the need for follow-up procedures.

"Patients requiring surgery for urinary problems related to non-cancerous prostate disease will be able to be treated in less time, often with day stay procedures, with results that will reduce bleeding and the risk of blood transfusion. Ultimately, this means less time away from work and family, and an earlier return to normal activities."



The BMI team has trained to use Barwon Health's new spectral detector-based CT scanner.

*The scanner delivers valuable clinical insights such as improved tissue characterisation and visualisation for confident disease management.*

## NEW CT SCANNER

*A new CT scanner is offering new insight to help diagnose diseases using technology not available anywhere else in Australia.*

Last year, Barwon Health received \$1.5 million Medical Equipment Replacement Program funding from the Victorian State Government to replace a CT scanner at University Hospital Geelong.

The new system, a Philips ICON Elite Spectral CT scanner, was installed and began operating on 23 March.

As the world's first spectral detector-based CT, the scanner delivers valuable clinical insights such as improved tissue characterisation and visualisation for confident disease management.

In addition to the availability of spectral analysis on every CT scan, the scanner also features:

- Bariatric capability up to 295kg to provide CT imaging access to a larger patient population
- Reduced patient dose and improved diagnostic accuracy and image quality
- Advanced technology and additional support to inpatient and outpatient scanning across Barwon Health
- Support to emergency imaging in event of the Emergency Department CT scanner failure (eg. stroke imaging - perfusion, trauma CT, cardiac CT and advanced interventional CT)
- Reliability and timely scanning of acute patients and to maintain essential imaging services to the region 24/7.

## New tech brings back family meal time

*A robotic feeding device designed for people with physical challenges has transformed meal times for Highton resident Lance Collins.*

Lance, 74, has Motor Neurone Disease and is unable to use his arms or hands, which made him reliant on his wife Cecile and healthcare workers for support in everyday tasks.

The retired bank clerk, taxi driver and remedial masseur was referred to Barwon Health's Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Clinic in March 2020, requiring assisted-living equipment and help with dressing, showering, cooking and eating.

Dining experiences for Lance had become increasingly difficult, until receiving an Obi Feeding Device from Motor Neurone Disease Victoria this year.

The breakthrough technology combines cutting-edge robotics and intuitive feet controls to give independence during meals at home and in public.

Lance said learning how to use the device had been simple, with a robotic arm selecting food from one of four compartments and delivering it to him on a spoon.

"I can control it with two foot pads and it's actually pretty easy to use," he said.

"It's good to pack up and take away, so we can go out for meals with a bit of planning ahead.

"It's a good experience and a bit of an eye-opener for everyone else to see that somebody with a constraint like I have can find this technical equipment to solve a problem."

Lance said his wife, who has congenital blindness, had been feeding him first while dining, but the robot had brought back the simple joy of sharing a meal together.



**The breakthrough technology combines cutting-edge robotics and intuitive feet controls to give independence during meals at home and in public.**

*Lance Collins, who has MND, is able to enjoy meals with his family again, thanks to the assistance of his Obi Robotic Feeder. Image: Geelong Advertiser.*

"If you're going out and sitting down for a meal, you don't want to watch someone else eat first, so it's given us back part of normal life to be able to sit down as a family, eat together, and talk about our day."

He said his occupational therapy at Barwon Health had helped determine the Obi Robotic Feeder as the most suitable device for his needs, along with other home-assistance items.

"There are so many technical advantages for people these days and when we first looked into it, we found Obi was the best of the options for people who can't use their arms," he said.

"I'm the one who has to live with MND, but my occupational therapist has the experience to know what might assist me in the household.

"The saying is 'there's no cure, but there's care', and I flip it around to say that I'm going to die from this, but there's so much care available that the care I'm receiving is almost a cure."

Lance was the face of MND Victoria's Christmas Appeal last year, with the fundraising contributing towards the purchase of the Obi Robotic Device.



# ONCOLOGY REHABILITATION

*Barwon Health's Oncology Rehabilitation service provides prehabilitation, during-treatment interventions, and rehabilitation for people with a cancer diagnosis.*

Running from the Sunrise Centre at GHMBA Stadium, the service offers specialist intervention with cancer patients, from their diagnosis all the way through treatment, and during their recovery. The team includes physiotherapists, exercise physiologists, dietitians, clinical psychologists and neuropsychologists, speech pathology, audiology, as well as occupational therapy and social work within Barwon Health.

An eight-week oncology rehabilitation program was launched in October 2018 and received the Barwon Health Best Care Safe Care internal quality award, with growth from 24 annual referrals to 40 each month.

Senior physiotherapist and oncology rehabilitation care co-ordinator Catherine Williams said people who were physically and emotionally prepared for treatment had shown to recover faster.

"Our rehab program is able to get people back to what they're passionate about in life, with a huge sense of support from our team and from each other in a group environment," she said.



*Oncology rehabilitation care co-ordinator Catherine Williams*

"We're seeing people well-prepared for surgery and cancer treatments because of our program, and people tend to recover faster too.

"We get very meaningful feedback from our patients on the enormous impact our service has at such a terrible time in their lives, and this is what drives my sense of purpose and wanting this service to be the best of its kind.

"It's really important to us that as an organisation we provide a consumer-driven service that is about more than just their tumour or disease."

## ONCOLOGY REHAB AND TELEHEALTH



Oncology rehab sessions are run from the Sunrise Centre, but a significant number of interventions are now delivered to patients in their homes using virtual care options such as telehealth.

Distance and time are two reasons patients sometimes chose to complete sessions via telehealth. Other reasons include symptom burden, compromised immunity and challenges with body confidence relating to surgery that can be disfiguring.

In the past 12 months, clinicians at the Sunrise Centre have completed more than 1415 telehealth appointments with a 90 per cent attendance rate. The Oncology Rehabilitation team is delivering eight group sessions via telehealth each week and hopes to expand in the future.



*Physiotherapist April Chiu runs a telehealth session with patients.*





*“I’ve done the hard work, but the Sunrise Centre staff pushed me and knew what I needed, so I give them credit for it.”*

*Sandra Cox took part in a prehabilitation program at the Sunrise Centre, working with a multi-disciplinary team to improve her fitness prior to major surgery.*

Drysdale woman Sandra Cox credits her post-cancer recovery to the Sunrise Centre staff who knew just how hard to push her while training to improve her fitness.

In April, Sandra had surgery for cancer of the gastro-oesophageal junction and was told she needed to improve her fitness level to have the best possible recovery from her procedure.

While she had an active lifestyle previously, she said neoadjuvant chemo-radiation had taken a toll on her body.

“After four weeks of the prehabilitation program at the Sunrise Centre, the anaesthetist couldn’t believe how much I had improved,” she said.

“They said the fitter I am, the better I am going to handle the surgery. I’m home right now and should still be in hospital. It’s usually a 16-day stay, but I was home after 11 days.

“I’ve done the hard work, but the Sunrise Centre staff pushed me and knew what I needed, so I give them credit for it.

“I’ve got an exercise bike at home, but it’s completely different to a controlled environment where they can push you and they know how hard to push you so you have a safety net.”

Sandra said she planned to return to the Sunrise Centre program for her post-surgery rehabilitation.

“I’m going back to concentrate on different needs, with an eight-week program to get me back up for day to day living.

“Being able to get back to work is my next goal and the Sunrise Centre will be a big part of that.

“I think there should be more people pushed to go there because there’s so much they can do for you.”



