The Wesley HOSPITAL

Thank you

Supporter Newsletter Spring 2026

Thank you for what you make possible.

Andrew wasn't worried. His GP had ordered some blood tests, but at 45, he was fit, active and on top of his health. He expected the all-clear.

Instead, he was told he had advanced prostate cancer and needed surgery to save his life.

Andrew, a builder by trade, went straight into fix-it mode.

"I don't think I was too emotional," he says. *"I just wanted to get the surgery over and done with and move forward."*

It was a different story for his wife, Jo, and their two teenaged children, Ethan and Eliza.

"It was a massive shock," Jo remembers. *"We told the kids point blank what was going on, and Eliza said, 'is Dad going to die?'"*

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among Queensland men — Andrew, at 45, was far younger than most.

He opened up about his diagnosis, and found that several friends and colleagues had been through the same thing.

It's the generosity of supporters like you that helps gives men like Andrew access to the Da Vinci Robotic System — technology that gives surgeons extraordinary precision, and the best possible chance of making it home.

"I knew there was nothing better in Australia than robotic surgery," Andrew says. *"It was reassuring that an expert surgeon would be controlling the precise movements of the robot to give me the best chance of preserving the nerves around my prostate. The moment I walked in the door at The Wesley, I felt like I was in good hands."*

The cancer was successfully removed, much to the relief of Jo, Ethan and Eliza.

Today, Andrew's back on the tools and back to being the fit, active father and husband he was before his diagnosis — just with a lot more gratitude for it.

Andrew and Jo are looking forward to making memories with their children in the years ahead.

"The money people donated in the past helped save my life," Andrew says simply.

That's what your generosity helps enable. The surgeons with the tools they need. The technology that makes precision possible. The men who, like Andrew, get to go home. Thank you.

Andrew Parish.

Kindness through innovation

In May, supporters gathered at our Donor Appreciation High Tea to hear from Dr Kristen Moloney, Gynaecologist and Gynaecologic Oncologist at The Wesley, on the future of gynaecologic cancer care.

Dr Moloney's message to guests was simple: ***"It's not about new treatments,"*** she said. ***"It's about better treatments."***

For women with early-stage cervical cancer, a major international trial of over 3,000 women found that a simpler, less invasive hysterectomy was almost exactly as effective at keeping women cancer free as the traditional, more radical operation — 97.5 per cent compared to 95.6 per cent.

But the simpler surgery led to far fewer bladder problems afterwards, with urinary complications roughly half as common.

For endometrial cancer, Dr Moloney shared how a special dye and advanced robotic equipment enabled surgeons to identify and test only the first lymph nodes a cancer would spread to, rather than removing many nodes ***"just in case."***

That means fewer complications and a faster recovery for patients.

For ovarian cancer, she shared findings from a global trial comparing two treatment orders — surgery first, or chemotherapy first — for women with advanced disease. Survival rates were the same either way, but starting with chemotherapy often meant less extensive surgery and fewer complications for the women involved.

It's your support that allows care like this to reach the women who need it most.

Stitched with care

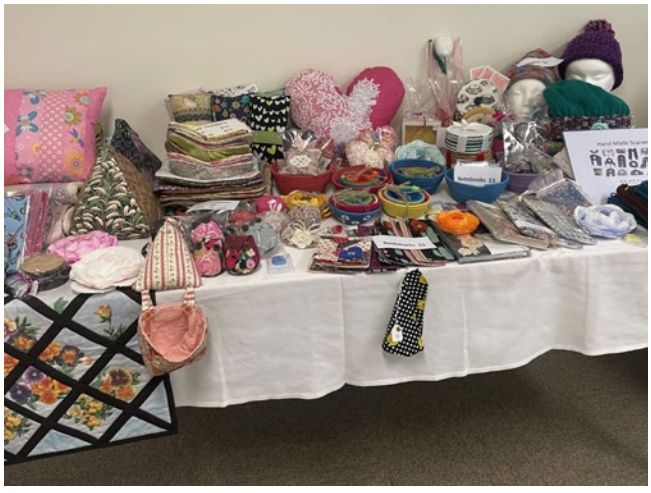
For anyone who hasn't come across it before, Choices Cancer Support Centre is The Wesley's free cancer support service — open to any man, woman or family affected by cancer, no matter where they're being treated.

The Choices Sisters & Friends Craft Group meets on the second Saturday of every month at Choices, bringing people together to create beautiful handcrafted items while offering support, friendship and connection.

The group's handmade fiddle mats, textured gloves, beanies and quilts have already made a real difference for patients — many finding comfort in them during moments of anxiety or loneliness. The visit also sparked new ideas for how the group can keep supporting patients into the future.

Most recently, after hearing of a shortage, the group cut, sewed and delivered a fresh batch of handmade drain bags for the Breast Care Nurses at The Wesley to gift to patients — small, practical items that offer comfort, dignity and care for patients recovering from breast surgery. This Christmas, the group's stall opens from 16 November at The Wesley, with handmade gifts and decorations.

We're endlessly grateful for the compassion, creativity and dedication of our Choices volunteers, whose work makes a meaningful difference every single day.



