Annual Report 2023

CHILDREN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities, and pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.

The Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation is committed to ethical, equitable and inclusive research and research opportunities that benefit all Australians.

Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation of SA Inc.

341 Port Road, Hindmarsh SA 5007
PO Box 2438, Regency Park SA 5942

(08) 8243 8258 crf@crf.org.au www.crf.org.au

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Enriching The Lives Of Children Through Research

Since 1976, the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation (CRF) has played a pivotal role in supporting children's research in South Australia.

Established with funds donated to the Channel 7 (then Channel 10) Christmas Telethon Appeal, the CRF today is an independent not-for-profit organisation that gives $1.8M per year to new research into children's health, education and/or welfare.

We're also a partnership of these like-minded and respected South Australian organisations: Flinders University, Novita, The University of Adelaide, University of South Australia, the Women's and Children's Health Network, and Channel 7 Adelaide.

Together we've collaborated to find and fund well over 1000 projects, and we'll continue to explore ways to support and advocate for new and necessary research to help improve the lives of our precious children.

To find out more: **crf.org.au**

We're Committed

Our commitment to children's research stems from a goal we established at day one – to support the boundless potential of all children.

This goal inspires us to keep making a difference and to ensure that all children remain at the heart of everything we do.

Our focus is to support quality research into the cause, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of any condition that may affect the general health, education and/or welfare of all children.

All CRF funding is directed to South Australian-led research, whether that be basic science projects, clinical studies or community-based studies. Some of the children's research fields we've supported include allied health, fertility and pregnancy, education, environment, dentistry, nursing, medicine, mental health, midwifery, nutrition, social sciences, and welfare and child protection.

We also remain committed to supporting research careers and capability in South Australia by:

Fostering early career researchers

Providing seed funding for early-stage research where other grant funding is unavailable

Funding 'proof of concept' research

Supporting established researchers and retention of local talent to deliver outcomes within SA

We're Dedicated To

Funding New Research

CRF is essential – we fund early-stage research, we support rewarding projects, we foster collaboration and innovation, and we address unmet needs and gaps in knowledge.

Increasing our Funding

To increase opportunity for new research to happen, to tackle pressing challenges and create a novel solution. By combining our funds and pairing our goals with others, we can work to make an impact far beyond what we could achieve alone.

Earning South Australia's Support

We invite partnerships from organisations and individuals that share our vision and wish to contribute funds to help advance children's research. 100% of all donations and sponsorship dollars go directly to funding quality children's research.

Paul Jury

Chair and Channel 7 Representative

Greg Ward

Executive Director

Message from the Chair & Executive Director

In 2023, the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation of South Australia (CRF) celebrated its 47th year of enriching the lives of children through research.

On behalf of the CRF Board of Directors, it is our pleasure to present this Annual Report.

It's certainly been another busy year as we continued to explore new ways to support research into children's health, education and welfare, building on our reputation as a valued and trusted children's research foundation in South Australia.

Throughout our 47 years, we've played a pivotal role in promoting a diversity of research into issues that affect children's lives, fostering innovation, creating opportunities for early career researchers to establish themselves, and allowing established researchers to produce groundbreaking research and improve their success with national grant applications.

Many have benefited from a medical breakthrough, such as a vaccine, a drug, or a device: such innovations are made possible through the work of research scientists and doctors, and this is also the aspiration of foundations that fund research.

To help tackle the pressing challenges that affect children in South Australia, and beyond, and to meet CRF's commitment to fostering research talent and building this state's research capacity, CRF requires research projects to be undertaken in South Australia and led by state-based researchers.

Funding commenced in January for the 18 research projects selected for our 2023 annual grants round, with a total of $1,574,452 awarded. A report by the Chair of the CRF Research Committee can be read on page 10, and a summary of the grants can be found on page 14.

In October 2022 we held the second of our Annual Research Grants and Awards Event, to publicly announce the 18 grants awarded for 2023 and to showcase the research and researchers who contribute to our vision.

These events are designed for the community to meet CRF-funded researchers and learn directly about the impact of our funding, and to encourage networking among emerging and established researchers.

We were honoured to be joined by Dr James Muecke AM, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, who represented and spoke on behalf of Her Excellency, The Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and Mr Rod Bunten, joint Patrons of the CRF.

We also launched a campaign in October 2022 to reconnect with the South Australian public and business community, acknowledging that they were instrumental, through their generous donations to telethons and fundraising events organised by (then) SAS Channel 10, in the establishment in 1976 of the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation.

The 16-year partnership between CRF and Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA) is strong and this year supported the 12th Cohort of recipients of the Annual CRF HDA PhD Excellence Awards, as well as the Schools Communicator Award, designed to inspire SA kids into a career in science.

The Board farewelled Professor Jenny Fereday, representing the Women's and Children's Health Network, and Rosanna Mangiarelli, representing Channel 7, and values the commitment, guidance and insights both gave to CRF during their time.

Succeeding them, we welcomed new Board members, Professor Helen Marshall AM and Mike Smithson.

We would like to acknowledge the work of CRF's Treasurer and Finance Committee who ensure the Foundation's continued ability to fund research from its endowment fund through well-managed investments, and as always, the CRF is indebted to the Board and Committee members for so generously sharing their time and expertise.

We look forward to working together as we move towards CRF's 48th year of supporting research into things that shouldn't be part of a kid's life.

> "Funding commenced in January for the 18 research projects selected for our 2023 annual grants round, with a total of $1,574,452 awarded.

Board of Directors and Foundation Representatives

Our Board of Directors are individuals representing our Member Organisations who dedicate their time and expertise to preserving and protecting the legacy of the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation.

Paul Jury
Chair
and Channel 7
Representative

Stephen Woolley
Deputy Chair
and Channel 7 Representative

Chantelle Hugo
Channel 7 Representative

Libby Rayner
Channel 7 Representative

Mike Smithson
Channel 7 Representative

Professor Helen Marshall AM
Women's and Children's Health
Network Representative

Professor John Lynch
The University of
Adelaide Representative

Professor Claire Roberts
Flinders University
Representative

Greg de Cure
Novita Representative

Professor Carol Maher
University of South Australia
Representative

Jonathon Grant
Treasurer

Greg Ward
Executive Director

Professor Kevin Forsyth
Co-opted by the Board,
CRF Research
Committee Chair

With Thanks

CRF farewelled two Directors of the Board at the end of 2022 - Dr Jenny Fereday and Ms Rosanna Mangiarelli.

