



2023/2024

IMPACT REPORT

Your place to give






Better lives. Better health.

The PA Research Foundation, QEII Hospital Fund, Redland Hospital Fund, Logan Hospital Fund, and Beaudesert Hospital Fund proudly partner with Metro South Health for better lives through better health for the Brisbane south side, Redland, Logan and Scenic Rim communities.

Key information:




307,560
inpatient admissions
(incl overnight and same day episodes)



1,378
active research studies



Treating a diverse community of more than 10 language groups



339
active clinical trials



6286
clinical trial participants

- PA Hospital offers emergency, medical, mental health and surgical services, including liver and kidney transplant and is a leading academic and research centre.
- PA Hospital is co-located with the Translational Research Institute (TRI); Australia's most advanced medical research facility.
- QEII Hospital provides a range of services, including surgery, cardiology, endoscopy, orthopaedics, gynaecology, urology, geriatric, respiratory and emergency medicine.
- Redland Hospital is the main health centre for Redland City and Brisbane's southern bayside suburbs and provides a range of services including surgery, cardiology, emergency, obstetrics and kidney dialysis.
- Logan Hospital serves one of Australia's fastest growing regions offering medical, rehabilitation, maternity, surgical and paediatric care services.
- Beaudesert Hospital services the Scenic Rim region and offers services, including 24-hour emergency care, maternity, mental, dental, allied health and outpatient clinics.

The PA Research Foundation, QEII Hospital Fund, Logan Hospital Fund, Redland Hospital Fund and Beaudesert Hospital Fund acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners of the land on which our services are located, the Yugambeh, Quandamooka, Jaggera, Ugarapul and Turrbal peoples - and to Elders, past, present and emerging.

Thank you for supporting our patients

I have been a medical oncologist with Metro South Health since 2011, during that time I have seen every day the difference the Foundation and your support of it has and can make in patients' lives.

Not only in providing a place for grateful patients and their families to say thank you and give back to the hospital and funding medical research, but through initiatives that support cancer patients to have improved outcomes and a better hospital experience.

Medical research projects often start as a result of a clinician asking why a patient did or didn't have a response to a certain treatment. We can't search for answers without organisations like the Foundation providing funding that enables us to both link up with lab-based researchers and scientists as well as free up time for clinicians to get out of the clinic and engage in research.

I myself have been a recipient of your generosity, having received grant funding from the Foundation for a project focused on triple negative breast cancer. This project was primarily a collaboration between myself and Translational Research Institute based scientist Dr Adrian Wiegman and is a great example of the bench to bedside approach the Foundation takes.

My role as a clinician was to recruit patients from the clinic who could provide blood samples for testing to inform Adrian's research into a biomarker that is unique to therapy resistant triple negative breast cancer. Work that hopefully may result in new solutions in the future for people diagnosed with this form of breast cancer.

In late 2024 I was notified that, thanks to your support, the Foundation would be funding a dedicated breast cancer research fellow for



our department at the PA. This is a significant step forward in being able to bring approved research out of the lab and apply it in a clinical setting. This role will sit with us in the clinic and improve access to clinical trials and research for our patients with breast cancer.

Thank you for your support of the Foundation, the PA Hospital and the patients we care for.

Dr Kate Cuff
Oncologist, Metro South Health

Table of contents

Thank you for choosing to give	4	Three years on	12
Our valued partners	5	Eternally grateful	13
Our community	5	A life changed for the better	13
40 years of making a difference	6	Thanks for helping to close the gap	14
Growing our shared vision	7	Thanks for improving outcomes	15
Centres of Excellence	8	A gift of thanks	16
Improving emergency care outcomes	9	Do great things after you're gone	16
Improving the hospital experience	9	Inspired generosity	17
Campaigns for change	10	Helping others through giving	17
Life changing research	11	Your immeasurable impact	18
Forever grateful	11	Keep in touch	19
Precious memories created	12		

THANKS TO YOU

Thank you for choosing to give

We are proud to present to you, our valued supporters, the Foundation's 2024 Impact Report. This report highlights the extraordinary power of your giving and how it saves lives and changes them for the better.

Because you choose us as your place to give, our impact on the delivery of world class healthcare across south-east Queensland continues to grow.

The Foundation's role is simple, to be the place for people to say thank you and express their gratitude for their care. We partner with Metro South Health across all its facilities to improve outcomes for hundreds of thousands of patients each year. Together, we progress research, support patients and their families, acquire the latest technology and upskill and empower staff.

We celebrate four decades of supporting healthcare and advancing medical research, a milestone we would not have reached without you.

Your generosity is the catalyst for everything we achieve. The pages of this report highlight the incredibly powerful difference you make in the lives of patients and their families. Every time you donate, you ease pain, provide comfort, help get people home sooner to their loved ones and most importantly, you provide hope.

On behalf of the entire Foundation and every patient you have helped, THANK YOU.



Damian Topp, **Chief Executive Officer**



Ruth McPhail, **Board Chair**

To hear more on the extraordinary impact of your giving direct from PA Research Foundation CEO Damian Topp email us at general@pafoundation.org.au or **scan the QR code.**



THANKS TO YOU

Our valued partners



1,766
Regular givers



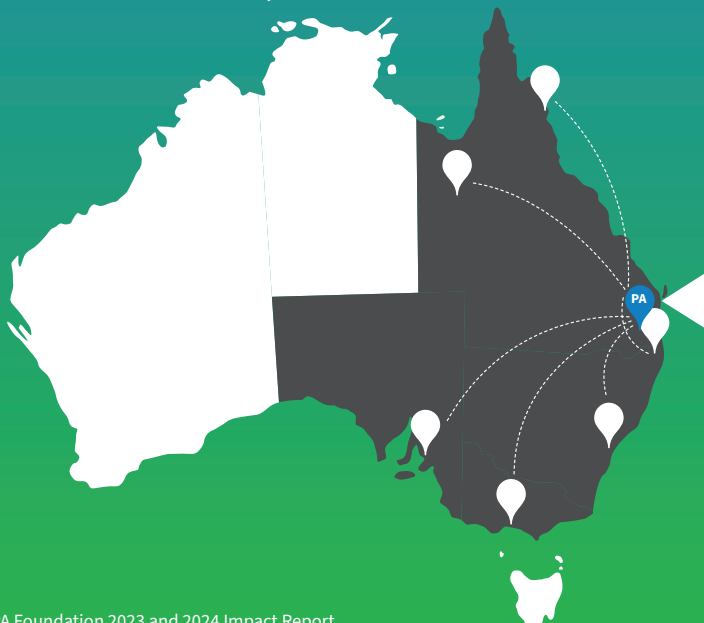
4,682
Total donors



\$13,760,918
Total raised in 2023/2024
thanks to you

Our Community

Through our connection with our valued corporate partners, our community extends to more than 10,000 supporters all over Queensland, from the far north of Cairns, west to Mt Isa and south to Tweed Heads. We also reach interstate to NSW, Victoria and South Australia.



