

A woman with brown hair tied back, wearing pink V-neck scrubs, stands in a brightly lit hospital hallway. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. Her hands are behind her back. A lanyard with an ID badge and keys hangs from her waist. The hallway has white walls, a grey carpet, and several doors. A large, colorful floral artwork is visible on the right wall.

# The Royal

HOSPITAL  
FOR WOMEN  
FOUNDATION

## Annual Report

# 23/24





# Acknowledgment of Country

The Royal Hospital for Women Foundation acknowledges Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognises their continuous connection to Country, community and cultures.

We pay our respects to First Nations peoples, and to Elders both past and present and specifically we acknowledge the Bidjigal people the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our company is located and where we conduct our business.

We are committed to honouring their unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

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## A message from our CEO Elise Jennings



On behalf of the Foundation team, we give heartfelt thanks to our donors, partners and supporters for generously helping to keep the Royal Hospital for Women at the forefront of women and babies' health.

Our three signature campaigns this year – the Heart for Her tax appeal, our fifth annual Ladies Luncheon, and our Royal Giving Day – provided a strong funding base. While The Heart for Her and Royal Giving Day support the whole of hospital, the Ladies Luncheon is specifically for our Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU). This year the lunch raised \$650,000 for specialised equipment and a unit refurbishment, thanks to philanthropists and lunch founders Mitchell and Harriet Waugh in gratitude for their daughter's four-month NICU stay.

Generous funding reaped rewards in 2023 with three exciting Royal firsts. One was the safe arrival of Australia's first baby born from a transplanted uterus in December. The Uterine Transplant Trial is funded by the Foundation, so it was heartening to see Kirsty Bryant give birth to baby Henry. October saw the arrival of Bonnie, our first Capacitation in-vitro maturation (CAPA IVM) baby, (using a less invasive and cheaper alternative to IVF). And we became the first Australian hospital to offer our tiniest preemies an exclusive human milk diet using a new milk fortifier made entirely of donor breast milk.

We hope you enjoy reading about our productive year and we look forward to continuing to work with you to give the more than 20,000 women and babies, who rely on us, the best possible care.

## A message from our Chair Amanda Kenny



A highlight of my role as Chair of the Royal Hospital for Women Foundation is not only working closely with Elise and the team being kept abreast of the Foundations strategies, but in attending the Foundation's signature fundraising campaigns, and meeting some of the courageous women and babies that our Foundation helps to support.

I particularly love hearing about the impact that this vital support is having across the entire hospital. Listening to Jess Green tell her story at the Heart for Her perspectives event in June demonstrated the significant difference donations make here at The Royal. In Jess' case, our Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis service helped to end the BRCA gene in her family with the birth of Jess' baby boy, Max.

This year's key community initiatives are particularly inspiring – two involving treks to Mount Everest. In June, Tammy trekked through Everest Base Camp, then completed the Everest Marathon, in support of Alexander, her best friend's son, who was born at 25 weeks in December 2022 and spent 96 days in the NICU. Then, in September, 24 fundraisers trekked to Everest Base Camp raising \$225,444 for The Madison Capaldi Research Fund, a long-time generous donor to the hospital since 2005, in memory of their premature baby, Madison.

On behalf of our Board, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your continued support of this vital cause, because with your generosity, and the innovative services and care it funds, we truly are with every woman.

