

# Annual Review

Mater acknowledges that our services are provided on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



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Mater Hospital Brisbane during World War I.  
Scan here to learn more about Mater.

# About Mater

As a Catholic not-for-profit ministry of Mercy Partners, Mater is guided by the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy who established Mater in 1906. More than 100 years later, this tradition of care—grounded in Mercy Values—remains at our core today.

As the largest not-for-profit healthcare provider in Queensland, Mater continues to respond to the needs of individuals across our state who not only seek exceptional healthcare, but healing and support at a time they need it most.

Our Mission and Values are embedded within our extensive network of hospitals, health centres and related businesses, our nationally accredited education provider and our world-class research institute.

We deliver on our Mission through philanthropic efforts in the community and by reinvesting proceeds back into the delivery of exceptional healthcare across Queensland.

In July 2020, Mater's health services in South East Queensland, North Queensland and Central Queensland merged to become a single entity, under one board of governance and one management structure. Since then, teams across Mater have worked collaboratively to deliver Mater's Mission across the state.



## Our Mission

We serve together to bring God's mercy to our communities through compassionate, transforming, healing ministries.

## Our Values

Together the Mater Values underpin the relationships we have with one another. They guide us in decision making and shape our workplace culture.

Our Values are reflected in all that we do and are visible to all, through the way we behave and interact with our patients, colleagues and the wider community.

We are dedicated to providing healthcare services through a sincere commitment to our core values:

**We honour and promote the dignity of human life and of all creation.**

**We act with compassion and integrity.**

**We strive for excellence.**



# Mater People Awards

Trudy Clarke is honoured with the Mater Lifetime Contribution Award—  
The Catherine McAuley Medallion—at the inaugural Mater People Awards.

# 2020-21 at a glance



**732 508**

patients



**94 878**

emergency attendances



**124 655**

procedures conducted



**12 231**

babies born



**9265**

paid employees



**\$22.6 million**

distributed by  
Mater Foundation



**\$16.2 million**

new research project funding  
awarded to Mater Research



**263**

Mater Education Diploma  
of Nursing graduates



**30 031**

Mater at Home visits  
(5794 patients)



# Message from Mercy Partners

It's undoubtedly been a challenging year for all healthcare professionals, with COVID-19 greatly impacting the way Mater People care for our patients.

Of course all of us have experienced profound change in our daily lives, but I know that has not affected our commitment to the community at large and to Mater patients who seek our care and reassurance at a vulnerable time in their lives.

While COVID-19 has impacted the way healthcare is delivered, it certainly hasn't hampered Mater's agenda to extend its Mission and strong Catholic identity across the state. I congratulate the Mater Board, led by Executive Chair Francis Sullivan, for its commitment and dedication to bringing a clear common purpose and unity to the merger of Mater's services throughout Queensland.

Mater's regional hospitals are reaping the benefits of further investment in healthcare services and technology. Throughout the past year, Nudgee Trust, with the support of its trustee Mercy Partners, provided much needed seed funding to support the acquisition of new health technologies for Mater's regional hospitals.

Mercy Partners has worked closely with the Mater Board to assist the delivery of its Formation Directorate. We applaud Mater's state-wide focus to extend its Mission so more people may benefit from Mater's expertise across health, education and research ministries.

Mater's Board and Executive have engaged with Mercy Partners in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration to achieve our collective goals, underpinned by our communion of charisms. Mater and Mercy Partners will continue to work closely together to map our future and provide governance support for major projects, including the expansion of Mater Private Hospital Springfield, the transformation of the Mater Convent at South Brisbane into Catherine's House, and Mater's new corporate offices at Newstead.

While the past year has been a challenging time for all of us, Mercy Partners looks forward to continuing to support Mater to achieve its long-held Mission of bringing compassion, healing and dignity to those in need.

*Dr Ricki Jeffery*

Chair, Mercy Partners Council





# Message from the Executive Chair

Against a challenging landscape, July 2020 marked a significant milestone in Mater's history—legally cementing the start of a new era for Mater as the state's largest Catholic not-for-profit healthcare provider.

A year since the merger between Mercy Health, Mater Health Services in North Queensland and Mater Misericordiae Limited was announced, leadership teams across our ministries have had to respond to the ever-changing COVID-19 crisis, while ensuring meaningful collaboration between teams across the state.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to commend not only our Mater leaders, but all Mater People who have worked tirelessly to forge collaborative working relationships to improve the way we work together, as one Mater. It's with this dedication that we are stronger together and can continue to respond to the ever-changing needs of the communities we serve. This has never been more necessary.

Bringing Mater together, while also responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on our services and the community, has been an arduous task.

However, Mater People have once again risen to the challenge, with a tenacity and dedication that stands us in good stead as we adapt our healthcare services to meet community needs and expectations.

Against the backdrop of COVID-19, our teams are to be commended for their ingenuity, flexibility and adaptability.