The gift of not being alone

Sarah* had a wide circle of friends, but after her cancer diagnosis, she felt more isolated than she ever had before.

As much as her friends cared, none of them had actually been through what she was going through.

What changed things wasn't a treatment or a specialist. It was Choices. Through the Centre's Brisbane drop-in centre, Sarah found accurate information when she needed it most and — just as importantly — other people who understood a cancer diagnosis from the inside.

She started attending support programs in person and today describes Choices as a safe place: somewhere she can go to talk through whatever's on her mind with people who simply get it. Not everyone finds Choices the same way. A woman from Hervey Bay found it online, distressed after a recent diagnosis and unsure who to call.

A conversation with the team — people like Siobhan Burgess, Clinical Nurse Consultant at Choices, who provides emotional and psychosocial support to people affected by cancer and their loved ones — gave her the information she needed and connected her to the right specialists and supports. Months later, she reached out again, just to say that one phone call had made a real difference to her recovery.

"The patients remind me each day how important it is living life to the fullest and embracing the unknowns," Siobhan says.

One of Siobhan's most memorable moments was taking a young patient and her mum on a special day out to Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary — a simple experience that brought immense joy and lasting memories. For Siobhan, the privilege of listening to people's life stories is what carries her through even the toughest days.

Choices exists, and stays free for every person who walks through its doors, because of supporters like you.

Thank you for making sure that when someone feels as alone as Sarah did, there's somewhere — and someone — for them to turn to.

500+ complementary therapy session attendees

1,000+ support calls answered

600+ inpatient visits

50+ attendees to book club and art classes

A shout out to the Bridge to Brisbane fundraisers who helped raise more than $7,000 for Choices.

*Name changed for privacy.

Ruffling feathers for breast cancer

A flock of little rubber ducks is doing something rather serious: helping fund biopsy guns.

A biopsy gun is the device used to take that all-important tissue sample to discover more. Having the right equipment on hand means women can get an accurate diagnosis faster, with less discomfort and without unnecessary delay at one of the most anxious moments of their lives.

Every duck adopted goes toward equipment like this — the kind that rarely makes headlines, but makes a very real difference to the woman waiting on her results.

Thank you to everyone who's adopted a duck so far and helped make sure The Wesley Breast Clinic has what it needs, exactly when it's needed most.

Looking after the carers

A cancer diagnosis doesn't just change life for the person diagnosed — it changes life for the people caring for them too. A few reminders for anyone caring for someone with cancer:

- **Ask for help, and accept it.** Meals, lifts, a few hours of company — most people want to help in practical ways.
- **Take a break, guilt-free.** Even a short break helps you keep going for longer, and gives the person you're caring for a chance to spend time with others too.
- **Look after your own health.** Regular meals, movement, and your own GP visits still matter.
- **Talk to someone.** A trusted friend, a support group, or a cancer nurse on the phone — you don't have to carry this alone.

Contact our Choices Cancer Support Centre on **07 3232 6548** — support isn't just for patients, it's for the people beside them too.

A new chapter

The Wesley's new children's ward, opened in June 2026, keeps pieces of its history intact.

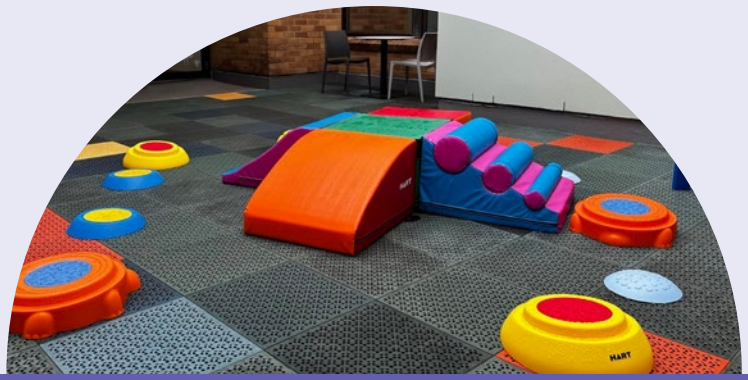
The much-loved farmyard mural and the children's playground — familiar to generations of families — have been carefully relocated and preserved in the new space, alongside new features including a playroom and a kitchen where parents and carers can rest.

This was made possible by the generosity of Heather and Malcolm Reid and the Reid family, given in memory of their daughter, Jodie, a Registered Nurse at The Wesley and a valued colleague and friend.

Wesley paediatric Clinical Nurse Manager Sonia Broadby said the ward's rooms are designed to keep children curious and engaged during their stay.

"There are lots of little details throughout the ward for children to discover, and we hope these special touches bring some joy to their experience with us."

"Our team is thrilled to be settled into the new space and we are looking forward to welcoming many patients and families through the ward."

If you're considering how you might create a similar legacy at The Wesley, a gift in your Will of any size can help shape spaces and care for the children who'll walk through our doors long into the future.

If you'd like to know more about how a gift in your Will could help, please contact the Gifts in Wills Team by calling **1800 961 331** or emailing **plannedgiving@ucareqld.com.au.**