



How we're building a cancer free future.

The progress you've helped fund.





Welcome.

Message from our CEO and President

As one of our generous supporters, you may know that almost one in two Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

Cancer will therefore affect all of us at some point.

Right now, local West Australian cancer researchers are working on the answers to a cancer free future, by finding ways to better detect and treat cancer.

Until then, we're here for all WA families, when they need us most. On behalf of the 87,000 West Australians who are currently living with, or after cancer, we cannot thank you enough for your generosity.

It's only because of people like you that Cancer Council WA exists, to unite all people and all efforts on all fronts. This includes:

- The advocates speaking out on behalf of our community.
- Create neighbourhoods that support health and reduce cancer risk.

- All the information that makes a cancer diagnosis less overwhelming.
- Our 13 11 20 cancer nurses and support coordinators, who are there to listen.
- All the researchers working on the next cancer breakthrough.

None of this is possible without you. Thank you for ensuring that, together, we can be here for all West Australians affected by cancer.

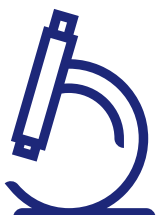
Yours sincerely,

Ashley Reid

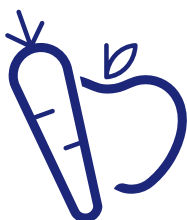
Chief Executive Officer
Cancer Council WA

Dr Ruth Shean AO

President
Cancer Council WA



Research



Prevention



Support



Advocacy

Support.

2022-23 support highlights

41,094

bed nights were provided at our Crawford and Milroy accommodation Lodges for country patients and their carers, who were receiving treatment in Perth.

1,733

Transport to Treatment trips were provided from our Crawford and Milroy Lodges at no cost to our guests, to access life-saving treatment centres.

2,847

wigs, turbans, hats and scarves were provided to **1,001 cancer patients** at no cost by our Wig Service.

5,741

contacts were received by our 131120 information and support line.

95%

of clients agreed that they would recommend our Cancer Information and Support Services to others, from our Client Survey results for 2022-23.

When asked what were the best things about our Cancer Information and Support Services, clients responded:

“Someone there to listen and support, who understood.”



“The Lodge staff were friendly and helpful. The location was great, and the facilities are amazing.”

“They were a lifeline when things got very overwhelming.”

“I’m so grateful to have the helpful assistance of staff and volunteers at the Wig Service. I feel fortunate to not have the emotional stress from loss of my hair and not having the expense to purchase a wig.”



“The instant relief to be able to talk to a person, who put you at ease, not thinking you were silly, and having all the time in the world for you.”



“Seeing improvement in my physical and mental wellbeing. Talking with others who are in a similar position to me.”



Research.

Since Cancer Council WA began funding research in 1963, our Research Funding Program has:



Over the last five years, with your support, we have:



In 2022/2023, together, we:



Cancer Council WA's Find Cancer Early television advertisements have saved a Geraldton man's life.

At age 45, Damien noticed something was off. He saw blood in his stool after going to the toilet and was experiencing an unusual pain in his stomach (which would come and go). Like many people, Damien was hesitant to get his symptoms checked out. He feared the worst, didn't want to hear bad news, and hoped it would just go away.

It wasn't until Damien saw Cancer Council WA's Find Cancer Early television advertisement that he realised the importance of getting his symptoms checked. He booked an appointment with a doctor and was referred for a colonoscopy, which led to the discovery that he had polyps. The polyps were removed in November 2021, where one was found to be cancerous. **His journey was tough, but with the support of his family and community, he is now cancer free.**

Damien is grateful the Cancer Council WA television advertisement saved his life and is now a champion for the Find Cancer Early campaign. Inspired by his own experience, Damien will be featured in the next Find Cancer Early television, radio, digital and print advertisements, to raise awareness of cancer symptoms and encourage regional people to see their doctor early if they notice symptoms.



Researcher of the Year.

As a community-funded organisation, we rely on your generous donations to fund world-class cancer research, to unlock the answers to stop cancer.

