



ANNUAL REPORT

20
25

The
KIDS
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
AUSTRALIA

DISCOVER • PREVENT • CURE



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Cover Image: Outgoing Executive Director, Jonathan Carapetis AM, with 15-month-old twins Kavaeah and Kavarni Collard.

Above: One-year-old Ammara Zaheen Zaki with her mother Laila Ayaz.

At The Kids Research Institute Australia, our vision is simple – **happy healthy kids.**

We bring together community, researchers, practitioners, policymakers and funders, who share our mission to improve the health, development and lives of children and young people through excellence in research.

Importantly, we want our research applied so it makes a difference.

Find out more at thekids.org.au



The Kids Research Institute Australia acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of Australia. We also acknowledge the Nyoongar Wadjuk, Yawuru, Kariyarra and Kaurna Elders, their people and their land upon which the Institute is located and seek their wisdom in our work to improve the health and development of all children.



FOREWORD



Board Chair Naomi Flutter and Executive Director Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM

At The Kids Research Institute Australia, our focus has always been for our work to have an impact on the lives of children and families.

We are proud of the legacy The Kids has built as one of the most successful medical research institutes (MRI) in Australia, and Western Australia's only child health MRI.

We are committed to finding lasting, positive outcomes for kids and families, and addressing health equity for all Australians. At The Kids, community is at the heart of everything we do and Aboriginal health and wellbeing is everyone's business.

Our commitment to impact is reflected in our past strategic plans, which were built around how we conduct our research, always in close collaboration with community, our partners and stakeholders. This focus ensures our research is useful and used.

We are confident that we will always be well served by elevating what we do best – focusing on impact and outcomes in the community.

Research Reimagined in action

In 2025, The Kids developed new approaches to achieve our bold, 10-year vision to do research with greater impact, and more sustainably. We committed to focusing our research on the most critical health and wellbeing issues facing children and ensuring our research delivers genuine outcomes for kids and families.

We built new capabilities at The Kids to help realise our ambitions. One of these was the establishment of an Impact portfolio and the appointment of a Director of Innovation and Impact. This team is charged with embedding our new ways of working, starting with the end in mind; to accelerate outcomes of our work, identify clear goals and pathways to impact, and foster a culture of innovation and commercialisation.

During the year, we started to develop better ways to measure and track the impact of our research so we can really see how our research makes a difference to the lives of children and families.

We revitalised our research themes, which host our research teams and which have identified specific Theme Focus Areas where the Institute has clear strengths and capacity.

Our new Chronic Diseases theme brings together our research dedicated to preventing and managing chronic conditions in children, including respiratory diseases, diabetes and cancer, with the aim to reduce the long-term impact of these diseases on quality of life and on our healthcare systems.

Preventing, diagnosing and treating infectious diseases, with a strong focus on developing effective vaccines and improving immunity across populations will drive research undertaken within the Infectious Diseases theme. Scientists working in this area are addressing both emerging and persistent infections that impact kids worldwide.

The Precision Health theme recognises the significant advancement of personalised approaches to healthcare, aiming to tailor prevention and treatment strategies on genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors. This theme strives to make healthcare more targeted and effective for each child's unique needs.

Understanding and improving early childhood health and development lays the foundation for lifelong wellbeing and this is the focus of research being undertaken within the Strong Beginnings theme. By addressing factors from pre-conception, through pregnancy and into the early years of life, this theme aims to optimise health outcomes from the start.

Our Wellbeing and Mental Health theme is focused on improving the emotional and psychological health of children through the development of evidence-based interventions and strategies to promote resilience, prevent mental health challenges and to help kids thrive.

And our overarching commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families continues to be embedded across our work. The First Nations Health and Equity theme is clear – Aboriginal health is everyone's business. The Kids remains driven to end the disparity in health and wellbeing outcomes between First Nations kids and their non-Indigenous counterparts.

To support the new theme structure, we appointed Theme Heads, all experienced and high achieving scientists in their fields, supported by highly qualified Theme Managers, who are working with their research teams to deliver focused, high-impact research.

As we enter 2026, The Kids is turning its attention to identifying major child health challenges for us to channel our energies into driving research outcomes where they can have impact, as well as establishing a pipeline of breakthroughs for tomorrow.

Celebrating 35 years of The Kids

In November 2025 we marked a milestone of 35 years since the Institute was founded by our Patron, Professor Fiona Stanley AC and her colleague Professor Louis Landau AM. The newly-formed Institute brought together a group of superstar researchers whose work would lay the foundation for the medical research leader we are today.

Each of the seven original scientists were acknowledged for their foresight and tenacity at a gala event at Perth's Government House, hosted by the Governor of Western Australia the Hon. Chris Dawson AC APM and his wife, Mrs Darrilyn Dawson, both patrons of The Kids. So too, was the unwavering support of the Western Australian community and in particular, Channel 7 Telethon, which has been a champion of our work from the very beginning.

Special thanks were given to Mr Kerry Stokes AC, Chair of the Channel 7 Telethon Trust, who recognised the potential of what the Institute could deliver in those early days and supported fundraising efforts to see it become a reality. Stan Perron Charitable Foundation Chair, Elizabeth Perron AM, was also acknowledged for her and her family's commitment to child health research in WA.

The special event provided an opportunity for The Kids to showcase our work to key stakeholders who have supported the Institute over its three-and-a-half decades including the State and Federal Governments, Department of Health and our university partners.

As part of the celebrations, The Kids developed the Behind the Breakthrough exhibition – an interactive showcase offering members of the public the chance to step inside some of The Kids' most significant health advances. The exhibition, which highlights our work in autism, childhood cancer, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), rare diseases and Aboriginal child health, will be on display at a variety of locations around Perth throughout 2026.

Reconciliation in action

The Kids was proud to join the growing community of organisations across Australia committed to transforming their workplaces through a dedicated Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

We have worked hard to ensure we work to the highest standards, in many cases setting those standards ourselves, in undertaking health research to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids and families. This includes two iterations of our Commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Kids and Families, our Aboriginal Employment and Career Development Strategy and our flagship Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Standards.

The RAP provides the framework to supercharge our ongoing efforts to strengthen voice, involvement and greater recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in all that we do.

Research with impact

In 2025 our research continued to have profound impact. A groundbreaking study from The Kids cancer researchers identified a promising new therapeutic strategy for children with the most common childhood cancer – B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. While survival rates for children with the cancer have reached nearly 90 per cent over the past 50 years, certain sub-groups continue to face poor outcomes. The discovery brings a new approach to treating children who face these tougher cases.

Researchers at ORIGINS, Australia's largest longitudinal study of its kind, found a third of

Australian one-year-olds have low iron – a problem that can impact speech, sleep and appetite and potentially lead to neurocognitive, mental health and behavioural issues. The study identified early intervention as a cost-effective solution for affected children and their families.

The team at the Wesfarmers Centres for Vaccines and Infectious Diseases continued its quest to reduce hospitalisation rates for children with RSV. Research found the new immunisation to be almost 90 per cent effective in reducing the need for babies and kids to be admitted to hospital and it also reduced the severity of the virus. The success of WA's RSV immunisation program contributed to the rollout of a national \$174.5 million nirsevimab program for all pregnant women and newborns.

The crushing burden of Tourette syndrome and tic-related disorders was laid bare in the first of its kind study on the daily challenges faced by children and families living with the condition. The research, led by The Kids and the UNSW Sydney, found one in two children with a tic-related disorder have thought about ending their life, while one in 10 children and one in four affected adults had attempted suicide.

It is hoped recommendations from the study, including funding to develop a National Clinical Guideline for the diagnosis and treatment of Tourette syndrome and resources and training programs for health and education staff, would help influence policy change.

The Kids was also a collaborating partner in an Australian-first co-designed model of care for early-stage type 1 diabetes which aims to revolutionise diabetes care and support for families navigating an early T1D diagnosis.

Animal Openness Agreement

As a signatory to the Openness Agreement on Animal Research and Teaching in Australia, The Kids is committed to transparency and accountability of all elements of our research involving the use of animals. We have a dedicated page on our website providing information about our commitment to the Openness Agreement, which is regularly updated and provides an email link for members of the public to ask questions of our animal ethics.

In 2025 we undertook additional tours of our Bioresources Facility for professional service staff, to reach broader members of staff who would not ordinarily work in animal research.

Throughout the year our researchers have been talking about their animal research in public forums including at conferences and our annual Pitchfest event, in front of more than 100 donors. Media statements about animal research projects continue to use the words 'animal model', 'animals', or 'research in mice' instead of language such as pre-clinical model or laboratory models.

Financial sustainability

The Institute recorded a surplus for the year ended 31 December 2025 of \$14.7 million, driven by a net gain from the sale of the Institute's former premises at 100 Roberts Road, Subiaco.

The sale of the premises reflects our strategic objective to secure financial sustainability for the Institute at a time when there continues to be uncertainty around reliable ongoing funding sources. The surplus has been invested in The Kids' endowment fund to help secure ongoing financial stability, meeting costs often not covered by research grants and enable our Research Reimagined objectives to be realised.

Like all Australian medical research institutes, pressure to fund the indirect, but essential, costs of research also impacts The Kids. In this context, the Institute has a strategic focus on financial sustainability to support our research impact objectives.

Powered by our people

More than 1150 staff, students and volunteers (totalling 882 full-time equivalent staff) contributed to The Kids' research impact in 2025, often working with 373 honoraries who continue to share pride and connection to the Institute's commitment to the health and wellbeing of children and families.

At the end of January in 2025 long-serving Director of Partnerships and Engagement Elizabeth Chester retired after devoting 24 years to the Institute. Ms Chester recognised innately that research without the support of communications, development, government, stakeholder and community engagement would never reach its full potential. She built one of the most comprehensive partnership and engagement teams of any MRI in the country and The Kids benefited greatly from her capacity to illustrate research translation across all community groups. Critically, Ms Chester established and built the Institute's community engagement capabilities and co-designed and oversaw our Aboriginal engagement and support team, to ensure our research was conducted alongside the very people we are working for.

Replacing Ms Chester in the role, we welcomed Louise Ardagh to the Institute in July. With a career spanning marketing, commercial growth, philanthropy and social impact, Ms Ardagh has led major brand, marketing and engagement strategies. She led the marketing and member engagement teams at Australia's fifth largest health insurer, HBF, and more recently ran a specialist consultancy focused on advocacy and strategy.

As noted, the Institute has committed to ensuring we better measure and translate the impact of our research. To support that objective, Jenna Palumbo was appointed to the new role of Director

of Innovation and Impact in August. Ms Palumbo joined The Kids from the Minderoo Foundation, where she was an Executive Director and managed partnerships, impact investing, strategy and insights, impact measurement and environmental, social and governance practices.

Our team continued to be recognised by a variety of preeminent organisations. Yamatji Elder and Kulunga Aboriginal Unit Operations Manager, Dr Mara West, won the prestigious Aboriginal Award at the Western Australian of the Year Awards in May. The recognition was a nod to her tireless efforts to change perceptions of Aboriginal people and close the gap in health and social issues for Indigenous Australians.

Eight outstanding researchers and the Institute's Broome STEM Festival were named as finalists in the 2025 Premier's Science Awards.

Professor Asha Bowen OAM was named Mid-Career Scientist of the Year for dedicating her career to reducing the burden of skin infections in Aboriginal children, Taleah Ugle was named Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STEM Student of the Year and Shakara Liddelow-Hunt was named Student Scientist of the Year.

The other finalists from The Kids were Associate Professor Glenn Pearson and Dr Jessica Buck, both in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist of the Year category, Dr Professor Nick Golding for Mid-Career Scientist of the Year, Michael Dymock and Stephanie Enkel were each nominated for Student Scientist of the Year.

Thank you to our Board Members

Three Board Members retired from their service to The Kids during 2025. Thank you to Nicole O'Connor, the Hon. Ben Wyatt and Professor Jozef Gecz for their contribution to the Institute. Ms O'Connor joined the Board in 2016 and during that time was a member of our Commercialisation Committee. Professor Gecz was on the Board for nine years and was a member of the Risk and Compliance Committee. Mr Wyatt was on the Board for four years and was a member of the Finance Committee.