In these uncertain times, Mater researchers have continued to make strides in their work to support improved healthcare for all.

Mater Education has developed strategies to continue offering the high-quality education programs to our community and health professionals, for which it is renowned.

While the social implications of the past year have taken a toll, it's incredibly heartening to see the communities we serve continue to support Mater, often very generously, through the solid relationships built by Mater Foundation.

I have faith in all Mater People, that our resolute commitment to our Mission will guide Mater successfully through these challenging times and into the next year and beyond.

*Francis Sullivan AO*

Executive Chair

# Message from the Chief Executive Officer



It's more important than ever, while COVID-19 remains a part of our daily lives, to pause and reflect on what our ministries have achieved throughout the last financial year.

We all can appreciate the immense challenges COVID-19 has created for healthcare delivery and social cohesion across our communities.

I'm proud to see how Mater People have come together to support each other during this time, while developing new processes to continue delivering world-class healthcare, research and education.

Our first major milestone after merging as one organisation across Queensland—the inaugural Mater People Awards—was a fitting occasion to celebrate so many incredible achievements, positive contributions and sacrifices Mater People have made to better the organisation and our community.

Mater has always forged important partnerships in the community, and our work toward extending our services for the people of Springfield became a reality through a landmark partnership with the State Government to expand the Mater Private Hospital Springfield—announced by the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier of Queensland. This project is a shining example of how we can partner with the community, business and government to achieve a collective goal.

Another important project we have been working on is the refurbishment and conversion of the original convent on Mater Hill into a much-needed perinatal mental health service for mothers and their families.

The convent generously gifted to us by the Sisters of Mercy is to be named Catherine's House, in honour of Catherine McAuley. The redevelopment has been made possible thanks to our dedicated team of clinicians and most importantly the Mater community, which has donated significant funds to see the Sisters' former home turned into a sanctuary for new mothers and their babies.

As we continue navigating unprecedented change and challenges, we must remind ourselves to be optimistic for the future. In the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy, we exist to respond to unmet community need.

Whether it is researching a new drug to fight a chronic illness, educating the next generation of healthcare professionals, or providing exceptional healthcare to those who need it most, we will remain steadfast and work collectively to continue achieving our Mission. I congratulate and thank all Mater People for their unwavering dedication throughout the year.

*Dr Peter Steer*

Chief Executive Officer

CEO Dr Peter Steer joins nurses at Springfield on International Nurses' Day.



# Mater Health



Scan here to learn about the Mater Health strategy.



The healthcare environment was under intense spotlight this year, with COVID-19 requiring health services to change and adapt to a new modality.

Founded on Mater's historic vision, Mission and Values, the overarching goal of the forward-looking Mater Health strategy is to deliver the best possible healthcare for our communities and an improved experience for patients, consumers, partners and Mater People.

Under the strategy, Mater Health is strengthening partnerships to deliver the best possible health outcomes for our communities, such as with Queensland Health in building Stage 2 of the Mater Private Hospital Springfield.

The launch of the first surgical robot for North Queensland delivers state-of-the-art medical care across multiple surgical specialties, under a partnership with Townsville Hospital. The benefits of robotic-assisted surgery include quicker recovery times, better outcomes and an improved patient experience.

Mater's care for women and families experiencing post-natal mental health issues is also set to grow with work started on the redevelopment of the former convent at South Brisbane, to be affectionately known as Catherine's House. Catherine's House will provide a dedicated perinatal mental health and wellbeing service, where mothers and babies can stay together while receiving treatment. Catherine's House will be part of the Mater Family Wellbeing Service, which will complement and integrate with other Mater Health services across Queensland to provide a comprehensive offering to parents and their babies.

Growing and expanding services is a key component of the strategy. Mater Private Hospital Bundaberg has delivered extraordinary growth in orthopaedic surgery, increasing throughout the financial year by 47 per cent and increasing medical admissions by 11 per cent.

As a proud sponsor of Beef Week, Mater Private Hospital Rockhampton celebrated more than a century in Central Queensland with a hospital services exhibit and parent's lounge. Here families with babies could find a quiet space away from the crowds to change nappies, breastfeed and chat to Mater midwives.

Throughout the year, we have worked as part of the broader health network to test, contain and manage COVID-19. Mater's COVID-19 teams have vaccinated Mater People and the broader community in multiple locations.

We are proud to have achieved significant milestones this year, as we continue the Mercy tradition of care and compassion that has inspired us for more than a century to empower people to live better lives through improved health and wellbeing.

Scan to view a video on the state-of-the-art robotic-assisted surgery at Mater Private Hospital Townsville.



## Highlights



**11**

hospitals



**1399**

beds



**732 508**

patients seen



**94 878**

emergency attendances



**12 231**

babies born



**5794**

Mater at Home patients  
30 031 home visits

Mater CEO Dr Peter Steer, the Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier of Queensland, and the Hon Yvette D'Ath MP, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, announce Stage 2 of Mater Private Hospital Springfield.