## Our Board



Amanda Kenny, Chair



Harvey Carter, Vice-Chair



Donna Garland, Director and RHW GM



Professor Alec Welsh, Director



Alex Vykhnour, Director

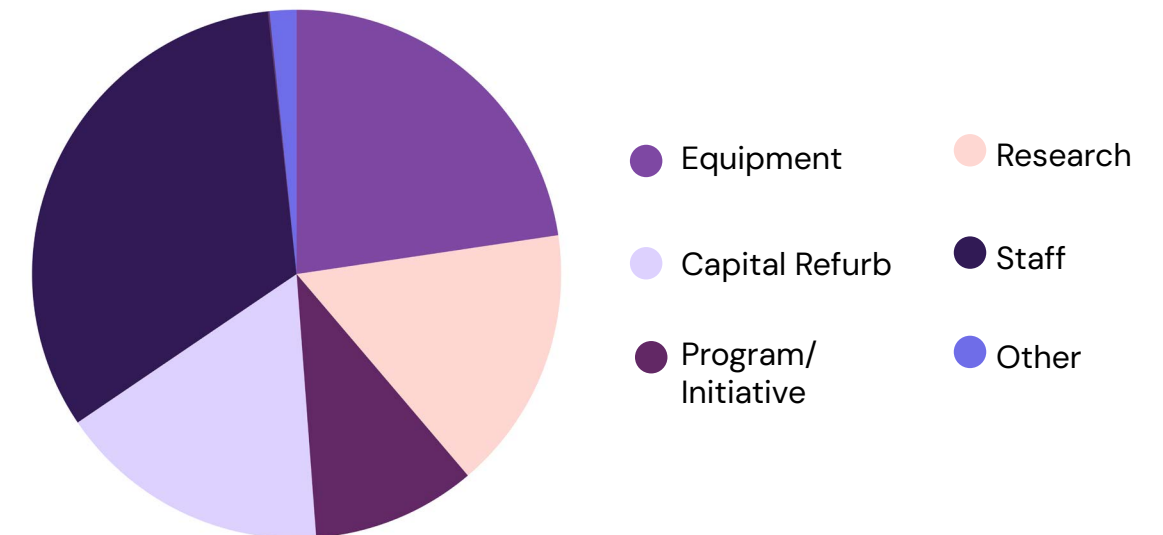


Demetria Chelepy, Secretary

# Fundraising Snapshot

Donations enable investment across the whole of the hospital, funding priority equipment items, innovation, research and staffing costs for clinicians and researchers.

## Where donations go



## Impact across the hospital

**\$ 622,850.92**

Invested into gyneacology, oncology and women's healthcare

**\$ 136,400.44**

Invested into maternity services and obstetric medicine

**\$ 318,282.11**

Invested into neonatal services and the Newborn Intensive Care Unit

**\$ 101,145.52**

Invested into hospital infrastructure, upgrades and staffing



# Signature Campaigns

Our annual fundraising appeals are multi-channel giving campaigns that allow donors and partners to give back to The Royal in a way that is meaningful to them.





# Heart for Her

Heart for Her is RHWf's annual tax appeal. The campaign runs from May–June and raised money for the whole of the hospital. Heart for Her highlights the unique and important role The Royal, as the only dedicated women's hospital in NSW plays in the healthcare of women today and for our future generations.

## Jess's Story

Jess Green recently gave birth to her baby boy Max, the first in their family not to carry the BRCA gene thanks to pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) at The Royal.

Jess was just 11 years old when her mum was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. It was at this age that both Jess and her younger sister Laura, learnt they too would have a 50% chance of carrying the BRCA gene.

The BRCA Gene can be passed down genetically, meaning the carrier has a 45%–75% higher risk of developing cancer and 10% to 46% higher risk of developing ovarian cancer.

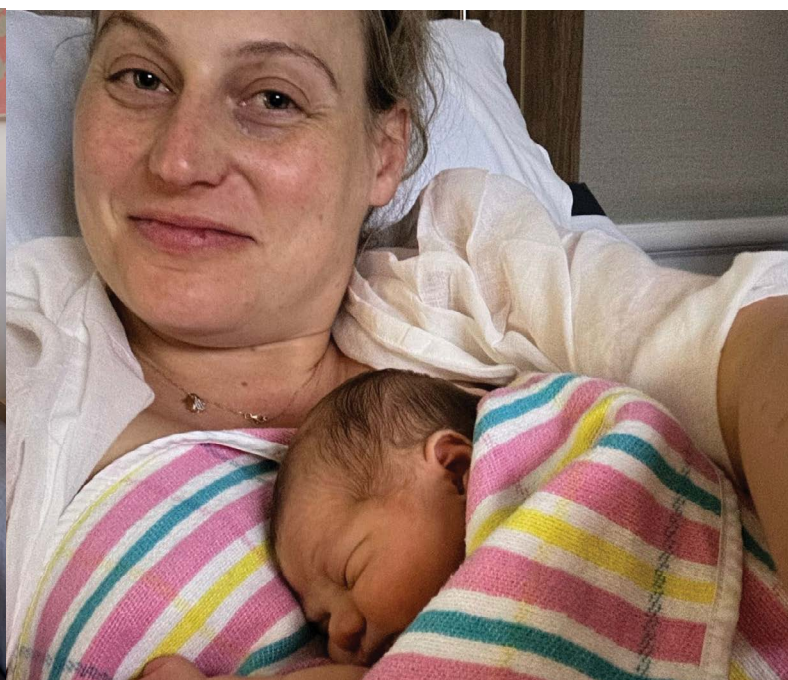
The sisters were advised to be tested 10 years before their mother was diagnosed, bringing them to 30. However, at just 27,, Laura was diagnosed with Breast Cancer, requiring six rounds of chemotherapy and two surgeries to beat the cancer.