We welcomed Adele Stratton, the Hon. Ken Wyatt AM, Dean Gilkison and Professor Ingrid Scheffer AO to the Board during the year.

Ms Stratton is a qualified chartered accountant with more than 20 years' experience working in both professional practice and publicly listed companies. She adds to The Kids' board significant finance and commercial experience. She is the Chief Financial Officer and Head of Development at global critical minerals company Iluka Resources and a non-executive director at Deterra Royalties, which oversees the management and growth of royalty assets across a range of commodities.

The former Federal Member for Hasluck (2010-2023), Mr Wyatt was the first Indigenous Australian elected to the House of Representatives. He served as Australia's first Minister for Indigenous Australians (2019/2022), as well as Minister for Aged Care, Minister for Indigenous Health and Minister for Senior Australians. He brings to the Board a wealth of experience in the public, private and political sectors.

Professor Scheffer joined the Board in November 2025 and is a physician-scientist whose work as a paediatric neurologist and epileptologist at the University of Melbourne and Florey Institute has led epilepsy genetics research over 25 years. In collaboration with Professor Samuel Berkovic and molecular geneticists, they identified the first epilepsy gene and many genes subsequently. Professor Scheffer was the founding Vice-President and second President of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

Ms Stratton and Mr Gilkison have joined the Finance Committee and Professor Scheffer, the Risk and Compliance Committee. In 2026 we look forward to welcoming Dr Andrew McLean to the Board. Dr McLean has a passion for working with inventors to build businesses solving human and global challenges.

On behalf of the Institute, we extend our thanks to all Board Members who very generously give their time and expertise to this important role.

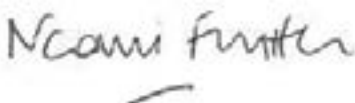
Our strong community

Finally, we acknowledge the many supporters, donors, research participants and corporate, philanthropic, Indigenous and local partners who help to realise our vision of happy, healthy kids.

As we recognise in our strategic plan, we can only co-design high quality science when we work in true partnership with our community and collaborators. Sometimes we do this by leading the way, on other occasions the outcome is best by walking alongside or quietly facilitating the success of others. Together we can make a difference.



Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM
Executive Director



Naomi Flutter
Chair

Rich legacies to medical research and Aboriginal health left by Executive Director



Professor Carapetis with children in the Discovery Centre (2019); Launching the Human Vaccines Project (2019)

A determination to chart a new course for medical research in Australia and his commitment to making Aboriginal health everyone's business will be Professor Jonathan Carapetis' defining legacies when he steps down as The Kids Research Institute Australia Executive Director.

Fourteen years after he assumed the role from Founding Director Professor Fiona Stanley AC, Professor Carapetis will stand aside from his leadership position to focus on his mission to reduce the burden of disease caused by Strep A bacteria and end rheumatic heart disease (RHD).

During his tenure, Professor Carapetis has overseen extraordinary growth of the Institute, from a staff of 454 to more than 1200 researchers, students, volunteers and honoraries dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of children and families around the world.

His contributions to medical research, public health policy and the advancement of health equity have had national and global impact.

Research Reimagined

Importantly, his vision for medical research institutes (MRIs) in Australia has challenged the entrenched model of highly competitive, individual-led research that rewards academic metrics over real-world health improvements.

The strategic plan he implemented at the Menzies School of Health Research, which he led prior to The Kids, and the three strategic plans at the Institute, all reflect this ambition. The Kids' most recent plan, Research Reimagined, represents the culmination in this paradigm shift for MRIs to reject the notion of being 'research hotels' and instead embed collaboration, community partnership and impact at the centre of research endeavour.

Professor Carapetis has also championed this reform nationally through his tenure as President of the Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI), as Chair of AAMRI WA and as

a member of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Under his guidance, The Kids has not been afraid to try new things. It developed world-class support systems for research, so that researchers had the best environment and facilities for their science. Professor Carapetis also recognised the importance of connecting with and involving community in research, and concepts such as brand building, marketing, communications and philanthropy became critical strategic focuses for The Kids, in ways that other MRIs had never done.

In 2025, he oversaw the establishment of the Impact and Innovation Directorate, a portfolio that extends far beyond traditional commercialisation pathways, to ensure that pathways to impact are considered right from the start of all projects, and to accelerate the translation of research findings into outcomes that improve the lives of children and families.

Philanthropic support

Securing long-term financial and job security for research to empower and encourage scientists into the sector has been a hallmark of Professor Carapetis' leadership. Under his stewardship major philanthropic partnerships have been advanced, particularly with Western Australia's Channel 7 Telethon Trust and the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, both of which have contributed multi-millions of dollars in funding to the Institute. Indeed Telethon has been with the Institute right from the start, contributing to more than \$200 million to our research and facilities.

Excitingly, Professor Carapetis has been instrumental in helping to change the landscape of philanthropy in WA, working with donors as genuine partners in research endeavours, and encouraging larger, longer-term gifts that have the potential to lead to even greater outcomes. In 2024, the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation donated one of WA's biggest ever philanthropic gifts of \$135.5 million over 10 years to transform child cancer research



Professor Carapetis at our Discover Day (2017); With patient Kai at Princess Margaret Hospital (2013)

and treatment in Western Australia. Perth Children's Hospital Foundation and The University of Western Australia also contributed to the plan which has seen the establishment of the WA Comprehensive Kids Cancer Centre, securing critical medium-term funding for research into the disease.

And in 2025, the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation pledged \$221.1 million over the next decade to establish the Rare Care Comprehensive Centre at Perth Children's Hospital, with an alliance of institutions, including The Kids, working to improve outcomes for kids with rare and undiagnosed diseases.

Aboriginal health is everyone's business

Professor Carapetis has been a tireless advocate for health equity. As Executive Director he drove the concept from the beginning of his tenure that, if Aboriginal child health was the major equity health challenge in Australia, then Aboriginal health had to be everyone's business at The Kids. This ensured that Aboriginal health was embedded across all research programs rather than being siloed in one part of the Institute. Aboriginal community engagement in research has been non-negotiable and he formalised a co-design model of research partnership with Indigenous communities. This is now enshrined in the Institute's Aboriginal Research Standards, now in their second edition

and considered the gold standard for conducting Aboriginal health research the right way.

He also led the push to develop The Kids' first Reconciliation Action Plan and the implementation of the groundbreaking Aboriginal Employment and Career Development Strategy that has seen the Institute's number of Aboriginal staff, including emerging leaders, grow steadily and new pathways developed for the Aboriginal research leaders of the future.

Tackling Strep A and Rheumatic Heart Disease

Throughout his leadership at both Menzies and The Kids, Professor Carapetis has pursued his research passions, primarily into Strep A and RHD.

His time at The Kids has also seen him transform his approach to his own research, recognising that researchers need to be seen as allies of empowered communities and leaders when it comes to Aboriginal health issues. The exemplar is the Endgame Strategy: the national blueprint for tackling RHD that Professor Carapetis and his team led the writing of, but which was developed and implemented in genuine partnership with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector.

Under his leadership, The Kids team is tackling Strep A and RHD from multiple angles, recognising that there is no "magic bullet". Australia has become



Professor Carapetis joins the Telethon telecast (2014)



Left to right: Professor Carapetis with Professor Fiona Stanley (2017); Being formally admitted as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science (2022); Professor Carapetis with the late Stan and Jean Perron (2014)

the only country in the world with three advanced Strep A vaccine candidates in, or poised to progress to, Phase 1 trials. This once-in-a-generation opportunity backed by Federal Government and philanthropic funding, has the potential to save hundreds of thousands of lives each year.

Beyond Strep A vaccines, Professor Carapetis is working with teams to develop new forms of penicillin to treat Strep A and prevent RHD, and a diagnostic test for rheumatic fever. Each of these would be global game changers. He has also championed a focus on the true determinants

of health inequity with a program focused on understanding the importance of environmental health in tackling Strep A and RHD.

His advocacy in this field has accelerated renewed focus on RHD in WA through the WA Health Department's Spotlight Program, whereby up to \$25 million will be dedicated to RHD research and has led to the disease being identified as a strategic health priority for the State.

Professor Carapetis will continue this work at The Kids and The University of Western Australia after he steps down from his Executive Directorship.



Then Health Minister, Roger Cook announcing Lotterywest funding for the Discovery Centre (2017); Infectious diseases researchers Professor Deborah Lehmann, Professor Peter Richmond, Dr Claire Waddington, Professor Jonathan Carapetis, Professor Tom Snelling and Professor Chris Blyth (2013)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Naomi Flutter,
Chair of the Board, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Chair Remuneration and Nomination Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Chair, People and Culture Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Council Member Scotch College Perth; Executive General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Wesfarmers Ltd; Director Wespine Industries Limited; Former Pro Chancellor ANU (to June 2024).



Professor Jozef Gecz
Member, Risk and Compliance Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia (Until October 2025); Honorary Chair, Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation for the Prevention of Childhood Disability; Professor of Human Genetics, Adelaide Medical School, University of Adelaide; Fellow, Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences; Fellow, Australian Academy of Science; Founding Fellow, Faculty of Science of RCPA; Scientific Board Member of PCDH19 Alliance USA, PCDH19 ONLUS, Italy and FOXP1 Foundation.



Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM
Executive Director, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Member, Finance Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Member, Risk and Compliance Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Member, Commercialisation Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Member, Remuneration and Nomination Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Council member, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) WA; Chair, MRFF Childhood Mental Health Research Grant Assessment Committee; Chair, GOALIE Trial Advisory Committee; Member, University of Western Australia, Innovation Advisory Group; Member, Viertel Foundation Medical Advisory Board (MAB); Member, Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families; Advisory Board; Member, Kimberley Aboriginal Health Research Alliance (KAHRA); Board of Directors; Member, Executive Committee, SAVAC (Global GAS Vaccine Consortium); Former Chair, Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI) WA; Past President, Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI); Member, Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI); Member, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association.

Jane Muirsmith

Chair, Risk and Compliance Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Member Remuneration and Nomination Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Non-Executive Director, Water Corporation; Non-Executive Director, Australian Finance Group; Non-Executive Director, Cedar Woods Properties Limited; Member, UWA Business School Ambassadorial Council; Executive Director, Lenox Hill.



Professor Brendan Crabb AC
Member Finance Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Director and CEO, The Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research & Public Health; Chair, Australian Global Health Alliance; Chair Pacific Friends of Global Health; Member, Brain Cancer Research Advisory Committee; mRNA Victoria Scientific Advisory Board; Member, Advisory Board, Gene Technology Access Centre (GTAC), Victoria; Member, Scientific Advisory Board, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, UK; Adjunct Professor, The University of Melbourne; Adjunct Professor, Monash University; Former Member NHMRC Council (2015-22); Former President AAMRI (2012-14); Fellow of Australian Academy of Science (and Chair of SC9 Fellowship Committee); Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

Adele Stratton
Member Finance Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia (from May 2025); CFO, Iluka Resources LTD Non- Executive Director, Deterra Royalties LTD (Iluka Nominee).





Ed Bostock

Chair, Commercialisation Committee; The Kids Research Institute Australia; Member Remuneration and Nomination Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Managing Partner, Anchorage Capital Partners; Director, Equipment Leasing & Finance; Chairman, ENTAG Pty Ltd; Former Chairman, Wespine Industries Pty Ltd; Director, Richmond Football Club.



Dean Gilkison

Chair Finance Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia (from June 2025); Co-Founder and Executive Chairman, Broadleaf Financial Group Ltd; Former Director, Gilkison Group.

Hon Ken Wyatt AM JP

Non-Executive Director, The Kids Research Institute Australia (from May 2025); Chair, Gather Food Foundation; Board member, Beyond Blue; Commissioner, Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia; Independent Board Director, Energy Resources of Australia; Chair, UWA Public Policy Institute; Chair, Rock Art Australia; Director Governance and Compliance, Swan Districts Football Club; Independent Director, EON Protection; Chair, World Data Exchange; Past Co-Chair, Western Australian Government Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee.