## Springfield partnership with Queensland Health

The landmark partnership between Mater and the Queensland Government will expand healthcare services for people living in Springfield and the burgeoning western corridor.

The partnership, announced in May, will expand capacity at Mater Private Hospital Springfield to include a new Emergency Department, an Intensive Care Unit and maternity services to help meet growing demand.

Mater CEO Dr Peter Steer said the collaboration with Queensland Health would enable the delivery of the second stage of the master planned development of Mater's 8.7 hectare site at Springfield Central.

"Mater Private Hospital Springfield opened in 2015 to deliver local healthcare services to the fast-growing western corridor, including a cancer care centre, day surgery unit and four fully-integrated operating theatres.

"Stage 2 of the Master Plan will increase the total number of beds at Mater Springfield to 234 with 174 public patient beds and the remainder for private patients," Dr Steer said.

The project will also provide capacity for a further 104 beds in the future, enabling Mater to meet the needs of this growing community.

"Mater has a long history of successfully partnering with the State Government to provide public hospital services for Queenslanders and I'm delighted that this new partnership enables us to continue delivering high-quality, compassionate care to those in need.

"It will take health services to a new level in Springfield and be a landmark in the development of this thriving community," he said.

Stage 2 of the Mater Private Hospital Springfield Master Plan is expected to create more than 1100 permanent jobs, as well as more than 700 job opportunities during construction, providing a major boost to the region's post-COVID-19 economy.

# Caring for refugee health

As part of our Mission, Mater cares for people of a refugee background through a wide range of services. These include:

- a dedicated clinic with experts in refugee health
- a Refugee Health Connect service, which is a central point of contact and referral for all aspects of refugee health
- an integrated health service to provide care for newly-arrived refugees
- a dedicated maternity service for refugees.

Mater Refugee Complex Care Clinic provides healthcare to refugees with complex health needs and services to asylum seekers who do not have access to Medicare.

The clinic offers specialised primary healthcare including:

- complex case management
- treatment
- specialist referral
- secondary consultation service for general practices.

Throughout the year, the clinic booked 2148 appointments across nursing, GP, paediatrics and psychiatry services for 410 patients from 50 different nations. More than 30 per cent of patients (129) did not have Medicare support and received pro bono healthcare.

The **Community Health Leaders Project** has been created to build the health literacy of the community and share information about COVID-19. It is based on working with the Mater Refugee Health Advisory Group (G11), which was formed six years ago. Through the project:

- 13 community leaders from refugee backgrounds have trained to deliver health literacy workshops. This has enabled them to reach people from 13 different cultural backgrounds across 36 countries, speaking 38 different languages.
- 420 people have participated in small health literacy workshops.

- 245 people have attended 10 community events to learn about health literacy.
- 22 COVID-19 resources have been translated into 15 different languages and distributed to refugee communities.
- 6452 people from refugee backgrounds have engaged with G11's social media outreach.

## COVID-19 statistics



164 603

COVID-19 tests completed



21 203

tests and medical services provided in hotel quarantine

# Mater Education



As the industry has adapted to new modalities throughout the year, so too has Mater Education to meet the changing needs of Mater healthcare staff and the community.

Mater Education has been at the forefront of learning and development throughout the year, to equip all Mater People with the skills needed to adapt to the rapid changes rolled out as a result of COVID-19.

As a nationally recognised leader in healthcare simulation, Mater Education has provided invaluable support to the aged care sector—the most impacted by COVID-19—to assess and improve its healthcare delivery.

Through its unique OptimSim service, Mater Education worked with the aged care team at Mercy Community to simulate a COVID-19 outbreak. The exercise armed healthcare workers with the experience and confidence needed to respond quickly, should the need arise.

In addition to running more than 30 simulation tests at Queensland Health's vaccination locations and 33 external OptiSims, the team conducted more than 20 internal translational simulation services.

The simulations put new equipment, medical and patient forms and new processes and procedures to the test. They also optimised safety and experience ahead of the roll out of new services, such as the introduction of robotic-assisted surgery at Mater Private Hospital Townsville.

In a partnership with the Griffith Institute of Educational Research, the team launched Phase 1 of a Pandemic Advanced Life Support study to research training frontline healthcare workers under COVID-19 conditions.

As part of its COVID-19 work, the team recruited and trained a further 48 staff ahead of the opening of the Vaccination Clinic at South Brisbane.

With the addition of a new, integrated learning management, career development and performance review system in July 2020, came a year-long program of work to harmonise new and existing learning content across Mater.

It involved migrating South East, Central and North Queensland staff onto the new LEAP platform and archiving two redundant learning systems.