Our research funding helps build a strong research culture in Western Australia. It also supports the ultimate goal of research, to translate findings into practice such as improved cancer outcomes for the local community. This allows cancer patients to access clinical trials happening here in WA, as well as better early detection, prevention, and quality of life programs.

As the largest charitable funder of cancer research in Western Australia, we fund peer-reviewed world-class research that helps to reduce the incidence and impact of cancer.

Our competitive process ensures we fund the highest quality cancer research, with a focus on projects that have the potential to translate into practice, and result in real improvements.

Each year, Cancer Council WA awards a local, West Australian cancer researcher as Researcher of the Year. This recognises an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to cancer research over the past three years.

In 2022, this was awarded to Clinical Associate Professor, Nicholas Gottardo. Associate Professor Gottardo has leveraged existing local, national, and international cancer research networks and resources, to help progress the testing of a promising new cancer drug.

Associate Professor Gottardo's research focuses on brain tumours, specifically in children, and is testing new models and therapies, to ensure better treatments and outcomes for those with brain cancer. Currently, available treatment options have harmful side effects, particularly for growing brains which are still developing.

This new drug has a broad application and is now in clinical trial. This is a major initiative that is advancing research both right here in WA, and nationally.

Associate Professor Gottardo also received a project grant from Cancer Council WA in 2021.

Our Research Funding Program aims to retain world-class researchers here in Western Australia, by supporting them at every step of their career. Associate Professor Gottardo can therefore continue working on new discoveries, which will one day stop cancer.

*Professor
Nicholas
Gottardo*





Australia's Biggest Morning Tea turns 30.

A cancer diagnosis can be an overwhelming experience. Its impact is profound, and the support for patients and their loved ones often requires a collective effort.

Fortunately, there is hope. Thanks to the continuous support and generosity of the West Australian community, through Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, we are making significant strides in tackling cancer.

This year marks the 30 year anniversary of generous hosts all over the country holding Biggest Morning Tea's. Together, we've united family, friends and workplaces to work towards a cancer free future for the past three decades.

As we wish Australia's Biggest Morning Tea a happy 30th birthday, we reflect on each dollar raised, each cup of tea shared, and each act of kindness.

Much like the array of delicious dishes and morning tea spreads our hosts have put on over the years, their fundraising dollars are spread across Cancer Council WA's vital research, support services, prevention and advocacy work. This ensures we can tackle cancer from all angles.

This year, the West Australian community came together and raised over \$1.4 million through Australia's Biggest Morning Tea!

This astounding achievement contributed over \$2.4 million toward 83 researchers, working on 30 projects at recognised research institutes across WA. This means your funds raised through Australia's Biggest Morning Tea support the tireless, local researchers striving for the next cancer breakthrough.

We know the key to stopping cancer starts with understanding it. By investing in research, we have seen an increase in cancer survival rates from 49% in the 1980s to 69% today. Western Australia also has some of the highest survival rates in the world. The impact of your generosity for our community cannot be overstated.

Despite this incredible progress, there's still more to be done, with 36 people being diagnosed with cancer every day in WA. That's 13,000 people each year.

Funding from your morning teas has also ensured our support services are there for each and every person who has received those three words, "you have cancer". This includes our dedicated team of cancer nurses, who answer calls to our **13 11 20** Cancer Information and Support Line. We assisted nearly 6,000 individuals last year. Our cancer nurses and their guidance provide information and support, to help alleviate the overwhelming news of a cancer diagnosis. It's so important to sustain this



compassionate team of cancer nurses, who lend an empathetic ear and much-needed advice to those navigating the complex world of cancer.

Thanks to Australia's Biggest Morning Tea donations, Cancer Council WA provided approximately 1,700 trips to regional cancer patients and their carers, ensuring they could access vital treatment without the burden of transportation costs.

We also offered over 2,800 wigs, turbans, hats, and scarves at no cost through our Wig Service.

This gesture helps alleviate the emotional impact on self-esteem during a time when individuals may feel particularly vulnerable.