Dr Jennifer (Jenny) Fereday was Board Director between 2018 to 2022, representing the Women's and Children's Health Network where she was Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery. Jenny is now the Clinical Professor of Midwifery at University of South Australia. Her philosophy is to foster a culture of excellence in midwifery person-centred practice grounded in research evidence, critical inquiry, teamwork and innovation.

7NEWS Adelaide presenter and journalist, **Ms Rosanna Mangiarelli**, was a Channel 7 Representative Member and Board Director between 2020-2022. As a busy working mum, Rosanna is passionate about women's and children's health and wellbeing issues. She is honoured to be the Ambassador for the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation and an array of South Australian charities.

Independent Research Committee

CRF's annual research grants program is a competitive process. Applications are rigorously reviewed by the CRF Independent Research Committee, comprising representatives from member organisations and Board-appointed members.

Professor Kevin Forsyth
Chairperson

Dr Rhiannon Pilkington
Co-opted by the Board

Mr Paul Jury
Representative of the Board

Associate Professor Luke Grzeskowiak
Flinders University

Dr Tina Bianco-Miotto
The University of Adelaide

Professor Leanne Dibbens
University of South Australia

Professor Jenny Fereday
Women's and Children's
Health Network

Independent Referees

CRF relies on the voluntary participation of the international research community in the peer review process of the annual grant applications, so that the highest quality research is funded.

Our Board of Directors and Independent Research Committee acknowledge with thanks the reviewers listed below or anonymous who dedicated their time and expertise for the 2023 Annual Research Grants Round.

Dr Aneesha Bakharia
Dr Lori Bernstein
Dr Marnie Best
Ms Michelle Bockmann
A/Prof Kay Bussey
Prof Jenny Couper
Prof Philip Darbyshire
Dr Sarah Delforce
Prof Marcel Dinger
Dr Bart Eijkelkamp
Dr Amy Farndale
Dr Melissa Farnham
Prof Sue Fletcher
Dr Sonja Frolich
Prof Jozef Gecz
A/Prof Andrew Gill
Dr Emmanuel Gnanamanickam
Dr Richard Goldstein
Prof Rebecca Golley
Dr Jacqueline Gould
Dr Amy Graham
A/Prof Jordan Hansford
Dr Mohammadhossein Hassanshahi
Prof Gordon Howarth
Dr Jessica Hu
Prof Ilan Katz
Prof Alison Kent
Dr Stephen Kidd
A/Prof Alexander Larcombe
A/Prof Paul Licciardi
Dr Alistair Lum
A/Prof Rita Machaalani
Dr Layla Mahdi
Dr Sarah Marshall
Dr Monica McEvoy
Dr Simon McMullan
A/Prof Divya Mehta
Dr Fiona Mensah
A/Prof Dylan Mordaunt
A/Prof Hakan Muyderman
A/Prof Elizabeth Nixon
A/Prof Gillian Nixon
Prof Kirsty Pringle
A/Prof Scott Rice
Prof Amanda Richdale
A/Prof Rachel Roberts
Dr Eugene Roscioli
Dr Feargal Ryan
A/Prof Beth Saggers
Dr David Sharkey
Dr Grace Skrzypiec
Dr Jacqueline Stephens
Prof Tobias Strunk
Dr . Taha
Dr Duy Tran
Dr Vi Khanh Truong
Dr Vincenza Tudini
Dr Michelle Tye
Prof Karin Verspoor
Dr Orazio Vittorio
Dr Amanda Watson
Dr Caitlin Wyrwoll
Dr Dave Yip

Professor Kevin Forsyth

Co-opted by the Board,
CRF Research Committee Chair

Report by the Chair of the Research Committee

The outcome of the 2023 Annual Grants Round was announced at the Annual CRF Event where we celebrate the research and researchers supported by the CRF. There were 18 grants awarded for projects to commence in 2023 at Flinders University, The University of Adelaide, the University of South Australia, and CALHN, for a total allocation of $1,574,452.

CRF has promulgated priority research areas since the 2020 grants round, with the aim of improving the balance between basic science and community based social research and 17 of the 18 grants were deemed to address one or more of the research priorities of: Tackling chronic illness and disability; Improving fetal development including preventing pre-term birth; Supporting young minds and improving children's mental health, and; Improving systems of care and education for children.

I congratulate the recipients of grants in 2023 and wish them success in their work. Please see page 14 for details of the projects.

The CRF is also keen to foster and retain research talent in South Australia, to enable the best research to be conducted in this state for our children's futures.

With that in mind, the CRF introduced a new grant opportunity in 2022. 'Enabling Grants,' of up to $30,000 per annum, are now available for researchers seeking co-funding support to apply for NHMRC Partnership and ARC Linkage grants. Applications are open year-round and assessed by the Research Committee after 31 July each year. One researcher has been successful in applying for this grant and is awaiting the outcome of their NHMRC Partnership Grants application.

I am very pleased to report that the CRF Fellows continue to excel in their research, achieving funding and building knowledge and capacity in South Australia.

In recent years, during a challenging landscape of COVID, and national changes in research funding, the CRF has noticed a downward trend in the number of Expressions of Interest submitted, and to ensure the best use of CRF funds in supporting research and SA researchers, CRF undertook a quality assurance evaluation in November 2022.

A survey to understand the SA research community's perception of the CRF grant scheme, and satisfaction with the application process and support provided was conducted by a cohort of University of South Australia fourth year physiotherapy students on their Health Promotion clinical placement.

It was pleasing to receive acknowledgement from the SA Research Community of the value of, and benefits to their careers from CRF funding, and insights from the survey and improvement suggestions will be implemented as and when appropriate.

As always, we are grateful for the voluntary participation in the peer review process by the international research community, and I respect their dedication to the pursuit of knowledge and excellence in their fields.

Please see page 9 for a list acknowledging the reviewers for the 2023 grants round.

I thank also the members of the CRF Research Committee, for their invaluable contributions, their generosity in sharing their time and knowledge and for their dedication to ensuring the best quality research is funded.

On behalf of the CRF Research Committee, which I am honoured to Chair, I thank the Board for their support and vision, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to encourage and enable research to improve the lives of children in South Australia and beyond.

> "CRF introduced a new grant opportunity in 2022. 'Enabling Grants,' of up to $30,000 per annum, are now available for researchers seeking co-funding support...