At the end of its first year, Mater Education and LEAP designed, developed and rolled out 85 new courses, with staff tapping into 300 courses. Collectively, they completed more than 95 000 courses, equating to 25 000 hours of learning.

Through a collaboration with Multicultural Australia, in line with our Mission, we welcomed a cohort of new students into the Certificate III in Health Service Assistance course.

The organisation provides a settlement service for newly-arrived humanitarian visa migrants—together we are giving students and their families the opportunity to improve their future employment opportunities.

The Vocational Education and Training Student Outcomes 2020 report released in February 2021 delivered encouraging news, as students completing qualifications in 2019 reported satisfaction levels of 87.4 per cent, with an 82.7 per cent willingness to recommend Mater Education to others.

Mater also placed equal first in the 2020 AMAQ Hospital Health Check Scorecard, with our teaching and learning ranked highest in the state.

Mater Education continues to be agile and responsive, as we strive to transform the lives of all Mater People through education.



Scan here to watch our first Townsville Diploma of Nursing cohort graduate.



## Highlights



**263**

nursing students graduated with Diplomas of Nursing (including inaugural Townsville cohort)



**481**

students commenced Diploma of Nursing study (Brisbane and Townsville)



**1495**

students participated in Cert II and Cert III courses



**87.4%**

of students reported high levels of satisfaction



**95 000**

LEAP courses completed by Mater People



**844**

couples did Mater Mothers' First Aid for Babies courses

Success is enjoying her study towards her Diploma of Nursing in Townsville.



## Caring for others—a family affair

Growing up in Nigeria, Success Agomuo was surrounded by dedicated nurses. When she migrated to Australia three years ago, she was determined to follow in their footsteps.

With qualifications gained in her home country of Nigeria, Success Agomuo couldn't wait to begin her nursing journey through Mater Education's Diploma of Nursing program in Townsville.

"I am from a family of nurses, and grew up seeing my most immediate hero, my mother, nurse people back to health, which just reinforced my desire to do the same," she said.

Success had been working as an Assistant in Nursing since migrating to Australia, which only strengthened her desire to build on her nursing qualifications.

"The COVID-19 challenge has shown us just how valuable nurses and healthcare professionals are and how they are relied upon to save the world.

"My experience in this field triggered me to do more for my patients, which is why I enrolled in the Diploma of Nursing program at Mater Education," she said.

The Mater Education community has recognised Success' passion for providing compassionate care to all patients, and the big goals she has set for her future in healthcare.

"It has been a great experience studying at Mater Education as the educators offer a one-on-one learning experience and smaller class sizes for a more in-depth learning experience," she said.

Once her Mater Education training is complete, Success plans on heading to university to become a Registered Nurse.

"My passion has always been to help humanity to achieve optimum health, and I want to make an impact on patient care," she said.

# Innovative programs by Mater Education

## Cultural development

The blended learning program Speaking with Good Judgement launched in July 2020 across all Mater facilities, with 473 participants across Queensland. New digital content reduced time and costs associated with in-person training by 60 per cent.

## Management and leadership development

State-wide implementation of the Mater Leadership Essential Program (previously known as the Exceptionally Skilled Management Program) began in May 2021. This encompassed applied study of seven key areas essential for successful team leadership within healthcare. Across the state, 525 Mater People completed leadership development programs, including:

- **Exceptionally Skilled Management Program** - 140 participants
- **Leadership Round Table** - 94 participants
- **Stepping Forward** - 30 Senior Medical Officers
- **First 90 Days for New Managers** - 37 participants.

Other highlights for the year included:

- Standardised curriculum and program delivery across all Mater facilities for Advanced Life Support, Basic Life Support, Paediatric Life Support, Neonatal Resuscitation and Maternity Emergency Management.
- Mater Townsville became 100 per cent compliant with Neonatal Resuscitation competency requirements.
- State-wide Neonatal Non-Invasive Respiratory Support workshops were delivered in Mackay, Rockhampton and Townsville and new Neonatal Critical Care eLearning modules were developed.
- In collaboration with Mater Advanced Epilepsy Unit, a hospital-first neurophysiology observership program was established, encompassing an intensive six-week course for practical and theoretical components of neurophysiology.



# Mater Research



Scan here for an overview of Mater Research.



As an internationally recognised leader in medical research, Mater Research continued its commitment to discovering new ways to prevent and treat a range of conditions.

As COVID-19 became a global priority, Mater Research achieved significant progress in the field, alongside advancements in blood cancer, lymphoma, obesity-related liver disease, information-processing in the human brain and severe ulcerative colitis.

Mater and University of Queensland researcher Dr Mitchell Sullivan was awarded an Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowship to research the effects of COVID-19 on patients with diabetic kidney disease, who are more susceptible to contracting the virus, and seven times more likely to die from it.