We can all help prevent cancer before it starts. Australia's Biggest Morning Tea funds continue to empower West Australians in reducing their

cancer risk through the support of world-leading prevention campaigns. These initiatives aim to increase participation in cancer screening programs and educate the community about healthy lifestyle choices. Programs like SunSmart, Make Smoking History, and LiveLighter provide essential knowledge and resources that empower individuals to take charge of their health and make informed decisions.

None of this remarkable work achieved so far would have been possible without your unwavering support. On behalf of Cancer Council WA, we express our deepest gratitude for anyone who has been there along the way to support this remarkable event.

Together, we can and will make a difference in providing a beacon of hope for those who need it most.



Spotlight on our fundraisers.

Hear from one of our long-term Australia's Biggest Morning Tea supporters!

The Women of the Greek Community are a dedicated group, who form a committee, made up of six representatives of active women's associations. They are all now retired, and play an important role as supportive grandparents and pillars of their families. They are also active members of their communities through volunteering, philanthropic and charity work.

To date, this amazing group of women have hosted 18 morning teas, and collectively raised over \$180,000. Whilst they host one event a year, the group meet three to four times each year to plan their upcoming event.

It's something everyone in the community looks forward to, with anywhere between 200 and 250 people attending! Everyone purchases a ticket, with a homemade morning tea being provided by members of the committee. They also hold a raffle, with over 30 exciting prizes up for grabs (all of which are donated).

A few questions are run throughout the event to spark conversation and create a relaxed atmosphere. There have also been guest speakers over the years, including Cancer Council WA representatives, who communicate the impact of these wonderful events.



"We are also very fortunate to have some generous members of our community who donate towards our morning tea in the way of food items, beverages and hall hire, which is their contribution to supporting this worthy cause", they say.

Whilst these events are filled with fun and excitement, everyone in the room knows the importance of the event. Their motivation to host a morning tea started back in 2005, as all members have been impacted by cancer, either personally or through family and friends. They know cancer can affect anyone, regardless of their age or gender. The Women of the Greek Community understand Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is beyond a worthy cause, with the vital funds raised in WA, staying in WA.

It's the real results for the West Australian community and increase in survival rates that *"keeps us motivated and enthusiastic, as we all have the same goal",* they share.

For others who consider hosting, they say; *"just do it! Join this worthy cause that can bring together comradeship. Whilst you are working towards a cancer free future, you're also making life-long friendships".* The Women of the Greek Community will be holding more Australia's Biggest Morning Tea's, and will continue to do so as long as they can.

Welcome to our Great Southern Hub.



Doors are now open to our Great Southern Hub in Albany. There are six self-serviced, fully furnished accommodation units ranging from studio's to two bedroom apartments.

This regional accommodation facility is provided to families, friends and carers of those in palliative care at the Albany Community Hospice or the Albany Community Hospital. Our Holiday Break Program, provides a break for those with advanced cancer. This provides real relief for West Australian families when they need it most.

The Hub has been made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of brother and sister, John and Joan Street.

John Street was a Perth businessman, who left a substantial gift in his Will to Cancer Council WA in memory of his sister Joan, who died of throat cancer. John was very clear that he wanted the funds to go towards facilities for palliative care.

The Great Southern Hub has a warm and welcoming feel. It's been described as 'home-like', and was designed to be comfortable and supportive. The Hub incorporates the natural environment with gardens, plenty of light and space. The premises offers tranquil, calm and peaceful surroundings for people going through challenging times.

This Albany accommodation is currently offered to anyone in WA, Australia or internationally, who would like to spend time with, and support loved ones who are currently an inpatient under palliative care at the Albany Community Hospice or Albany Community Hospital.

Thanks to generous donations from our community, including people like you, our Holiday Break Program is also available to support West Australians affected by advanced cancer, by providing a one-off short break away at minimal cost.

Getting away from daily challenges and spending quality time with loved ones is a great way to relax and unwind. If you're affected by cancer, the financial strain that often comes with it can make it difficult to afford a holiday, at a time when it's needed most.

In addition to accommodation, the Great Southern Hub has support services and programs that aim to lessen the impact of cancer within the community, as well as raise awareness of the importance of cancer support and prevention in the Great Southern region.