



FoundationNEWS

SPRING 2022

HELPING OASIS PATIENTS THROUGH NEW FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Northern Health Foundation is raising funds for an Anorectal Laboratory to help minimise risks associated with OASIS patients (Obstetrics Anal Sphincter Injury) at Northern Health.

This financial year, our fundraising efforts are looking a little different as we focus on raising money for an Anorectal Investigations Laboratory at Northern Health. Comprising three separate pieces of equipment, the laboratory will help to significantly improve the standard of care our doctors and nurses can deliver to patients.

With approximately 3,700 babies being delivered at Northern Health each year, a number of patients will experience tearing and other injuries through the natural birthing process. Bringing new life into the world is incredibly special and should be a positive experience. By providing access to this specialised equipment, our clinicians will have access to evidence based information, enabling them to provide more accurate advice to their patients and minimise the risk of injury.

This equipment not only benefits people giving birth. It also supports a cohort of patients with bowel conditions such as Crohn's Disease and several functional bowel disorders.



Until now, Northern Health is one of the few major Victorian metropolitan health services not yet providing this service. This means that currently, patients are having to go elsewhere for further investigation.

Having the appropriate equipment at Northern Health will ensure patients receive appropriate treatment when they need it, right here in their community.

With the help of our donors and supporters, Northern Health Foundation continues to fund life-changing equipment for the northern community.

Your support is greatly appreciated. To contribute to this fundraising campaign, scan the QR code, or visit our website nhfoundation.org.au



Featured image shows Neil Strugnell, Head of Colorectal Surgery, Northern Health

GENEROUS DONATIONS SUPPORTING OUR PATIENTS

The Batten Foundation generously funded the purchase of three Panda Warmers for our Northern Hospital Epping Birthing Suite, continuing to provide outstanding care to our little patients.

Zeyneb Gokler, Midwifery Unit Manager, Birthing Suite and Maternity Assessment Centre, was very grateful upon receiving this vital piece of equipment, saying, "We are very appreciative of the generous donation by the Batten Foundation. Panda Warmers are critical in providing resuscitation to a newborn. Currently, we have four Panda Warmers, and with the addition of a further three, staff will no longer have to move the equipment in an emergency situation. Safe care is what we thrive on, and this will give us an opportunity to develop and extend our level of care."

In the spirit of donations, three high-back chairs were also generously funded by Bridgewater Lake Retirement Estate Residents Village, to Ward 4. Renee O'Rourke, Acting Nurse Unit Manager Ward 4, expressed her gratitude for this donation, saying, "The brand new high-back chairs will aid in the care of our vulnerable patients. The chairs are orthopaedic and important pieces of furniture for our patient's health and wellbeing, as they promote good posture and back support to assist in reducing pain and encourage deep breathing. A patient who is comfortable

is more likely to sit out of bed. This, in turn, encourages social interaction and dietary intake, retains mobility independence and improves respiratory function."

Our Oncology and Medical Day Unit also received a blanket warmer, funded through Northern Health Foundation Patron, Bev Carman. Melissa Gwynne, Nurse Unit Manager, Oncology and Medical Day Unit, said the blanket warmer would be used by patients while receiving treatment. "Having treatment and sitting in chair for up to six hours can be tiresome. We want to keep our patients comfortable. Having a nice warm blanket, especially during those cold winter months, really improves the comfort and wellbeing of our patients, particularly those undergoing scalp cooling as part of their treatment."

The Oncology and Medical Day Unit now have two blanket warmers, which have both been purchased through funds from our very generous donors.

"Bev has always done so much each year to raise funds for cancer services at Northern Health. She is a great role model in our community and I thank her very much for her contribution," Melissa said.

Thank you to all our generous donors and patrons for your support!



Featured image shows Bruce Batten and his daughter Emily.

THANK YOU EVENT BE PART OF OUR HISTORY

On Thursday 7, April 2022, Northern Health Foundation hosted its annual 'Thank You Evening' to acknowledge the generous support over the past 12 months.

The event was held at Seafarers Residences Display Suite in Docklands, located on Melbourne's beautiful Yarra River. In attendance were Northern Health and Foundation Board Directors and members of the Northern Health Executive, as well as staff, volunteers and Foundation Patrons; Bev Carman, Trudi Hay, and Josie Minniti OAM.

The theme of the evening was 'Be Part of our History', calling on our community and supporters to join us as Northern Health continues to be an innovative health service, now and in the future. This event was particularly special as it was the first face-to-face event hosted by the Foundation in 12 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pina Di Donato, Executive Director Public Affairs and Foundation, was delighted with the turnout on the evening, saying, "Tonight, we acknowledge the efforts of our generous supporters and donors and their contributions to Northern Health Foundation. It is an opportunity for us to say thank you. We all know how challenging the past few years have been, and the circumstances we were presented with made it necessary to turn our attention to just getting through it in the best way possible."

Peter McWilliam, Deputy Chair Northern Health Foundation, said, "While it has been a challenging year for fundraising, the Foundation was able to raise almost \$650,000 last year to support the health service. I extend my sincerest gratitude to all our generous supporters, patrons, corporate partners, dedicated volunteers and Northern Health staff for making this possible."

The evening also included a presentation from Neil Strugnell, Head of Colorectal Surgery, to talk about the Foundation's 2022-23 fundraising campaign for a new Colorectal Lab at Northern Health. This equipment will improve women's health outcomes and the outcomes of patients with inflammatory bowel disease.

A special thanks to Riverlee, and in particular Tricia Lee and the Lee family, for hosting the event at their spectacular venue, and to all our attendees who continue to show their support to Northern Health and Northern Health Foundation.