Other research projects during the year included:

- development of a new cancer vaccine to treat blood cancers and malignancies
- a project to better understand human brain physiology, which led to the first-ever recording in Australia of a human neuron
- Safer Baby Bundle research to reduce stillbirth rates in Australia by 20 per cent over the next three years
- further work on understanding the benefits of perinatal physiotherapy care to improve the mental and physical health of mothers
- development of a drug to help healthy and osteoporotic bones heal from fractures
- improved treatment options and therapies for patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

Mater Research maintained its strong track record of successful grant and fellowship applications.

Combined with significant support from Mater Foundation, this enabled us to fund pilot trials and projects, vital infrastructure and resources and to backfill clinical time to enable more clinician-led research.

Other highlights for the year included:

- securing \$16.2 million in external grant funding
- a therapeutic trial treatment for brain lymphoma, which successfully cured the usually fatal disease
- a start-up company, arising from discoveries by Associate Professor Sumaira Hasnain for a potential drug treatment for obesity related liver disease, secured \$1.3 million to progress pre clinical drug development plans
- the appointment of Professor Maher Gandhi to Australia's National Blood Cancer Taskforce to deliver the first National Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer
- intestinal ultrasound trials to monitor severe ulcerative colitis and Inflammatory Bowel Disease to predict responses to medication and create a standardised approach, ensuring the validity of results and accuracy in reporting.

Mater Research will continue working closely with Mater Health, Mater Education and our growing network of partners and collaborators to turn scientific discovery into the best possible treatment, care, and outcomes for patients and our broader community.



## Highlights

Associate Professor Sumaira Hasnain is researching a new treatment for obesity-related liver disease.



**\$16.2 million**

external grant funding awarded



**42.4%**

successful grant applications



**\$14.4 million**

funding received from Mater Foundation



**600+**

total research projects underway



**481**

research contributions published

Lymphoma patient Scott Griffiths and  
Mater Researcher and Haematologist  
Professor Maher Gandhi.



## Breakthrough therapy cures lymphoma

A world first therapy conducted by Mater Researcher and Haematologist Professor Maher Gandhi has successfully cured a rare type of lymphoma. The work was published in the prestigious journal *Blood*.

Scott Griffiths was diagnosed with brain lymphoma—a form of blood cancer in the brain—following a bout of glandular fever he developed after an organ transplant.

While glandular fever would not usually cause brain lymphoma in a healthy person, Scott's weakened immune system from the transplant made him more susceptible.

The 46-year-old was experiencing regular epileptic fits, with little chance of survival without intervention.

Professor Gandhi said his therapy had a dual approach, targeting the cancer and the glandular fever.

"First, I used a new type of drug, called a small molecule inhibitor, each day over 10 weeks to try and slowly kill the cancer and re-educate the immune system how to function," Professor Gandhi said.

Because the drug works differently to chemotherapy, Scott was able to take it even though he was on dialysis.

"Following this, I used a vaccine to encourage the patient's body to attack the glandular fever virus and mop up any cancer cells. Fortunately, it worked brilliantly in the patient and he has been completely cured and the transformation is remarkable," he said.

The ground-breaking work led Professor Gandhi's peers to nominate him for the prestigious Frontiers Award from Australia's national peak research advocacy body, Research Australia. It noted that Professor Gandhi had brought the lifesaving work from early research stages to therapies, using his findings to design a unique precision-based oncology approach that was effective and far less toxic than conventional therapy.



Mater Researcher Domenica McCarthy from the Glycation and Diabetes Complications Research Group.

# Mater Foundation



Scan here to learn more about Mater Giving Day.

Despite a myriad of challenges introduced by the pandemic, the community's support shone through as Mater Foundation distributed the largest amount of money in its history—delivering on our commitment to empower people to live better lives through improved health and wellbeing.

In the first year of a unified Mater across Queensland, Mater Foundation provided a record \$22.6 million in tangible support to Mater Health, Education and Research.

Despite a year that decimated community events, Mater Foundation pulled out all the stops to add a virtual element to one of our long-standing events—the RACQ International Women's Day Fun Run. The event delivered a record \$1.5 million in support of Mater's Chicks in Pink program and cancer research.

With the generous promotional support of Channel 9, our inaugural state-wide Mater Giving Day has become a key date in our fundraising calendar. We raised \$963 000, which was more than 50 per cent higher than our original goal of \$600 000.

COVID-19 led us to create and trial other new ways to engage with the broader community through improved technology and various automation and digital tools—giving us greater connection with our supporters all over Australia.

An outstanding example is the platform implemented for Mater Lotteries to improve supporter experience. The platform has allowed us to increase digital engagement with our valued supporters and sell out eight of the 12 lotteries we conducted during the year.

One of our proudest achievements this year was raising funds to support Mater's Mission, for the redevelopment of the South Brisbane convent into Catherine's House—a perinatal mental health and wellbeing service.

This is a great example of how Mater Foundation invests in world-class facilities and equipment to advance the delivery of healthcare across Queensland.