We support:



Research



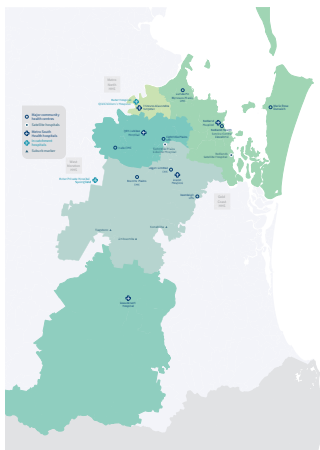
Patient care




Staff education




Equipment



Metro South Health Community



13,000 staff



Caring for **23%** of the Queensland population

THANKS TO YOU

40 years of making a difference

During August of 2024, the Foundation celebrated its 40th anniversary. Over the last four decades, it's been the connections forged with our supporters, corporate partners and the wider Queensland community, that has created a lasting and ongoing impact.

The milestone was a chance to honour how far the Foundation has come thanks to its donors.

"When I started, we were bringing in between \$100,000 and \$300,000 for research purposes," Chief Executive Officer Damian Topp said.

"Currently, 300 million dollars has been contributed towards research, patient support, medical equipment and staff education.

"The introduction of tied funding has allowed for direct support to respective departments and their research programmes. For instance, the allocation of these funds has allowed a research manager to expand his anaesthesia trials both nationally and internationally."

Other notable projects include preclinical work and a proof of mechanism trial in breast cancer dubbed 'CESTEM' by Associate Professor (A/Prof) Fiona Simpson in 2019, ongoing investment into emergency medicine research, the development of a liver perfusion machine for liver transplant patients and supporting the prototype of the VECTRA 3D Whole Body imaging machine.

Going forward current pressures on the healthcare workforce placed the organisation in a great position to fund early career research that will galvanise clinicians and researchers.

"I would like us to invest more in this space in the hope that these renewed efforts by the Foundation will attract individuals to work within the wider Metro South Health region," Damian said.

"Good clinicians are those involved in research."

Plans are also in place to establish centres of excellence in cancer diagnosis, cardiac disease and much more as the Foundation's capacity grows.

Nothing we do is achieved without the generous people who choose us as their place to give.

Damian Topp, Chief Executive Officer



Mrs Florence Buckley opening mail at the Foundation office

Research assistant Cheryl Scott collects a blood sample from Mrs Gen Tripp

Young scientist, Claudia Poppa, at work.

Growing our shared vision

As we continue to strengthen our connection with Metro South Health to improve outcomes for every patient possible, the Foundation has developed and grown awareness of the dedicated funds for each hospital within Metro South Health (QEII, Redland, Logan and Beaudesert).

Patients and members of these communities can say thank you and donate directly to these dedicated funds as well as being able to raise funds to support their local hospital via revamped individual websites.

You can visit each site using the QR Codes below.

Over the last two years through the generosity of each community, and participation in our Giving Days, the funds have collectively raised \$12,000. The number of regular givers across the four Hospital Funds has also grown to over 85.

Seven grants have been awarded to support staff to increase their knowledge, and three research grants were provided to staff or researchers based at Logan, QEII and Redland Hospitals.

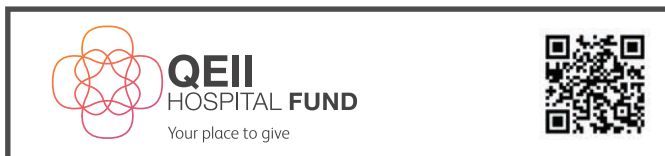
The patient experience is also benefiting with the Foundation working with Redland Hospital to makeover the Lamb Ward to help improve outcomes and make paediatric patients' time under the care of our valued healthcare professionals that little bit easier and more comfortable.



BEAUDESERT
HOSPITAL FUND
Your place to give



LOGAN
HOSPITAL FUND
Your place to give



QEII
HOSPITAL FUND
Your place to give



REDLAND
HOSPITAL FUND
Your place to give



Centres of excellence

Through collaboration with the Foundation, the PA Hospital campus has added a new research hub to improve outcomes for patients with heart and lung related health problems.

Based in the Division of Heart and Lung and Critical Care at the PA, the PA Heart and Lung Research Centre fosters and develops novel research with the aim of saving more lives.

Cardiologist Associate Professor Anthony Camuglia said the centre will not only progress new research projects, but build on existing studies.

As one of the busiest cardiac units in Australasia, Anthony is hopeful the centre will help highlight the impact the hospital has in saving and changing lives of cardiac and lung patients for the better.

“We have dedicated research nurses and

participate in a number of mainly industry supported research trials,” he said.

“That’s both pharmaceutical as well as device industry supported research, heart valves, stents, pacemakers. We now want to try and elevate the profile of the work being done so that we can help more patients.

“There’s a couple of good reasons to do that, one being there are young cardiologists coming through who are enthusiastic about research and we want to be able to better facilitate that for them.

“We’re all clinicians who try and do a bit of research on the side to help our patients, but what we are now trying to do is get some serious researchers in place who do a bit of clinical work on the side.

“We have a number of exciting heart valve trials and we’ll be the first hospital in Queensland for one of these studies and one of only two or three in Australia to do the new keyhole valve replacement.”

“It’s a true area of need as it’s a condition for which the standard treatment is open heart surgery, but most patients if they’ve got a condition called tricuspid regurgitation, they will not tolerate open heart surgery.”