Research at a Glance

CRF funding enabled 18 new research projects in the areas of:

Adolescent eating disorders

Providing school based eyecare services

Online literacy instruction for kids with Down syndrome

Deep burn injury

Vaccinating pregnant women against COVID-19

Fetal brain and retinal development during viral infection

Cystic fibrosis airway gene therapy

Children and adolescents with sleep disordered breathing

Paediatric Glioblastoma multiforme invasiveness.

Improving cognitive function in childhood cancer survivors

Treating paediatric burns

Using Genetic Models to Tackle Epilepsy

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for children's perfectionism

Burn injuries and chronic wounds in children

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

Maturing preterm lungs

Pregnancy and infancy health

Learning differences in primary schools

2023 Research Grants

Supporting adolescents on the waitlist for eating disorder treatment: A pilot randomised controlled trial.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Dr Kathina Ali
[Early Career Researcher][1]

Flinders University
Clinical Study
$36,124

Overview: Eating disorders impact psychological, physical and social functioning, and are one of the most pervasive and difficult to treat conditions among adolescents. Although early diagnosis and treatment are essential, long waitlists for treatment pose a significant problem and carry the risk that adolescents drop out before treatment. This will be an innovative study that investigates the delivery of a scalable evidence-based mental health and wellbeing program (Be Well Plan) for adolescents on a waitlist. The program will support adolescents during that critical period, improve mental health and wellbeing, prepare them for treatment, increase motivation to change and improve treatment uptake.

Providing school based eyecare to improve learning and promote equitable outcomes in South Australia.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Professor Nicola Anstice

Flinders University
Clinical Study
$99,439

Overview: Twenty-five percent of South Australian primary school children do not have the spectacles they need for clear and comfortable vision increasing their risk of reduced academic outcomes and exclusion from many broader educational and social activities. Inequities exist within the current delivery of paediatric eyecare services which are delivered privately by community optometrists. Therefore, children living in areas of greater socioeconomic deprivation are less likely to access eye-care services. We aim to pilot a school-based eyecare programme to detect and correct vision problems at school-entry and assess the outcomes of delivering on-site eye examinations on reading and learning behaviours.

High Quality Online Literacy Instruction for South Australian Children with Down Syndrome.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Professor Joanna Arciuli

Flinders University
Community-Based Study
$99,988

Overview: We know that "learning to read is not a privilege, but a basic and essential human right" (Ontario Human Rights Commission, 2022, p. 2). Literacy is the cornerstone of education and full participation in society, associated with positive outcomes in vocational, health, and social domains. Children with developmental disabilities are underestimated when it comes to learning to read and many receive poor quality literacy instruction. We will empower children with Down Syndrome and their families through online literacy instruction delivered by our trained professionals, with support from parents. This instruction is robust against lockdowns, school closures, and isolation requirements.

The impact of the complement system on fetal brain and retinal development during viral infection.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Associate Professor
Jillian Carr

Flinders University
Basic Science
$98,679

Overview: Sometimes, viral infection during pregnancy infects the baby with devastating and permanent effects on the brain and eye. Zika is an example of a virus that does this. It is normal to get an immune response to infection and 'complement' is part of this. However, complement also has a role in brain and eye development, and hence an infection can disrupt development. Our study will find the parts of the complement system that can control viral infection but spare damage to development. This may provide a therapeutic target for zika, other viruses and childhood disorders that result from mistargeted complement.

Can cognitive function be improved in childhood cancer survivors with the use of a custom cognitive gaming suite?

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Associate Professor
Lyndsey Collins-Praino

The University of Adelaide
Clinical Study
$99,926

Overview: Cancer-related Cognitive Impairment (CRCI) can negatively impact survivors following cancer and its treatment. It affects areas such as memory recall, decision-making, mental wellbeing, and everyday functions including social skills. Children are particularly vulnerable to these changes as their brains are still developing. This project will assess the presentation and impact of CRCI in childhood cancer survivors and evaluate whether a targeted custom Serious Gaming system ('NeuroOrb') can improve cognitive function and quality of life. If successful, this tool could be employed to improve rehabilitation outcomes for childhood cancer survivors with CRCI, currently an area of significant unmet need.

Plasma activated hydrogel therapy as a novel treatment for paediatric burns.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Dr Ainslie Derrick-Roberts

University of South Australia
Basic Science
$99,946

Overview: Paediatric burns are common in children under the age of 5. Treatment of burns is complicated by life-threatening bacterial infections and scarring, which can lead to loss of limb function without surgical intervention. Plasma activated hydrogel therapy (PAHT) has potential to address all aspects of paediatric burns including infection control, healing promotion and reduced scarring. This study aims to optimise PAHT for treatment of paediatric burns through a rigorous preclinical trial, which will underpin a Human Ethics Application for Phase I trial. Early clinical applications of PAHT have the potential to save children's lives and significantly improve their well-being.

[1] $40K maximum funding for an Early Career Grant, available for MD, MPhil, PhD candidates or researchers less than 5 years post-doc.

2023 Research Grants

Establishing a Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) biobank.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Professor Leanne Dibbens

University of South Australia
Basic Science
$90,000

Overview: Approximately 100 babies die from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) in Australia each year. The cause(s) of SIDS remain unknown, but there is evidence that genetic factors are involved. This study is designed to establish a Biobank containing biological samples from infants who have died from SIDS and from their biological parents. We will establish the first SIDS biobank in South Australia and one of only a few in the world. The biobank will allow us to carry out future studies to identify genetic variants that contribute to SIDS, with the aim of reducing or preventing the occurrence of SIDS.

A new therapy to mature preterm lungs without damaging the brain.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Associate Professor Kathryn Gatford

The University of Adelaide
Basic Science
$100,000

Overview: Antenatal corticosteroids (ACS), such as betamethasone, are standard clinical care for women at risk of preterm delivery. ACS activate the glucocorticoid receptor (GR), maturing the fetal lungs and reducing neonatal lung disease and death. However, clinicians are increasingly concerned about adverse effects of ACS on other organs, particularly the developing brain. In this project, we will test the prodrug ciclesonide, that is only able to signal via the GR in tissues with an activating enzyme present, like the lungs, but not brain. We will establish an effective dose of ciclesonide to mature the fetal lung and improve preterm lung function.

Reversing fetal growth restriction for better pregnancy and infancy health.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Dr Macarena Gonzalez

The University of Adelaide
Basic Science
$100,000

Overview: Fetal growth restriction causes 5.4% of perinatal deaths in Australia and a 3-fold increase in offspring chronic disease development. Paternal ageing is a risk factor for fetal growth restriction, contributing to infant birth defects. With over 40,000 children born to fathers over 40 years old each year, preventing this growth restriction development and improving child health is critical.

