

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, The Wesley Hospital, as part of the wider UnitingCare family, pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging and the unique role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples play in the communities we serve.

We acknowledge our gratitude that we share this land today, our sorrow for the costs of that sharing, and our hope to move to a place of justice and partnership together.



THE WESLEY HOSPITAL FUNDRAISING

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A gift of closeness

New cuddle beds offer patients and families precious moments of closeness during end-of-life care.



Thank you for saving a life



One man's prostate cancer experience underscores the value of regular check-ups and cutting-edge care in saving lives.

Thank you for creating a sanctuary of solace

New contemplative garden offers patients, families, and staff a peaceful sanctuary for reflection, healing, and connection with nature.



Keely's story - a mother's love, a daughter's strength



A mother's desperate search for hope leads to life-saving care. thanks to generous supporters like you.

How your Will can shape the future of healthcare

Shape tomorrow's healthcare breakthroughs by leaving a lasting legacy that transforms lives for generations to come.





A gift of closeness

In the quiet corridors of The Wesley Hospital, a gentle revolution in patient care is unfolding. Thanks to the generous support of the Ford Burnett Foundation, two new "cuddle beds" have found their home here, offering a precious gift to families facing life's most challenging moments.

These aren't ordinary hospital beds. With a simple adjustment, they transform into a space where loved ones can lay side by side, hold hands, and share whispered conversations. It's a small change that makes a world of difference for patients in palliative care and their families.

For many, the reality of end-of-life care has meant spending nights in uncomfortable chairs, straining to maintain contact across the barrier of a traditional hospital bed.

Now, family members can be truly close to their loved ones, creating memories that will sustain them long after their final goodbyes.

Amanda Cleasby, Clinical Nurse Manager of the Palliative Care Ward, shares her enthusiasm:

"These beds will allow for such precious, intimate moments. They will give families the chance to connect in ways that mean everything." The impact of these cuddle beds reaches far beyond physical comfort. They offer a bridge across the isolation that often accompanies serious illness. They create a space for laughter, tears, and the sharing of cherished memories. Most importantly, they give families the chance to say goodbye in the most human way possible – through touch, presence, and love.

In palliative care, every moment is precious. These beds are expected to ease the grieving process for many families. There's a profound sense of peace that comes from knowing you can be there, truly there, for your loved one until the very end. The ability to lie next to a family member, to hold them close, and to share those final, intimate moments is an invaluable gift.

To our generous supporters, including the Ford Burnett Foundation, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your support will bring immeasurable comfort to patients and families during their most vulnerable moments. You've given the gift of closeness, of final embraces, of hands held tight when it matters most.

These cuddle beds stand as a testament to the power of compassion and the importance of human connection. They remind us that even in our darkest hours, we are not alone. And that, perhaps, is the greatest gift of all.



Thank you for saving a life

In Australia, prostate cancer remains the second most commonly diagnosed cancer among men, with a staggering 24,218 new cases reported in 2022 alone.

Yet, for many typical Aussie blokes like Andrew Parish, a 45-year-old builder, husband and father, the thought of this silent killer was the furthest thing from his mind.

With a business to run and staff to manage, his health often took a backseat.

"I'll be right," was Andrew's attitude towards medical check-ups – an attitude that many men have.

But when his longtime friend and doctor insisted on routine blood tests, the first warning signs of elevated Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels emerged.

Despite the rising numbers with each subsequent test, Andrew brushed it off, a common reluctance among men to prioritise their health.

It was only through the persistent encouragement of his wife, Jo, that Andrew finally made attending his appointments a priority. This decision likely saved his life.

Jo's insistence highlights the crucial role that partners and family members often play in men's health decisions. Her persistence broke through Andrew's reluctance, demonstrating how important it is for loved ones to advocate for health screenings and check-ups.

What Andrew had initially dismissed as a non-issue took a grave turn when a biopsy revealed an aggressive form of prostate cancer. "My doctor called me after hours," Andrew recalled.

"He said he was making me an appointment to see Geoff Coughlin at The Wesley Hospital - it was that serious."

Under the expert care of Dr Coughlin, one of Queensland's leading urologists, Andrew's treatment options were evaluated.

This evaluation process is critical, as prostate cancer treatments can vary widely depending on the stage and aggressiveness of the cancer.

Options may include active surveillance for slow-growing cancers, radiation therapy, hormone therapy, and in cases like Andrew's, surgery.

Ultimately, a robotic prostatectomy offered the best chance for removing the cancer and preserving his life a crucial decision, as prostate cancer claims the lives of over 3,500 Australian men each year.

Robotic prostatectomy is a minimally invasive surgical procedure that allows for precise removal of the prostate gland and surrounding tissues.