# ROYAL COMMISSION SETS PATH FOR NEW APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH

*After two years, and more than 8000 submissions from service users, carers, service providers and policy makers, the final report of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System has been tabled in parliament. The Commission was set a significant task – to recommend a design for a new mental health system that will meet the diverse needs of the Victorian community.*

**STEVE MOYLAN** | BARWON HEALTH CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL SERVICES

It is important to remember where we are coming from. Since the closure of asylums in the 1980s and 1990s, the design of our mental health care system has remained more or less the same. However, during this period our understanding of the causes of and contributions to poor mental health has grown enormously. At the same time, our community and broader society has become more comfortable discussing, debating and advocating for, our mental health needs. It is therefore not surprising there is a mismatch between what the community is seeking, and what the system delivers.

The Royal Commission has brought forward a new design for how our mental health

system should work. The Commission has looked at the whole story, considering how we should promote good mental health and connect people to options for self-help, all the way through to providing complex sophisticated and responsive care for those most unwell.

There are significant challenges to achieving this goal. There is an adage that today's problems result from yesterday's solutions. Therefore, it is critical we take a long-term view of system reform.

For a long time, it has been an unfortunate reality that mental health care has been delivered without sufficient attention to how

our whole system operates together. There are many reasons for this, including funding constraints and divided responsibilities across Federal and State governments. But for us to deliver a better system, it is critical that reforms drive a whole of system approach to delivering services, bringing services together in a way that makes it simple and easy for anyone to know how to access the right care when they need it. This may be as simple as working towards unifying the front door to mental health services in our region – so that all people know where and how to reach out for help at times of need.

*“It will be important to consider the needs of different groups who have traditionally been less well served. More than ever, we recognise there is no “one size fits all” approach to care.”*

It will be important to consider the needs of different groups who have traditionally been less well served. More than ever, we recognise there is no “one size fits all” approach to care, and we need to work proactively and in partnership with communities such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, the LGBTIQ+ community, and our homeless populations to understand how services can best provide what they need. Some of these groups have faced discrimination in healthcare systems, while others have fallen through the cracks of a complex system that has struggled to keep up its demand. This needs to change.

In concert with these changes to the system, it is vital we embrace prevention and promotion of positive social determinants of mental health. No amount of treatment from a mental health system can alleviate the impact that poverty, homelessness, a lack of job opportunities, a degraded environment or decline in our social fabric has on a person.

Despite all these challenges, I feel there is great room for optimism about what can



Steve Moylan

be achieved for our whole community. The Premier has already committed to implementing all the recommendations of the report, and it's promising to note there has already been a strong investment in mental health from the most recent budget, with funding for more beds and programs. At Barwon Health, this includes new inpatient care options such as a Hospital in the Home program and McKellar Inpatient Unit, integration with new primary care options including the Head to Help Hub in Norlane, the development of new community mental health hubs, and expansion to our deeply committed and compassionate team.

As we go on this journey as a community together, it is important to note that impacts of mental illness will continue to be felt in our community. Our challenge, as an entire community, will be to continue working together – as one – to grow a society that supports positive mental health for all. Our challenge, as mental health services, is to develop a system that ensures people receive the care they need, when they need it, in a way that helps them feel better.

There has never been a better time to make a difference to the mental health of our community.

A photograph of an ICU nurse, Nigel Bellears, wearing a stethoscope and a plaid shirt, leaning over a patient lying in a hospital bed. The patient is connected to an ECMO machine, with blue tubes visible. In the background, there are several medical monitors displaying vital signs and waveforms. The scene is set in a clinical environment with white walls and medical equipment.

# Milestone for innovative ICU services

*ICU nurse Nigel Bellears checks on a patient being treated using the ECMO machine.*

*It has been 10 years since Barwon Health's Intensive Care Unit embarked on two ambitious clinical programs that have potentially saved many lives.*

After the tragic death of a child in April 2011, two clinical programs were launched to improve critical care services for Barwon Health patients, including a paediatric critical care service and the an extracorporeal membrane oxygenator "ECMO" service. Both were unique at the time, with no other non-tertiary Childrens Hospital PICU in Victoria, and no regional ECMO service in Australia.

Intensive Care specialist Dr Neil Orford, who has had a key role in the programs, said both were now established, successful, and recognised nationally as templates of new ECMO and PICU service establishment.

"Most importantly, both services have allowed critically ill people from Geelong and South Western Victoria to receive the highest quality care in their region, when they are most vulnerable," he said.

"In the 10-years from 2001 to 2011 we admitted 105 children. In the subsequent 10-years, we have admitted 1219 children, but there have been no deaths since Easter 2011.

"In the 10-years from 2001 to 2011, we provided ECMO for seven patients, and since then, we've been able to provide ECMO for 124 patients.

"Both programs have demonstrated what we can achieve when we work together, and what is required to achieve major changes in practice. This includes multiple departments, executive, and disciplines collaborating, listening, and developing a shared goal.

**"In the 10-years from 2001 to 2011 we admitted 105 children. In the subsequent 10-years, we have admitted 1219.**

**"In the 10-years from 2001 to 2011, we provided ECMO for seven patients, and since then, we've been able to provide ECMO for 124 patients."**

"There has been an understanding that a commitment of years was required, and developing trust, celebrating small wins, and learning and adapting when it was difficult. We have built relationships with tertiary high volume providers and government, and we have been transparent and accountable for our results.

"On top of this, we listened to our patients, we have shared their success, and eased their suffering."



*Building B theatre staff Katrina Shepherd and Tony Ma prep Shania for her elective surgery procedure.*

## POCKET HEARTS FOR BEREAVED FAMILIES TO HOLD CLOSE

*Barwon Health maternity staff are making crafts to support the one in four families who experience pregnancy loss.*

Clinical midwife specialist Edwina McLean said the crochet, felt, and knitted pocket-sized hearts were given to bereaved families after pregnancy loss to provide an extra connection to their “angel babies”.

“In maternity, we are trying to make their experience that little bit more bearable,” she said.

“Through treasured memory books, photographs and hand and footprints, we try to create as many memories with their baby as possible for them to cherish.

“If we can give these crafted hearts to parents while they lay with their baby, we hope they can keep them in their pockets or a special place at home to hold and feel close to baby again.

“We invite volunteers, staff and families to create and donate these hearts so we have enough to provide multiple to the family. Felt, crochet or knitted hearts are all appreciated and can be dropped off to the maternity hub or birth suite.”

If you or someone you know would like to create some hearts, please contact [edwinajmclean@outlook.com](mailto:edwinajmclean@outlook.com) for the patterns.



*Some of the crafted pocket hearts that are given to bereaved families.*

## New theatres a healthy boost for Geelong patients

*Two additional operating theatres at Barwon Health’s University Hospital Geelong Building B have created additional capacity for elective surgery in a huge boost for the region.*

Completed in March, the project was made possible with funding from the Victorian Department of Health and the combined efforts of Barwon Health’s Operating Services and Building Services.

With Geelong experiencing strong population growth, operating services manager Elyse MacDonald said the additional theatres would help address demand for elective surgery, particularly those deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We expect to perform around 3300 surgeries per annum initially, growing that number in the future,” she said.

“The project involved refurbishing theatres previously used at the old Geelong Private Hospital and reconfiguring the space to include first and second stage recovery, reception, change rooms, staff rooms, equipment stores, offices and an education space.