Professor Ingrid Scheffer AO

Member, Risk and Compliance Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia (from November 2025); Melbourne Laureate Professor, Chair of Paediatric Neurology, The University of Melbourne; Co-Director, Epilepsy Research Centre, Austin Health; Director, Children's Epilepsy Program, Austin Health; Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health; Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Murdoch Children's Research Institute; Paediatric Neurologist, Austin Health and Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Past President, Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences; Former Member, National Health and Medical Research Council;

Fellow, Australian Academy of Science; Fellow, Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences; Non-Executive Director Bellberry; Collaboration with many pharmaceutical companies; Member, Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences Mentorship Committee.



Nicole O'Connor

Member, Commercialisation Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia (Until November 2025); National Director for Mining, Utilities, Construction & Engineering, ServiceNow; Former Non-Executive Director, Remsense; Former Regional State Lead Public Sector, Amazon Web Services; Director of Research Services and Systems, Curtin University; Former General Manager Western Australia, SAP; Former Member,

Advisory Board, Faculty of Business & Law, Curtin University; Former Member, Fremantle Primary School Board; Graduate, Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Helen McLean

Company Secretary, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Senior Lawyer, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Director of RTR 92.1 Ltd (Dec 2025).

Hon. Ben Wyatt

Member Finance Committee, The Kids Research Institute Australia (Until June 2025); Non-executive Director, Woodside; Non-executive Director Rio Tinto; Non-executive Director, West Coast Eagles; Non-executive Director, Perth International Arts Festival; Member, Advisory Committee, Australian Capital Equity' Former WA State Treasurer.



ORGANISATIONAL CHART



Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM
 Professor Carapetis is the Executive Director of The Kids Research Institute Australia. He is also an infectious diseases consultant physician at Perth Children's Hospital and a Professor at The University of Western Australia. He holds qualifications as a medical practitioner (MBBS), specialist paediatrician (FRACP Paediatrics) specialist infectious diseases physician (FRACP Infect Dis), and specialist public health physician (FAFPHM).

Adam Maxwell - Chief Financial Officer
 Mr Maxwell has held the role of Chief Financial Officer since 2023 following a seven year tenure in the same position at Rocky Bay Limited. Adam has worked extensively for not-for-profit organisations either as a volunteer, staff member, trustee or Board member throughout his four decade career. As Chair of the National Disability Services Finance Committee he led submissions and response to the NDIS WA Market Review in 2019.

Donna O'Hara - Chief Operating Officer
 Ms O'Hara has more than 15 years experience in leadership positions spanning healthcare, education and community sectors. Prior to starting at The Kids she was Chief Operating Officer at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research where she made significant contributions over three years.

Professor Andrew Whitehouse - Deputy Director (Research)
 Professor Whitehouse was appointed to the new role of Deputy Director (Research) in March. He is also the Angela Wright Bennett Professor of Autism Research and Director of CliniKids at The Kids Research Institute Australia, and the Research Strategy Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism.

Associate Professor Glenn Pearson - Director of First Nations Strategy & Leadership
 Joining The Kids in 2004 Associate Professor Pearson now leads the integration of First Nations Health across the Institute, co-leads the Institute's Reconciliation Action Plan and is the Head of the First Nations Health and Equity research theme. He also co-leads with Professor Carapetis the Strep A Translation Team on a mission to end RHD.

Jenna Palumbo - Director of Innovation & Impact (from August 2025)
 Ms Palumbo is a cross sector leader with a passion for improving social outcomes. Her appointment to this new role at The Kids aims to improve the Institute's research translation and impact measurement. Most recently Ms Palumbo was an Executive Director at Minderoo Foundation where she managed partnerships, impact investing, strategy and insights, and impact measurement. She has worked for not-for-profit and organisations, Federal and State governments to define and enhance their targeted impact.

Louise Ardagh - Director of Partnerships & Engagement (from July 2025)
 With a career spanning marketing, commercial growth, philanthropy and social impact, Ms Ardagh has held senior executive and advisory positions across corporate, government and for-purpose sectors over the past decade. She has more than 10 years' experience as a non-executive director in arts and community service organisations and has a strong focus on building brands.

Elizabeth Chester - Director of Partnerships & Engagement (until January 2025)
 A journalist by profession, Ms Chester dedicated 24 years to the Institute using her extensive experience in media, advocacy and stakeholder relations to promote research translation, help influence policy, engage key stakeholders, steward donors and champion the public health needs of children and families.



Science Leadership Team

Head, Chronic Diseases

Head, Infectious Diseases

Head, Precision Health

Head, Strong Beginnings

Head, Wellbeing & Mental Health

SCIENCE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Under The Kids' new strategic plan, Research Reimagined, changes were made in 2025 to the structure of the Institute's research themes to better align with the organisation's long-term objectives.

Across all themes, First Nations Health and Equity remains an overarching priority for every research team at The Kids. The Institute believes that Aboriginal health is everyone's business. The needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families is integrated into all relevant areas of our work.

New Theme Heads and Theme Managers were appointed in 2025 to steer the new themes which comprise Chronic Diseases, Infectious Diseases, Precision Health, Strong Beginnings and Wellbeing and Mental Health.

Theme Heads sit on the Institute's Science Leadership Committee (SLC) alongside the Deputy Director (Research), Director of First Nations Strategy and Leadership and the Director of Innovation and Impact.

The SLC is a research-focused subcommittee of the Executive Committee and is responsible for providing strategic advice to the Executive on research related matters, shaping, monitoring and executing theme-level research strategies aligned with the strategic plan, and decision-making on a range of research-related matters.



Standing left to right - Professor Andrew Whitehouse, Professor Hannah Moore, Associate Professor Shannon Simpson, Associate Professor Glenn Pearson

Sitting left to right - Professor Ben Jackson, Associate Professor Timo Lassmann, Associate Professor David Martino

Behind the Breakthrough exhibition celebrates 35 years of The Kids

The Kids Research Institute Australia marked 35 years of discovery and impact with the launch of a bold new exhibition: Behind the Breakthrough in 2025.



Type 1 diabetes research participant April Welsh and The Kids Deputy Director Research, Professor Andrew Whitehouse.

Making its public debut at Perth's Central Park in November, the exhibition invites the community to step inside the stories, people and questions that have shaped some of the country's most significant medical advances for children which have defined The Kids' 35 year legacy.

The Kids Executive Director, Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM, said the exhibition was designed to honour the researchers, clinicians, patients, families and community supporters whose courage and collaboration have turned discoveries into better lives for children.

"Our Behind the Breakthrough exhibition shines a light on stories of real-world impact, paying homage to the researchers and members of the community who have helped turn bold, challenge-driven research questions into better health outcomes for children," Professor Carapetis said.

"This exhibition is designed to celebrate the strength of our community and showcase the true impact of The Kids' work over the past 35 years. It also serves as a reminder of The Kids' part in advancing world-leading research that improves prevention, treatment and cures for children and young people – the work we're committed to carrying forward," Professor Carapetis said.

Western Australian Medical Research Minister Stephen Dawson officially opened the exhibition at the Institute's 35 Year celebration at Government House, paying tribute to the researchers, clinicians, trial participants, donors and families in attendance who dedicated their time, expertise and energy to improving children's health.

The exhibition showcases eight life-sized doors, each opening to a breakthrough in research and the people who turned bold questions into life-changing advances across autism, rare diseases, cancer, Indigenous health, RSV and more.

A standout breakthrough featured within the exhibition rewinds to 1999, when the Institute pioneered insulin pump therapy at Princess Margaret Hospital, launching a world-first clinical program that transformed care

for kids with Type 1 diabetes (T1D) and helped close a 12-year mortality gap.

One of the community stories highlighted in the exhibition is that of Craigie resident April Welsh, diagnosed with T1D at just three-years-old. Now 31, she is among thousands whose lives have been transformed by insulin pumps and automated insulin delivery.

Since its foundation, The Kids has been home to local, national and international firsts in child and adolescent health research. Formerly known as the Telethon Kids Institute, the organisation's work has transformed clinical practice, influenced policy, and improved outcomes for children across Australia and beyond.

The interactive Behind the Breakthrough exhibition will be showcased at a variety of locations around Perth throughout 2026.



From left: Executive Director Professor Jonathan Carapetis, Founder and Patron Professor Fiona Stanley, Mrs Darrilyn Dawson and Governor of Western Australia Chris Dawson



Clockwise from top left: Minister for Medical Research Stephen Dawson officially opens the Behind the Breakthrough exhibition; Immunisation Foundation of Australia founder Catherine Hughes, Mitch Messer, Barbara Daniels, Belinda Frank, Anne McKenzie and Louise Ardagh; Minister for Health and Mental Health Meredith Hammat and Minister for Medical Research Minister Stephen Dawson at The Kids 35-year celebration event; Professor Jonathan Carapetis, Professor Donna Cross, Kate and Tick Everett, and Professor Andrew Whitehouse.

OUR IMPACT



25

Clinical trials
logged in 2025



61

Non-clinical trials
logged in 2025



We submitted

370

grant applications



Awarded more than

\$100 million

in research funding



Researchers received

\$3.3 million

from the WA Child Health Research Fund

OUR REACH



2,454 mentions in
the media

We had

2.02 million

views on our social media channels



78 school
groups

participated in our schools program



Over

15,000 students, kids
and families

visited our **Discovery Centre**
and attended **outreach events**



Collaborated with over

65 community
partners and
organisations

OUR PEOPLE



822

Employees



188

Students



82

Volunteers



373

Honourees



Our work was cited in

260

policy documents from

31

countries



This includes

57

policy documents published by Intergovernmental Organisations,

such as the World Health Organization, United Nations and World Bank



GLOBAL IMPACT - OUR POLICY DOCUMENTS AROUND THE WORLD

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS...	56	IRELAND	4
AUSTRALIA	44	NEW ZEALAND	4
CANADA	40	FINLAND	3
USA	32	SPAIN	3
UK	21	BELGIUM	2
EU	11	KENYA	2
SWITZERLAND	11	SOUTH KOREA	2
FRANCE	8	AUSTRIA	1
GERMANY	8	ICELAND	1
SWEDEN	6	INDIA	1
DENMARK	5	JAPAN	1
NETHERLANDS	5	NORWAY	1



RESEARCH THEMES

Chronic Diseases

Theme Head, Associate Professor David Martino

For kids living with chronic conditions or disabilities, care is often lifelong – shaped by complex diagnoses, ongoing treatment and the need for coordinated support. The Kids' Chronic Diseases Theme is focused on improving that care, working toward earlier diagnosis, safer and more effective treatments, and care pathways that support better long-term health.

At its core is a simple but ambitious goal – to ensure every child has the best possible chance at a healthier future.

Associate Professor David Martino, who leads the Theme, said its strength lies in the collective expertise it brings together.

"It has been a privilege to immerse myself in the research happening within the Theme, to understand where our collective strengths lie and where opportunities for synergy exist," he said.

That work involves a diverse community spanning clinicians, biomedical, implementation and environmental sciences, alongside a strong cohort of students and emerging researchers.

"We work across different disease areas and are fortunate to have several impactful research centres within the Theme. Some of our work is strongly anchored in clinical practice, while other initiatives are pure discovery," Associate Professor Martino said.

This breadth is one of the Theme's defining strengths.

Looking ahead, Associate Professor Martino said the focus is on strengthening collective impact.

"I'm excited about co-developing an impact monitoring framework that gives us visibility of how our efforts across diverse disease areas contribute to shared goals. Bringing people together to build shared infrastructure and launch Theme-wide initiatives is a significant opportunity for us."

Right: Associate Professor David Martino



New diabetes clinic

An early-stage type 1 diabetes (T1D) clinic aims to revolutionise diabetes care and support families navigating the beginning of an early stage diagnosis.

The clinic, an Australian-first co-designed model of care for early-stage T1D, is the result of collaboration between WA families, The Kids Rio Tinto Children's Diabetes Centres and the Child and Adolescent Health Service's diabetes department at Perth Children's Hospital.



Sisters Emily and Olivia Saint. Olivia attends the early-stage type 1 diabetes clinic



Perioperative Medicine Team leader Professor Britta Regli-von Ungern-Sternberg

Equity gaps in surgical safety

New research from CAHS in collaboration with The Kids' Perioperative Medicine Team has revealed that children from disadvantaged backgrounds face a higher risk of serious breathing complications during surgery.