Associate Professor Anthony Camuglia.



Cardiologist Dr Arnold Ng.

Improving emergency care outcomes

An innovative research project at QEII Hospital is exploring whether the use of virtual reality can help reduce anxiety for patients who present to the emergency department (ED).

Led by QEII clinician Dr Grace Xu, the project's focus is on consenting patients who have to undergo minor but painful procedures in the emergency room, examining whether distracting them with virtual reality can have a beneficial impact.

The study is a first of its kind in the adult emergency setting and builds upon earlier studies using virtual reality in health.

"The idea of virtual reality is popular and innovative and it's being used everywhere in wider society," Dr Xu said.

"Research has been done using virtual reality in other health settings like pre-

op and post-op in the theatre or with dental procedures. It hasn't been done in an adult emergency department, although we are the place where there will be most of the painful procedures.

"There's only one study that's been done in a paediatric ED environment a couple of years ago in Victoria, this has never been examined in the context of helping adult ED patients."

"We never worry about adults really, just because they are older, but they still have fears and experience anxiety about procedures just as a child would, and adults are the number one group of people who are having painful procedures."

Dr Xu and her research team identify suitable patients through their presenting diagnosis. Once the patient consents they will be offered the opportunity to use a virtual reality headset. The results of the research



will test feasibility, accessibility and adaptability of virtual reality headsets in emergency procedures and whether patients find them helpful.

"From what we know, virtual reality can be significantly helpful in other settings. As we do many different painful procedures in the ED, we are confident virtual reality is likely to benefit our patients."

Dr Xu said as a clinician-researcher, she was incredibly grateful for the support of the Foundation and its donors in allowing her research to take place.

Improving the hospital experience

Redland Hospital's Lamb Ward treatment room has made a splash with a calming ocean-inspired makeover, led by Clinical Nurse Kathleen Fry.

Thanks to the support of the Redland Hospital Fund, the room now invites children into a fantasy sea world, with playful decals, fresh paint, and a dimmable light switch—all designed to create a calming and imaginative environment for our youngest patients.

"Creating a space like this helps kids relax, which is so rewarding," Kathleen said.

"We wanted to bring a bit of fun and Bayside's love for the ocean into the hospital."

The newly transformed room, used for

medical procedures like cannulations and blood transfusions, can be intimidating for kids. But now, with its colourful ocean theme, the space offers children a friendly distraction—where they can search for hidden sea creatures or count the different types of fish.

Kathleen shared her excitement about how the design supports children's well-being.

"They can go on a little ocean adventure, spotting dolphins, turtles, and starfish on the walls.

"It's all about making them feel more at ease and turning a scary moment into something engaging," she said.

The room also features a new TV to keep older kids entertained.

"The support from the Redland Hospital Fund has been amazing.



Clinical Nurse Kathleen Fry.

"It's really nice for the community to know they are helping us create kinder spaces to care for children."

The Redland Hospital Fund was key in bringing this project to life, and community contributions make a real difference for Bayside's youngest patients.

Campaigns for change

We are incredibly blessed to work with not only you, our fabulous supporters, but some amazing corporate partners each year. These organisations are incredibly passionate about making a difference for people diagnosed with cancer and other serious diseases and work closely with us each year to raise as much funds as possible to help hospital patients.

Whether it's running dedicated campaigns like Project Pink to bring hope to thousands of Australian families facing a breast

cancer diagnosis, or sponsoring one of our events like Smiddy Fun Run or donating on Giving Day, we simply could not have the impact we do without each of our corporate partners and just like you, we can't thank them enough.

Our campaigns take us across Queensland and interstate, raising not only vital funds for breast cancer or men's health, but importantly, awareness of the need to raise those funds so that more lives can be saved.



Project Pink

We are always blown away by the efforts of our partners who get behind our breast cancer campaign Project Pink and the past two years have been no different. In 2024 alone close to a million dollars has been raised. Money that will support the research of Professor Fiona Simpson and her Simpson Lab and the Familial Breast Cancer Institute at the PA Hospital Campus as well as funding a dedicated breast cancer research fellow in the PA's Cancer Services Department. Project Pink 2023 was also a huge success with over \$600,000 raised.



Mandate

2024 was another impactful year for our Mandate campaign, which raises funds for men's health issues such as prostate cancer, depression and cardiac disease. Our partners and community fundraisers collectively raised close to \$140,000 for the cause, backing up after a successful 2023 year in which \$136,000 was collected.

Everyone of our valued corporate partners has the same mission as us, to improve the health of our community through funding research, patient support, state of the art equipment and staff education.



Our Giving Day

The past two years have truly shown us the kindness and generosity of our community. The perfect example of this being our Giving Days.

Held in September each year, Giving Day is a day where we ask you and all those who choose us as their place to give, to dig deep and donate and have your donation matched for one day only.

In total our past two Giving Days have raised over \$481,000 to support hospital patients across the Metro South Health District.



THE GIFT OF LIFE

Forever grateful

As a father of four and grandfather of three, Robert Myles could not be more grateful for the care of the PA Hospital and the opportunity to be a part of a clinical trial.

Robert was diagnosed with Stage Four squamous cell carcinoma in 2022. He is now feeling great after receiving treatment through the trial, at the PA Hospital's clinical research facility. He now only visits the PA for check-ups from his home in Atherton, Far North Queensland.

After being recommended for the trial by PA Hospital oncologist and Foundation supported researcher Associate Professor Rahul Ladwa, Robert was amazed by his body's response to the treatment.

"I'm feeling fantastic, better than I've felt for years," he said.

"From the start, I was fortunate in that I did not feel unwell during or after treatment, and I responded to the treatment almost immediately. In fact, from the first round of treatment, the tumour on my neck decreased so dramatically in size it was astounding.

"I was able to continue working throughout my treatment which I definitely did not believe would be possible."

With the Foundation having supported numerous skin cancer research projects, including squamous cell carcinoma research by Associate Professor Ladwa, Robert said he was eternally

thankful to donors who helped make research, like the trial he was helped by, possible.

"It's difficult to express just how much the Foundation and their donors have done for me and my family. I believe that Associate Professor Ladwa and the trial has given me back my life, and my most fervent hope is that my story and participation in the clinical trial will help to make this treatment available to more people, because it has been life changing for me and my family."