Every Mater Hospital in Queensland is now benefitting from investment in new technology, lifesaving equipment and a range of support to provide even better medical care for Mater patients across the state.

Mater Foundation couldn't deliver any of these things without the remarkable generosity of so many people, and we thank all our valued supporters, volunteers, staff, patients and stakeholders for helping us distribute the highest level of funding in our 115-year history.



Scan here to learn about our 30th International Women's Day Fun Run.



## Highlights



**\$22.6 million**

provided to support Mater Health, Education and Research—the highest level of distribution to date



**New**

lottery operating platform commenced



**\$1.5 million**

raised in first virtual fundraising event for 30th Anniversary 2021 RACQ International Women's Day Fun Run



**8 out of 12**

lotteries sold out



**\$963 000**

raised at Mater's inaugural state-wide Giving Day fundraising appeal



**1<sup>st</sup>**

time funded equipment has been provided to all seven locations across Queensland

Professor Sailesh Kumar is undertaking ground-breaking research with support from Mater Foundation.



## Foundation supports innovative research project

Pregnant women and their unborn babies can look forward to a brighter future with the risks of fetal distress in the spotlight of Professor Sailesh Kumar's research, supported by funds distributed by Mater Foundation—and it involves a surprising drug.

Fetal distress can occur when a baby does not receive enough oxygen during labour, which can result in emergency delivery by caesarean section. It can also be associated with poor neonatal outcomes, even in previously uncomplicated pregnancies. Lack of oxygen during labour can cause brain injury in babies, leading to significant early and late complications, including cerebral palsy.

Professor Sailesh Kumar, Senior Specialist in Maternal and Fetal Medicine/Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Mater Mothers' Hospital, wants this to change. So he's investigating the use of Sildenafil Citrate—better known as Viagra—during labour.

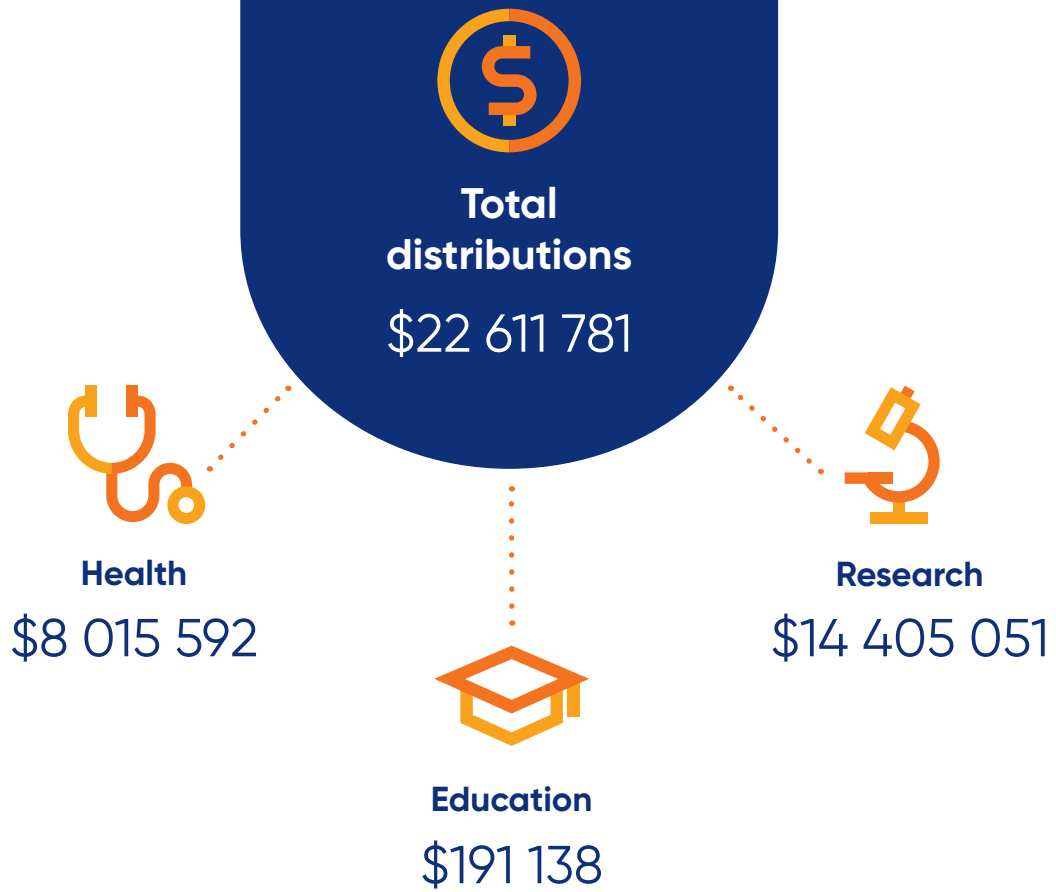
"In an earlier world first trial of 300 women at term, we showed that Sildenafil Citrate compared to placebo halved caesarean and instrumental birth rates due to

fetal distress. However, while this is a significant finding, the trial was not large enough to demonstrate that Sildenafil improved neonatal outcomes.