The CHEETAH study, one of the largest of its kind, tracked more than 12,000 paediatric anaesthetic procedures at Perth Children's Hospital. It found that children from socioeconomic disadvantage and Aboriginal children were both independently linked to increased rates of adverse respiratory events.

The findings are helping clinicians better identify and support high-risk patients, and are informing policy to address health disparities in surgical care.

Leukaemia study

A groundbreaking study from cancer researchers at The Kids identified a promising new therapeutic strategy for children battling the most common childhood cancer – B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (B-ALL).

While overall survival rates for B-ALL have reached nearly 90 per cent over the past 50 years, certain sub-groups continue to face poor outcomes. The discovery brings a new approach to treatment children who face these tougher cases of leukaemia.



Cancer researchers Professor Rishi Kotecha and Associate Professor Laurence Cheung

First Nations Health and Equity

Theme Head, Associate Professor Glenn Pearson

Across The Kids, our work spans everything from improving outcomes for children with rare genetic conditions to creating safer online spaces.

But one priority cuts across every piece of research – closing the disparity in health and wellbeing outcomes between Aboriginal and all other Australian children and families. This commitment drives our First Nations Health and Equity Theme.

“Improving the health and happiness of all children must begin with listening to, learning from, and working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,” Associate Professor Glenn Pearson, Director of First Nations Strategy and Leadership and Head of the First Nations Health and Equity Research Theme, said.

“We recognise the strength and resilience of our First Nations communities, and the critical role culture, country and connection play in the health and wellbeing of our kids.”

In 2025, we launched our Reconciliation Action Plan – a significant step in reshaping how we do research, placing community at the centre and ensuring our work is culturally safe, inclusive and equity driven. It builds on more than ten years of action from our two Commitments to Aboriginal Children and Families Strategies which has laid the foundation for this Theme.

We also released the second edition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Standards, guiding research practice for working in partnership with Aboriginal communities and were recognised as best practice by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) earlier this year.

“These standards set clear expectations for responding to community priorities, ensuring effective Aboriginal governance and influence, building capacity and fostering relationships that extend beyond individual projects,” Associate Professor Pearson said.

“I look forward to seeing this work continue with strength, honesty and shared purpose leading to measurable outcomes that close the gap.”

Right: Associate Professor Glenn Pearson



Goodbye to ear infections

Painful ear infections and muffled sounds are a thing of the past for 100 Aboriginal children who have received free grommet surgery thanks to the Djaalinj Waakinj (listening and hearing) Ear Health Program.

A partnership with St John of God Murdoch Hospital, paediatric ear nose and throat surgeon Associate Professor George Sim, the Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases at The Kids, and Cockburn Integrated Health, connects ear health researchers with Aboriginal children living in Perth's southern metropolitan region. Babies aged from two months are checked for early signs of middle ear infections, known as otitis media, and hearing loss.



Paediatric ENT surgeon Associate Professor George Sim with Jahkye Harris, 7, and his mum Nikki Taylor



Aboriginal women lead design of maternal and child healthcare model

A group of 19 Aboriginal women from South Australia, along with researchers from The Kids, have developed a culturally responsive, evidence-based model of care to support Aboriginal women with cardiometabolic complications in pregnancy in South Australia.

The project identified systemic issues and developed solutions to address gaps in maternal and child health care, based on a collaborative approach, iterative co-design process and participants' shared lived experiences.

One in six kids found to have Strep A throughout Kimberley region

An alarming number of Strep A infections are going unnoticed throughout classrooms in Broome and Derby according to a major study aiming to reduce the burden of acute rheumatic fever (ARF) and rheumatic heart disease (RHD).

The Missing Piece Surveillance Study found that one in six kids living in Western Australia's Kimberley region had Strep A detected at any one time in the throat or skin and, in more than half of cases, there were no noticeable symptoms.

Infectious Diseases

Theme Head, Professor Hannah Moore OAM

Infectious diseases remain one of the most significant threats to child health globally. And one of the most preventable. The Kids' Infectious Diseases Theme is focused on translating research into practical, real world action to better protect children and families.

"Infection remains the biggest cause of morbidity and mortality in young children, affecting millions of families globally," said Professor Hannah Moore OAM, who leads the Theme.

"Our work addresses this by strengthening how infections are recognised, treated and prevented, through close partnerships with communities, clinicians and local and global networks."

These partnerships – across the health ecosystem, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and global networks – sit at the heart of the Theme's work.

"We bring together expertise in advanced data analytics and modelling, surveillance and clinical trials, the development of new diagnostic tools and therapeutics, and advocacy to inform prevention policy – particularly immunisation," Professor Moore said.

For the Infectious Diseases Theme, 2025 was a year defined by connection. And that sense of collective purpose is shaping what comes next.

"For Theme members – staff and students alike – being able to see the direction their research is heading and to feel part of something bigger than their own individual project is what excites us most."

Right: Professor Hannah Moore



RSV online tool

A new online tool has been designed to help families and healthcare professionals in WA navigate immunisations programs targeting respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Developed by researchers at the Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases, based at The Kids, the tool clarifies for parents which RSV vaccines or immunisations they are eligible for as part of Australia's new Maternal and Infant Immunisation Program and tailored for the current policies in Western Australia.



Dr Jua Iwasaki leads the tonsil study

Strep A tonsil study

Tonsils are being deliberately infected with Strep A in the laboratory as part of new research to find a vaccine for the potentially-deadly bacteria.

Researchers at the Wesfarmers Centre for Vaccines and Infectious Diseases at The Kids are using discarded tonsils from Perth Children's Hospital as part of wide-ranging efforts to find a vaccine.

Climate change impact on malaria burden

New research published in *Nature* warns climate change could substantially increase malaria burden in Africa over the coming decades.

The study, led by The Kids and Curtin University researchers, projects that a middle-of-the-road climate scenario could trigger more than 500,000 additional malaria deaths and more than 100 million additional cases by 2050 with children being substantially impacted.

Study which deliberately infected participants leads to penicillin breakthrough

A unique study purposely giving participants *Streptococcus pyogenes* (Strep A) to learn how much penicillin it takes to prevent infection has found the amount needed is much lower than previously thought – a discovery that will transform thinking on treatment for people living with rheumatic heart disease (RHD).

The trial, a rare human challenge model, found the concentration of penicillin required to fend off infection is less than half the amount used in treatment protocols delivered to patients for the past 75 years.

Precision Health

Theme Head, Associate Professor Timo Lassmann

Genetics has become a critical part of current and future health care systems.

For families navigating rare genetic conditions and specialist genetic health services, answers can take years. The Precision Health Theme at The Kids is working to change that – finding faster diagnoses and more targeted treatments tailored to each child.

“Precision Health matches each child to the right diagnosis and the right treatment based on their specific biology,” said Associate Professor Timo Lassmann, who leads the Theme.

“One in twelve Western Australian children lives with a rare or genetic condition, and many wait years for an answer.”

Aboriginal families carry a disproportionate burden of many diseases but unfortunately have not been included in genomics research to date. This means, the genomic tools and reference data that enable genomics in health care may not deliver equitable outcomes for all who could benefit from their use. Together, the Theme addresses both challenges – combining rapid diagnosis and targeted therapies for rare conditions with community-led precision medicine approaches that work for Aboriginal families.

A defining moment in the Theme’s first year was helping convene and plan the Rare Care Comprehensive Centre, and then seeing it approved with the support of the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation.

“It is bigger than any one team or institute, bringing together clinicians, researchers, families and service providers,” said Associate Professor Lassmann.

“Seeing that vision move from conversation to reality in the Theme’s first year was genuinely humbling.”

Looking ahead, progress is centred on deep, cross disciplinary collaboration.

“A child with a rare disease doesn’t experience their condition in disciplinary silos. They need a genomic diagnosis, a clinician who can interpret it, a data scientist who can find the signal in complex data, and increasingly a gene therapy team who can act on it.

“That tight loop between disciplines is what makes Precision Health function.”

Right: Associate Professor Timo Lassmann



Major gift advances rare care in WA

Researchers at The Kids will join clinicians and cross-sector partners to form the Rare Care Comprehensive Centre thanks to one of Western Australia's biggest philanthropic gifts.

The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation has committed a landmark \$221.1 million over the next decade, along with \$25 million from the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation and \$3 million from The University of Western Australia to improve care and transform outcome for kids and families living with rare and undiagnosed diseases.

Fast-tracking rare disease diagnosis to unlock new treatments

A team of researchers from The Kids, who have already reduced the time it takes to screen genetic variants from around five years to 12 months, hope to further reduce this to less than 12 weeks.



Left to right: Catherine Forbes, Dr Nicole Shaw, Timothy Chapman, Kevin Chen and Dr Vanessa Fear

The research team co-led by Dr Vanessa Fear and Associate Professor Timo Lassmann from The Kids, with Clinical Professor Gareth Baynam from the Rare Care Centre at Perth Children's Hospital, will develop a revolutionary protocol known as SCRIPT (Single-cell CRISPR to Identify Pathogenesis with Transcriptomics) which helps scientists rapidly determine whether a genetic change is responsible for a disease. This supports earlier and more accurate diagnoses for patients.

Building on the team's previous screening success, they will fast-track a newer, faster and more informative method enabling the functional interpretation of hundreds of patient genetic variants in a single assay.

Precision medicine for Indigenous Australians

The Black Ochre Centre for Precision Health Data is a new Centre of Research Excellence, bringing together researchers, policy makers, and health services to translate precision medicine into primary healthcare for Indigenous Australians. Initial collaboration has commenced, focused on building the policy, clinical tools, data infrastructure, and training required to build workforce capacity and deliver equitable and culturally safe precision medicine in primary healthcare settings.

Strong Beginnings

Theme Head, Associate Professor Shannon Simpson

The earliest years of life lay the foundation for everything that follows. The Kids' Strong Beginnings Theme is focused on ensuring those foundations are as strong as possible for every child.

"Strong Beginnings research aims to reshape how we prevent, identify, intervene in and support conditions of early childhood," said Associate Professor Shannon Simpson.

"That means integrating discovery science, clinical care and community partnership to ensure every child's first five years build a lifelong foundation for health, learning and wellbeing."

The Theme brings together a broad and diverse mix of expertise.

"We have clinicians, basic scientists, researchers, students and project staff working across everything from lungs to ears to brains," Associate Professor Simpson said.

"What unites us is a shared belief that supporting families early can fundamentally change life trajectories."

The Theme's first year has been defined by strong collaboration, and that collective approach is continuing to build momentum.

"It's exciting to see teams come together around our Research Reimagined strategy," she said.

"That collaborative spirit is amplifying our impact – helping great work go even further."

Right: Associate Professor Shannon Simpson



Low iron in WA children

A third of Western Australian one-year-olds and up to two thirds of three-year-olds have low iron, a study by The Kids ORIGINS team found.

IRON Child, a sub-project of the ORIGINS longitudinal birth study, aims to find out why iron deficiency is so prevalent among toddlers and to help find solutions. One of the focus areas includes investigating possible links between low iron and childhood anxiety and neurodevelopmental conditions, including ADHD.



Dr Jamie Tan with ORIGINS participant, Kavindi Ganepola



Ruth Kerr-Sheppard with her daughters Neve, 6, and Harriet, 8

Reducing allergies

Families who introduce peanut butter and eggs to their baby's diet at around six months of age can significantly reduce the chances of them developing a life-threatening allergy, according to a new study by The Kids researchers.

Published in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology - in Practice*, the findings showed egg allergy was four times lower and peanut allergy five times lower, when the food was introduced at six months of age, instead of 10 months or later.

World-first evidence links exclusive colostrum intake with reduced peanut allergy risk

Newborns exclusively fed colostrum, the breastmilk produced in the first 72 hours following birth, were five times less likely to develop a peanut allergy by 12-18 months, and 11 times less likely to develop multiple food allergies, such as egg or cow's milk, compared with infants who also received formula during that period.