This advanced technique often results in faster recovery times and fewer complications compared to traditional open surgery.

Andrew's story underscores the vital importance of regular prostate cancer screening, especially for men over 50 or those with a family history of the disease.

Early detection through tests and physical exams can significantly improve outcomes and increase the chances of successful treatment.

Too often, men put off these potentially life-saving check-ups, either due to a dismissive attitude or feelings of invincibility.

Andrew reflects on his time at The Wesley:

"From the moment I arrived, every staff member – the concierge, nurses, surgical team – treated me with incredible compassion and professionalism."

Even during his brief hospital stay, Andrew formed a bond with the dedicated nurses in the cancer ward.

"Their positivity and smiles made such a difference. I could have stayed a week or more!" he exclaimed.

Andrew reflects on the significance of donor contributions that funded the cutting-edge technology and research behind his successful treatment.



"You can't thank someone enough who donates, because that money goes towards life-saving research and equipment," he said.

"If people hadn't donated 10 years ago, would we have the technology to treat people like me today? The money invested now is saving lives down the track."

Andrew also lauded the advanced imaging equipment that guided Dr Coughlin's precise surgical approach, minimising the impact on his post-operative lifestyle.

The importance of ongoing research and technological advancements in the field of prostate cancer cannot be overstated. Innovations in diagnostic tools are helping to improve the accuracy of prostate cancer detection and risk assessment.

These advances allow for more personalised treatment approaches, potentially reducing overtreatment of low-risk cancers while ensuring aggressive cancers are caught and treated early.

"The better the surgical equipment, the less impact on your ability to function and move forward," Andrew explained.

For Andrew, his prostate cancer experience was a wake-up call that no man should ignore.

Thanks to the collective efforts of medical professionals, the Gambaro's Community and support from people like you, he can now look forward to many more years with his family.

The annual Gambaro's Prostate Cancer Care Luncheon, set for 6 September 2024, continues to raise crucial awareness and funds for this important cause.

But Andrew's story also serves as a powerful reminder to all men: prioritise your health, get screened regularly, and don't let a dismissive attitude put your life at risk.

With early detection and access to advanced treatments, prostate cancer is manageable.



Pictured: Andrew and Jo Parish



Thank you for creating a sanctuary of solace

Beyond the walls of The Wesley Hospital, a tranquil oasis has blossomed, offering respite to patients, families, and staff alike.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, a new contemplative garden now stands as a testament to the healing power of nature and the importance of moments of quiet reflection.

This isn't just a garden; it's a sanctuary. Amidst the bustling corridors and beeping machines, this green space provides a much-needed escape – a place where the weary-hearted can find rest, where hope can take root, and where the simple presence of growing things offers comfort and perspective.

Beatriz Skippen, a hospital chaplain, shares a poignant story: "A palliative care patient came down to connect with nature - it was a precious moment for her. Three days later she passed, but that was a special time for her and for her family."

To donors she says, "You've made a difference now in the journey of someone in hospital, but that person has family. The impact is remarkable and ripples out."

The garden's water feature has become a focal point for reflection.

As Beatriz notes, "Water has a very important impact it helps people to pause and reflect."

In this space, visitors find more than just plants and stones; they discover a place where they can process complex emotions, find moments of peace, or simply breathe.

Vickie Wallis, another chaplain, has observed the garden's immediate impact: "Since it's been completed, there's often at least one person just sitting quietly in the space."

She emphasises the uniqueness of this area within the hospital environment, "There's a lot of spots around the hospital that are a pathway to something and people are constantly moving. This is a dedicated stopping point for people."

The garden also acknowledges the diverse ways people find spiritual comfort.

As Vickie explains, "Spirituality is a mosaic of things and it's unique to each individual. To be able to incorporate this space in spiritual care is good practice."

For patients from rural areas who find solace in nature, this garden offers a slice of that comfort within the hospital setting.

To our donors who made this possible, your generosity has created something truly special. As Beatriz beautifully puts it, "Little things make a difference... from little things, big things grow."

You've invested not just in a garden, but in countless moments of peace, reflection, and healing.

We may never fully know the depth of conversations held here, the tears shed, or the moments of clarity found.

But as Vickie says, "We trust that it's being utilised well. Your support has helped create a blank canvas, a space where each visitor can use it in a way they need it."

In this garden, hope blooms alongside the flowers. It stands as a living reminder that even in times of struggle, there is beauty to be found, and that growth and renewal are always possible.

Thank you for helping us bring this vision to life, and for your continued support in nurturing the well-being of our entire hospital community.