Robert Myles with two of his grandchildren.



Life changing research

Squamous Cell Carcinoma, is one of the most prevalent forms of skin cancer in Australia, and globally, impacting the lives of thousands each year and can be fatal.

Surgery followed by radiotherapy is the cure but can negatively impact patients, especially if performed in cosmetically appealing places like the face.

Thankfully, a new clinical trial offers hope.

The DESQUAMATE immunotherapy trial at the PA Hospital is seeing incredible results in more than half of the trial patients and is playing a role in turning the treatment of squamous cell carcinoma on its head.

PAH Oncologist Associate Professor (A/Prof) Rahul Ladwa is thrilled with the responses he's seeing in patients on the trial.

"The head and neck clinic at PA very much supported this study, and we found that nearly two thirds of the group had a

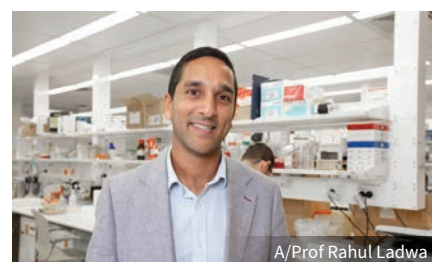
fantastic response," he said.

"They had what we call a clinical complete response, i.e., the tumour had disappeared on PET scans and when we did a biopsy in the area where the cancer once was, we didn't see any cancer cells."

The key to the study has been its patient centred focus, reducing invasive surgery and radiotherapy in nearly half the patients.

"We wanted to design a study that selected patients appropriately to avoid major surgery and radiation, so we designed a risk-adapted study where the management was altered according to the response following the introduction of immunotherapy," A/Prof Ladwa said.

"We have seen long term responses in patients thought to be incurable. With immune therapies alone people are living two or more years later with no evidence of active cancer.



A/Prof Rahul Ladwa

"Based on this we designed a study to incorporate the fantastic responses we were getting from immunotherapy into the multidisciplinary management of patients with operable disease, where surgery, and/or radiotherapy was given only if we were worried cancer was left behind to minimise toxicity from these treatments.

"Our patients were excited about this approach as these cancers are predominantly located in the head and neck region, so any surgery is a significant undertaking especially in an older patient population."

Precious memories created

The Browne family will always hold a special place in PA Hospital clinician Dr Sanjeev Naidu's heart. He'll never forget them.

What brought the Browne family and Dr Sanjeev Naidu together – was wanting to give Jarrod Browne, who was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of cancer the most time possible with his family.

Jarrod was just 33 when he learned he had a rare, aggressive and advanced cancer known as Stage Four appendiceal adenocarcinoma. With a loving wife and young son, it was a huge shock.

Jarrod's diagnosis sent shockwaves through his close, loving family, and loyal circle of friends. They were determined to support him. And keep hope alive.

Jarrod's first treatment was 20 rounds of chemotherapy followed by surgery.

Then his abdominal cavity was bathed with hot chemotherapy to kill any remaining microscopic cancer cells.

Six months later Jarrod was later rushed to hospital with a suspected bowel obstruction. Devastatingly, His cancer had returned.

Surgery would've been impossible had it not been for a miracle. A new surgical tool called a 'PlasmaJet' was on loan to the hospital. It enabled Dr Sanjeev to operate when conventional tools wouldn't.

The PlasmaJet gave Jarrod 17 more months of life – and Jarrod's pride and joy, his young son Jack 17 more months with Daddy.

The Browne family benefitted greatly from the loan of the PlasmaJet. Now thanks to supporters like you, the PA



Hospital has its very own PlasmaJet to help thousands more families like Jarrod's going forward. Because for families like Jarrod's, moments are what matters.

The PlasmaJet project including equipment, staff training and implementation and required consumables totalled \$120,000 with \$80,000 contributed by the Sheila and Bernard Joel Life-saving Medical Equipment Foundation, \$20,000 contributed by the Pyefinch Family Charitable Trust, \$5000 from Russell and Narelle Browne and \$15,000 from PA Research Foundation donors.

Three years on

By Taylor Kirkwood, PA Hospital Patient

Five years ago, I was diagnosed with Stage 4c metastatic bowel cancer and my whole world fell apart.

Things only got worse when the traditional treatment route of surgery and chemotherapy didn't work for me due to a rare genetic mutation.

But because of the amazing Associate Professor Rahul Ladwa, the PA Hospital and the PA Foundation, I was given a second chance and accepted onto an immunotherapy trial.

Amazingly, the trial worked and on May 4, 2022, I was declared No Evidence of Disease (NED) - something I, nor anyone around me, thought would ever happen.

On August 3, 2022 - the day before my 30th birthday - I completed treatment and as of November 2024, I have remained NED for two-and-a-half years.

Since finishing cancer treatment, I have tried to live my life to the fullest, knowing just how lucky I am to simply

be alive, especially given the friends I have lost to cancer along the way.

I have returned to work part-time; travelled to Japan, New Zealand and Europe; had my Portacath removed; and welcomed two nieces and a nephew to my ever-expanding extended family.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless efforts and work of innovative oncologists like Dr Ladwa, and the PA Foundation's ongoing support of this research.

I leave you with the words of a dear friend of mine, Ian, who sadly passed away from bowel cancer in 2023: Cancer – you are just one piece of my story, but I – I am all of yours! And I am greater than you.

Taylor Kirkwood and her husband Joseph Kirkwood.



Eternally grateful

Reece Hansen is lucky to be alive, and he knows he has the neurology team at the PA Hospital to thank for the surgery which will allow him to see his cherished daughter Amirah grow up.

Reece had a colloid cyst in his brain, which up until recently had not bothered him, but in 2024 it began growing, causing headaches and vision issues which eventually led him to the PA's neurology team.

Led by neurosurgeon Associate Professor Sarah Olson, the team put Reece under the knife to remove the cyst, which had become life threatening.

"Dr Olson said it would have been only a few more days and I would've died," Reece said.

"The two teams that cared for me, they're god sends to me to be honest."