Both Jess and Laura tested positive for carrying the BRCA gene and know that this would likely be passed on to their children too.

The introduction of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) at The Royal means embryologists can test embryos before they are transferred, removing those that are affected by genetic disorders, such as BRCA.

In 2023, Jess and her partner Jacob began the journey to parenthood as the first public patients to access this service here. From the eight eggs that were collected, six sadly carried the BRCA gene.

From one of the remaining two eggs, Jess fell pregnant and welcomed Max into the world – ending the BRCA gene in their family.



# Perspectives

In June 2024, Heart for Her included a “perspectives” event sharing patient and clinician perspectives from around the Royal. A ticketed event with all proceedings going towards specialised equipment, programs and research at the Royal. Surrounded by the Vivid light show, the “perspectives event” was surrounded by an incredible backdrop.

Jess's story was the feature of the evening, highlighting the difference that donations make here at The Royal.





# Ladies Lunch 2023

The Ladies Luncheon started as a vision by philanthropists and Sydney hoteliers, Mitchell and Harriet Waugh, who are dedicated to giving back to the community through their hospitality venture PHMG. Inspired by her 4 months stay at the Royal Hospital for Women during the birth of her first child, Harriet Waugh, created the Ladies Luncheon as a fundraising event in support.

Over \$650,000 was raised for the Royal Hospital for Women going towards highly specialised medical equipment and improved capacity with a unit redevelopment.

Guests were welcomed to the event by MC Ben Fordham, detailing his ongoing and close connection to the Royal Hospital for Women, and a keynote speech from Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley.





# Delivering Hope

## The Royal Giving Day 2023

The Royal Giving Day is the most impactful day of the year to give to The Royal Hospital for Women. For one day only – every donation is doubled thanks to our generous matched donors.

Donations help deliver a future where women's and newborns' health is not only better funded but better understood. In 2023, our Royal Giving Day raised \$275,000 for newborn and women's health.

Throughout the day, we're joined by media, ambassadors, patient families donors and clinicians who together with our dedicated volunteers keep the phone lines going for the 12-hour telethon style fundraiser.



Commbank Matildas came on board in support of The Royal Giving Day. Star player, Charli Grant joined on the day and met with patient families, clinicians and fans from the community.



Commbank  
**MATILDAS**





# Impact & Innovation

The Royal is a leader in women's health in Australia. Donations enable The Royal to do more. Thanks to supporters, The Royal is able to remain at the forefront of women's health.

## Australia's first Uterine Transplant and baby

We are excited to announce the safe arrival of Australia's first baby born from a transplanted uterus. Kirsty Bryant gave birth to baby Henry via caesarean section on Friday, December 15th, weighing a healthy 2.9kg.

The highly specialised care during pregnancy and birth was led by Dr. Antonia Shand, Dr. Sarah Lyons, and midwives from The Royal's Maternal Fetal Medicine department. The original uterine transplant was performed by Dr. Rebecca Deans and Swedish surgeon Mats Brännström, who also supported the family through to birth.