Keely's story - a mother's love, a daughter's strength

When Cathy heard the words no parent ever wants to hear – "your child has cancer" – her world shattered.

Her 13-year-old daughter Keely had been diagnosed with a brain tumour, marking the beginning of an agonising journey filled with uncertainty, failed treatments, and two life-threatening brain surgeries.

Imagine the desperation Cathy felt as she scoured the globe for answers, watching her beautiful girl suffer through ineffective chemotherapy that left her feeling, "like being hit by a truck, then reversed over again."

Picture Keely, robbed of her teenage years, missing school, friendships, and the comfort of home as she endured countless hospital admissions and appointments. But then, a beacon of hope emerged.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of donors, Keely found not just world-class medical care, but a team of specialists who treated her with compassion and respect.

Support from people like you has helped fund stateof-the-art equipment and facilities that were crucial in Keely's treatment. When every millimeter of tumour growth could have been fatal, the advanced imaging technology you helped provide allowed doctors to detect a tiny change and take urgent action.

The impact of your kindness ripples through every aspect of care at The Wesley. It's in the hum of cutting-edge equipment that gives our dedicated professionals the tools they need to save lives, healing for generations to come.

It's in the precision of our robotic surgery suite, a testament to innovation that places The Wesley at the forefront of medical excellence.

And it's in the confident expertise of our medical staff, continually honing their skills through world-class training programs.

Keely describes her doctors as being like three fathers watching over her. This level of compassionate, expert care is made possible by the advanced resources and ongoing education that your support provides.

Today, because of you, Keely is a healthy young woman with her whole life ahead of her. Your generosity has not only saved lives but has also preserved families, allowing parents like Cathy to witness the miracle of their child's recovery.

Every time you give, you're standing beside families like Keely's in their darkest hours, offering hope when it seems all is lost. Your support ensures that The Wesley Hospital can continue to be a lifeline for Queenslanders facing cancer, providing exceptional care right here at home.

On behalf of the countless lives you've touched: thank you. Your generosity keeps families together, turns despair into hope, and transforms lives. With every donation, you're writing new chapters of hope in stories like Keely's, ensuring that The Wesley remains a beacon of healing for generations to come.



How your Will can shape the future of healthcare

A mother hears her baby's heartbeat for the first time. A cancer patient walks cancer free out the hospital doors. A stroke survivor takes their first steps towards recovery.

These moments of triumph and hope are made possible not just by our dedicated staff, but by the visionary supporters who believe in our mission.

Imagine being part of these stories for generations to come. By leaving a gift in your Will to The Wesley Hospital, you're not just making a donation - you're crafting a legacy that will touch countless lives long into the future.

For over 150 years, The Wesley has been at the heart of Queensland's health, growing and evolving to meet the needs of our community. But we've never done it alone. It's the generosity of people like you that has allowed us to push boundaries, embrace innovation, and provide care that goes beyond expectations.

Take Maureen, for example. As a past patient and donor, she experienced firsthand the impact of exceptional care. "I can't express enough how grateful I am for the wonderful staff who made my recovery easier," she shares. "It brings me joy knowing that my gift will help future generations."

Your legacy gift is more than just a donation – it's a promise to the community, a commitment to the future of healthcare. It's saying, "I believe in a world where we never stop striving for better." With your support, we can plan for tomorrow's breakthroughs today. In recent years, thanks to the foresight of our supporters, we've made remarkable strides.

We've introduced state-of-the-art 3D Tomography for breast cancer screening, established a Quality

Improvement Leadership Program fostering clinical innovation, and created the unique Choices Cancer Support Centre, offering holistic care for cancer patients and their families.

As we approach Include a Charity Week this September, we're reminded of the power of planned giving. It's a time to highlight the incredible impact of gifts in Wills. Your decision to include The Wesley in your Will could be the catalyst for the next medical breakthrough, the funding for a new piece of life-saving equipment, or the support needed to train the next generation of healthcare heroes.

Maureen's experience shows that leaving a gift isn't complicated. "I thought it was going to be very complicated, but it was simply a matter of telling my solicitor how much I wanted to leave in my Will," she explains. "There was no drama, and there's no ongoing paperwork involved."

Your legacy is what you make it. By including The Wesley Hospital in your Will, you're not just leaving a gift - you're leaving a mark on the future of healthcare in Queensland. You're ensuring that generations to come will have access to exceptional care, always.

As we look to the horizon of medical advancement, your support can help us be ready for whatever comes next. Because our ambition is simple: exceptional care, always. Will you join us in making that vision a reality?

For more information or to have a confidential chat contact our Gifts in Wills Team on 1800 961 331, email plannedgiving@ucareqld.com.au or click on the QR code:







