

Thank you

Supporter Newsletter Autumn 2026



The smallest hand you've ever seen

There's a moment in the Special Care Nursery when everything else disappears.

It happens when a mum holds her baby for the first time after weeks of waiting. When the breathing equipment finally comes off and she can see her child's face properly. When a tiny hand wraps around her finger — the smallest hand she's ever, ever seen — and suddenly all those dark nights in hospital make sense.

Your generosity helps create those moments for Queensland families.

Anna experienced it with both her sons. Harry came at 35 weeks. Lachy arrived even earlier, at just 30 weeks, so tiny his head was smaller than a tennis ball. For 50 days, Lachy needed the Special Care Nursery while his organs finished developing and his lungs learned to work on their own.

"It was just magic, holding Lachy in one arm and Harry in the other," Anna remembers. "It was the first time I could clearly see Lachy's face. Knowing both my boys were going to be okay was a beautiful moment."

Because of supporters like you, babies across Queensland have access to what Lachy needed to survive. The specialised humidicribs that regulate temperature for bodies that are too small to do it alone. The monitors that track hearts still learning their rhythm. The breathing equipment that supports lungs that came into the world before they were ready.



The Wesley Midwives Chorale, drawn by one of our own maternity nurses.



Proud dad Josh, mum Anna and baby Lachy.

Support from generous Queenslanders means that when families face those frightening early arrivals, there's somewhere for their babies to safely grow. The equipment works when it's needed. The specialised care is there around the clock. Parents can learn to feed their children, to hold them, to become the mothers and fathers they're meant to be - even when their baby arrived months too soon.

Around 200 babies will come through the Special Care Nursery this year. Each one depends on people like you to help make this possible. Not just the medical intervention, but time.

The time for tiny lungs to grow stronger. For worried parents to learn and rest and hope. For babies to become themselves, day by day, breath by breath, until they're ready to go home.

"Without the Special Care Nursery, I might not have either of my boys," Anna says.

That's what your generosity protects. Those first holds, those relieved tears, those moments when tiny hands wrap around a mother's finger and everything makes sense.

When a hallway becomes a maze

The hallway at The Wesley Hospital looks the same as it always has. But through the Virtual Reality (VR) headset, everything shifts.

The corridor stretches impossibly long. Signs blur. Sounds become confusing. What should be familiar suddenly feels disorienting.

This is what dementia can feel like.

Thanks to your support, 15 Wesley team members from different wards experienced this firsthand. They put on VR headsets and stepped into a world where simple tasks become overwhelming, where familiar spaces feel foreign, where anxiety creeps in from nowhere.

“You realise how unfamiliar and anxiety-provoking simple tasks can be for people living with dementia,” Ryan Welch, Registered Nurse, who participated in the experience.

The change has been real.



“I now understand that people living with dementia require more patience and support than I previously believed. I’ve made my communication more clear and concise.”

Thank you. Your generosity made this possible — and it’s already improving care for our most vulnerable patients.

“Thank you to supporters for the experience to improve patient care,” Ryan said.

Morning tea with Maureen

There were scones, tea and a room full of smiles at The Wesley Breast Clinic last year. We gathered to say thank you to Maureen Stevenson — a woman whose generosity is already changing lives.

Maureen chose to make two gifts that will transform breast cancer care for Queensland women. Her support means we can equip more mammography machines with advanced imaging systems, giving every woman who walks through our doors access to the clearest, most accurate screening possible.

She’s also created something beautifully personal: The Maureen Stevenson Patient Education Initiative. iPads loaded with simple, visual tools that nurses can use to help women understand their diagnosis and treatment. No medical jargon, no confusion, just clear gentle guidance when it matters most.

“I wanted to help women feel less frightened,” Maureen told us over tea. *“When you understand what’s happening, you feel more in control.”*



Dr Anne Day, Wesley Breast Clinic and Maureen.

Each iPad will carry Maureen’s name — a quiet reminder that someone cared enough to help ease the fear that comes with a breast cancer diagnosis.

Thank you, Maureen. Your kindness will echo through so many lives.

What you made possible



There's something about finding your people. The ones who understand without needing to explain. The ones who show up on a Wednesday night even when they're tired, because they know you'll be there too.