Kirsty expressed her gratitude, saying: "I'm so grateful to all the medical team who helped get us here and for being given the opportunity to be a part of this research trial funded by the Royal Hospital for Women Foundation. It's allowed me to give birth to another baby, which is something I never thought I would do again."

Congratulations to Kirsty, her husband Nick, and their daughter Violet on the arrival of beautiful Henry.

The Foundation is proud to fund the Uterine Transplant Research Trial at The Royal, which is changing the lives of women and families who would otherwise not have the chance to carry a baby.

Further investment and support are needed for the trial, which will continue through to 2025.





## Australia's first CAPA IVM Baby

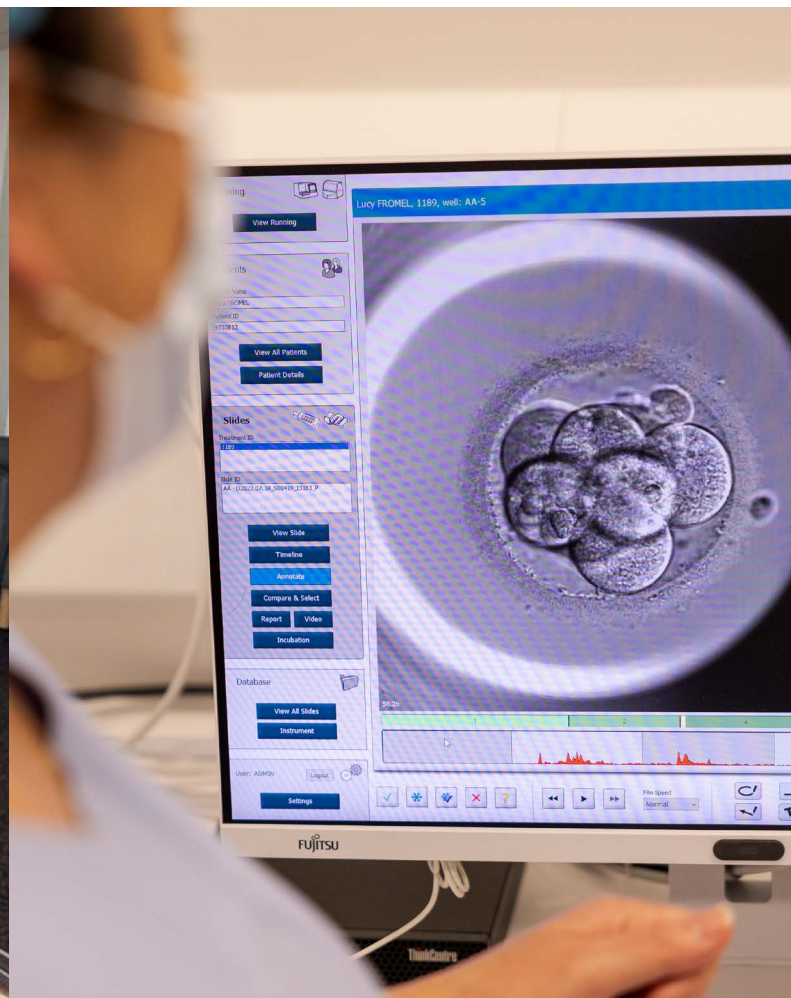
The arrival of the CAPA – IVM research trial which featured in the 10 of the Best by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

The development of this new fertility treatment method, launched in July 2022, aims to offer a less invasive and cheaper alternative to in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) for couples facing infertility.

Leanna and Theo Loutas struggled for two years to fall pregnant, trying various methods, including IVF. They jumped at the opportunity to be part of the Australian first fertility treatment, Capacitation in-vitro maturation (CAPA IVM), led at The Royal by Professor William Ledger.

The couple welcomed baby Bonnie in October 2023 – Australia's first baby born via IVM.

The Royal Hospital for Women is currently one of only six locations in the world to offer this new treatment.



## New Human Milk Trial for Vulnerable babies

A recent trial at The Royal Hospital for Women has introduced a new fortifier made entirely from donor breast milk to supplement the milk of premature babies born before 34 weeks. Previously, cow's milk-based fortifiers were used. This new fortifier, referred to as the "golden liquid," is crucial in supporting weight gain and reducing the risk of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a deadly gut disease in premature babies.