This research will investigate how advanced age of the father impacts fetal growth by analysing gene expression and histological defects in offspring tissues. A novel preconception therapy (BGP-15) to reverse the effects of advanced paternal age on child health will be explored.

Development of the next-generation antimicrobial dermal matrix for the management of deep burn injury.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Dr Zlatko Kopecki

University of South Australia
Basic Science
$100,000

Overview: Burns are one of the most common injuries suffered by Australians and one of the top three causes of death in children under five. The emergence of multi-drug resistant bacteria, including Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), is leading to increased numbers of paediatric patients with deep burn wounds suffering infections. For patients with extensive full-thickness burns, acellular dermal substitutes have been used to achieve physiological closure however loss from infection is a major clinical limitation. We have taken a novel approach to develop the next-generation antimicrobial dermal matrix which could be life-changing in the management of deep burns in children.

When should we vaccinate pregnant women against COVID-19 to offer the best protection to infants?

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Professor Helen Marshall AM

The University of Adelaide
Clinical Study
$90,000

Overview: COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for pregnant women at any gestational age to decrease the risks of SARS-CoV-2 infection for both the woman and her baby. Young infants are at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease compared to children, but are not eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Therefore, antibodies that pass from the mother to the infant via the placenta and breast milk would be the only protection the infants receive. This study aims to identify the best time to provide a booster dose to pregnant women in order to achieve maximum protection in infants.

Does the presence of lung infection impact the efficacy of cystic fibrosis airway gene therapy?

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Dr Alexandra McCarron [Early Career Researcher]

The University of Adelaide
Basic Science
$40,060

Overview: This project will evaluate a novel treatment for cystic fibrosis (CF), a chronic, progressive, and debilitating genetic illness. Unrelenting CF lung disease begins early in infancy, steadily deteriorating patient quality of life and ultimately leading to premature death. The development of effective therapies for lung disease will undoubtedly provide significant benefit. Airway gene therapy is one strategy that could cure CF lung disease in all children and works by correcting the fundamental genetic defect. Provided early in life, gene therapy will enable children to grow into adulthood without the burden of lung disease, dramatically improving longevity and quality of life.

2023 Research Grants

Contributors to endocrine abnormalities in children and adolescents with sleep disordered breathing.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Ms Amelia Noone
[Early Career Researcher]

The University of Adelaide
Clinical Study
$39,995

Overview: Sleep disordered breathing (SDB) effects 10% of children and ranges in severity from primary snoring to obstructive sleep apnoea. While SDB is recognised as a respiratory disorder associated with endocrine and cardiovascular disease in adults, it is unknown whether these physiological alterations begin in childhood. Information gained from this proposed research will help us better understand the endocrine and cardiovascular changes in paediatric SDB that may lead to later chronic diseases in adulthood. Ultimately, we aim to identify those children with SDB at greatest risk of developing endocrine and cardiovascular diseases allowing early targeted interventions that will improve lifelong health.

Testing combined therapies as a powerful tool for controlling paediatric Glioblastoma multiforme invasiveness.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Dr Sunita Ramesh

Flinders University
Basic Science
$91,816

Overview: Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) is a common cause of cancer-related deaths in children. Current treatments focus on disrupting single signalling pathways to halt disease progression. Our pilot data with GBM cell lines (adult) and spheroids suggest selected combinations of channel inhibitors targeting multiple pathways, at low doses (no cytotoxicity) slow invasiveness more powerfully than single agents. We propose to evaluate these blocker combinations for controlling invasiveness in paediatric GBM cell lines and tissue explants. Outcomes are essential for developing new combination therapies for limiting GBM invasiveness while minimising collateral damage to healthy neurons and glial cells in the central nervous system.

Using Genetic Models to Tackle Epilepsy.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Associate Professor
Cheryl Shoubridge

The University of Adelaide
Basic Science
$93,488

Overview: Developmental and epileptic encephalopathies (DEE) are a severe form of epilepsy which presents in early childhood. Affected children are treated with anti-epileptic drugs that often do not provide any relief from seizures, with ongoing seizures further impacting the development of the brain. These conditions are so rare individually that they are not of interest to drug companies. Here we propose using our clinically relevant genetic mouse model that recapitulates the seizure phenotype in patients to effectively screen and evaluate drug responses. These findings may guide clinicians to bring seizures under better, earlier control leading to better outcomes for patients.

Perfection is the enemy of progress and good mental health: A Randomised Controlled Trial of guided parent-delivered Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for children's perfectionism.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Professor Tracey Wade

Flinders University
Clinical Study
$99,996

Overview: Perfectionism has linearly increased in youth since 1989. Three out of ten adolescents meet criteria for being perfectionistic e.g., have high but rigid and unrealistic standards accompanied by doubts and self-criticism about performance. In youth, robust associations exist between perfectionism and suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, depression, anxiety, stress, self-harm, impaired social connection and disordered eating. Perfectionism is also linked to poorer academic habits and outcomes in education. The current project evaluates the first early intervention approach ever developed to empower parents to minimise current and future negative consequences of perfectionism in their young children to prevent future harmful consequences.

Optimising a synthetic scaffold for the in vitro bioengineering of bi-layered skin as a therapy for burn injuries and chronic wounds in children.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Associate Professor
Marcus Wagstaff

CALHN - Central Adelaide Local Health Network
Basic Science
$100,000

Overview: Poor burns scars and their associated joint contractures are disabling in children. The Skin Engineering Laboratory of the Burns Service at the Royal Adelaide Hospital has developed a two-stage strategy to treat adult patients with severe full-thickness burns. The next progressive step is to translate this to children. The scaffold strategy forms the basis for reconstruction of extensive burns and other acute and chronic wounds. This would dispense with the existing need for extensive painful and traumatic donor sites from skin graft harvesting, numbers of skin autografting procedures, and long-term disability from scars and contractures (1)

The Cool Brain Hall of Fame: Using examples from popular culture to de-stigmatise learning differences in primary schools.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR:
Dr Amy Wyatt

Flinders University
Community-Based Study
$94,995

Overview: Around 15-20% of South Australian children have a learning difference such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, autism or attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Inclusive education is a basic human right, however, in Australian schools these children are currently at risk of peer-discrimination, which negatively impacts their mental health and learning outcomes. This project will assess the efficacy of an innovative program that uses the real-life stories of popular individuals (e.g. actors, authors, musicians) to challenge the attitudes of children towards learning differences. This research has broad-reaching potential to reduce peer-discrimination and improve the well-being and life quality of children with learning differences.

2023 Application Statistics

The Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation grant application process consists of two stages:

1. Expression of Interest (EOI)
2. Full Grant Application (GA) for short-listed applicants only

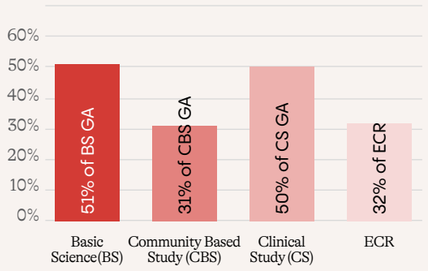
From 101 Expressions of Interest received, 47 projects were shortlisted to progress to the Full Grant Application stage for 2023 Funding.

EOI	% of Total
Basic Science	48%
Community Based Study	26%
Clinical Study	26%
Total	100%
ECR	25%

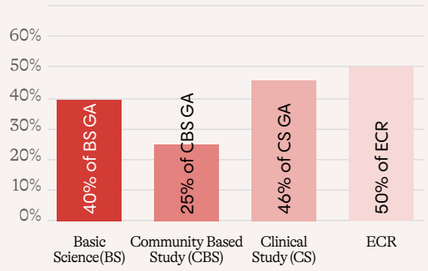
Shortlisted GA	% of Total
Basic Science	54%
Community Based Study	17%
Clinical Study	29%
Total	100%
ECR	17%

Funded	% of Total
Basic Science	55%
Community Based Study	11%
Clinical Study	33%
Total (% of GA)	100%
ECR	17%

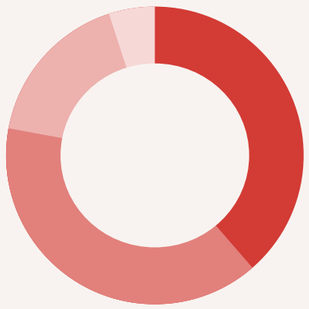
EOI Success Rate



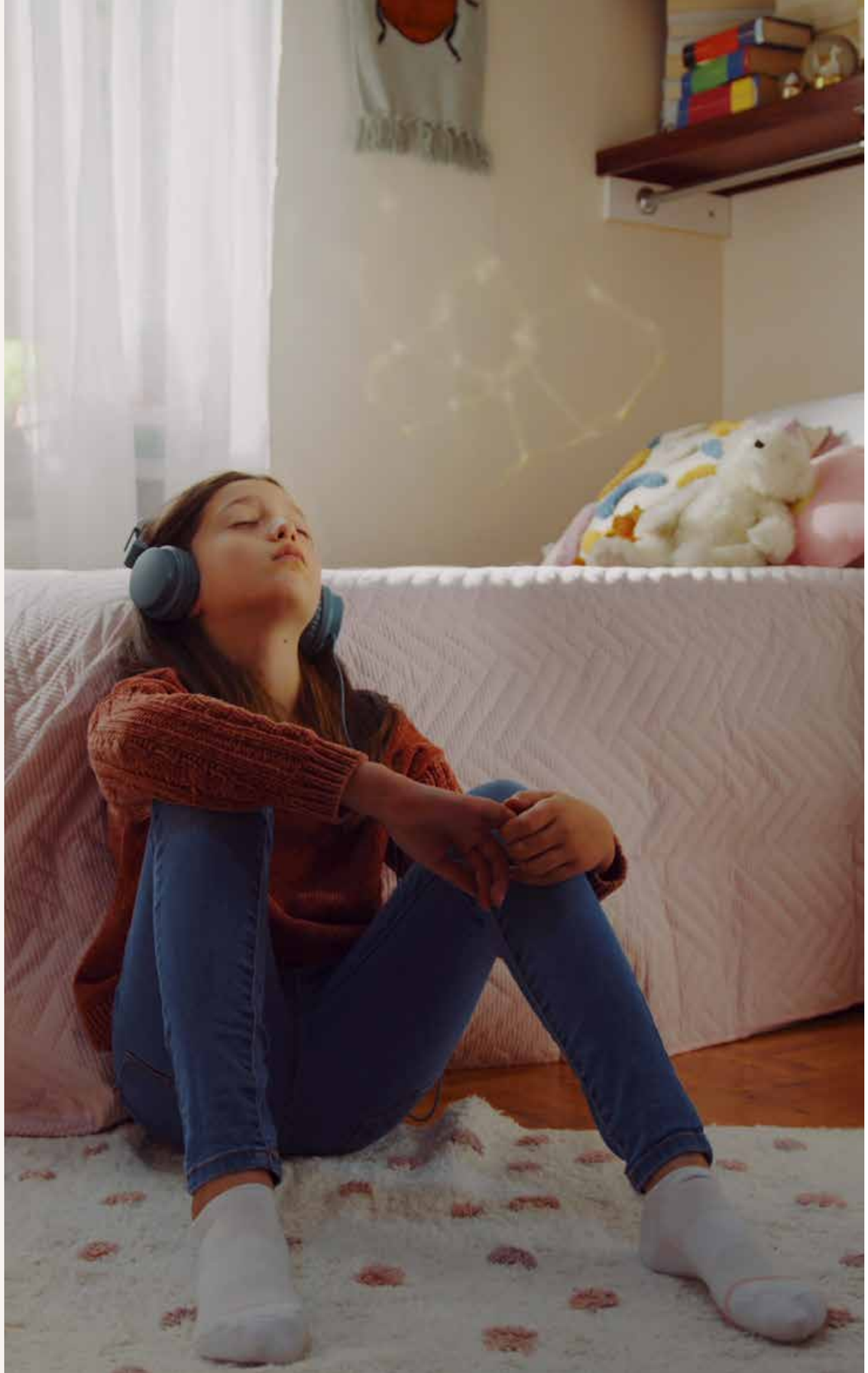
GA Success



2023 Funding by Administering Organisation



	Grants	% of Total
Flinders University	7	39%
The University of Adelaide	7	39%
University of South Australia	3	17%
Central Adelaide Local Health Network	1	5%
Total	18	100%



Highlights and Collaborations

$1,574,452

In grants to fund quality, South Australian-led research into the health, education and welfare of children

$300,000

Two CRF Fellowships supporting research in Childhood Wound Infections and Medicines Use and Safety

$31,500

CRF HDA Scholars PhD Excellence Awards and travel grants. Helping to build excellence and career development in children's research in SA

$5,000

Australian Society for Medical Research - SA

State Sponsor ASMR Medical Research Week®
Online Schools Quiz

Sponsor 'ASMR at Science Alive!'
and ASMR Medical Research Week®

$3,000

CRF HDA Schools Communicator Award. Inspiring high school students about STEM career pathways

CRF Fellowships

The CRF Fellowship Program commenced in July 2021 and is designed to support mid-career researchers to pursue ground-breaking advances in childhood health, education and/or welfare.