"In the forthcoming Phase 3 trial, we will evaluate if Sildenafil improves neonatal outcomes by reducing the risk of fetal distress during labour. This is a major area of unmet need," Professor Kumar said.

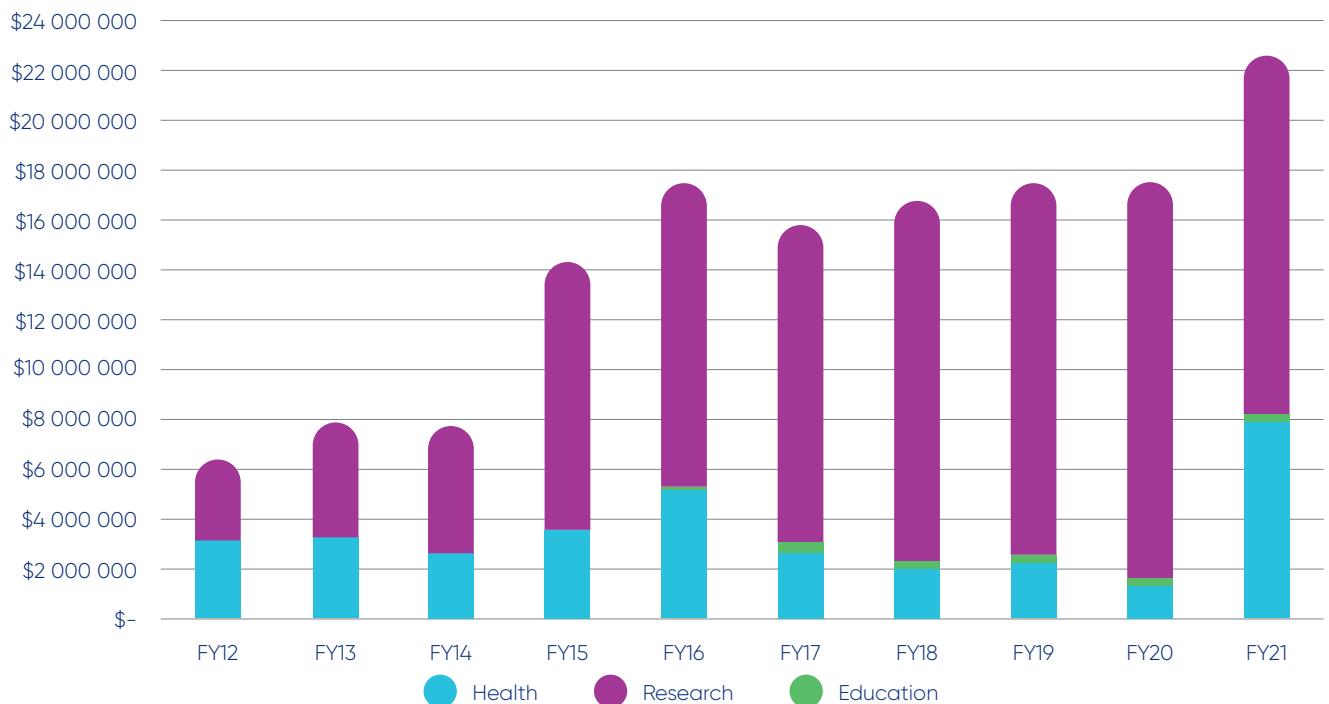
The Medical Research Future Fund for the Rare Cancers, Rare Diseases and Unmet Need scheme awarded Professor Kumar \$3.42 million for a study across 16 hospitals and involving 3200 volunteers.

This research was made possible by original support from Mater Foundation's long-term partner Golden Casket.



**Mater Foundation distributions for the year ended 30 June**

**Mater Foundation distributions—10 year comparison**



# Our governance

Led by Executive Chair Francis Sullivan AO, the Mater Board has worked diligently during the year to establish synergy and efficiencies across all Mater ministries state-wide.

Mater's vision is governed by our Board of Directors and implemented by the Mater Executive. Working together, they ensure our Mission and Values are at the forefront of everything we do.

With significant leadership and governance capabilities, our Board of Directors and Mater Executive are well-placed to guide Mater, and the delivery of its Mission, now and into the future.

## Board of Directors

Mater's Board of Directors comprises expert leadership qualities across multiple sectors. This extensive experience in guiding organisations through significant challenges and structural change ensures that Mater's strategic goals in health, education and research are realised.