Dr. Srinivas Bolisetty, a Senior Neonatologist, highlighted the positive impact, noting improved weight gain in babies receiving the new fortifier. The Royal is the first Australian hospital to offer an exclusive human milk diet for its tiniest premature infants, thanks to generous milk donations.



# Community Initiatives

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## Swysh makes Fertility Accessible

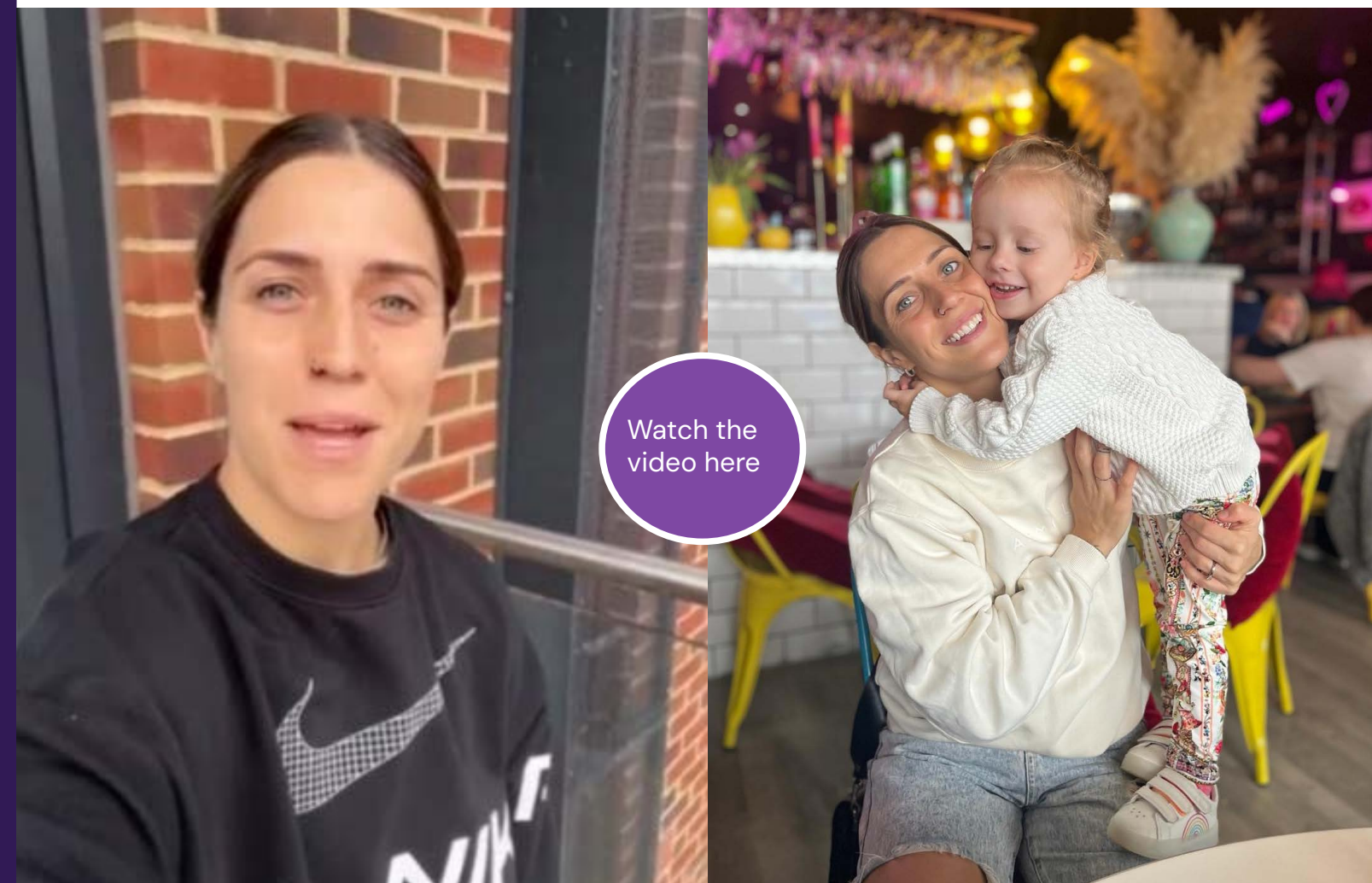
For Mother's Day 2024, Swysh and Australian Football star Katrina Gorry partnered up to make the impossible possible, in donating to the Fertility and Research Centre at the Royal.