These two fixed-term, mid-career Fellowships will invest up to an additional $1.5M of CRF funds into children's research in SA.

Dr Zlatko Kopecki
CRF Fellow in Childhood Wound Infections
Future Industries Institute Foundation Fellow (Senior Research Fellow),
University of South Australia

Dr Kopecki's Fellowship in Childhood Wound Infections aims to understand the bacterial composition of blister wounds in children with epidermolysis bullosa (EB), which will inform the development of more targeted approaches to combat infection and guide clinical EB management and antibiotic stewardship.

Associate Professor Luke Grzeskowiak
CRF Fellow in Medicines Use and Safety
College of Medicine and Public Health,
Flinders University

Associate Professor Grzeskowiak's goal with his Fellowship in Medicines Use and Safety is to establish a sophisticated and robust approach for routinely evaluating medication safety and effectiveness during pregnancy and lactation to optimise birth outcomes and future child health.

Enabling Grants Program
(CO-FUNDING)

CRF's annual research funding is bolstered by its Enabling Grants program for South Australian researchers seeking co-funding support for NHMRC Partnership and ARC Linkage grant applications.

A CRF Enabling Grant will provide up to $30,000 a year for up to four years, for a successful NHMRC/ARC grant.

Achievement in Children's Research Awards

Joined by Dr James Muecke AM, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, we recognised the achievements of **Associate Professor Anna Ziersch and Professor Sarah Robertson**, through the:

DENNIS EARL AWARD for outstanding achievement in children's 'welfare' research, awarded to **Associate Professor Anna Ziersch** for her research focusing on the social determinants of health and health equity, with a particular emphasis on migrant and refugee children and young people.

COLIN MATTHEWS AO AWARD for outstanding achievement in children's 'health' research, awarded to **Professor Sarah Robertson** for her research efforts in understanding the early life origins of infant and child health through a focus on conception and early pregnancy.

Now in its second year, the CRF Awards recognise the achievements and outcomes of the research and researchers our Foundation has supported throughout its 47 years.

A Collaborative Network

7NEWS Adelaide continued to take CRF-funded research into the homes of South Australian families through its regular news bulletins and exclusive stories.

Building Research Careers in SA

Our partnership with Healthy Development Adelaide entered its 16th year delivering the Annual PhD Excellence Awards; designed to build research excellence and career development in children's health and development in South Australia.

Together, the CRF and HDA continued the Schools Communicator Award to help emerging researchers showcase their research to South Australian high school students with the aim of inspiring awareness of the amazing opportunities for a career in health science or science.

Initiatives for Careers in STEM

Our support of the Australian Society for Medical Research in South Australia (ASMR) continued as a sponsor of **Medical Research Week® 2023**.

We commenced two initiatives aimed at stimulating awareness and interest at high school level in STEM careers; the **ASMR Medical Research Week® Online Schools Quiz** and **'ASMR at Science Alive!'**.

CRF proudly aligns with ASMR and its shared vision to foster excellence in Australian health and medical research, and the forum it provides for early career researchers, including graduate students and postdoctoral scientists, to establish collaborations and present their work among peers in a professional environment.

Hope for Peanut Allergy

Ashlea Kunowski, Seven News

There's new hope for children with peanut allergies, with Adelaide scientists discovering a potential cure.

A new clinical trial, funded by the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation (CRF), found that boiling peanuts can help up to 80 per cent of allergic children become desensitised to them.

The life changing research found boiling the nuts first helps desensitise kids to the tasty, but often dangerous, snack.

The trial's extensive preclinical work was also made possible by CRF grants given to research undertaken by Dr Billy Tao (2017 and 2019), to Associate Professor Tim Chataway (2019) and to Dr Preethi Eldi (2020); each providing the critical preclinical scientific foundation to this clinical trial.

While other children safely munch away on their peanut butter sandwiches, 9-year-old Xavier Connery has no choice but to stick to his jam-filled one.

Xavier says "Sometimes I feel left out from eating the food. It makes me feel worried."

For good reason...at 18 months old he had to be rushed to the hospital, after he was accidentally fed peanut satay sauce and had a severe allergic reaction.

But a clinical trial by Flinders University and SAHMRI is giving sufferers hope.

Associate Professor at Flinders University, Luke Grzeskowiak said "We made a really interesting discovery, that boiling peanuts changed the structure and the allergic potential, which meant that they were less likely to create an allergic response."

Over the course of a year, 70 participants aged between 6 and 18-years old consumed 12-hour boiled peanuts for 12 weeks, then 2-hour boiled peanuts for 20 weeks, before moving onto roasted peanuts for another 20 weeks. By the end of the trial 80 per cent were desensitised.

Luke Grzeskowiak adds "So that meant that they could eat 12 peanuts in one go, without producing an allergic response."

The clinical trial has been published in an international journal, but to get the therapy approved for public use, a larger trial would need to be undertaken, and researchers would need to first secure more funding.

Xavier's mother, Brigette Connery, said "It would be absolutely life changing to be really honest with you, because it's something that's always in the back of our minds."

But we're being warned not to try it at home!

Associate Professor Tim Chataway warned "If you don't do it correctly, you may be generating a product that's really still quite allergic and that could be dangerous."

A Pill to Cure Obesity?

Rosie Barnett, Seven News

Promoting child and adolescent gut health through supplementation of novel fibre-clay hybrid biomaterials (*Dr Paul Joyce*)

In Australia, one in four children are considered overweight or obese and South Australian scientists believe they may have found a potential cure for obesity.

They've discovered that by swallowing tiny particles of sand, you can keep those unwanted kilos at bay.

A study funded by the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation is the first to validate how porous silica can prevent fats and carbohydrates from being adsorbed in the body.

It's a nuisance when it gets in your fish and chips, but as scientists discovered, ingesting a little sand may actually be good for your waistline...

But don't go rushing down to the beach just yet.

University of South Australia researchers have discovered that when purified sand particles enter the body, they soak up fats and sugars, then pass them through the system, without any of it entering the bloodstream, which means, no nasty side-effects.