Utilising data from 666 infants participating in ORIGINS, researchers compared the risk of developing food allergies at 12-18 months of age between infants who were exclusively fed colostrum in their first 72 hours of life and those who were only partially fed colostrum during the same period. More than half of the 666 infants were classified as partially fed colostrum, and by 12-18 months, these children were found to be five times more likely to develop a peanut allergy and 11 times more likely to develop multiple food allergies.

Wellbeing and Mental Health

Theme Head, Professor Ben Jackson

“We want all children and young people to flourish,” says Professor Ben Jackson, Head of the Wellbeing and Mental Health Theme at The Kids.

“That means research that is useful and used – driving more effective, more accessible, and more equitable support.”

The Wellbeing and Mental Health Theme focuses on strengthening the emotional, physical and psychological health of children and young people. Together, the Theme develops evidence-based interventions and strategies that promote resilience, prevent mental health challenges and help kids thrive.

“We’re a large Theme working across community, school, clinical, and many more settings,” said Professor Jackson.

“Our work focuses on two key areas. The first is prevention and promotion – supporting population wide improvements in wellbeing and building flourishing, active and connected lives. The second is addressing adversity and advancing equity. We want all children and young people affected by trauma, disability, adversity or inequity to feel supported and safe, receive the care they need, and participate fully in their community.”

“We’re incredibly proud of the achievements of our early and mid-career researchers,” said Professor Jackson.

“Recent highlights include Perron People Fellowships for Dr Jack Farrugia and Dr Vincent Mancini, Dr Ezra Kneebone’s Illuminate Award, and so much more. It’s a thrill to see the trajectory they’re on and the impact they’re making for kids and families.”

Looking ahead, it’s all about working together and thinking big.

“We’re turning individual projects into connected, ambitious programs, and putting equity and community at the heart of everything we do. I think the coming 12 months will bring even bigger, bolder, and more impactful work.”

Right: Professor Ben Jackson



Gambling gateway

Sport and fantasy sport gambling can lead to a higher risk of problem gambling behaviour in young men, new research has found.

Lead author and The Kids Senior Research Fellow Dr Vincent Mancini said his study also found that higher levels of depression in males aged 18-25 years were also linked to problem gambling.



Vincent Mancini



Burden of Tourette syndrome

One in two children with a tic-related disorder have thought about ending their life, while one in 10 children and one in four affected adults have attempted suicide, new research into Tourette syndrome has found.

The research, led by The Kids and the UNSW Sydney, revealed the crushing daily challenges face by Australians living with Tourette syndrome and other tic-related disorders.

Study on social media ban

A unique national study to examine the impact of the Federal Government's social media ban on families is being undertaken by The Kids in collaboration with The University of WA and Edith Cowan University.

The research will recruit more than 2000 parents of young people aged nine to 16-years-old before and after the implementation of the ban to understand how the new laws are affecting families.



Kathryn Modecki

CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE



CliniKids

The Kids Research Institute Australia's first standalone clinical service won the **Allied Health Professionals** category at the **Western Australian Disability Support Awards** in May.



Professor Asha Bowen OAM

Named the **Mid-Career Scientist of the Year** at the **WA Premier's Science Awards** in October. The award recognises Professor Bowen's work in reducing the burden of skin infections in Aboriginal children.



Professor Britta Regli-von Ungern-Sternberg

Recognised as one of Australia's rising leaders in health and medical sciences upon being awarded the **Australian Academy of Health Medical Sciences 2025 Jian Zou Medal**.



Dr Mara West

Manager of Operations at The Kids Kulunga Aboriginal Unit, won the prestigious **Aboriginal Award** at the **Western Australian of the Year Awards** in May.



Shakara Liddelow-Hunt

Named the **Student Scientist of the Year** for their work as a national leader in research focused on the mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQA+ young people.



Taleah Ugle

Named **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island STEM Student of the Year** at the same awards. Ms Ugle is a Menang-Ballardong Noongar woman and has been working with The Kids' Healthy Skin and Acute Rheumatic Fever Prevention Team.

A further six researchers were **finalists** at the **Premier's Science Awards**.

Associate Professor Glenn Pearson and Dr Jessica Buck



Both shortlisted for the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist of the Year**

Professor Nick Golding



In the **Mid-Career Scientist of the Year** category

Stephanie Enkel and Michael Dymock



Student Scientists of the Year

The Kids' **Broome STEM Festival** was a finalist for the **Science Engagement Initiative of the Year** at the **Premier's Science Awards**.



Dual benefit of bone-protecting treatment for childhood leukaemia uncovered

B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (B-ALL) is the most common cancer in children.

While overall survival rates for B-ALL have reached nearly 90 per cent over the past 50 years, certain sub-groups continue to face poor outcomes.

In 2025, cancer researchers at The Kids identified a promising new therapeutic strategy for children battling B-ALL, bringing a new approach to treating children who face these tougher cases of leukaemia.

B-ALL starts in the bone marrow – the soft tissue inside bones where blood cells are made. In children with B-ALL, the disease often causes bone damage. One reason for this damage is the activity of a bone cell called osteoclasts. Osteoclasts, which normally help in bone remodelling, have now been found to cause the bone loss often observed in children with leukaemia.

The study focused on whether targeting osteoclast cells with the bone-protecting treatment zoledronic



IMPACT TRANSLATION

acid (ZA) could not only restore bone health in children but also enhance overall treatment efficacy for children with B-ALL.

Co-head of the Institute's Leukaemia Translational Research Team, Associate Professor Laurence Cheung, said that using zoledronic acid to target osteoclasts can really change the way we treat high-risk childhood leukaemia.

"By keeping the bone environment healthier, we see improvements in both bone strength and overall

survival when ZA is added to the usual treatments," Associate Professor Cheung said.

The laboratory-based research used special imaging tools to look at how bones responded to the treatment. The images showed that ZA reduced the number of osteoclasts and helped reverse the damage caused by B-ALL, such as bone loss and thinning.

The results were replicated using cells from a 14-year-old boy with relapsed B-ALL. In this model, ZA again improved survival and helped restore healthy bone structure.

The study went further by combining ZA with common chemotherapies used to treat B-ALL. Even in cases where the disease burden was high, this combination treatment led to better survival than chemotherapy alone in laboratory models.

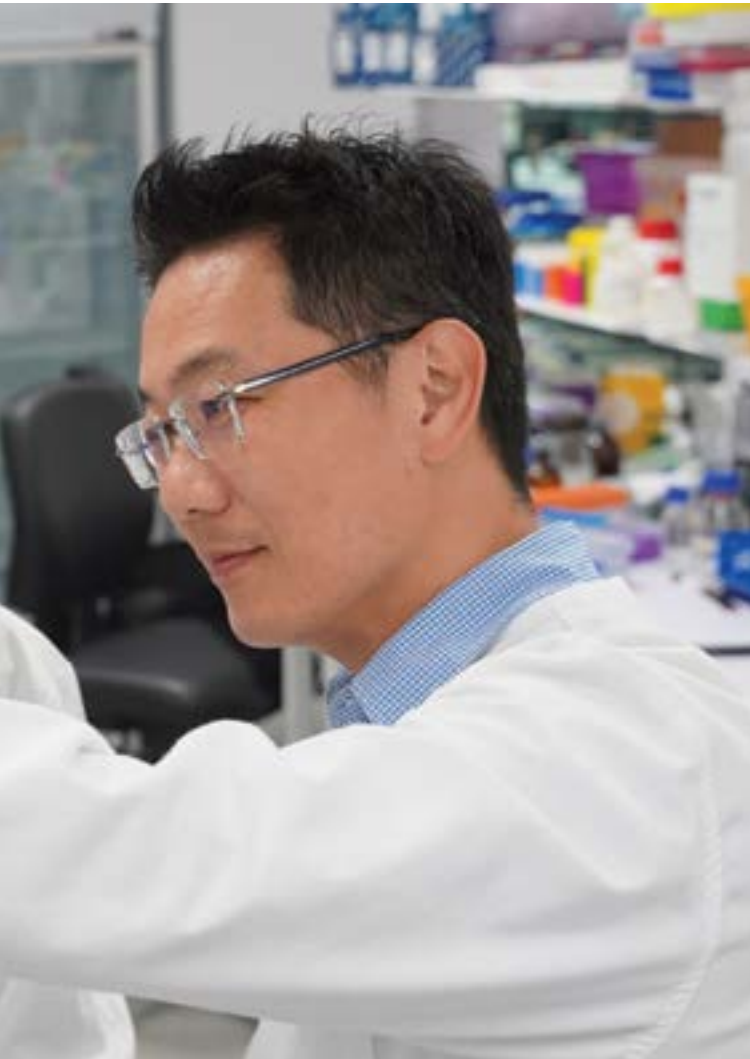
The final part of the study demonstrated safety and feasibility of administering ZA to children receiving chemotherapy for B-ALL.

"In our Perth Children's Hospital clinical cases, we also saw that children with severe bone complications benefited from ZA," Associate Professor Cheung said.

"It was safe to use with other treatments, and it helped reverse bone loss without causing any significant adverse effects."

The findings show that ZA may offer a two-fold benefit for children with B-ALL: protecting their bones and boosting the effectiveness of standard cancer treatments. The research team now hopes to see clinical trials to further test ZA as a part of everyday treatment for childhood leukaemia.

Left: Professor Rishi Kotecha and Associate Professor Laurence Cheung



One in six kids found to have Strep A throughout Kimberley region

Streptococcus A or Strep A is a bacterium often found in the throat and on the skin.

It most commonly causes sore throats and skin infections but recurrent, untreated Strep A infections of the throat or skin can lead to acute rheumatic fever (ARF) and rheumatic heart disease (RHD).

These life-threatening illnesses disproportionately affect young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote areas of Australia and can lead to a reduced life expectancy of around 40 years.

Research at The Kids has shown an alarming number of Strep A infections are going unnoticed throughout classrooms in Broome and Derby.

The Missing Piece Surveillance Study found that one in six kids living in Western Australia's Kimberley region had Strep A detected at any one time in the throat or skin and, in more than half of cases, there were no noticeable symptoms.

Professor Asha Bowen, Head of the Healthy Skin and ARF Prevention team at the Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases, based at The Kids, Paediatric Infectious Disease Specialist at Perth Children's Hospital and Professor at The University of Western Australia's Medical School, said the study set out to learn more about the missing pieces in the prevention of ARF.

"We wanted to know whether it was skin sores or sore throats, or both, that were resulting in ARF, and we were also interested in finding out what symptoms kids were experiencing, what types of Strep A were causing infections, and what the antibody responses were to the infections," Professor Bowen said.

Working in partnership with the Catholic Education Office of Western Australia, Broome Aboriginal Medical Service and Derby Aboriginal Health Service, the team conducted weekly visits with 250 kids from St Mary's Primary School in Broome



Lead author Dr Janessa Pickering testing for Strep A

and Holy Rosary School in Derby over a three-year period to check for sore throats or skin sores.

"After analyzing 1000 throat swabs, 200 skin swabs and 400 blood samples in our Perth laboratory, we discovered there were significantly more cases of Strep A circulating than first thought.

"Almost 30 per cent of children coming to school in the Kimberley reported one or more sore throat symptoms, using a sore throat checklist uniquely developed with Broome families for the Missing Piece Study, and around 15 per cent of kids had skin sores.

"The high rate of infection is certainly concerning, as we know when kids are at school, they pass Strep A around to each other, and we were also able to detect Strep A on some surfaces within the classroom.

"This information provides us with an important opportunity to intervene as there are many things we can do to prevent Strep A, including focusing

IMPACT TRANSLATION

on hygiene, ensuring children with sore throats are encouraged to go to the clinic for treatment and not sharing close spaces,” Professor Bowen said.

Dr Janessa Pickering, lead author and Research Fellow at the Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases, said the study highlighted that children with Strep A would most likely show no symptoms of infection.

“This is important as asymptomatic Strep A infections have been shown to be a key contributor to Strep A transmission and could be a vital missing link in the global conversation around RHD prevention,” Dr Pickering said.

“In addition, we identified that some kids carried the same type of Strep A infection for years, while others never got it at all, which provides us with a path forward for looking at the protective microbiome, or healthy bugs in the throat, that could be potentially guarding some kids against infection.”