Though colloid cysts are rare brain tumours that are always non-cancerous, Reece's cyst had grown from 6cm to 9cm prior to his surgery, putting his future at risk.

A diagnosis he said was frightening for his family and forced him to face his worst fears.

"It's definitely a different feeling now it's over, in a massively positive way," he said.

"It was very scary, obviously for my whole family to deal with. I was terrified of not waking up to see my daughter or being there for my daughter."

Reece would have three surgeries in two weeks under the care of the PA, with two

to remove all his cyst and one to remove a blood clot in a ventricle in his brain which is where colloid cysts develop.

Reece said he and his family will be forever grateful to everyone involved in his care.

"Everyone at the PA, but especially the two teams in neurology, they're just great people.

"It's such a gift they've given me and I'm very thankful to them all."



A life changed for the better

Forever indebted is how James Avenell describes how he feels about the PA Hospital and the care of Dr Alex Lehn and Associate Professor Sarah Olson.

James who was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at just 38 years old in 2016, underwent deep brain stimulation surgery at the PA under the guidance and care of the PA's neurology department.

Deep brain stimulation involves surgery to implant an electrode device in the brain that produces electrical impulses to disrupt irregular brain signals that cause involuntary movements. The device is then attached to a stimulator in the chest.

Traditionally seen as an older person's disease, being told you have Parkinson's would come as a shock to the system of

anyone, let alone someone who was not yet 40. James said though it started as just a small tremor in his pinky finger, it eventually progressed to a point where he was beginning to question his future.

"It affects little things. Just trying to do basic jobs and stuff like that and generally feeling like you're useful. I've been lucky that it progressed slowly, but it was getting to the point where it was difficult for me put on a button up shirt in the morning for work," he said.

"It had started to get to that point where I really had to start leaning on people and accept the fact that there were going to be things that I just couldn't do that I used to be able to do.

Less than three months after the procedure he began experiencing a much better quality of life.

"I feel like I am finally having that



sort of peace of mind, I know that there's definitely a future where I can function and be useful as a person and contribute. Because that was the biggest concern for me. I was feeling like I was losing my independence," James said.

"I'm back working from home. Everything's become so much easier. It's taken quite a lot of that uncertainty about the future away and given me a lot of quality of life back."

Thanks for helping to close the gap

First Nations Australians are now receiving more culturally appropriate cancer care and support thanks to a new role in place at the PA Hospital, a First Nations Cancer Nurse Navigator.

Made possible by a collaboration between the PA Foundation, Dry July and the University of Queensland, the PA hired Shanon Nealon to be its inaugural First Nations Cancer Nurse Navigator.

The role involves Shanon, an Aboriginal woman from the Pitta Pitta people of the Mt Isa region, helping First Nations Australians to better navigate the health system and their cancer journey.

Having been through her own cancer treatment journey, Shanon jumped at the chance to put both her cultural knowledge, nursing experience and lived patient experience to work helping others.

The nurse of over 20 years sees her role as building trust in health services

among her patient cohort, who come from all over Queensland, and also informing staff on how to be more aware and sensitive to cultural issues that are important to First Nations Australians.

“A big part of it is that staff need to be educated so that they’re able to have an understanding of what our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander beliefs and cultural practices are. When we do that the patients start to have more trust in our health staff.

“It’s also being there to support their support person as well, which I think is really important. My dad supported me along my journey.”

“Once you’re able to make that connection with them about being indigenous, straight off the bat, you’re already building rapport. We do have a couple of younger patients that have been known not to turn up to treatment and scans and things, as a result my role has gone a bit beyond just being a hospital role.



Shanon Nealon

“It’s really important to keep them engaged by whatever means, whatever I need to do to keep them engaged in their treatment and coming to their appointments.”

Shanon said she is grateful to the funding partners for making her role possible so that more First Nations patients can experience better outcomes. She believes similar roles across the health spectrum would make a significant difference to First Nations health.

The Cancer Gap

Cancer is the leading broad cause of death for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (23% of deaths).¹

Indigenous Australians are 14% more likely to be diagnosed with cancer. They are 20% less likely to survive at least five years beyond diagnosis.²

While the likelihood of dying from cancer in the general population declined by 10% from 2010 to 2019, it increased by 12% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.³

References:

¹Griffiths, K. (2023). The cancer gap between First Nations and non-Indigenous people - but better data could help. [online] The Conversation.

²Australia Institute of Health and Welfare (2023). 1.08 Cancer. [online] AIHW indigenous HPF.

³AIHW 2021, Cancer in Australia 2021. Cancer series no. 133. CAN 144. Canberra: AIHW.



We are proud to say that thanks to your support we’ve been able to extend the First Nations Cancer Nurse Navigator Position through 2025.

Thanks to a generous donor we have also been able to fund Kidney and Transplant Services teams to provide outreach support to First Nations renal patients in 2025.



Thanks for improving outcomes

To save and change lives for the better, improve outcomes and give people more time with those they love, our region must stay ahead of the curve in terms of obtaining the latest medical technology and remain a leader in implementing initiatives that support patients.

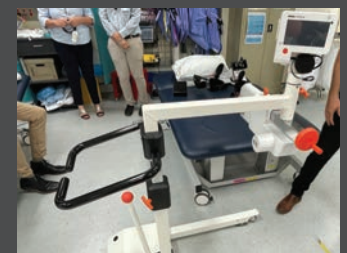
Government health budgets can only stretch so far, but thanks to your support over the last two years we've been able to help clinicians, nurses and allied health staff at the PA, QEII, Logan, Redland and Beaudesert Hospitals to maintain their status as leaders in the provision of healthcare.

Because of your support over the last two years, patients across Metro South Health are now benefiting from:

- **A Sudoscan machine** – You've helped make available a unique machine used to help diagnose neuropathy in Amyloidosis patients (pictured bottom right).
- **An Ultrasonic Aspirator** – You've helped make possible a piece of equipment that allows brain surgery to be performed via keyhole surgery, helping patients to recover faster (pictured bottom left).
- You're helping patients to relax and stay in touch with family, friends and their community by helping us to install **High Speed Wi-Fi** for the PA's Mental Health Unit and Radiation Oncology PA Raymond Terrace.
- You've given patients recovering from an acquired brain injury a calm and inviting outdoor space by helping us fund a **refurbished patient garden area** for the PA's Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit.
- **Liver Perfusion Machine** – You've supported a lifesaving machine that helps to keep transplant livers viable for

longer periods of time, extending the time in which liver transplants can take place (pictured top, second from left).