We look forward to our next event.

Featured image shows Jake Gelvezon, Associate Nurse Unit Manager, Northern Health Unit J.



25 YEARS OF FUNDRAISING FOR CANCER SERVICES

Josie Minniti OAM has been fundraising for Northern Health Cancer Services for the past 25 years, raising over \$90,000. Her fundraising efforts have enabled Northern Health to purchase important equipment for Cancer Services and refurbish a room in the Paediatric Ward.

This year, we celebrated a remarkable milestone for our patron, Josie Minniti OAM, who hosted her 25th Annual Dinner Dance at Ferraro Reception Centre in Campbellfield. With a fantastic turnout of family, friends, Northern Health staff and volunteers, the event was a massive success, raising \$20,000 for Northern Health's Palliative Care Unit!

It is heartwarming to know we live in a community always willing to help those who need us most. Josie has been at the centre of this for the last 25 years. With her family touched by cancer many times before, Josie understands how important a loved one's comfort is during this time.

Her contributions and dedication to Northern Health Cancer Services have been a journey we are proud to be part of.

Thank you for all of your support, Josie. We look forward to seeing how your generosity continues to give back to our community.



Featured image shows Josie Minniti OAM at her 25th Annual Dinner Dance

ENHANCING OUR PALLIATIVE CARE UNIT THIS DRY JULY

While the team at Northern Health have encountered many challenges this year in the face of COVID-19, they were not discouraged from achieving their goal of going dry this July in support of a good cause.

Despite a smaller team than in previous years, they were still able to raise \$27,000! As a result of this tremendous effort, Palliative Care patients will benefit from an extensive upgrade to their courtyard. Not only is this a testament to the dedication of the team, but it signifies the generosity of our wonderful community here in the north.

Alison Giles, Palliative Medicine Physician, Ward 3, was thrilled by the outcome, saying, "I am so excited about seeing some really positive changes to our new Palliative Care Unit on Ward 3- particularly the courtyard garden. We hope to create a place of beauty, nature and peace for patients, families and staff. A huge thanks to the Foundation team, and everyone who supported Dry July for their brilliant fundraising!"



Konstantina Halastanis, Fundraising and Relationships Manager, Northern Health Foundation, commended the participants, saying, "I am proud to be part of such a talented, fun, and motivated team that is dedicated to making a difference. A big thank you to all our sponsors and Northern Health volunteers for their ongoing support and generosity." We would also like to extend our gratitude to Northern Health Foundation Patron, Josie Minniti OAM, all her supporters, for their contribution of \$20,000 to install a fully-weathered gazebo, and an anonymous donor who generously gave \$10,000 towards the Dry July campaign.

We look forward to seeing the new garden taking shape and being enjoyed by our patients and their families!

DETECTING LUNG CANCER EARLIER

Northern Health's Endobronchial Ultrasound Service (EBUS) is helping to detect, diagnose and stage lung cancer earlier. Northern Health Foundation successfully raised funds for the service.

Kanishka Rangamuwa, Respiratory Physician and EBUS Lead, said the service would provide patients in the north better access to localised care and treatment for lung cancer. Kanishka continues, saying, "One of the advantages is that we can stage and diagnose at the same time. Our patients now have easier access to this service, meaning patient turnaround is much faster. This is really important given lung cancer is a fairly aggressive form of cancer," he said.

"It also improves our ability to stage the cancer, so we can give patients the appropriate type of treatment, which can vary depending on what stage the cancer is at."

For most people, their prognosis of lung cancer treatment changes depending on when they are diagnosed. If early-stage lung cancer is detected, where they can go to have surgical treatment, your outcomes are far better. But there is still about a 30 to 40 per cent chance of re-occurrence in five years."

"If the patient has advanced-stage lung cancer, which has spread to the other side of the chest, or elsewhere in the body, the average survival rate is 12 to 18 months, which is why it is so important to catch it earlier. EBUS will help do this."

The service was launched in early April when between 15 and 20 patients underwent EBUS that month.

EBUS lists are performed twice a week with about three patients per list. There are plans to build each list up to five patients. "For our staff, it is nice to have access to the procedure as we get faster turnarounds. We saw patients two weeks ago, they had their procedure last week, and they had their results this week. In the past, it would take longer," Kanishka said.

Katharine See, Head of Respiratory Medicine, Respiratory and Sleep Medicine, has worked for almost five years to bring the service to life.

"It is an excellent service. Katharine has done a lot of work to get this up and running. It's a real testament to her hard work," Kanishka said. "We are also very grateful to Northern Health Foundation and the funding they provided for this service. It will make a huge difference to the northern suburbs by improving the management of respiratory diseases, like lung cancer."

John Molnar OAM, Chair of Northern Health Foundation, said, "We are pleased to see the EBUS has been commissioned and is making a real difference in the detection and treatment of lung cancer. The northern community will benefit significantly from this service, and the Foundation is pleased to have provided funding for it. I am extremely grateful to our donors and supporters who contributed to this campaign."



Featured image shows Jack Henderson, Respiratory Registrar, Kanishka Rangamuwa, Respiratory Physician and EBUS Lead and Bassem Dawood, Respiratory Physician.

thank you

Thank you for your ongoing commitment, support and generosity to help us achieve our vision of building a healthier community together.

We would like to acknowledge our recent donors and supporters of Northern Health Foundation.

- Annie Danks Foundation
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Bev Carman, Josie Minniti OAM, and Trudi Hay

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185 Cooper Street Epping VIC 3076
P (03) 8405 2897 | E northernhealthfoundation@nh.org.au
www.nhfoundation.org.au | ABN 39 150 242 855