Mrs Shelley Kneebone, Chief Executive Officer at Derby Aboriginal Health Service, said she was very concerned by the number of kids who tested positive but didn’t have symptoms.

“The high number of asymptomatic infections is a clear indicator that we need more investment in RHD prevention – it certainly raises the question of how many bouts of Strep A kids are having without being treated,” Mrs Kneebone said.

“I hope the true burden of infection discovered in the study will emphasise the need for greater focus on the social and environmental issues that affect our young children and make them such a high risk of RHD.

“The kids and their families who took part in the study were really supportive of this research, and while the results are worrying, we now have knowledge that can help us plan how we tackle RHD in our communities into the future,” she said.



St Mary’s Broome student Danielle and Dr Janessa Pickering.

First Early-Stage Type 1 Diabetes Clinic underway in WA

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is one of the most common chronic conditions in children.

In Western Australia, there are more than 1200 children living with T1D and about 150 children are newly diagnosed with T1D every year.

Although T1D can't be prevented yet and there is no cure, children can be identified in the early stages, when the autoimmune process underlying the condition is underway and but children are still feeling well.

An Early-Stage T1D clinic aims to revolutionise diabetes care and support families navigating the beginning of an early-stage T1D diagnosis.

The clinic, an Australian-first co-designed model of care for early-stage T1D, is the result of a collaboration between WA families, The Kids Rio Tinto Children's Diabetes Centre and the Child and Adolescent Health Services' (CAHS) Diabetes department at Perth Children's Hospital.

Generous support of West Australians, funding from the Channel 7 Telethon Trust, Rio Tinto and Breakthrough T1D enabled the team to develop a much-needed new model of care. By working with

WA kids and their families, the team were able to better understand what support and education they needed to help manage the early-stage T1D journey.

Dr Aveni Haynes, who leads epidemiology and early-stage T1D research, said research advances in the field – such as T1D screening programs – meant children could now be identified early in their T1D journey, before they had any symptoms or signs when they are likely still feeling well.

"Identifying the early stages of T1D can occur months to years before kids become unwell and need to start insulin treatment. As research advances continue, such children may be able to be offered future treatments to slow the progression and delay the need for daily insulin treatment," Dr Haynes said.

"While some families want to know whether their child has early-stage T1D so that they can prepare and be informed of research or clinical trials available for early intervention, this news can be difficult for many families to come to terms with. Families need to have resources and support available to provide them with advice on what their results mean for them and their child."



The early-stage clinic team (Research Nurse Manager Alex Tully, Professor Liz Davis, Dr Aveni Haynes and Dr Sarah Black)

IMPACT TRANSLATION

Currently children identified with early-stage T1D, and their families, live with the knowledge that they have a high chance of needing lifelong treatment with insulin, but they do not know when this will happen. Up until now there has been no specific clinic or support pathway available for such families living in WA.

“We wanted to provide a model of care to meet the needs of families living with early-stage T1D so we undertook a co-design project that included community conversations, workshops and focus groups with community members and health care providers to understand their unique needs and gain feedback on a fit-for-purpose clinic to be established at Perth Children’s Hospital.”

Dr Sarah Black, who is leading the delivery of the resulting Early-Stage T1D clinic, said the team were excited to launch the new model of care.

“Our research nurses have been working with WA families like these for years and could see the gap in existing care to meet the need for them to be supported in their early diabetes journey,” Dr Sarah Black said.

“In this new clinic, WA families will be cared for by a multidisciplinary team and receive medical and psychosocial support and relevant education.

“The goal of this clinic is to create a flexible and adaptable health care service that evolves with advances in the field and needs of affected families.”

Yvette Saint, mother of Emily, was part of the co-design process following Emily’s early-stage



Olivia and Emily Saint

diagnosis. After attending the clinic she said seeing their daughter begin care at the Early-Stage T1D clinic had been a tremendous relief for their family.

“Knowing she is now in a clinical setting brings us comfort during uncertain times, and having her health closely monitored eases much of the stress we’ve been carrying,” Mrs Saint said.

Accelerating the fight against malaria

Malaria is one of the world's deadliest diseases.

In 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated global malaria cases surged to an estimated 263 million, that's nearly ten times the population of Australia.

Sadly, it is estimated that more than 597,000 people died.

The vast majority of malaria cases – approximately 95 per cent – occurred in Africa, where vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women are particularly affected.

Professor Melissa Penny – Head of The Kids' Global Disease Modelling team, inaugural Fiona Stanley Chair in Child Health Research and Professor at The University of Western Australia – hopes to eliminate malaria with the help of a USD \$4.7 million grant from the Gates Foundation to advance the pioneering work of her team.

For more than eight years, Professor Penny has helped shape global malaria strategies through the WHO, culminating in her appointment last December to its Malaria Policy Advisory Group, which advises directly on policy to the WHO Director-General and Global Malaria Program.

With this grant, Professor Penny and her team will focus on developing two linked programs.

The first will focus on updating the team's flagship OpenMalaria platform, an open-source mathematical model of malaria dynamics co-developed with Professor Nakul Chitnis (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Switzerland). The program simulates how *Plasmodium falciparum* – the parasite that causes malaria – infects people, predicts whether cases will be mild or severe, and estimates how infections spread from individuals to mosquitoes and then through the wider community.

By updating OpenMalaria with the latest data – including how interventions have shifted disease patterns by age and setting over the past 20 years – the team will gain deeper insights into how to better use different existing and novel

malaria interventions to support continued malaria reduction and accelerate elimination.

The second program will apply mathematical modelling, including the use of OpenMalaria, to support the development and testing of new malaria interventions – such as vaccines, medications, and long-acting injectable drugs – by predicting their potential to reduce malaria cases and deaths.

“Together, these programs aim to improve decision-making and accelerate progress toward malaria elimination now and in the future,” Professor Penny said.

“Updates to OpenMalaria will help us to understand the potential impact of new drugs, long-acting preventative treatment, and vaccines, even before they enter clinical trials.

“The models will estimate how many lives these new tools might save and in which African settings.

“The models will also help product developers understand how optimising characteristics of the new tools will lead to greater impact, thus supporting research and development decisions along the clinical pathway.”

The Kids Research Institute Australia's Executive Director Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM said the Gates Foundation grant was a powerful endorsement of both Professor Penny's leadership in the fight against malaria and the Institute's commitment to research that changes lives.

“This funding is recognition not only of Melissa and her team's global impact, but also of the calibre of their international collaborations and the trust placed in their science at the highest level,” Professor Carapetis said.

“At The Kids, our mission is to deliver world-class research that makes a real difference to the health and happiness of children everywhere. Malaria continues to be one of the leading causes of death

IMPACT TRANSLATION



The Kids / UWA Professor Melissa Penny and members of her team, left to right, Associate Professor Andrew Shattock (now at the Gates Foundation), Scientific Software Developer Baxter Smith, Forrest Research Scholar and PhD student Yuval Berman, Dr Quang Nguyen, Dr Josephine Malinga

and illness in children, and this pioneering work is precisely the kind of high-impact research that changes outcomes, saves lives, and shapes the future of child health globally.”

Professor Anna Nowak, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) at The University of Western Australia, said the grant recognised the pioneering research being driven by Professor Penny and her team.

“They are shaping the way malaria is treated and making life-changing contributions to communities

around the world, including some of our most vulnerable groups,” Professor Nowak said.

“The Gates Foundation’s investment will enable the research team to bring together some of the brightest minds and top institutions to help solve one of the world’s biggest health challenges.”

Through the new grant, the Global Disease Modelling team will collaborate with many partners world-wide from academia, industry and policy.

Crushing burden of Tourette syndrome and related disorders

Occurring in one per cent of school-aged children, Tourette syndrome is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterised by uncontrollable movements and vocalisations known as tics.

Tics can be simple (such as blinking, grimacing, throat clearing, sniffing) or complex (like movements involving multiple body parts, repeated words).

Tics can significantly impact on many aspects of life. They can physically, socially and emotionally impact on daily living, academic and occupational achievement, and participation in leisure and play.

In 2025, the Impact for Tourette's survey found one in two children with a tic-related disorder have thought about ending their life, while one in 10 children and one in four affected adults have attempted suicide.

The research, led by The Kids and UNSW Sydney, revealed the crushing daily challenges faced by Australians living with Tourette syndrome and other tic-related disorders.

It found bullying, discrimination, lack of understanding and the exhaustion of living with their condition were among the factors that drove many of those affected to despair.

An estimated 50,000 Australian children and adults have a lifelong tic-related condition, most commonly Tourette syndrome, yet many struggle to obtain an accurate diagnosis or appropriate support.

The national impact for Tourette's survey - led by Dr Melissa Licari from The Kids and Professor Valsamma Eapen from UNSW - captured the experiences of more than 200 individuals and caregivers across Australia, including their efforts to obtain a diagnosis and treatment, functional challenges, impact on mental health, obstacles faced in education and employment, and the emotional and social struggles experienced by individuals.

Key findings include long wait times for a diagnosis, a lack of knowledge about tic-related conditions among health and education professionals, a lack of effective support or treatments, and heavy mental health impacts on individuals and caregivers.

"Heartbreakingly, almost three quarters of the adults and one in two of the children with tic-related disorders reported they had contemplated ending their life, while one in four adults and one in ten children had actually attempted," Dr Licari said.

"A third of the children and almost half the adults had engaged in self-harming behaviours."

More than 80 per cent of those with tic-related conditions reported experiencing tics daily - many as frequently as every few seconds and some for hours at a time in episodes known as 'tic attacks'.

Four out of five children and adults had tics that caused physical pain, with two thirds reporting they had sustained injuries from their tics.

Respondents consistently reported they had been bullied and ridiculed at school and work by peers, teachers and co-workers.

"Our report shows three out of four children had been ridiculed or bullied by other students, while a third had been ridiculed or bullied by teachers," Dr Licari said.

"Two out of five affected adults reported they were unable to work due to the severity of their tics - leading to financial strain - while similar numbers had experienced discrimination in the workplace, including ridicule or bullying by co-workers."

The report also highlighted difficulties obtaining a diagnosis, accessing treatments, and obtaining disability funding. Three out of four respondents who had applied for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funding had had their applications declined.

"There are currently no national standards or clinical practice guidelines outlining recommended therapies or interventions following the diagnosis of a tic disorder," Professor Eapen said.

IMPACT TRANSLATION

“One in four respondents reported they had waited more than two years to receive a diagnosis, with some waiting up to four years, while a third of those who did receive a diagnosis received no recommendations for services or interventions.

“Families are facing a long and difficult path to diagnosis, then an even trickier path to find appropriate treatments. This places an enormous strain on families, leading to significant mental health impacts.”

The report includes seven key recommendations, including funding to develop a National Clinical Guideline for the diagnosis and treatment of tic disorders; funding for resources and training programs for health professionals, educators and school staff, employers and policymakers; targeted funding for enhanced support for individuals with tic disorders and their families, including mental health services; and clear standards for the way students with tic disorders should be supported in school settings.

The report’s authors acknowledged that, as with most surveys, those who were most affected and passionate about an issue were the most likely to respond.

“While this means our survey cannot perfectly reflect the experiences of the entire tic community in Australia, it offers valuable community-driven data highlighting widespread challenges, and this fits with what we see regularly in clinical practice,” Dr Licari said.

Impact for Tourette’s was undertaken in collaboration with national advocacy organisation Tourette’s Australia.

“Despite its prevalence, Tourette syndrome remains under-recognised, often overlooked, or misdiagnosed,” Tourette’s Australia CEO Charlene Pinnock said.

“Many individuals with Tourette syndrome go through life without receiving an accurate diagnosis, leaving them without appropriate support. They also often face discrimination due to a lack of awareness around their symptoms by everyone from teachers to health providers and employers.”



Dr Melissa Licari

Mrs Pinnock said the study had provided valuable insights into the challenges, sacrifices, financial burdens and emotional stresses experienced by people affected by tic disorders, and their families.

The Impact for Tourette’s survey and report were supported by internal funding awards at The Kids Research Institute Australia, including the Julie Bishop Award for emerging women in science, presented to Dr Licari in 2023, and an Embrace Award presented to Dr Licari and Professor Eapen in 2024.