“Our initial focus will be on elective gynaecological surgery, along with urology and general surgery.”

A significant recruitment campaign for the refurbished theatres netted 30 new staff, including several who have relocated to the region from Melbourne and more still being recruited for.

The new theatres opened on Monday 29 March and are operational between 7am and 8pm, four days per week.

# Ford site transforms into community vaccination hub

*Ford's former home at Norlane has transformed from the centre of Australia's motor industry into the COVID-19 vaccination hub that will service the majority of the Geelong and Surf Coast region.*

Managed and operated by Barwon Health, Geelong's community vaccination hub has the capacity to provide vaccines to more than 10,000 people a week.

Barwon Health worked with Ford Motors site developers Pelligra and local contractors to fit out the site over three weeks, including improved disability access, carpeted floors, new bathroom facilities, resurfaced parking, privacy screens, consultation spaces, and general refurbishment.

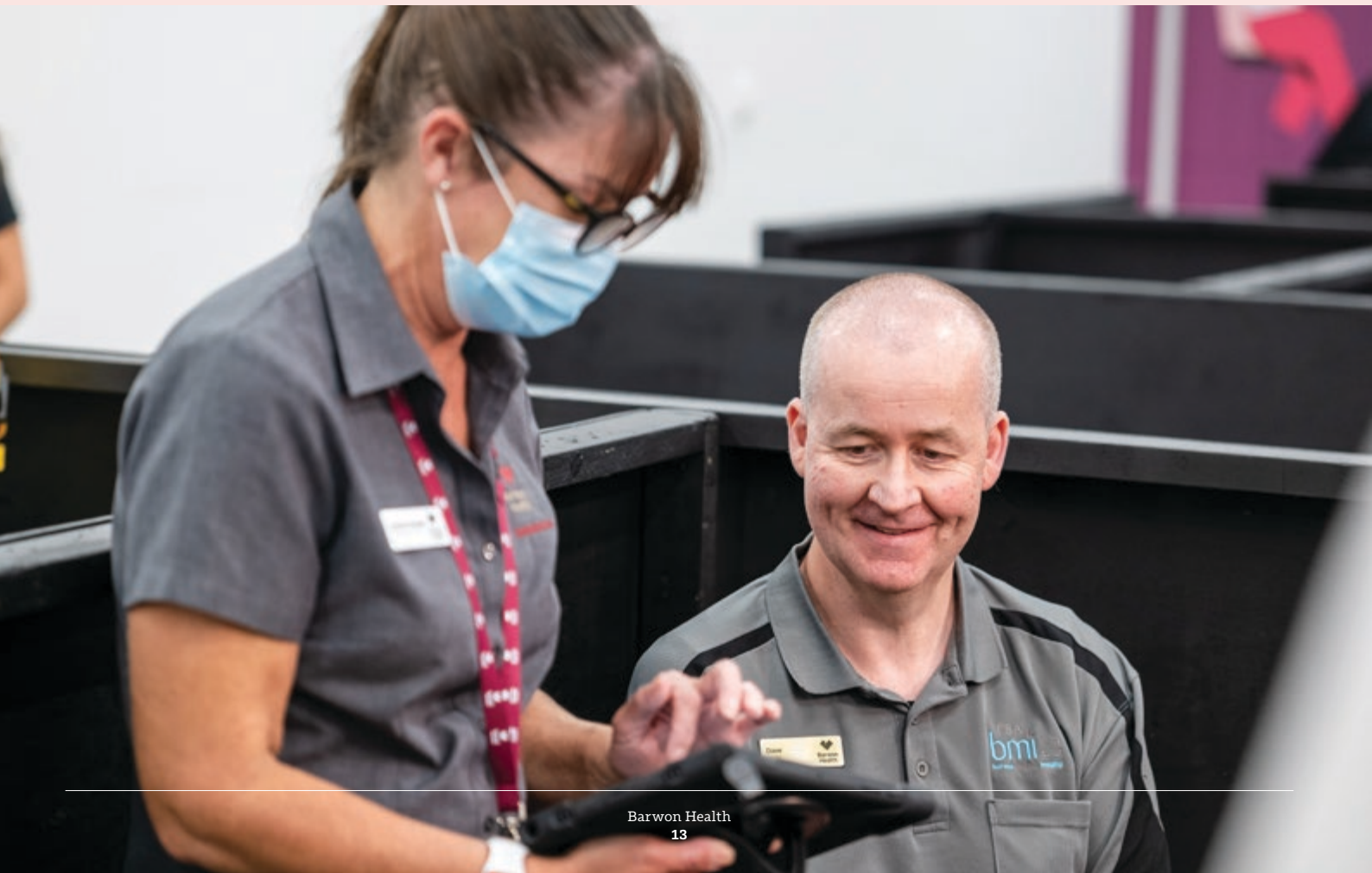
High-risk priority groups from the 1A and 1B cohorts were the first to receive their

vaccination at the site from 6 April, in line with the Commonwealth prioritisation. This includes healthcare staff, including disability workers, and emergency service workers, such as paramedics, police, and fire services.

Chief executive Frances Diver said the community vaccination hub had the potential to vaccinate more than 2000 people a day, depending on stock supply.

"The Ford site has a significant place in the history of the Geelong region, so it is fitting that it will play a vital role as the vaccination hub that will help protect our region from COVID-19.

*BMI PSA David Bridson, a former Ford factory worker, receives a COVID-19 vaccination from immunisation co-ordinator Caroline Poynder.*



**Managed and operated by Barwon Health, Geelong's community vaccination hub has the capacity to provide vaccines to more than 10,000 people a week.**

"Some of our staff members once worked at this site, some for decades before retraining and beginning careers in healthcare after the Ford closure.

"It's fitting that some of them are able to join us here today to receive their second Pfizer vaccine and see how much work has been done to turn the old administration building into a state-of-the-art vaccination hub.

Book your COVID vaccine appointment by calling 1800 675 398 or book online: <https://www.barwonhealth.org.au/coronavirus/booking-a-vaccination>.

**"The Ford site has a significant place in the history of the Geelong region, so it is fitting that it will play a vital role as the vaccination hub that will help protect our region from COVID-19." – Frances Diver**



*The former Ford Motors factory has been transformed into Barwon Health's COVID-19 community vaccination hub.*



*Joe Puglia, who spent his career driving trucks for Ford, returned to the Ford site for his COVID-19 vaccination in April.*

## *New vaccination hub evokes fond memories for Joe*

*When Giuseppe "Joe" Puglia retired as a truck driver at Norlane's Ford Motor factory in 2013, he never expected to return to the site for a vaccination 13 years later.*

Joe, who also has Alzheimer's disease, rolled up his sleeves to receive his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine on 21 April.

The 80-year-old was also able to experience the previous Ford site's transformation into the community vaccination hub that will service the majority of the Geelong and Surf Coast region.

Managed and operated by Barwon Health, Geelong's community vaccination hub has the capacity to provide vaccines to more than 10,000 people a week.

Joe, born in Sicily in 1940, was well-known during his time at Ford and his daughter Josie recalls his celebrity status among drivers for his impeccable driving record.

"Dad still likes to say that he was the best truck driver at Ford, and was

awarded a certificate of excellence before he left," she said.

"He even got the job to drive open up the Ring Road with the B-Double along with the Victorian Premier Joan Kirner as his special guest.

"He was well respected by all his mates at Ford, along with Victoria Police and Vic Roads, as Dad was known as the 'Celebrity of Ford'."