Kerry found her people at The Wesley Hospital Choices Cancer Support Centre.

Before she passed away late last year, she discovered something precious there: a community that understood, Wednesday nights that mattered, and a sense of control when everything else felt uncertain.

When ovarian cancer arrived in August 2019 — sudden, shocking, with no obvious warning. Kerry lost something she hadn't expected to lose. Not just her health, but her sense of self. *"You go from being a confident, outgoing person one moment to a frightened one in a matter of minutes,"* she said.

"Choices was a safe haven and lifesaver for Kerry," her sister Carol says. *"She met friends there who understood what she was going through in a way that's hard to find anywhere else."*

Kerry had always been active. She was determined to stay that way. At Choices, she joined the gym program — one designed specifically for people going through cancer treatment.

An exercise physiologist at every session. A community that welcomed everyone — women and men — facing cancer. And Wednesday nights that became everything.

An excuse to get out, to exercise, to laugh, to feel like yourself again when so much felt unfamiliar.

"Being able to maintain my fitness gave me a sense of control over my life that I felt I'd lost after my diagnosis," Kerry explained.

Your support makes programs like this possible. These welcome anyone impacted by cancer. The space where people can rebuild not just their strength, but their sense of self.

Kerry didn't just receive support at Choices — she gave it back. She started putting together the Choices Newsletter, helping others navigate their own cancer experience.

"She wasn't doing it for glory," Carol says. *"She said was doing it for the people behind her."*

What Kerry found at Choices, and what she helped others find, lives on through friendships. The sense of control when everything feels uncertain. The laughter in the gym. The community that understands.

Thank you for making programs like Choices possible. For creating a space where people facing cancer can find their people. For honouring Kerry's passion for helping others through their own cancer experience.

Because of your generosity, someone will walk into Choices today and find exactly what Kerry found: a community waiting with open arms.



Small things that matter

When cancer arrives, the big things — treatment plans, medical appointments, test results — can overwhelm everything else. But sometimes it's the small, steady things that help most.

- **Stay moving, if you can.** Even gentle movement — a short walk, stretching, chair exercises — can help you feel more like yourself. Programs like the one Kerry loved at Choices are designed specifically for people going through treatment.
- **Find your people.** Whether it's a support group, a gym session, or a regular coffee date, connecting with others who understand makes the load lighter.
- **Keep some routines.** Find yours — something to look forward to, something familiar when so much feels uncertain.
- **Accept help.** Let people bring meals, drive you to appointments, sit with you. It helps them feel useful, and it helps you conserve energy for what matters.
- **Be kind to yourself.** Some days you'll feel strong. Some days you won't. Both are okay.

If you or someone you love needs support, The Wesley Hospital Choices Cancer Support Centre offers free programs for anyone impacted by cancer. Call **07 3371 3112** or visit wesley.com.au.

You're invited

We'd love to see you.

On Wednesday 6 May, we're gathering over morning tea to celebrate what your support has made possible at The Wesley Hospital.

You'll meet the medical teams your generosity empowers, hear stories from the frontline, and discover the innovative programs shaping the future of care in our community.

It's a chance to see firsthand the difference you're making — and to thank you in person.

EVENT DATE Wednesday 6 May, 10:30am-12pm

LOCATION Evan and Mary Thompson Auditorium, The Wesley Hospital, 451 Coronation Dr, Auchenflower

RSVP Friday 24 April

Email Catherine at catherine.vo@ucareqld.com.au or call on **0422 600 946**

Spaces are limited — we hope you can join us.



A lasting difference

Right now, work is underway on Ward 4A — transforming the precious palliative care ward into a dedicated space for our youngest patients.

Lang Parade Lodge provides accommodation for those visiting loved ones in the hospital. It is being renovated so that families traveling from regional Queensland have somewhere comfortable to stay while their loved ones receive treatment.

These projects are happening because people who cared deeply about exceptional healthcare chose to remember The Wesley Hospital in their Wills.

It's a quiet way to make a difference. Your gift becomes part of ensuring future generations have access to the

same quality of care that might have helped you or someone you love.

The equipment that helps save lives. The spaces that make healing possible. The specialists who can focus on what they do best.

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.

Our team is happy to have a conversation to answer any questions.



Proudly part of



1800 961 331

fundraising@wesley.com.au