10% of personalised videos from Katrina purchased through Swysh were donated directly to the Research centre.

*"Supporting women and couples through IVF is important to me because I know how isolating, expensive, and what a tough roller coaster it can be. So, if I can play a small part in helping women and couples through it, it makes me a pretty happy person..."*

The Mother's day campaign marks the start of an ongoing partnership with Swysh and a continuation of the collaboration with RHWf & The CommBank Matildas.

**swysh.**



Watch the video here



## Madison Capaldi Research Fund Everest Base Camp Trek

In September 2023, 24 fundraisers trekked to Everest Base Camp as part of the Madison Capaldi Research Fund Everest Base Camp Challenge.

In 2005, parents Danielle and Joe Capaldi had their twins Madison and Charlotte in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at The Royal when they were born at just 28 weeks. Sadly, they lost Madison to Necrotising Enterocolitis (NEC). Since then, they have honoured Madison and the team that did everything they could for her by fundraising to fund vital research into helping prevent this devastating disease.

The Everest Base Camp team was made up of people from across the hospital, past patients and fundraisers and the Capaldi family. Together, the group raised an incredible \$225,444 that will help fund and expand research to improve health outcomes of our most vulnerable babies.





## Running for Owen

Ashlee and Nick's baby, Owen, was diagnosed with Meckel's diverticulum, a congenital abnormality of the small intestine, and was closely monitored by the MFM team for the remainder of the pregnancy at the Royal.

When Baby Owen was born at full-term, he was quickly rushed into the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at The Royal before undergoing a life-saving operation at just 3 days old where 8cm of his bowel was removed. Owen spent the next 10 days recovering in the NICU where he received around-the-clock care.

Thanks to the expert care of The Royal before and after Owen's birth, he is now 12 months old and loving life. He loves playing in the sand and the water, and loves to play with anything to do with a ball or a truck!

Owen's Dad, Nick took part in the Husky Half Marathon on the 4th of November to raise much-needed funds for the Newborn Intensive Care Unit. Nick's aim was to raise \$2,500, and so far, has raised a whopping \$2,800 for the urgent purchase of equipment and services in the unit.



## Everest Marathon for Alexander

Alexander was born at just 25 weeks and 2 days on the 14th of December 2022. He spent 96 days in the NICU connected to life-saving equipment helping him breathe and grow. Alexander then became part of the Hospital in the Home program, a foundation funded initiative that sees babies go home weeks earlier from the NICU with the support of a Clinical Nurse Manager through regular home visits.



# Financial Statements

The Royal Hospital for Women Foundation is the registered charity for The Royal Hospital for Women, working closely with donors and clinicians to ensure all funds raised go directly to improving health outcomes for women and babies.



FINANCIALS 30 JUNE 2024

| STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY                             | Settled Sum | Tied Funding Reserve | Financial Asset Reserve | Retained Earnings | Total     |
|--|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Balance at 30 June 2022                                    | 100         | 2,650,073            | (92,904)                | 1,247,105         | 3,804,374 |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year                             |             |                      |                         | (73,198)          | (73,198)  |
| Other comprehensive income                                 |             |                      | (20,596)                |                   | (20,596)  |
| Transfers from accumulated surplus to tied funding reserve |             | 407,211              |                         | (407,211)         | -         |
| Balance at 30 June 2023                                    | 100         | 3,057,284            | (113,500)               | 766,696           | 3,710,580 |
| Surplus/(deficit)for the year                              |             |                      |                         | (305,443)         | (305,443) |
| Other comprehensive income                                 |             |                      | 41,984                  |                   | 41,984    |
| Transfers from accumulated surplus to tied funding reserve |             | 109,865              |                         | (109,865)         | -         |
| Balance at 30 June 2024                                    | 100         | 3,167,149            | (71,516)                | 351,388           | 3,447,121 |

| STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS                                     | 2024        | 2023        |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| REVENUE   |             |             |
| Donations - general   | 1,950,796   | 2,085,113   |
| Donations - bequests  | 55,543      | 12,102      |
| Interest received - other persons                               | 6,252       | 18,187      |
| Other investment income   | 153,692     | 95,410      |
| Other income received   | 7,216       | 14,269      |
| Total Revenue   | 2,173,499   | 2,225,081   |
| EXPENDITURE   |             |             |
| Fundraising expense   | (91,897)    | (176,726)   |
| Employee benefits expense                                       | (916,871)   | (881,226)   |
| Administrative expense  | (228,548)   | (199,595)   |
| Total Expenses  | (1,237,316) | (1,257,547) |
| Net Surplus before Distributions                                | 936,183     | 967,534     |
| Funds donated to the Hospital                                   | (1,241,626) | (1,040,732) |
| Net surplus/(deficit) for the year                              | (305,443)   | (73,198)    |
| Other comprehensive income                                      |             |             |
| Items that will be reclassified subsequently to Profit or Loss: |             |             |
| Fair value gain/(loss) on revaluation of financial assets       | 41,984      | (20,596)    |
| Total comprehensive surplus/(deficit) for the year              | (263,459)   | (93,794)    |

| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION        | 2024      | 2023      |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| CURRENT ASSETS                         |           |           |
| Cash and cash equivalents              | 341,819   | 686,917   |
| Trade receivables                      | 57,010    | 29,565    |
| Other current assets                   | 107,252   | 61,467    |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS                   | 506,081   | 777,949   |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS                     |           |           |
| Financial assets                       | 3,577,609 | 3,429,782 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS               | 3,577,609 | 3,429,782 |
| TOTAL ASSETS                           | 4,083,690 | 4,207,731 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES                    |           |           |
| Trade and other payables               | 580,395   | 464,767   |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES              | 580,395   | 464,767   |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES                |           |           |
| Other payables                         | 56,174    | 32,384    |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES          | 56,174    | 32,384    |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES                      | 636,569   | 497,151   |
| NET ASSETS                             | 3,447,121 | 3,710,580 |
| EQUITY                                 |           |           |
| Settled sum                            | 100       | 100       |
| Financial asset reserve                | (71,516)  | (113,500) |
| Tied funding reserve                   | 3,167,149 | 3,057,284 |
| Retained earnings/(Accumulated Losses) | 351,388   | 766,696   |
| TOTAL EQUITY                           | 3,447,121 | 3,710,580 |

| STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR                    | 2024        | 2023        |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Cash flow from operating activities                     |             |             |
| Receipts from donations and fundraising activities      | 1,981,860   | 2,137,435   |
| Payments to suppliers and employees                     | (1,242,619) | (1,231,083) |
| Funds donated to the hospital                           | (1,125,439) | (1,150,844) |
| Interest received, dividends & profit on sale of shares | 147,045     | 113,844     |
| Net cash provided by operating activities               | (239,153)   | (130,648)   |
| Cash flow from investing activities                     |             |             |
| Sale/(Purchase) of investments                          | (105,945)   | (2,219,477) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities     | (105,945)   | (2,219,477) |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash held                    | (345,098)   | (2,350,125) |
| Cash at beginning of financial year                     | 686,917     | 3,037,042   |
| Cash at end of financial year                           | 341,819     | 686,917     |



# For women, for better.

The Royal Hospital for Women Foundation is the registered charity for The Royal Hospital for Women.

Together with our partners and donors we raise and provide funds to The Royal Hospital for Women to drive innovation, medical advancements, and the best care possible.

[contactus@royalwomen.org.au](mailto:contactus@royalwomen.org.au)  
[www.royalwomen.org.au](http://www.royalwomen.org.au)