Josie said Joe's family was relieved knowing he was going to be protected from COVID-19 after today's vaccination.

"Initially, we were nervous, but we spoke to his medical team who assured us that it will be the best thing for him. It will also ensure our family can be together after a very difficult year for us.

"Dad found last year very challenging. He didn't quite understand the concept of not visiting family and friends and as to why he wasn't allowed to leave the house. He couldn't comprehend the isolation, but with the help of his medical team, we have been able to keep him happy and comfortable."



THE HEART OF THE MATTER

# CLINICAL TRIALS CAN TRANSFORM COMMUNITY HEALTH

*Medical research saves and transforms lives. Many of the advances in healthcare, which we all enjoy, are based on the background research to test new treatments. From penicillin to COVID-19 vaccines, clinical trials have played a pivotal role in the advance of medical care.*

PAUL LIGHTFOOT | ADRIAN COSTA CLINICAL TRIALS CENTRE DIRECTOR

Barwon Health has a long history of fostering medical research and running clinical trials. This is now moving to the next level with the advent of the Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre, made possible by a generous donation from the Costa family. Prior to becoming the centre's inaugural director, I was working in neurological clinical trials at the Austin Hospital. In 2017, my research team was tasked with trialling a very old treatment for weight loss that might be used to treat Dravet Syndrome, a rare form of epilepsy.

Children with Dravet Syndrome can experience violent seizures throughout their lives, starting as young as six months of age. This condition nearly always leads to the development of an intellectual disability, and at that time, there was a 15 per cent

mortality rate by age 20. In my role within the clinical trials team, I was able to watch a 13-year-old boy from a country town make incredible progress within months, from needing constant parental care, to reaching a level of cognitive improvement and freedom from seizures that allowed him to cook his own meals and ride a motorbike around the family farm. It was like turning on a light bulb. Just like that, this experimental treatment had transformed his lifestyle and that of his entire family. Witnessing the life-changing power of clinical trials has fuelled my passion for this field and I'm excited to see the difference Barwon Health's own clinical trials centre will make in the Geelong community. We're in a position where our research can fix problems and offer hope

to people who haven't had any treatment options previously.

As the director of the Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre, I believe we're in an exciting phase where the site location will soon be announced, the first construction is around the corner, and we now have 10 trials in the start-up phase with more to follow. As part of the planning process, I've been raising the centre's profile with clinical trial sponsors locally and internationally to attract new studies, while also connecting with networks across Australia that will direct trials to our service. We're fortunate to be in a position where Barwon Health's executive team has committed to make research a priority for the Geelong region. This means that while some research centres both in Australia and



*I was able to watch a 13-year-old boy from a country town make incredible progress within months, from needing constant parental care, to reaching a level of cognitive improvement and freedom from seizures*

overseas can take months or even years to approve a new trial, we will have a turnaround time measured in weeks to approve new research. This gives us an advantage in securing clinical trials for Geelong.

A priority of this centre will be to address the unmet health needs in the community, with an ultimate research goal to deliver more than just results and findings. We will be developing treatments to improve health, and trialling those with people in the community. For example, we're interested in attracting new neurological research for autism and dementia treatments that don't currently exist. While there is no standard treatment for Alzheimer's disease, there are many ongoing trials in the research community that can be viewed as a way to treat people who currently don't have any other options. The community benefits of clinical trials are very large, with opportunities to offer new treatments. Many studies have shown that people who are part of clinical trials have better health than those who aren't, and more local trials will improve the overall health of the community by giving access to new treatments where there previously was none. Our work will also provide evidence that can inform the way healthcare is conducted across the region, while also offering pathways for local researchers to stay in the community rather than moving interstate or overseas. Improving our research reputation improves



Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre director Paul Lightfoot.

our reputation as a whole, and makes Barwon Health more attractive to specialised staff with high levels of expertise.

The Costa Centre will allow us to cover new ground at Barwon Health, including first-time collaborations between different medical fields. These types of clinical partnerships will explore links that lead to new ways of diagnosis and treatment for different conditions. We'll also be finding ways to bring more and better trials to Geelong at earlier stages of development, with innovative trials that will test brand new lab-developed medicines for the first time. A telehealth suite at the Costa Centre is another innovative feature that will help decentralise the process of research, providing greater access to for greater regional community involvement. One big change over the next 10 years is that trials will become far more decentralised, with the changes forced

by COVID-19 teaching us ways to conduct important trials without participants leaving their homes. People can now have a "Zoom" consultation, with the medication sent to their home, and that's a game-changer for a regional health service.

I've seen how clinical trials can transform lives and I'm excited to bring that to people in our region. With so much potential to provide new access to people who need life-changing treatment, the community has a lot to look forward to. I believe the legacy of the Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre will be one that holds up hope where there wasn't any in the past. For people who have lived with their injury or illness without any respite, the possibility of accessing new treatment is the first step towards living a healthier life.

To support the work of the Adrian Costa Clinical Trials Centre, contact the Barwon Health Foundation.

# Australian-first study reveals gender differences in footy injuries

*A landmark study has for the first time revealed gender differences in the injuries sustained by community-level footy players.*



Barwon Health's Aussie Rules Footy Injury Study team, pictured at the start of the project in 2019: Emergency Department staff Libby Ellis, Russeen Norman, Stephen Gill, Nicole Lowry, Julian Stella, and Richard Page.

The Aussie Rules Football Injury Study study was led by Barwon Health's Professor Richard Page, Dr Julian Stella and Dr Stephen Gill, with support from Deakin University, the Barwon Centre for Orthopaedic Research and Education (B-CORE), and the AFL Research Board.

The study compares football injuries of more than 1600 males and females, presenting to University Hospital Geelong or one of 12 other south-western Victoria emergency departments between January and October 2019.

Results show female players (comprising 14.8% of study attendees) experienced more hand/finger and neck injuries and kneecap dislocations, while male players endured more shoulder and trunk injuries and skin lacerations.

Senior B-CORE research fellow Dr Gill said the Aussie Rules Football Injury Study was the first to directly compare football injuries in community-level players.

"Given the increasing number of female footy players, it's important that we understand the risks involved," Dr Gill said.

"Most research to-date has focused on men, so together with the Australian Football League (AFL), we've taken a much closer look at the injuries sustained by female players compared to male players."

The results revealed that:

- female players had a higher proportion of hand/ finger injuries (34.3% v 23.4%), neck injuries (6.6% v 2.5%) and patella dislocations (2.9% v 0.6%);
- male players experienced a higher proportion of shoulder injuries (11.5% v 5.8%), skin lacerations (8.0% v 1.7%), and thorax/ abdominal/pelvic injuries (5.7% v 2.1%);
- concussion rates were similar between the genders and occurred in 14.1% of all patients;
- anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries were infrequent (1.0%) and not significantly different between genders (2.1% v 0.9%);
- female players received more imaging investigations, such as x-rays and CT scans, (83.1% v 74.7%) and analgesia (62.4% v 48.5%);
- a higher proportion of male players required admission to hospital (5.0% v 2.1%), usually for surgery.

Dr Gill said he was surprised by some of the findings, particularly around concussions and ACL injuries.

"Women have higher rates of concussion than men in some sports, so we were expecting to see that in this study," he said.

"Instead, we found that concussions were shared almost equally between male players and female players.

"It was a similar story with ACLs, which is a serious knee injury. Women tend to have higher rates of ACL injuries; however, we found only a small number of these injuries, and our statistical tests did not find differences between male players and female players."

With female players and male players suffering different types of injuries, Dr Gill said it is important to now understand why this is and how these injuries might be prevented.

"For example, do female players try and mark the football differently to male players, which explains the higher number of hand and finger injuries," he said.

"If we can figure this out, then we can implement targeted, gender-specific injury prevention programs."

The results of the study are reported in the *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport* paper 'Gender differences in female and male Australian Football injuries – A prospective observational study of emergency department presentations'.



# Research into sterilising pacifiers and food allergies published

*A Geelong study that links sterilising pacifiers (or dummies) with an increased risk of food allergies in babies has gained international recognition.*

The Barwon Infant Study compared dummy use and cleaning methods among infants at six months of age and those with a confirmed food allergy at one year of age in more than 700 participants.

The study, published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, found infants whose dummies were sterilised with an antiseptic solution were more likely to have a diagnosed food allergy at the age of one.

Centre of Food and Allergy Research investigator and Murdoch Children's Research Institute PhD candidate Victoria Soriano said the link between dummy sterilisation and food allergies warranted further research into how good bacteria in the infant mouth and gut could help prevent food allergies.

"These findings support the growing recognition of the importance of good bacteria, known as 'microbiome', in our mouth and gut on healthy growth and development," Victoria said.

The research found no increase in risk of food allergy at one year of age among dummy users when the dummies were washed in tap water, boiling water, put in the parent's own mouth, or not washed at all before being given to infants at six months of age.

"This research should not discourage the cleaning of dummies, as this is a vital step in keeping a child safe from the more immediate risk of infectious diseases," Victoria said.

"There is also no evidence from this study that cleaning dummies by other methods is harmful."

**"These findings support the growing recognition of the importance of good bacteria, known as 'microbiome', in our mouth and gut on healthy growth and development,"**

With food allergies often causing life-threatening anaphylaxis and affecting up to 10 per cent of infants, more research is required to understand how to prevent allergies.

The study team has contacted the Royal Australasian College of Physicians who are further considering this issue.

# New research targets endometriosis symptoms

*A new clinical trial will aim to reduce endometriosis pain by comparing the effects of yoga, cognitive behaviour therapy and education.*

The controlled study, titled HaPPI, has been designed to improve quality of life and reduce health care costs for the debilitating disease that impacts about 700,000 Australians, with a significant impact on the healthcare system.

Barwon Health, in partnership with Deakin University, Monash Health and University of South Australia, has received \$893,981 from the Medical Research Future Fund to conduct the randomised trial over five years.

Secondary outcomes include improvement in pain, mental health, fatigue and sleep; along with improved cost-effectiveness to the health system, such as fewer hospital presentations, and within society, including fewer sick days.

Barwon Health obstetrician gynaecologist Dr Marilla Druitt said the study aimed to better treat the pelvic pain caused by endometriosis, which affects one in nine women aged between 18 and 44 years in Australia.



*Barwon Health researchers Elesha Parigi, Kirsty McColl, and Marilla Druitt are leading the HaPPI study.*

“We already have good evidence that cognitive behavioural therapy is a great treatment for pain, and there is some early research that yoga can also decrease pain associated with endometriosis,” she said.

“Our healthcare system was not designed with an interdisciplinary approach in mind, and we have known for decades that a biopsychosocial approach works much better for most health conditions than a purely medical focus.

“We are seeking to address this with research, which can determine if adding a mind-based intervention, such as group psychology treatment, or adding a mind/body intervention, such as group yoga, improves quality of life for people with endometriosis and pain.

“Our control group will be those having usual gynaecology care, which can involve treatment with hormones and surgery, along with education about endometriosis.”

There will be 258 participants recruited from Barwon Health, Monash Health and endometriosis support groups, each running for eight consecutive weeks with participants completing online questionnaires to measure a variety of health aspects before and after the eight-week intervention.

The study is open for participants who have a diagnosis of endometriosis and have had pain for at least six months, at least 18 years of age, not currently pregnant, no major physical issues/injuries, have not recently completed a course of therapist led yoga or CBT.

To become a participant, people who qualify for the study can contact [thehappistudy@deakin.edu.au](mailto:thehappistudy@deakin.edu.au).

## ANNOUNCING THE BARWON HEALTH-DEAKIN UNIVERSITY PHD PROGRAM

*A Barwon Health and Deakin University (BH DU) PhD Program is offering nursing, allied health and medical practitioners to maintain clinical training and roles while developing research interests and skills.*

Growing the next generation of clinician-academics is a strategic priority for the BH DU partnership and the Deakin University Faculty of Health is providing up to five PhD scholarships to support the program.

Each PhD scholarship will receive \$10,000 of project funding in year one, via the Barwon Health Foundation. Supervision teams and

their candidates will have the opportunity to apply for further project funding for subsequent years of the project.

**Each PhD scholarship will receive \$10,000 of project funding in year one.**

# COVID-19 vaccination



## IS THERE ANY CANCER RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THE VACCINES?

No, there is no evidence of the vaccines having any damage to genes that result in cancer.

## DOES THE VACCINE ALTER YOUR DNA?

The programming of the Pfizer vaccine stimulates your cells to produce copies of a spike protein found on the outside of the coronavirus. The immune system recognises it, as if you're manufacturing an antigen that will produce antibodies to fight against COVID-19. Cells produce proteins all the time and there are no dangerous mutations.

## CAN THE VACCINATIONS CAUSE INFERTILITY?

These are not live vaccines, they're inactivated to produce protein within cells or the spike protein on the outside of the virus, so there is no way the vaccine could affect fertility in a human. It doesn't target our fertility systems.

## DOES THE OXFORD-ASTRAZENECA VACCINE CAUSE BLOOD CLOTS?

Blood clotting, or deep vein thrombosis, is very common health issue associated with many risk factors. So far, there is evidence that one in 250,000 people receiving the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccination have experienced blood

clotting. The TGA has advised the vaccine is safe for people aged over 50.

## ARE THERE ANY LONG-TERM EFFECTS?

There is no evidence or signal of long-term effects from vaccination, but the only way we'll know properly is long-term surveillance. There can be long term consequences from COVID-19 infection, including fatigue and lung function.

## IS IT TRUE THE VACCINES CONTAIN ABORTED FETAL CELLS?

The vaccines people are receiving in Australia do not contain any stem cells or fetal cells.

## VIRTUAL WORD OFFERS THERAPEUTIC REMEDY TO ISOLATION

*Barwon Health's palliative care virtual reality (VR) program has expanded to bring the immersive therapy to more patients in the community.*

VR has been utilised as a form of diversion therapy at Barwon Health since 2019, with volunteers first learning to use the technology with patients.

Palliative Care program manager Jacqui White said COVID-19 had interrupted a program partnership with the City of Greater Geelong Libraries, encouraging staff to source some healthcare-specific VR headsets of its own to continue the program independently.

"We're been working hard to get staff engaged with VR, with champions for each area of palliative care as we look at how can we can embed this technology within our program," she said.

"People have been so isolated over the past year and this therapeutic intervention has made a huge difference to bridging that gap and thinking about therapy in different ways.

"Most of our patients are too unwell to travel, even without travel restrictions in place, so VR experiences can help meet the need for people to cross destinations off their bucket list, whether they have places they always wanted to go, or they want to return to a place from their childhood."