- **A Motomed in-bed cycle** – You're helping patients in the ICU and other areas of the hospital to reduce muscle wastage and rehabilitate during recovery (pictured top right).
- **IQ + Ultrasound System for Physiotherapy** - You've helped us acquire a single probe whole body solution designed to make ultrasound easy to use via a mobile app.
- **Servox Digital XL Speech Aid** – You've helped patients undergoing speech therapy by enabling us to purchase a new speech aid for the Speech Pathology Department.
- **A brand new Cross Trainer and Ergometer** for use by spinal injury patients undergoing physiotherapy.
- **A makeover of Lamb Ward at Redland Hospital** - Paediatric patients now have a nicer ward to be treated in with ocean themed decals on the walls.
- **Special post-op bras** for breast cancer patients to aid in their recovery at Redland Hospital.
- **Perineal Suturing Training for midwives at Redland Hospital** – this means women who require stitches after giving birth can have the procedure performed by a midwife rather than a doctor they may not have met before.
- **\$5000 for Equipment** for QEII Hospital's Cardiac Team.
- **A recreation program for Logan Hospital's Rehabilitation Unit** which provides a holistic approach to patient care and supports their recommended rehabilitation plans.
- **A \$2000 staff wellbeing grant for front line staff** at Beaudesert and Logan Hospitals.



A gift of thanks

Patients of the PA Hospital will benefit from the kindness of Brendan McCann's decision to leave a gift in his will to the Foundation for decades to come.

Brendan's choice to leave a bequest stemmed from his gratitude to the PA for saving his life, after his health took a turn for the worse.

Brendan underwent a liver transplant at the PA in 2019, an operation that gave him a new lease on life and allowed him to re-connect with his parents after an extended period of living in Central Queensland. They also are leaving a bequest to the Foundation as a way of saying thank you for their son's care.

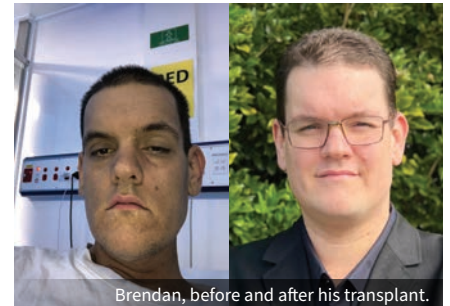
Brendan suffered liver damage from a combination of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and a bout of leptospirosis which initially went undiagnosed at another hospital.

"I already had fatty liver disease and I started having liver problems in 2016/2017 while working for the agricultural colleges here in Queensland. I went out to visit the colleges and I unfortunately picked up leptospirosis," he said.

"It doesn't really present as much worse than just a regular cold, and when you head to a GP with a cold, generally they are not going to prescribe you antibiotics, which as it turned out was probably all I needed."

Brendan's condition would deteriorate, and he would eventually be transferred to the PA when doctors realised his liver was failing. Brendan's condition was so dire he became the top priority transplant in Australia and New Zealand.

Thankfully for Brendan, a liver donor was located and his care team at the PA rushed him into the operating theatre



Brendan, before and after his transplant.

for a full liver transplant.

"My parents made their decision to leave a bequest at the time I was discharged. They said to me they wanted to do it to thank the PA, and so that it will hopefully help others," Brendan said.

"I wanted to do the same thing, because I feel it's equally as important if not more so that as the recipient of the care and assistance of the PA that I did it also."

Do great things after you're gone

Deciding to leave a gift in your will to improve the health of others is a powerful way to express your commitment to make the world a better place. By doing this, you can create a legacy of positive change in countless lives for years to come.

When you give to a public hospital you are helping to create better health outcomes, not just for the local community but the wider society in Australia and beyond.

Part of the magic of leaving a bequest is that you can play a role in where it has its impact and who it helps. We're here to help guide and direct your kindness and act as a conduit between your desire to help and give back, and the hospital staff to bring projects to fruition and ensure the fulfillment of your legacy.

Big or small, your generosity could be the boost a scientist needs to progress a life-saving advancement in medical research or help to bring the latest technology, cutting-edge equipment and care pathways into the clinic so that thousands can be helped.

By leaving a gift in your will to the hospital that has provided you or those you love with such incredible care you will truly be doing great things after you're gone.

If you're interested in leaving a gift in your will to either the PA, QEII, Redland, Logan or Beaudesert Hospitals please reach out on the contact details below.

Carolyn Schuwalow,
Senior Philanthropy Manager.

Email: Carolyns@pafoundation.org.au
Phone: 07 3180 1840 or 0484 866 041



Free Will Service

We have partnered with willed.com.au to offer a free online will service. If you would like to use this service to make your legal will you can do so via the gift in will button at pafoundation.org.au, qeiihospitalfund.org.au, redlandhospitalfund.org.au, loganhospitalfund.org.au and beaudeserthospitalfund.org.au.

GENERATIONAL GRATITUDE

Inspired generosity

John Connolly has been a man on a mission to improve the hospital experience of patients in the PA Hospital's Spinal Injuries Unit (SIU) ever since he was a patient of the unit himself in 2019.

While full of praise for the care, diligence and hard work of the unit's staff, John recognised that the unit itself was an outdated building with some outdated technology, and upon returning home to the Sunshine Coast he set about rectifying that the best way he could.

During his stay he saw that the unit is a place that builds hope in its patients, each of whom have gone through a life-changing injury. He also identified that the TV's in the unit, were limited in the entertainment options they offered and knew it was an issue he could solve, which would help build hope and resilience in patients by benefitting their

mental health during their stay.

The first step for the former Wallabies coach was raising funds for new TV's to be installed and iPads to be made available to current patients.

John held a luncheon on the Sunshine Coast and was blown away by the generosity of the local community as he was able to raise over \$80,000 for the Foundation.

"I had an iPad so I could get by, but not everyone had that option. When you're spending many, many hours in a bed and you have an iPad or access to a TV it makes the time easier and go so much faster, and internally, it helps you a great deal."