THANK
YOU

The strength of our community drives our research forward

The generosity and passion of our supporters underpin everything we do, helping us deliver on our commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of children and families. Their belief in our work has enabled The Kids to grow as one of Australia's leading child health research institutes – translating discovery into meaningful, real-world impact where it's needed most.

Our supporters contribute in many different and deeply personal ways. Some rally their local communities through school or club-based fundraising initiatives. Others choose to give at key moments throughout the year, including during tax time. A dedicated group of forward-thinking supporters have committed to a lasting legacy through gifts in their Will, joining our Fiona Stanley Circle and ensuring our research continues to benefit future generations of children.

We are also proud to partner with trusts, foundations and corporate organisations that invest in our work through multi-year commitments, enabling ambitious, globally significant research programs. Within our own organisation, our staff play an equally important role – contributing through workplace giving and fundraising initiatives that collectively raise vital funds each year. These contributions not only support our researchers but also help provide critical early funding for emerging scientists at the start of their careers.



Professor Fiona Stanley and Jan McFarlane at the Institute's 35 year celebration event



Professor Jonathan Carapetis addressing guests at The Kids' Illuminate Pitchfest event

Left: Lawson Unsworth, 1, and his sister Bonnie Unsworth, 3

Our bequest community is shaping the future of child health



Shannae Terrill

For many, writing a Will is something easily postponed – a task for another day. But for Shannae Terrill, it became something far more meaningful: an opportunity to shape a future far beyond her own.

As a child, Ms Terrill spent years at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, undergoing more than 20 procedures after being born without fully formed eardrums. It was there she met Professor Harvey Coates AO, a deeply respected and pioneering paediatric ENT surgeon whose decades of care have improved the lives of thousands of Western Australian children.

“He gave me my hearing,” Ms Terrill said.

Professor Coates’ impact extends far beyond the operating theatre. Through a long-standing connection with The Kids, he has helped bridge clinical care and research – serving on the

Institute’s Board, collaborating on groundbreaking studies into childhood ear disease, and supporting its work as a philanthropist. His career reflects the powerful partnership between frontline care and research that continues to transform the health of children today.

For Ms Terrill, that impact is deeply personal.

“It was difficult, wondering why I had it and my siblings didn’t,” she said. “It always felt like, why is everything wrong with me?”

For years, those questions lingered. Then, four years ago, after her mother underwent genetic testing, Ms Terrill was diagnosed with Loeys-Dietz syndrome, a rare connective tissue disorder. Finally, things began to make sense.

That clarity reinforced something deeper: the life-changing role of medical research.

“The work that researchers do – diagnosing conditions, understanding them, making lives better – that’s what changes things for kids,” she said.

It’s this belief that led Ms Terrill to include a gift in her Will to The Kids Research Institute Australia. Writing her Will gave her a simple and powerful way to reflect her values and act on them.



Professor Harvey Coates AO and Ms Terrill at an event celebrating our bequest supporters



Ms Terrill and her fiancé, Tim Watson

“It felt right to know that what I’ve been through could help someone else in the future,” she said.

Her story also speaks to something bigger – the strength of a community united by a shared purpose. At a recent Fiona Stanley Circle event, Ms Terrill unexpectedly came face to face with Professor Coates once again, this time as part of a gathering of like-minded and generous supporters who have chosen to leave a legacy through their Wills. That moment brought her journey full circle – from patient, to advocate, to member of a community committed to changing the future for children.

At The Kids, gifts in Wills play a quiet but powerful role. They enable long-term research, fuel new discoveries, and ensure that future generations benefit from advances in prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Just as importantly, they connect people – individuals whose personal stories and shared generosity combine to create something far greater than any one gift alone.

For Ms Terrill, her decision is a source of pride.

“It makes me proud to know that my donation will help research for future generations,” she said.

Her story is a reminder that while we cannot always control the challenges we face, we can help shape what comes next. Together, through the strength of our bequest supporter community, we are building a legacy of healthier futures for children – one that will endure for generations to come.

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Laura Horan
Laura Horvath
Peter Horvat
Jeff Hough
Bonnie Houldsworth
Jacinta Houzer

Lilly Howes
Jake Howes
Deborah Howie
Meegan Howlett
Priscilla Hubbard
Natasha Hudson
Nat Hudson
Phip Hughes
Elliot Hughes
Julie Hughes
Anastasia Hughes
Laetitia Hughes
Kathy Hughes
Veo Human
Jacqui Hume
Ngarie Humphrey
Georgie Humphrey
Tamara Hunter
Sue Hurds
Joshua Hurst
Katherine Huxley
Craig Iapozzuto
Bohdan Ilich
Kwiyeon Im
Erica Indradjaja
Neil Inwood
Angie Ireland
Andrew & Tracey Irving
Paul Irwin
Juliette Iuculano
Alessandro Iuculano
Anthony Iuculano
Glenda Jackson
Q & A Jacobs
Peter & Di Jacoby
Priscilla Jadzinski
Matthew James
Judith James
Natalie Jarvis
Melinda Jasper
Shane Jayasinghe
Stuart Jeffery
Paul & Carolyn
Jenkinson
Lina Jian
Alina Jiji
Marion Jinks
Anj Jipp
Florence Johansen

Laura Johansen
Mat Johns
Aaron Johnson
I & K Johnson
Chris Johnson
Thomas & Nadine
Johnson
Jithu Johnson
Iley Johnson
Blake Johnson
Merome Johnson
Matthew Johnstone
Andrew & Pippa
Johnston
Rhiannon DeLuis
Irene Jones
Jay Jones
Bradley Jones
Ann Jones
Mischa Jones
Carla Jones
Tracy Jones
Mark Jones
N Jongen
Leandre Jose
Diya Joshy
Feba Joshy
Jodi Joyce
Jenny & Jeremy Joyce
Michael Jurleka
Cathy Kania
Rada Kaurin
Finney Keane
Cheryl Keech
Ursula Kees
Abigail Keeve
Maree & John Kellert
Steph Kelly
Sinead Kelly
Courtney Kelly
Ben Kelly
Lucy-Rua Kelsch
Mandy Kennedy
Damian Kenny
Lou & Jess Keohane
Satyawan Vishnu
Khedekar
Kim Khoo
Ron Khor
Samantha Kickett
Pippa Kidd
Hannah Kim
Michael & Katherine King
Heddy & Alfred King
Lea-Ann Kirkham
Neill Kite
Marina Kliemek
Jennifer Kluken
Zali Knight
Lara Knight
David Knipe
Simone Knox
Gelinda Kock
Kathy Kokori
Tori Kopke
Megan Kopke
Lincoln & Jonathon
Kopke
Ed Kopsen
Darren Kotzem
Nina Kresoje
Bri Kruger
Bojana Krupljanin
Vincent Kuek
Vineet Kumar
Lennox Kumar
Joanne & Ignatius Kwee
Paul Laaring
Daniel Lacey
Brooke Lafu
Anja Laidlaw
Guillaume Lai
Mandy Lalor
Kalani Lampkin
Petrus Lamprecht
Kailan Lampton
John Landrigan
Nic Lange
Amy Langoulant
Kellie & Ben Larkin
Nathan Laskas
Wendy Latham
Liz Latham
David Lavan
Kelly Lawson
James Lawson
Anne Lechner
Peter & Catherine
Ledger
Robert Leeman
Adam Leeson
Fanny Lefert
Denise Legg
Meg Leicht
Zac Lemmon
Nicole Lendich
Mat Lenz
Helen Leonard
Sam Leotta
Matthew Letch
Amanda Lewis
Ashley Lewis
Luke Lewis
Melissa Licari
Veronica Lienert
Wang Li
Ray Li
Simon Lim
Stell Limnios
Helen Limnios
Sam Liney
Elisa Lira
James Little & Daniela
Gonzalez
Meeka & Matt Liveris
Thomas Loftus
Dave Logan
Nelson Loh & Tee Ching
Hun
Karen Lombardi
Francis J Longhurst
Estate
Barry Longworth
Jan & David Lord
Iris Loscher
Sarah Lothian
Costa Loucopoulos
Tania Lourensz
Diane Lovatt
Phil & Jenny Lowe
Agnes Low
Ian & Joanne Ludlow
Sarah Luelf
Renae Lunjevich
Chen Luu
Jackie Lynch
Kyle Lyons
Patricia Macchiaverni
Celeste MacDonald

Belinda Mackay	Rikke & Natasha Mcglew	Hannah Moore
Rowan Mackay	Aiden McGowan	Callan Moore
Wendy Macliver	Fiona McGowan	Eugene Moore
Caitlin Macliver	Gerry McGuigan	Nicola Moore
Mike Macliver	Doug McHugh	Emma Moran
Peter Macliver	Jamie McIntosh	Sarah Moritz
Megan MacNeill	Andree McIntyre	Jean Morris
Tammy Magno	Tara McLaren	Shae Morris
Dilhari Mahiepala	Christine McLauchlan	Abigail Morse
Amy Mahony	Helen McLean	Kristianne Morton
Emmanuel Maji	Valerie McMahan	Callum Morton-Smith
Abbie Major	Jaime McMullan	Chelsea Moulden
Paula Maldonado	Tegan McNab	Jane Muirsmith & Kynan Smith
Dani Male	Melanie McNeice	Alyce Mullane
Vincent Mancini	Heidi McNiece	Maria Munoz
Angad Mangat	Tara McNulty	Brenda Munro
Astral Mansfield	Elliot McPhail	Kate Murphy
Fabio Maragna	Darren & Nerida McSweeney	Gracen Murphy
Peta-Maree Marchant	Cody McVay	Kate Murphy
Kayla Maritz	Chantelle Meade	Siobhan Murphy
Minerva Martin	Ellen Meagher	Jo Murphy
Brian Martin	Sue & Lindsay Medalia	Ffion Murphy
Dr David Martino	Leah Meehan	Kyle Murray
Tanya Marwick	Bronwyn Meharg Estate	Tayla Myers
Charissa Marwick	Ryan Meldrum	Jocelyn Nainby
Mari Mascarenhas	Jeff Meredith	Shiwani Nair
Barbara & Paul Masiello	Jack Merlo	Andrew Nairn
Kim Mathe	Marcia & George Messer	Daniel Naismith
Paul Mather	Kathryn Mews	Ahmi Narkle
Anu Mathews	Darcy Middleton	Siobhan Negri
Clare Matthews	Adam Midgley	Elizabeth Negus
Vanessa Maughan	Caroline Milics	Chelsea Neill
Adam Maxwell	Christina Miller	Violet Newcombe
Aaron May	Shaun Millett	Colette Newcomb
Lauren Mazzucato	Colin & Karen Mills	Estelle & Roy Newport
Ailbhe McAlister	Graham Milner	Felice Ng
Leanne McAlpine	Marina Miloskeska	Helene Niarchos
Shannon McCann	Manjit Kaur Minhas	Grace & Scott Nicholls
Tim McCaughey	Torrin Minutillo	Christa & Grant Niddrie
David & Carolyn McCleery	Maxine Miolini	Anqi Ning
Scott McCulloch	Caitlin Miskiewicz	Aly & Tamon Nishikawa
Robert & Grace McCullough	Francis Mitrou	Amanda Nobbs
Peter McDermott	Kelly Mitrovic	Andrea Noftall Walsh
Sophie McDonald	Elena Monaco & Ralph Treasure	Kristan Norris
Alison McDonnell	Lottie Monger	Kimm Norwood
Robert McDowell	Alex Monson	Minaj No Surname
Eve Mcdowell-Keir	Brittany Moore & Clark Reynolds	Grace Nova
		Margaret Nowak