She said palliative care patient Leonard Walsh, a former engineer, recently enjoyed a VR experience taking him to a space station.

"Len talked a lot about watching the moon landing and a lot of memories of space travel moments.

"On the day of his VR experience, he was energised and engaged and it makes such a difference to quality of life.

"Other patients might take a VR trip to Paris



*Palliative Care Unit patient Leonard Walsh enjoys a virtual reality experience in space.*

and we'll bring them some French food to go along with the experience, as part of our Have a Go initiative.

"We're excited by this technology and also looking at how it can be used to manage things like anxiety and pain, at a psychological and mindfulness level."

The device's library currently has 18 immersive options, including city tours, wildlife and space experiences.

## TEST TRACKER STREAMLINES WAITING GAME

*A new digital testing tool is reducing time between COVID-19 tests, tracing, and patient isolation.*

Test Tracker is one innovative system improvement that has resulted from the constant change and new learnings in response to outbreak management.

From 23 February, the Barwon Health COVID-19 testing sites moved to a Department of Health-provided solution that ensures a real-time transition utilising state-wide testing data intelligence. Led by the Health Informatics team, Test Tracker replaced Barwon Health's iPM solution, now enabling staff to triage patients through an iPad, scanning electronic patient data against a QR code on the pathology sample that is transmitted to a pathology lab.

Barwon Health North COVID-19 clinic ANUM Caitlin Fleming said the administrative side of testing had been streamlined with the new software.

"Test Tracker gives us an efficient, effective, paperless system for pathology collection and COVID-19 information processing," she said.

"This has allowed for the incorporation of our administration healthcare workers into our frontline nursing teams, which has created a strong team of cohesiveness, as they work side-by-side protecting the community."



*Nurses Caitlin Stepleton and Rebecca Poje using the Test Tracker app at the Barwon Health North drive-through testing clinic.*



*A still image of Barwon Health's OT training video that has more than 25,000 views on YouTube.*

## OT training videos take safer care to online audience

*Barwon Health Occupational Therapy (OT) staff and students are creating a suite of instructional assistive equipment videos for Residential Aged Care (RAC) to aid safe, high quality, consumer care.*

Two Barwon Health consumer videos have been hosted on the Barwon Health YouTube channel so far, as part of an Innovation & Evaluation Project Placement, created by final year OT students from Deakin University.

Aged care specialist OT Lyn McLaren supervised the project and said the idea started as a solution for when staff could not always be on-site with patients, with videos using Universal Design Learning principles.

"The aim was for the students to research and create a short educational video highlighting the correct set up of a Roho Pressure Care Cushion, while demonstrating correct hand hygiene, to

be used as a learning and revision tool for RAC staff," she said.

"However, it has become clear that this video is not only being viewed by RAC staff, but by consumers and family members who use Roho cushions in the community as well.

"Since the video was uploaded in October 2018, it has received more than 25,000 views, which clearly demonstrates the demand for such an educational resource."

She said many OT clinicians now refer carers and family members to the video, when a consumer is issued with this specialised piece of equipment. This allows carers to periodically review the correct set-up as required, since Roho Pressure Care Cushions are only effective at reducing the risk of pressure injury if appropriately set up, used and maintained.

After the success of the first instructional video, Lyn submitted another Innovation & Evaluation project brief to Deakin University in 2020. This most recent video *Setup of Manual Tilt in Space Wheelchair* has gone live on the Barwon Health YouTube channel.

# Staff acknowledgements

## Congratulations to successful Barwon Health emerging researchers

The Western Alliance Emerging Researcher Grant initiative supports new and emerging researchers across western Victoria. Congratulations to these Barwon Health research leaders of the future for their successful grants:

- Renee Heard - Implementing a Risk Feeding Policy and Education Program for Multidisciplinary Clinicians Participating in Risk Feeding Practise at Barwon Health
- Adelene Hilbig - Management of possible cervical spine injury in paediatric patients in rural and regional emergency departments in Australia: a retrospective cohort study
- Jessica McDonald & Sarah Kelley - Making the call: Improving timely access to community health physiotherapy services
- Suzanne Rayner - Exploring perception and experience of leadership amongst emergency medicine practitioners
- Ben Spedding - Asymptomatic peripheral arterial disease (PAD): A community based multidisciplinary early intervention vascular clinic – A feasibility study

## Senior leader appointments

Alison Patrick has been appointed Interim Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer. Alison brings extensive experience in both public and private executive healthcare roles and most recently, her role as Program Manager for the Barwon South Western Regional Integrated Cancer Service (BSWRICS). With an extensive leadership background in nursing, including roles at Goulburn Valley

Health and Mercy Public Health, and a secondment to the Australian Government to assist with the aged care response to COVID-19, Alison possesses exceptional skills to fulfil this role.

Paula Harding began working as our new Allied Health director on 10 May. Paula began her career as a graduate physiotherapist at our hospital and has since led the implementation of advanced practice physiotherapy roles in hospitals across Victoria, most recently at Alfred Health.



Barwon Health's contact tracing team in 2020.

## Contact tracing team recognised as finalist

Congratulations to our contact tracing and monitoring team, recently recognised as a finalist for the Emergency Management Award at the Leadership in the IPAA Public Sector Awards. Barwon Health was the only health service to receive a finalist nomination at the awards, which celebrate excellence, innovation and commitment in the public sector. The contact tracing team was established in July to provide rapid tracing and effective isolation of people who tested positive to COVID-19, and was instrumental in managing outbreaks in regional Victoria.



2021 Renee Sheedy Scholarship recipients Laura Morrison and Dr Robert Pereira with Dan and Harry Sheedy and Dr Olivia King.

## DR RENEE SHEEDY HONOURED WITH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Barwon Health is honoured to award the 2021 Dr Renee Sheedy Scholarship to two allied health clinician-researchers, Laura Morrison and Dr Robert Pereira.

Laura Morrison is a speech pathologist who is currently leading research into oral health practice for inpatients. Dr Robert Pereira is an occupational therapist who leads multiple research projects, including research into the experiences of care coordination for consumers with complex needs.

Renée was a senior neurological physiotherapist and worked at Barwon Health from 2006 until 2014. She was a passionate clinician and researcher, and through her Professional Doctorate Renée was investigating physical activity levels during early recovery from stroke. She was awarded her Doctorate posthumously by La Trobe University in 2015.

The scholarship fund was established to honour the contribution Renée made to Barwon Health as a clinician-researcher and to support allied health clinicians to undertake research. Renée's family presented the scholarships to Laura and Robert, and are pleased to see the scholarships awarded to two deserving allied health clinician-researchers, in honour of Renée.

## Refurbished cancer patient accommodation



Tahra Larmour, Jacqui Dyer Larmour and Blake Larmour unveiling the Lasting Legacy Tree.

### LASTING LEGACY TREE UNVEILED

*The Lasting Legacy Tree has been installed at University Hospital Geelong, bearing words of wisdom, messages of thanks and special memories of loved ones who have passed.*

The Larmour family are one family who purchased a legacy leaf and placed it on The Lasting Legacy Tree in memory of their much-loved husband and devoted dad Jim.

The tree has room to grow if you have a loved one you'd like to honour, or a message of thanks to the team who cared for your family member.

The names on our Lasting Legacy Tree will forever be held dear within our hospital.