"Now that we have the TV's and iPads rolling out, we have to continue to look at how we can improve the facility, so it is on par with the level of care delivered



by the staff."

Each new TV is connected to high-speed Wi-Fi and has multiple streaming services installed.

Importantly for patient safety and communication, the TV's do not interfere with the patient call system.

"What we're providing here is hope, and this facility is so important to doing that for every single one of its patients."

Helping others through giving

When Mark and Margaret Toleman wanted to make a gift to help others they knew exactly where they wanted their generosity directed; to Logan Hospital and to help families affected by stillbirth. In 2024 they requested their donation be used to purchase a cooling cot, a vital piece of equipment that allows families to spend precious, extended time with their stillborn baby.

Mark and Margaret have a personal connection to Logan Hospital through their daughter, Jessica Toleman, who is the current Service Line Director of Surgery and Critical Care.

But the motivation behind their kindness to the community of Logan runs deeper.

Margaret's family was forever impacted by the loss of a child to stillbirth—a

heartbreak that led her to undertake PhD research aimed at better understanding and supporting families enduring similar losses.

During her studies, Margaret said she heard the emotional stories of several families in the Greater Brisbane area.

"The courage in sharing their experiences inspired my husband and I to make this donation to the Logan Hospital Fund," Margaret said.

"Through both our donation and my research, we hope to contribute to a better understanding of this heartbreak, ensuring that families who endure similar losses receive the support and recognition they deserve."

Both Mark and Margaret said they hoped their gift would have a lasting impact, providing comfort and support to local families.



Logan Hospital current Service Line Director of Surgery and Critical Care Jessica Toleman with a picture of her parents Mark and Margaret.

Logan Hospital Fund Community Partnerships Manager Ellen Dann said she and every member of the Logan Hospital Maternity ward and indeed the hospital itself were full of gratitude for the Toleman's gift.

"We honestly can't thank them enough, their donation will have a profound and lasting impact for years to come and help countless families through the pain of stillbirth."

GENERATIONAL GRATITUDE

Your immeasurable impact

When someone gives to the Foundation, they can never know how much their donation, big or small, can go on to positively impact thousands of lives.

By supporting the Foundation, donors enable people like Dr Megan Rossi to propel their ideas forward so that they will eventually help people improve their health.

Known as The Gut Health Doctor, Dr Rossi gives some of the credit for where she is now, as a twice published author whose work on the microbiome is helping thousands of people, to the Foundation and its supporters and her time spent as a dietitian at the PA Hospital.

“I was working in the renal wards at PA, I got interested in some of the new early-stage research in gut health in my kidney disease patients. A lot of them were coming to me complaining of gut health issues and I thought, what’s going on here”, she said.

“Around 2010, I embarked on a PhD looking at whether we target the gut health of those with kidney disease, whether that can help with not just the gut symptoms they were experiencing, but more widely, things like their kidney function and heart health. The PA Foundation were integral in funding my PhD, without their support I wouldn’t have been able to complete it.”

The Foundation’s faith in Megan cemented her growing passion for gut health and the decision to dedicate her career to helping people with gut issues. A choice which would land her in London, at the famous King’s College, where she has been based ever since.

“In my final year studying nutrition and dietetics I sadly lost my grandma to bowel cancer, that was my first conscious encounter with the gut, which was obviously a very negative one,” she said.

“Then working as a dietitian in a hospital setting and also being fortunate enough to be the nutritionist for the Australian Olympic swimming team, I was dealing with really sick people in a hospital setting but then also these elite athletes, and both communities were complaining of their gut. That kind of drove me to focus more on it again.”

“I’d think “gosh what is it about this organ”, it took my grandma’s life and put her through the chemo and the surgery but there seems to be something else going on here.

“After my PhD, I decided I was going to dedicate the rest of my career to gut health because it’s game changing for people and it’s a landmark start to discovery in terms of what we are learning.”

The gut health expert remembers her time as a post graduate dietitian at PAH fondly.

“I remember the PA being a real community led staffing environment. I remember lots of monthly catch ups with other clinicians and a communal approach to healthcare from that perspective,” Megan said.

“Of course, I remember all of my patients, particularly those who were involved in my PhD research, they were just so passionate and enthusiastic, despite being burdened by their chronic kidney disease. The patients at PA always hold a special place in my heart.

“I couldn’t have done my PhD without the Foundation. I’m in debt to everyone who donates to them because of their contribution to my PhD and my career, I’m hugely grateful to them.”

You can find more info on Dr Megan Rossi and her books at www.theguthealthdoctor.com



Dr Megan Rossi

Keep in touch

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram by scanning the QR codes below