Chief Investigator Dr Paul Joyce says "This is huge... it's a new way we can tackle obesity with really safe materials.

"The current pharmaceutical treatments lead to a lot of gastrointestinal distress so they lead to stomach pain and diarrhoea which is quite unpleasant for the patients.

"It's a purified version of sand, so it's a lab designed sand... not something you eat off the beach."

Researchers now hope to turn those tiny granules into a single pill. To do that, they'll need commercial funding... then, human trials can begin.

"We've proven this in the lab and in animals, now we want to take this to the clinics, so we have to test this in patients to show that it's effective."

So don't toss away the treadmill just yet!

A Valued Foundation

Supporting Research into things that shouldn't be part of a kid's life

The establishment of the CRF was enabled through public and business community support, with a big goal in 1976 to support research into any conditions affecting the health, education and welfare of children.

From those early days, wisely investing the endowment fund, and making many smaller grants for research projects over many years, the Foundation now proudly allocates around $1.8M per year to support SA researchers in their quests.

Our media campaigns, and our annual event, aim to reconnect with our supporters, highlighting the impact of their generosity and the research achievements resulting from CRF grants.

At **1,** Ruby was diagnosed with cancer.

At **5,** Harry's parents discovered he had asthma.

At 7, we're doing something about it.

At **11,** Grace started being bullied at school.

At **8,** Olivia developed mental health issues

The Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation supports research into things that shouldn't be part of a kid's life.

DONATE, and help us, help them.

Help Make a Difference

At CRF, we're driven by the belief that all children should live happy, healthy lives.

That's why we support research into things that matter to a child's health, education and welfare.

Through the kindness of giving, you too can help make research happen today, to improve the lives of children tomorrow.

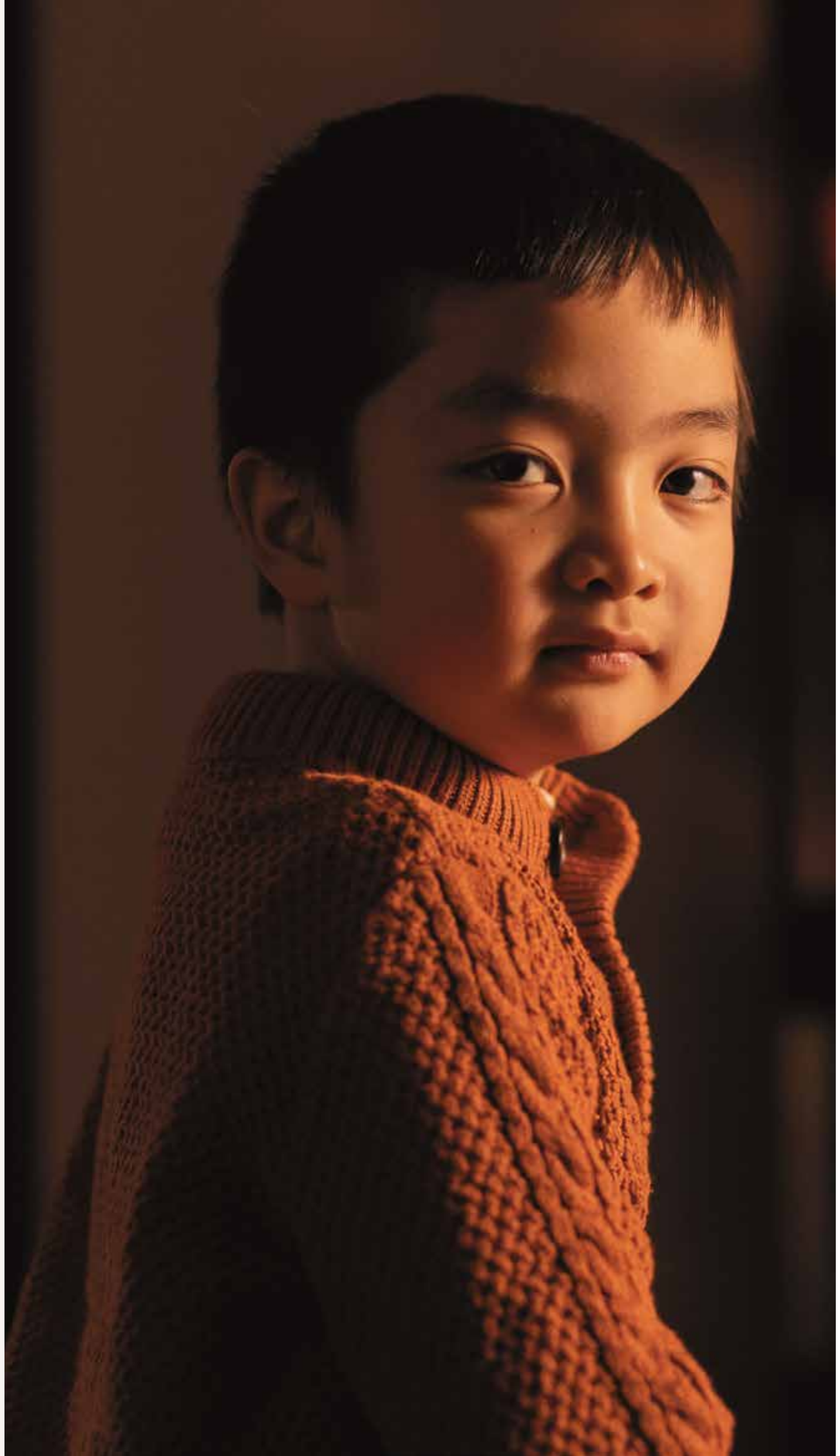
Our ability to fund research comes from well-managed investments that started from the kindness of community giving. Nonetheless these funds can only support a limited number of research projects.

CRF supports early seed funding and invests in long-term visions.

We fund researchers to pursue bold ideas and overcome challenges.

Our goal is to fund research today to improve the lives of children tomorrow.

To grow our capacity, we seek partnerships from organisations that share our vision and from individuals who aspire - like us - to help **improve the lives of children through research.**



The Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation offers flexible opportunities for businesses, individuals and communities to join us as we improve children's lives through research, including:

Match Funding
($20k–$50k)
A dollar-for-dollar grant partnership with CRF

Sponsor a Grant
($40k–100K)
Champion children's research

Fund a Fellowship
$50k–$150k (p.a., fixed-term)
Help prevent childhood disability and disease

Workplace Giving
Include us in your company giving programs and match your employees' efforts

Run a Fundraiser
Nominate CRF as a charity of choice for fundraisers, raffles and more.