Naomi Nutt	Glenn Pearson	Maisie Raine
Nicole O'Connor & Ped Ristic	Charlotte Peddie	Beba Ramic
Katie O'Donnell	Felipe Penna	Michael Rammer
Patrick O'Keefe	Melissa Penny	Jason & Bec Ramm
David O'Keefe	Melanie Penny	Carolyn Ramsay
Steve O'Neill	Jack Pepper	Ashlin Ramsay
Kitty Obando	Petterson Pereira	Leonie Ramsay
Robyn Odum	Yael Perry	Elliott Randall
Bronwen OGrady	Valerie Peterson	Tess Randall
Kate OHara	Julie Pethick	Jennifer Rankin
Nicole Ohm	Nel Petrovich	Wayne Ratajczak
Jane Oliver	Shelley Petruzio	Ben Rawlings
Pep Oliveri	Brigitte Phalippou	Brendan Ray
Ylva Olsen	John Dewar Phillips Estate	Joanne Readman
Mark Oreilly	Janine Phillips	Violette Rebillon
Elaine Orrey	Jack Phillips	Joe Redfern
Cesar Daniel Orsini Martin	Christine Phillips	Aishling Rees
David Osborne	Janessa Pickering	Paul Reeve
Debbie Owen	Jane Pillow	Lisa Reid
Terence & Fiona O'Brien	Nathan Pimenta	Phil Reid
Donna O'Hara	Yel Min Pine	Terence Reid
Carol O'Keefe	Penny Pink	Maddy Reilly
Juan Padilla	Jade Piotrowski	Bert & Andrea Reuter
Ashleigh Padley	Reginald Pippit	Peter & Vicki Reynolds
Baylie Padmanabham	Peter & Nathalie Pires	Shannon Reynolds
Yeshey Paldon & Pema Deki	Sarah Pisconeri	Harrison & Paige Reynolds
Marisa Palermo	Rhiannon Plavsic	Blake Reynolds
Lorraine Palmer	Tom Poeta	Charlie Ricciardello
Jenna Palumbo	Kenneth Poliran	Alexander Ricciardo
Mitul Panchal	Lorraine Ponti	Tino & Chase Riccio
David Paone	Jade Pop	Aiden Richardson
Sudip Pariyar	Alice Pop	Jase Richter
Jai Parkash	Jessica Powell	Vanessa Rickwood
Nicole Parker	Emma Prescott	Deb Rigby
Holly Parker	MaryAnn Preston	Clint Riley
Jazmin Parker	Alison Price	Frances Rix
Sara Parker	Michael Price	Anima Robbertse
Leeanne Parsons	Kathryn Priestly	Holly Robert
Leah Parsons	Carol Prime-Rigby	Alexandra Roberts
Nehal Patel	Alison Prior	Leanne Roberts
Sue Patrick	Stephen Proksch	Jo Roberts
Annette Paul	Norma Prosser	Struan Robertson
Hallie Paul	Alex Pullannimannil Samuel	Sasha Roberts-Smith
Hannah Paull	Suzie Punchard	Geoff Robey
Paul Payne	Ingrid & Mark Puzey	Angel Robins
Kara Pearse	Mike Radcliffe	Susan Robinson
	Mark Radford	Shannon Robinson
		Heather Roby

Fiona Roche	Lachlan Schluter	Joan Smith
Julie Roche	Ashley Schoof	Grant Smith
Matt Rodan	Juliet Schreurs	Nathan & Kim Smith
Anna Rodger	Juliët Schreurs	Shane Smith
Chris Rogers	Olivia Schroder	Luke Smith
Benjamin Rogers	Nikki Schultz	Jamie Smith
Eleta Ronson	Natalie Scibilia	Clayton & Barb Smith
Nicole Rooney	Kris Scott	Leighton Smith
Pauline Roper	Steve Scudamore & Anne Last	Carol Smith
Emma Rose	Jackie Scurlock	Fiona Smith
Desleigh Rose	Leslie Seow	Aaron Smith
Michael Rose	Paul Shadwell	Barb Smith
Lisa Rose	Jinita Shah	Kate Smyth
Alex Rostami	Nick Shah	Natalie Snooke
Yuliia Roth	Grant Sharman	Vishwesh Soni
John Rouse	Simmone Sharp	Mike Soucie
Taymar Rowe	Rachael Sharp	Heath & Janique Soutar
Amanda Rowe	Ash Sharp	Dane Southall
Lizzie Rowe	Dan Sharples	Linda & Colin Southall
Aaron Rozario	Reilly Sheehan	Michelle Southall
Daniel Rudaizky	Denise Sheehan	Raul Sparchez
Tina Rudan	Josh Sheehan	Kelly Spark
Felicia Ruiz	Chris Sheehan	Anna & Jerra Speers
Tony Ruiz	Peter Sheehan	Kaytlyn Sprigg
Felicia Ruiz Peralta	John Sheehan	Fulvia Stanford
Ben Rumbel	Rob Sheehan	Kendall Stanford
David Rutherford	Somaya Sheikh	BillJean Stanford i
Gerry Ryan	Lyn Shepherd	Nina Staniford
Kirsty Ryan	Tim Shepherdson	Fiona Stanley
Josette Ryan	Justine Shoemack	Milica Stanojevic
Nick Ryan	Marina Shufrin	Kim Stanton-Cook
Marlene Rychner	Gabrielle Sibma	Annalee Stearne
Mirella & Krys Sadkowsky	Annabella Siddell	Emily Stephenson
Myles Saffro	Sarah Silbert	Senthila Stepic
Geetha Saiganesh	Les Simmons	Ben Stevenson
Rebecca Sainsbury	Clayton Simpson	Tia Stillman
Achu Sajan	Michelle Simpson	Jennifer Stokes & Robert Wales
Hannah Salam	Sajla Singh	Lia Stokes
Daniel Salas	Liam Singleton	Shaela Stone
Norma Samuel	Lowanna Singleton	Bridget Stone
Kerry Sanderson	Jody Sisley	Tegan Stoney
Brooke Sanderson	Lubinda Siyamba	Jayne St Quintin
Elaine Sanderson	Lacey Skaling	Craig Strachan
Marvin Sauer	Zoe Skoda	Frances Strahan
Ian Saul	Nigel Slade	Emma & Matilda Strahan
Slavica Savic	Danial & Emma Smart	Natasha Stretton
Tom Scalise	Andrew Smart	Koste Suleski
Matt Scanlon	Alan Smethurst	Chris Summers
Caroline Scarpa		

Phoebe Sun
D Suriyaarachchi
Aasa Surry
Dan Sutherland
Mell Sutter
Kate Swan
Jamie Swann
Holli Swindail
Wendy Sykes
Candice Symes
Robyn Tamke
Kiew Ping Tan Estate
Ryan Tan
Edwin Tan
Paul Tan
Janis Tate
Rene Taveira
Farrel Tay
Jodie Taylor
Murray Taylor
Richard Taylor
Carol Taylor
Ann Taylor
Steve Taylor
Renee Teal
Rob Telford
Joshua Tench
Barbara Terrell
Tony Tessarin
Peter Thackray & Sandra
Lush
Ruth Thomas
Michelle Thomas
Clare Thompson
Jodie Thompson
Sue Thompson
Jack Thompson
Graham & Dianne Thorne
Sean Thorpe
George T
Ching Tiang
Jane Tickle
Debbie Tiernan
Paul Tiernan
David & Mary Tiernan
Mark & Adora Tiernan
Annika Ting
Siew Ting
Mat Tivey

Jillian Tonkin
Ada Torre
Fanny Tortissier
Mary Townsend
Elizabeth Tran
Bryan Trapp
Laurence Travers
Brenda Treloar
Jonathan Triscari
Bronwyn Trlin
Damien Troy
Jenny Truong
Thi Truong
Chia-hsuan Tung
Kate Turnock
Savannah Uink
Peppa Ulrick
Eddie Underwood
Annabel Unger
Gemma Upson
Alan Upson
Raphael van der Burg
Danielle Van Der Does
Kate VanGerven & Galen
Richardson
Kylie Van-Minnen
Bryce van Ree
Lina Varon
Timothy Veletta
Lionel Velho
Damon Venoutsos
Justin Venter
Valerie Verhasselt
Vincenzo & Jenny
Vesnaver
Penny V
Celine Vicente
James Vickery
Luc Villemot
Vincent
Dianna Vitasovic
Jodi Vletter
Sasha VS
Jennifer Vu
Brandi Wahl
Libby Waight
James Walker
Mathew Walker
Aaron Walkom

Wall Family
Penny Wallace-Bell
Toni Wallace
Doug & Margaret Walsh
Tanya Walsh
Mengxuan Wang
Thomas Warden
Tilly & Ned Waterhouse
Lucy Waters
Robert & Chantal
Watkins
Colin Watkins
Tony Watkins
Rachael & Pete Watson
Jacob Watson
Andrew Watts
Sharon Webb
Matthew Webb
Ley Webster
Marilyn Weekes
Michelle Weerasooriya
Lisa Wells
Michael Welten
Bryson Went
Alwyn William Werrell
Estate
Michael West
Keziah Wheatley
Kylie & Andrew Wherrett
Michael Whitcher
Erica White
Andrew & Jacqueline
Whitehouse
Karen Whitely
Tyler Whitfield
Archer Whittaker
Brooke & Mathew Whyte
Lisa Wiese
Benny Wijaya
Jane Williams
Gavin Williams
Wendy & Steve Williams
Elizabeth Williams
Sally Williams
Liz Williams
Cameron Williams
Emma Williams
Dianne Willmott
Dot Wilson

Caroline & Gareth Wilson
Sinead Wilson
Emily Windsor
SharShar Withe
Jennifer Withe
Haileab Wolde
David Wong
James Wong
Wilbur Wong
Hing Yee Wong
Matt Woodford
Margaret Wood
Margaret & Brendan
Wood
Olivia Wood
Jaspar Wood
Matthew Wood

Ross Woodhouse
Gillian Woods
Danielle Woods
Alix Woolard
Stephanie Woon
Cathy Wright
Oliver Wright
Lulu Wright
Gwendolyn Wright
Heather Wright
Ken & Anna Wyatt
Gareth Wyatt
Natalie Wylie
Carmen Xavier
Shirley Yan
Lockyer Family

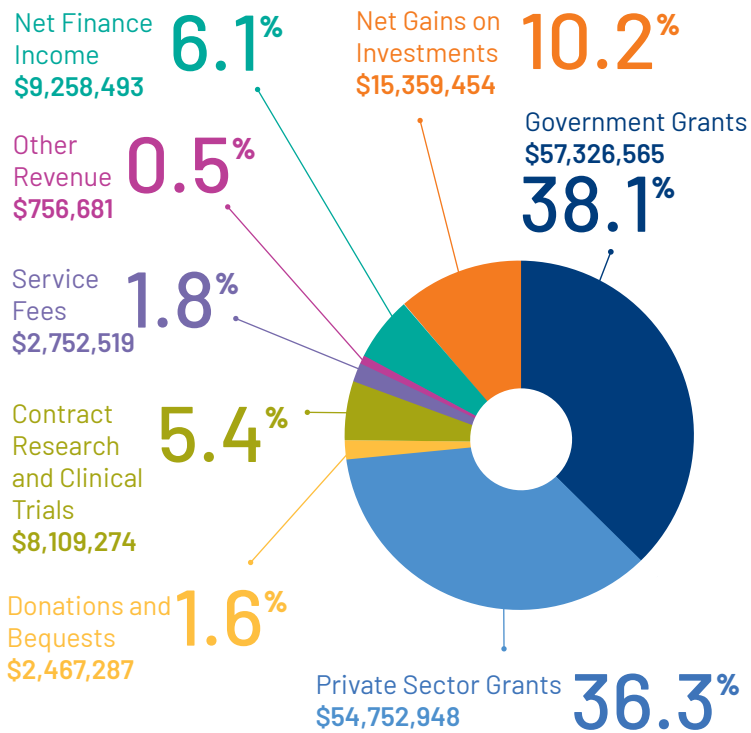
Jamison Yeing
Jake Yeomans
Zvi Yom-tov
Simone Young
Audrienne Young
Billie Zadow
Corinne Zadow
Amanda Zaffino
Zainab Zaki
Daniel Zarew
Linda Zhang
Bobby Zheng
Alisha Zilm
Dennis & Emily Zuvella
Julie Zuvella
Anonymous (421)

Below: 10-year-old Aria Capolingua with her mum, Elena Capolingua



OUR FINANCES

TOTAL INCOME \$150,783,221



TOTAL EXPENSES \$135,995,264



Right: Professor Carapetis with 13-year-old Ava Ford









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