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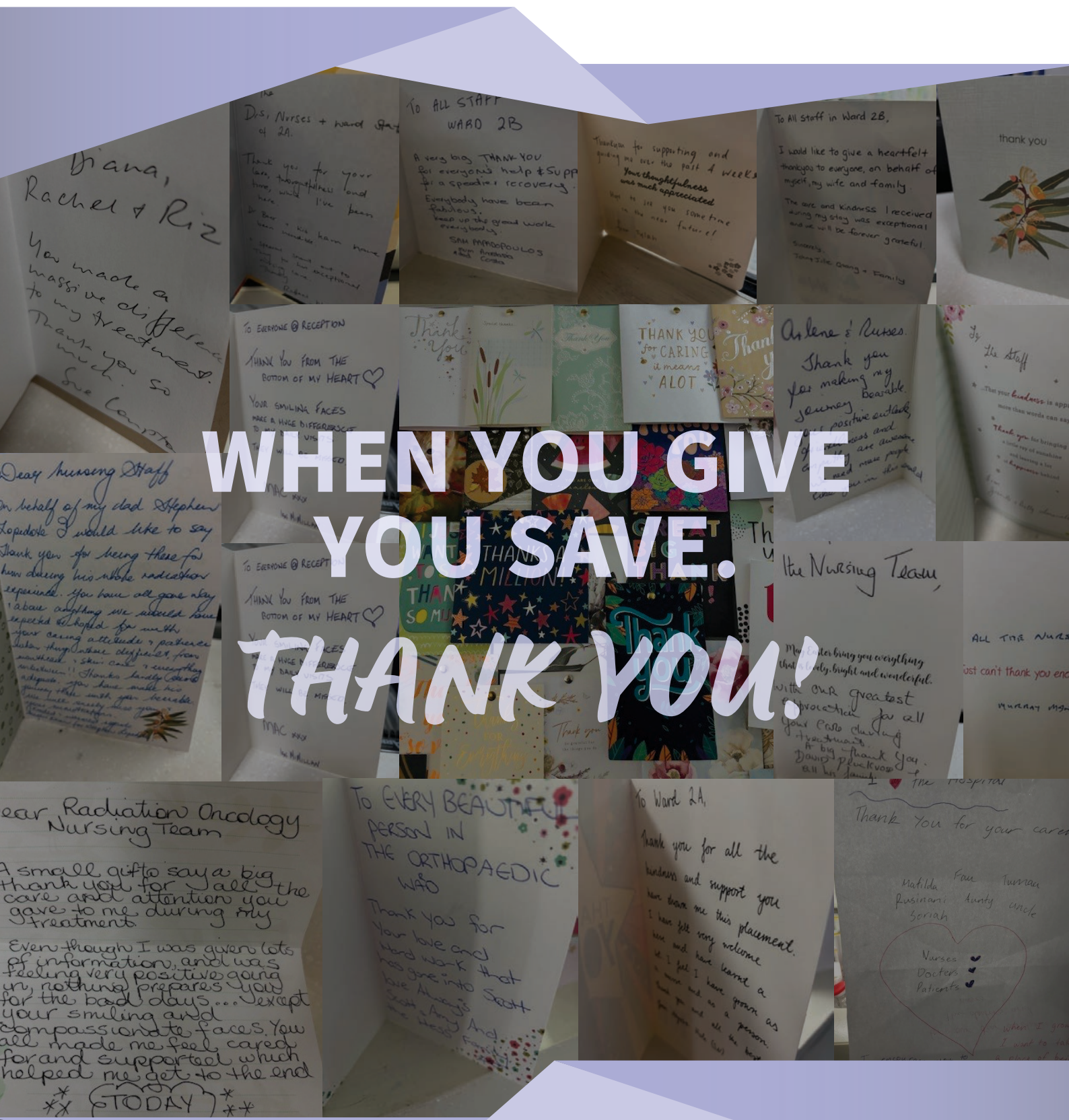
PA Research Foundation

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Phone: 07 3180 1840

Email: general@pafoundation.org.au





WHEN YOU GIVE
YOU SAVE.
THANK YOU!

Diana,
Rachel & Riz
You made a
massive difference
to my treatment.
Thank you so
much.
Sue Lambert

To
Drs, Nurses + Ward Staff
of 2A,
Thank you for your
care, thoughtfulness and
time, which I've been
in need of.
I hope I will have some
of your kindness and be
able to see you again.
Thank you
Robbie

To ALL STAFF
WARD 2B
A very big THANK YOU
for everyone's help & SUPP
for a speedy recovery.
Everybody have been
fabulous,
keep up the good work
everybody!
SMY PAPAPOULOS
from Australia
& his
Cousin

Thank you for supporting and
guiding me over the past 4 weeks
Your thoughtfulness
was much appreciated
I will be in you some time
in the near future.
Love
Tina

To All staff in Ward 2B,
I would like to give a heartfelt
thanks to everyone, on behalf of
myself, my wife and family.
The care and kindness I received
during my stay was exceptional
and we will be forever grateful.
Sincerely,
Tina & Family

thank you

To EVERYONE @ RECEPTION
THANK YOU FROM THE
BOTTOM OF MY HEART
YOUR SMILING FACES
MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE
TO MY DAY
MARC

Thank
you

THANK YOU
for CARING
it means
A LOT
Thank
you

Aslene & Russes
Thank you
for making my
journey
bearable
Your positive attitude,
kindness and
compassion are always
needed more people
like you in the world
The Staff

Thank you for bringing
a little ray of sunshine
and leaving a lot
of happiness behind
Thank you for being
there when I needed
you most
The Staff

Dear Nursing Staff
On behalf of my dad Stephen
Lopodote I would like to say
Thank you for being there for
him during his whole radiation
experience. You have all gone above
and beyond about anything we should have
expected. I hope for with
your caring attitude & patience
I hope they take a step back from
work and take a step forward
to help me. You have made his
journey that much more bearable.
I hope all the nurses who
worked on his ward, please
pass on my love and appreciation
to all the staff who
worked on his ward.

To EVERYONE @ RECEPTION
THANK YOU FROM THE
BOTTOM OF MY HEART
YOUR SMILING FACES
MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE
TO MY DAY
MARC

THANK YOU
FOR CARING
IT MEANS
A LOT
Thank
you

Thank you
for making my
journey
bearable
Your positive attitude,
kindness and
compassion are always
needed more people
like you in the world
The Staff

The Nursing Team,
Thank you for bringing you everything
that is lovely, bright and wonderful.
With our greatest
appreciation for all
your care during
my treatment.
A big thank you.
Don't forget to know
all the staff
I love you
The Hospital

ALL THE NURSES
I just can't thank you enough
MURRAY MSON

Dear Radiation Oncology
Nursing Team
A small gift to say a big
thank you for all the
care and attention you
gave to me during my
treatment
Even though I was given lots
of information, and was
feeling very positive going
in, nothing prepares you
for the bad days... Except
your smiling and
compassionate faces. You
all made me feel cared
for and supported which
helped me get to the end
* * (TODAY) * *
* * * * *

To EVERY BEAUTIFUL
PERSON IN
THE ORTHOPAEDIC
WARD
Thank you for
your love and
hard work that
has gone into Scott
I have always
loved you and
will miss you
Scott & Amy
and
the whole family

To Ward 2A,
Thank you for all the
kindness and support you
have shown me this placement.
I have felt very welcome
and have learned a
lot. I feel I have grown as
a person and as a person
I hope you and all the staff
will support me (and
the rest of the team)

Thank You for your care
Natalia Fou Turian
Pasinari Auntie uncle
Sorrah
Nurses
Doctors
Patients
When I grow
I want to be
like you