OR make a Donation
@ donate.crf.org.au

If you would like to learn more about forming a partnership with the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation, we'd love to hear from you.

crf@crf.org.au
(08) 8243 8258
crf.org.au

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 $	2022 $
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,402,832	2,081,102
Trade and Other Receivables	1,009,159	1,684,047
Other Assets	161,532	81,540
Total Current Assets	**2,573,523**	**3,846,688**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments:		
Capital/Convertible Notes	6,737,148	5,941,534
Investments in Listed Companies	41,036,449	36,895,973
Total Non-Current Assets	**47,773,598**	**42,837,507**
TOTAL ASSETS	**50,347,121**	**46,684,196**
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Payables	295,584	285,708
Total Current Liabilities	**295,584**	**285,708**
Total Liabilities	**295,584**	**285,708**
Net Assets	**50,051,535**	**46,398,486**
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Fair Value Reserve	14,257,674	11,174,714
Accumulated Surplus	35,793,861	35,223,772
Total Accumulated Funds	**50,051,535**	**46,398,486**

Summary Financial Report
2022-2023

Statement of Profit or Loss & Other Comprehensive Income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 $	2022 $
INCOME		
Other Income	2,144	724
Refund of Research Grant (previous years)	19,321	763
Total Income	**21,466**	**1,487**
EXPENDITURE		
Administration Fees	184,651	174,903
Advertising	394,568	5,280
Audit Fees	21,080	17,233
Legal Fees	2,604	2,223
Meeting Expenses	16,277	13,439
Postage, Stationery, and Telephone	2,400	2,400
Research Grants	1,843,982	1,725,505
Research Support	38,742	37,932
Research Chair Support	-	(62,500)
Sundry Expenses	30,773	26,060
Website	320	1,135
Bad Debt Expenses	-	96,924
Total Expenditure	**2,535,396**	**2,040,533**
Deficit before Financial Income	(2,513,930)	(2,039,047)
Financial Income:		
Dividends Received	2,064,602	2,540,929
Interest on Investments	4,780	3,386
Franking Credit Refund	698,506	918,406
Revaluation of Investments	316,132	(318,897)
Net Financial Income	**3,084,020**	**3,143,823**
Surplus for the Year	**570,090**	**1,104,777**

Statement of Profit or Loss & Other Comprehensive Income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (CONT'D)

	2023 $	2022 $
Surplus for the Year	570,090	1,104,777
Net change in fair value of financial assets	3,082,960	(4,075,411)
Total other comprehensive income for the year	3,082,960	(4,075,411)
Total Comprehensive Income For The Year	3,653,050	(2,970,634)

Statement of Changes in Equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Fair Value Reserve $	Accumulated Surplus $	Total Equity $
Balance at 1 July 2021	15,250,125	34,118,994	49,369,119
Total comprehensive income	(4,075,411)	1,104,777	(2,970,634)
Balance at 30 June 2022	11,174,715	35,223,772	46,398,487
Balance at 1 July 2022	11,174,715	35,223,772	46,398,487
Total comprehensive income	3,082,960	570,090	3,653,050
Balance at 30 June 2023	14,257,675	35,793,861	50,051,536

Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 $	2022 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash receipts in the course of operations	616,361	(644,748)
Cash payments in the course of operations	(2,525,520)	(2,126,102)
Net cash used in operating activities	**(1,909,158)**	**(2,770,851)**
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES		
Dividends and franking credits received	2,763,108	3,459,334
Interest received	4,780	3,386
Payments for investments	(3,681,526)	(4,957,647)
Proceeds from sale of investments	2,144,527	4,089,036
Net cash provided by investing activities	**1,230,888**	**2,594,111**
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held	(678,270)	(176,740)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	**2,081,102**	**2,257,843**
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	**1,402,832**	**2,081,102**

Financial Summary

Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation of South Australia Incorporated (the Association) is an Association incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The address of the Association's registered office is 341 Port Road, Hindmarsh, South Australia. The principal activity of the Association is to promote and advance the research into the cause, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions that affect the general health, education, and welfare of children.
The Association is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing financial statements.

A full description of the accounting policies adopted by the Association is provided in the Association's full consolidated financial report.

This financial report was authorised for issue by the Directors on 26 September 2023.

Basis of Preparation

The financial reports of the Association have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Except where noted, the accounting policies have been consistently applied.

The financial reports have been prepared on a historical cost basis except for investments classified as financial investments which are measured at fair value.

The Association's functional and presentational currency is Australian Dollars.

Statement by the Board

The summary consolidated financial statements and other specific disclosures are a summary of and have been derived from Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation's full consolidated financial report for the financial year. Other information included in the summary consolidated financial report is consistent with the Association's full consolidated financial report.

The Association recorded a Net Financial Income of $3.08M which is completely from Dividend received and franking credit refund. The summary consolidated financial report does not, and cannot be expected to, provide as full an understanding of the financial performance and position, financing and investing activities of the Association, as the full consolidated financial report.

A copy of the Annual Financial Report, including the Independent Audit Report, is available to all members, and will be sent to members without charge upon request.

Dated at Adelaide this 26th day of September 2023. Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR

Tel: +61 8 7324 6000
Fax: +61 8 7324 6111
www.bdo.com.au

BDO Centre
Level 7, 420 King William Street
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 2018 Adelaide SA 5001
Australia

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF CHANNEL 7 CHILDREN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and financial summary, are derived from the audited financial report of Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation of South Australia Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2023.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report, on the basis described in the financial summary.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the special purpose reporting framework described in Note 1 to the audited financial. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 10 October 2023.

Other matter - Basis of accounting

The audited financial report from which these summary financial statements have been derived has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Association's financial reporting responsibilities under the *ACNC Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (SA*), in accordance with the recognition, measurement and classification aspects of all applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB), but including only the disclosure requirements of the following AASBs and any considered necessary to meet the needs of members:

- AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*
- AASB 107 *Statement of Cashflows*
- AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*
- AASB 1048 *Interpretation and Application of Standards*
- AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures.*

Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in the financial summary.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

BDO Audit Pty Ltd

Andrew Tickle
Director

Adelaide, 10 October 2023

CHILDREN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation of South Australia Inc.

341 Port Road, Hindmarsh SA 5007
PO Box 2438, Regency Park SA 5942

08 8243 8258
crf@crf.org.au
crf.org.au