*The Ba-Lee Lodge has had a refurbishment, including garden and accommodation rooms, thanks to the Dry July Foundation, participants of Dry July, and Cancer After Care.*



*The Ba-Lee lodges have been refurbished with funding from the Dry July and Cancer After Care.*

The majority of the project has been completed with just a few finishing touches like artwork and custom seating yet to be installed.

The Ba-Lee lodges have been a valued and much loved part of the Andrew Love Cancer Centre for more than 15 years. This very important facility provides vital accommodation to Barwon Health's Andrew Love Cancer Centre patients during their treatment. The impact of a cancer diagnosis is significant in the lives of these patients and their families and units provide a home away from home for regional patients who otherwise would face expensive travel and accommodation costs to attend the Andrew Love Cancer Centre.

**After many nights of occupancy over the years, the units have benefited greatly from this update and will provide comfort to many more future patients.**

The units provide the comforts of home with fully self-contained facilities and Barwon Health's accommodation and domestic teams work with the patients to ensure their stay is as trouble-free as possible.

After many nights of occupancy over the years, the units have benefited greatly from this update and will provide comfort to many more future patients.

### BARWON HEALTH FOUNDATION PROVIDES BOOST TO ROOM 64 PODCAST

*End-of-life care is a stage of life that affects everyone involved –the families, the carers, the healthcare workers, the patients, of course, and all those in the community that support them.*

The Room 64 podcast – now in its third year – tells these stories in an insightful series, proudly produced locally with our local community in mind.

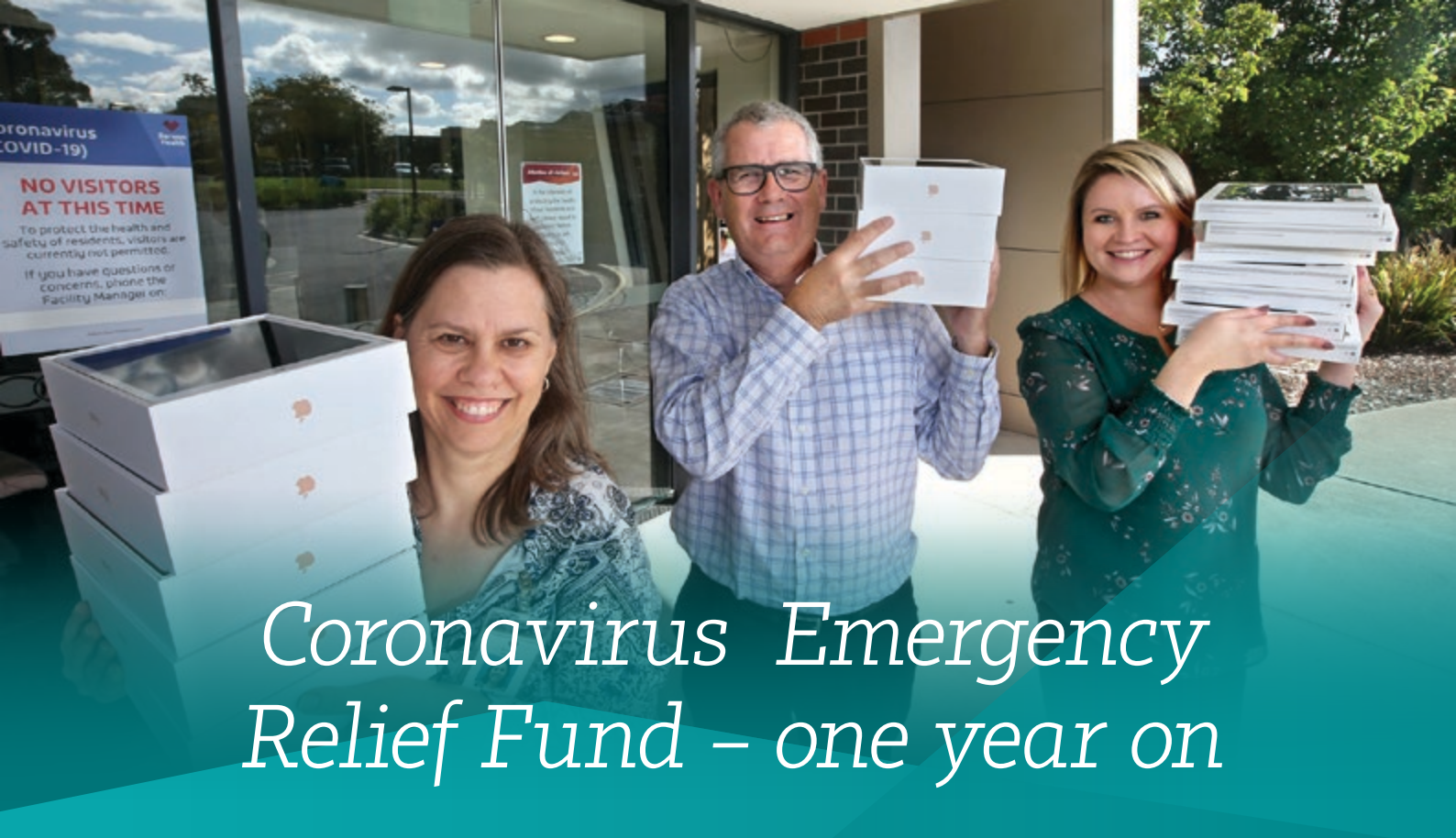
This year, the Barwon Health Foundation has come on board as a proud sponsor of the Room 64 podcast and we can't speak more highly of the team, including Christine Brooks and Jen Walsh who put it all together.

Series 3, Episode 1 sees Marilyn Dolling talk about the death of her husband Roger, their time in Barwon Health Palliative Care, the importance of family and the value of Advance Care Planning.

"They'd do everything they could to fulfil the wishes in his Advanced Care Plan and the care would be all embracing support and keeping him in the best possible end to his life that he could have in a safe place."

The Room 64 podcast is currently available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Podchaser and has been picked up by Regional ABC Victoria, Vision Australia Adelaide, The Nurse Break, Palliative Care Victoria and Palliative Care Australia, The Senior, Palliative Care NSW.





# Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund – one year on

Aged Care director Ange Irwin, Barwon Health Foundation chair Dan Simmonds, and Barwon health Foundation executive director Zoe Waters deliver iPads to Barwon health Aged Care Residents in 2020. Image courtesy of Geelong Advertiser

*Last year, we set out with an ambitious target of \$1 million to help our local health service respond to local COVID-19 cases.*

Thanks to amazing community support last year, we were able to fund the following equipment:

- Transport ventilator
- ICU thermometers
- Two resuscitation trolleys
- 15 aged care support iPads
- Emergency Department treatment chair
- 4250 Healthcare Heroes cups of coffee
- 50 patient beds
- ICU defibrillator
- Aged care kindness packs
- COVID-19 Regional Research Project
- 10 aged care beds
- 49 vital signs monitors
- Two blood filtration systems
- 3250 Healthcare Heroes meals
- Two aged care comfort chairs

Together we achieved so much. Thank you, Geelong.



## ALEX IS A MARVEL

*The bravery, strength and determination of patients like Alex inspire us every single day.*

In January, the 16-year-old underwent his 500th lifesaving infusion to treat a condition called Muscopolysaccharidosis, which he was diagnosed with 10 years ago.

Alex has to be admitted each week to the Cotton On Foundation Children's Ward where he receives his infusion.

The Barwon Health Foundation threw Alex a Marvel-themed party to mark this milestone, thanks to the support of the local construction industry and unions.