**Mr Francis Sullivan AO**  
Executive Chair



**Ms Virginia Ryan**  
Deputy Chair



**Ms Virginia Bourke**  
Director



**Mr Pat Brady**  
Director



**Mr Gerard Houlihan**  
Director



**Sr Sandra Lupi RSM**  
Director



**Ms Jenny Parker**  
Director



**Dr John Rivers**  
Director



**Ms Jane Yacopetti**  
Director



**Laurence Rogencamp**  
Company Secretary



**We must strive to do ordinary things extraordinarily well.**

- Catherine McAuley, Sisters of Mercy Founder



## Mater Executive

With a united approach, Mater Executive works together to support and inspire Mater People and ensure that, collectively, Mater is relevant and responsive to the ever-changing needs of our community.



**Dr Peter Steer**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Donna Bonney**  
Executive Director,  
Mater Education



**Toni Casey**  
Chief Risk and  
Assurance Officer



**Daniele Doyle**  
Executive Director,  
Mater Health



**Prof. Maher Gandhi**  
Executive Director,  
Mater Research



**Fiona Hinchliffe**  
A/Executive Director,  
Residential Care and  
Community Services



**Ieuan Hyde**  
Executive Director,  
Strategy and  
Innovation



**Madonna McGahan**  
Chief of Mission



**Graeme McKenzie**  
Chief Development  
Officer



**Sharron McMahon**  
Chief People Officer



**Jane Schmitt**  
Executive Director,  
External Relations,  
Marketing and  
Engagement



**Loretta Seamer**  
Chief Finance Officer



**Alastair Sharman**  
Chief Digital Officer



**Andrew Thomas**  
Executive Director,  
Mater Foundation

# Our performance 2020-21



## Mater Misericordiae Limited consolidated financial statement

2021  
\$'000

<b>Revenue</b>	
Health service fees and grant funding	1 221 687
Sales of goods and services	71 113
Donation equipment, general or building	79 156
Rental income	15 817
Investment income	1398
Other revenue	434 036
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 823 207</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Labour costs	834 648
Direct (non-labour) costs	327 789
Indirect costs	146 323
Asset/financing charges	79 205
Other expenses	13 972
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 401 937</b>

<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>421 270</b>
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# Operational statistics

<b>Mater hospitals</b>	<b>Patients discharged</b>	<b>Patient days</b>	<b>Procedures<sup>^</sup></b>
Mater Hospital Brisbane	56 809	109 223	24 885
Mater Private Hospital Brisbane	38 173	109 130	23 414
Mater Mothers' Hospital	17 924	47187	4026
Mater Mothers' Private Brisbane	5593	29 652	2478
Mater Children's Private Brisbane	5615	9617	3373
Mater Private Hospital Rockhampton	16 928	36 077	9818
Mater Private Hospital Mackay	16 414	31 391	12 944
Mater Private Hospital Townsville	35 663	63 246	24 048
Mater Private Hospital Bundaberg	5128	9651	3944
Mater Private Hospital Redland	12 570	24 361	7439
Mater Private Hospital Springfield	12 508	19 637	8286
Mater Private Day Hospital Brookwater	4742	4742	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>228 067</b>	<b>493 914</b>	<b>124 655</b>



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## Emergency attendances

Mater Hospital Brisbane	50 489
Mater Private Hospital Brisbane	15 216
Mater Private Hospital Rockhampton	7407
Mater Private Hospital Mackay	10 853
Mater Private Hospital Townsville	10 913
<b>Total</b>	<b>94 878</b>

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## Births

Mater Mothers' Hospital	6 277
Mater Mothers' Private Brisbane	4 110
Mater Private Hospital Rockhampton	579
Mater Private Hospital Mackay	451
Mater Private Hospital Townsville	564
Mater Private Hospital Redland	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 231</b>

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## Outpatient attendances

Mater Hospital Brisbane	229 214
Mater Mothers' Hospital	133 590
Mater Private Hospital Springfield	37 560
Mater Private Day Hospital Brookwater	126
<b>Total</b>	<b>400 490</b>

^ Includes theatre procedures, cardiac catheter procedures, minor operations and endoscopies  
Source: SEQMPP and CNQTM1

Education Coordinator Alicia Godman from Mater Education.



# How you can help

Mater has a long history of partnering with our community and other organisations to support the delivery of exceptional outcomes across health, education and research.

The generosity of our supporters enables Mater to extend its boundaries beyond the traditional healthcare remit and to focus on our Mission, shaped by the Sisters of Mercy, to respond to unmet community need.

Our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to the Mater community of philanthropists, fundraisers and supporters—from our hospital auxiliaries, foundations, and corporate partners, to event fundraisers and participants, lottery

supporters and donors, and to loving legacies from families who have left Mater a gift in their will.

You make such an incredible difference to health and healing in our community.

For more information about giving to Mater, please contact Mater Foundation:



Ph: 1800 500 422



[foundation@mater.org.au](mailto:foundation@mater.org.au)