*Pictured: Alex Cumming celebrated his 500th lifesaving infusion with a Marvel superheroes party. Image courtesy of the Geelong Advertiser.*



# Length of Service

10  
years

*Congratulations to the following staff who celebrated Length of Service milestones between January and May 2021!*

- |                    |                         |                         |                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Dot Marshall       | Jane Sodomaco           | Kathleen Exell          | Marianne Cerepinko  |
| Satpal Soor        | Lauren Parker           | Gabriel Berra           | Chintanie De Silva  |
| Leanne Fennell     | Stephanie Bergen        | Jane Wong               | Kath Johns          |
| Jason Mitchell     | Rachel Carter           | Bala Pothakamury        | Karen Glen          |
| Alicia Neels       | Mel Houghton            | Claire Nelson           | Jane Byworth        |
| Alison Girvan      | Selena Borserio         | Mark Drayton            | Jacqui Hilder       |
| Stephanie Dawson   | Brigitte Pilgrim        | Tiffany Moss            | Ryan Barr           |
| Laura Swanwick     | Brooke Squire           | Alexandra Wilkie        | Judy Taylor         |
| Anna Smith         | Bronwyn Roberts         | Michelle Perry-Plescher | Johanna Williams    |
| Hai Tran           | Erika Lawler            | Jess York               | Sheri Peace         |
| Heather Maddison   | Tania Nielson           | Kellie Bennett          | Sharon Taylor       |
| Kellie Haverkamp   | Kristen Archer          | Karen Douglas           | Caroline Timanowicz |
| Michelle Rebis     | Sandi Kemmis            | Kat Leverett            | Michael Forkgen     |
| Kerri Cornish      | Kez Brooks              | Paige Munro             | Trevor Dow          |
| Helen Leeson       | Inger Olesen            | Amba Begg               | Katrina Gurrie      |
| Ivo Josipovic      | Samantha Humphries      | Kelly Hardy             | Jillian McCarthy    |
| Helen Maloney      | Kate McCloskey          | Eliza Francis           | Cheryl Price        |
| Sarah Huffam       | Dave Sadler             | Joanna Keegan           | Leonie Pearce       |
| Victoria Guthridge | Simy Jose               | Linda Pyke              | Michelle Zarafa     |
| Michelle Cole      | Lynda Thurston          | Rebecca Buchanan        | Chris Hansen        |
| Narelle Sager      | Irina Baleanu Mackinlay | Mark Rigby              | Jill Hommelhoff     |
| Tracey Lee         | Helen Farrell           | Chris Powers            | Mel Cockett         |
| Michelle Viken     | Sarah Rosalie           | Helen Garmaz            | Sue Moran           |
| Jodie Bloom Bloom  | John Lukies             | Katie Ross              | Kristin O'Brien     |
| Diana Boscolo      | Andrew Marriott         | Robyn Dodds             | Janie Worth         |
| Elissa Bruechert   | Ian Williams            | Vanessa Scott           | David Fabinyi       |
| Jessica Doherty    | Jess Henry              | Karen Aisbett           | Maria Cook          |
| Camille Feery      | Bree Roper              | Jane Dow                | Martin Stanley      |
| Jessica Arnott     | Melissa Totton          | Sandra Guiney           | Matthew McAninly    |
| Kirralee Hughes    | Cassie Nesbitt          | Glenn Lawrie            |                     |
| Pieta Rissmann     | Nick Simpson            | Tameeka Murrhiy         |                     |

Please note, names and employment commencement dates are taken from official Barwon Health records. Please contact Workforce to check or update your details - [hrservices@barwonhealth.org.au](mailto:hrservices@barwonhealth.org.au).



years

Louise Johnson  
 Kerri Darcy  
 Adam Logan  
 Lisa Walter  
 Tania Du Plessis  
 Emma Breuer  
 Teresa Smith  
 Gaynor Rowland  
 Amanda Cain  
 Petrina Hunter  
 Helen Cook  
 Julian Stella  
 Jason Teh  
 Maria Goncalves  
 Beth Lloyd  
 Lynda Knuckey  
 Christopher Clarke  
 Donna Dunstan  
 Michael Berk  
 Carolyn Forssman  
 John McKerlie

Lisa Campbell  
 Rebecca Bellingham  
 Natasha Selenitsch  
 Michael Ferencz  
 Bree Sarah  
 Michelle Doherty  
 Leanne Haugh  
 Georges Garcey  
 Thomas Crawford  
 Janine Bennett  
 Helen Fay  
 Samantha Worboys  
 Suzanne Smith  
 Sarah Whitford  
 Debra Stacey  
 Brenda Engels  
 Stephen Worboys  
 Michelle Morrissey  
 Chelsea Ferrier  
 Melita Taylor  
 Courtney Smith

Katherine Robb  
 Renae Graham  
 Rebecca Whimpress  
 Michael Malone  
 Philip Monaghan  
 Mary Hibble  
 Jane Vogrin  
 Carmel McKeegan  
 Jenny-Lou Cooke  
 Jacquie Waymouth  
 Kerry Quinton  
 Sharon Simpson  
 Tania Salerno  
 Andrew Warren  
 Deaarna Bailey  
 Mark Randall  
 Nicole Masters  
 Joan Morter  
 Wendy Edwards  
 Christopher Cooper



years

Mark Kotowicz  
 Barb King  
 Deborah Williamson  
 Anne-maree Garbett  
 Elizabeth Sayers  
 Simon Williams  
 Antje Vassiliou  
 Charles Corke  
 Fiona Evans  
 Machella Taylor  
 Leanne Thomas  
 Tracie Radman  
 Susan Dangerfield  
 Helen Bennett  
 Maree Bennett  
 Lisa Calafiore  
 Krystyna Mandziak  
 Elaine Urquhart  
 Gayle Witthaus  
 Sandra Jennings  
 Marlene Eggleton  
 Yvonne Birch  
 Trish Oddi  
 Fiona Connell



years

Adrian Van Der Lee  
 Mary Virgona  
 Pauline Smyth  
 Helen Verheul  
 Dianne Rowlands



# WORKPLACE Giving

Give the gift of good health

An easy way to make regular pre-tax donations from your pay.

Please give if you can.



## The cost of a cup of coffee a week plus the power of people can make a huge impact !

The Barwon Health Foundation connects with the community and our amazing Barwon Health workforce to provide that extra level of comfort and care for our patients, as well as supporting staff wellbeing, life saving equipment and cutting edge research.

We encourage you to contribute to our

Foundation - and we would welcome your input into which specific area you would like to support.

Just a small amount can go a long way to improving outcomes and making us even more proud of the amazing and extensive regional health service that Barwon Health provides.

A regular pre-tax contribution from your pay will directly assist our local health service provide care for people facing illness, disability or crisis at all stages of life. can be

An automatic deduction for workplace giving of any amount can be made by completing the form on **OnePoint**.

**WHAT A DIFFERENCE YOU CAN MAKE WITH \$25\* PER MONTH**

The cost of a cup of coffee per week !

\* pre-tax contribution

It costs you

**\$17**

That's just

**\$4.25**  
per week

You save

**\$96**  
on tax per year

**1,000 people = \$300,000!**



**Barwon Health**  
Foundation

T 4215 8900  
283 Ryrie Street, Geelong

[barwonhealthfoundation.org.au](http://barwonhealthfoundation.org.au)

Please call us or drop in (we are opposite Emergency in Ryrie Street) for more details