





# The heart to heal, the strength to grow.

Our spirit is strong, it thrives as we embrace those who we must always care for.

Our journey has been long and we will continue to flourish as we open our hearts to those who walk with us. Always.

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

Mater Annual Review 2022–23 Mater Misericordiae Limited ACN 096 708 922 © November 2023 Kelly Forster, Mater Private Hospital Bundaberg.



## **Contents**

**Message from Mercy Partners** 

**Message from** our Mater Board

Message from our **Group Chief Executive** 

**Our Mater story** 

- Our Mission
- Our Vision
- Our Values

**Our Mater network** 

#### Year in review

- 2022-23 at a glance
- 10 Mater Group
- Mater Health 13
- 24 Mater Research
- Mater Education
- 30 Mater Foundation
- 34 Mater People

Our governance

Our performance

- 40 Mater Misericordiae Limited consolidated financial statement
- 41 Operational statistics

How you can help

# **Message from Mercy Partners**

Dr Ricki Jeffery, Chair



It has been a privilege to witness the determination of Mater's Board, Executives and People in providing first-class health services, ground-breaking research, and vital clinical education during what proved to be another challenging year in healthcare.

Against the backdrop of the pandemic, Mater has continued to lead the way in addressing unmet community needs. Even as the pandemic began to ease, Mater's ministries were still experiencing and working through the long-term impacts on their staff, students, and those in the communities they serve.

What I have seen time and time again, is a tenacity to continue to strive for outcomes for patients, to navigate the challenges obstructing their way and forge new paths forward—always bringing compassion, healing and dignity to those in need in the spirit of our founding Sisters of Mercy.

It is this Mercy heritage that makes Mater so special—a profound belief in that everybody matters and an unwavering commitment to providing compassionate healthcare without boundaries—for the poor, the sick, and the most marginalised in our communities.

Against the backdrop of the pandemic, Mater has continued to lead the way in addressing unmet community needs. I had the pleasure of meeting some extraordinary people celebrating their 30, 35 and 40 year milestones at this year's Mater Long Service Awards. Listening to their stories, it was wonderful to hear the Sisters of Mercy Mission alive, and thriving, at Mater today.

To mark the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, Mercy Partners also hosted the state leadership team on a Mater history twilight pilgrimage, retracing the history of the Sisters of Mercy in South Brisbane and discovering the triumphs and challenges faced by some of Mater's earliest pioneers. I hope this will be the first of many formation opportunities to deepen the connections of Mater People to the heritage and legacy of the Sisters of Mercy.

On behalf of Mercy Partners, I thank the Mater family for continuing to deliver the Sisters of Mercy Mission. Your dedication, commitment and achievements are a testament to each of you as individuals, and collectively as the heart of Mater.

# **Message from our Mater Board**

Francis Sullivan AO, Chair

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our gratitude to the Mater Executive and Mater People for continuing the legacy of our founders, the Sisters of Mercy, to deliver transforming and healing care across Queensland.

Mater people have remained at the forefront of innovation, research, philanthropy and essential healthcare in a demanding and changing pandemic landscape.

Reflecting on the past year, Mater has continued our collaboration with federal and state governments, as well as generous donors and patients, to develop new services and facilities aligned to our Mission.

The blessing and official opening of Catherine's House marked a major milestone in Mater's ongoing care for mothers and babies, and is a wonderful example of how Mater works with government and our generous community supporters to address unmet health needs.

The new Mater Private Hospital Springfield, to open through a phased approach starting in 2026, is the result of a landmark partnership between Mater and the Queensland Government, to realise a shared goal of meeting the current and future healthcare needs of the people living in this area.

Our discussions are ongoing with the state government for long-term funding for public services, and we are working through the impact of

Brisbane staging the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on our Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) application for South Brisbane.

It is always heartening to see Mater's Mission in action, looking after those who need it most in our community. A shining example is the Mater Refugee Complex Care Clinic, which celebrated 21 years of providing free, culturally-appropriate healthcare for people from refugee and asylumseeking backgrounds.

Importantly, Mater also strives to make a positive difference beyond our hospital walls, working with the Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network to address widening inequality across the globe. This year, we released Mater's third Modern Slavery Statement, ensuring Mater People, suppliers, contractors and other service providers share our vision to honour and promote the dignity of human life.

The collective dedication of Mater People has changed lives every day.

God bless.

It is always heartening to see Mater's Mission in action, looking after those who need it most in our community.

# **Message from our Group Chief Executive**

**Dr Peter Steer** 



Difficult times often bring out the best in people, and this certainly rings true for Mater. What Mater People have achieved together this year is nothing short of extraordinary.

For the third consecutive year, Mater People played a critical role in Queensland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, treating more than 2,100 patients across our hospital network, before moving to a business-asusual approach to the virus.

From South East Queensland and as far north as Townsville, Mater People delivered more than 11,700 babies, performed more than 111,000 procedures, and educated our next generation of nurses, adding 249 Mater Education nursing graduates to the workforce.

A significant highlight this year was the opening of Catherine's House in the transformed Sisters of Mercy convent. This is Queensland's first integrated perinatal mental health service, and provides an urgently-needed service for parents experiencing mental health challenges on the arrival of their new baby.

This year saw Mater Research continue to tackle global challenges in health and medical research and Mater Foundation provide close to \$31 million for Mater healthcare, education and research, with the help of our generous supporters, partners and donors.

It has been wonderful to see our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) artwork and vision embraced so warmly across the organisation since being launched last year. As we progress into the next RAP phase—Innovate—we continue our transition to develop and strengthen our reconciliation commitment in new and exciting ways.

I congratulate this year's Long Service and Mater People Award recipients and thank the thousands more Mater People who turn up every day to make such a difference to our patients and each other.

None of these achievements would have been possible without our Mater People—staff and volunteers who are the heart of what we do.

What Mater People have achieved together this year is nothing short of extraordinary.

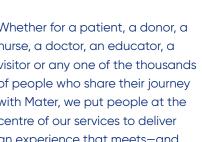
## **Our Mater story**

Mater operates the largest Catholic not-for-profit network of public and private hospitals and healthcare services in Queensland, bringing together our collective expertise across health, education, research and fundraising with a shared vision—to empower people to live better lives through improved health and wellbeing.

We are guided by the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy, who established Mater in 1906, and whose tradition of compassionate care remains at our core. In delivering the healing ministry of Jesus, we not only respond to, but actively seek to support those disadvantaged by health or social circumstances.

Our commitment to our Mission compels us to change as the needs of our community and the environment evolve-moving beyond the hospital, the classroom and the laboratory, being closer to our consumers and delivering new products, programs and services.

Whether for a patient, a donor, a nurse, a doctor, an educator, a visitor or any one of the thousands of people who share their journey with Mater, we put people at the centre of our services to deliver an experience that meets-and exceeds-community expectations.





#### Our Mission

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



#### **Our Vision**

We empower people to live better lives through improved health and wellbeing. We believe every individual has the right to access world-class health services and information so that they can live every day to the fullest.

We want to empower people, whatever their health goals, to positively engage in good health knowing they can depend on Mater to support them spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically.

We advocate for health and wellness without discrimination, and are proactive and innovative in this role. Where we see opportunities to help people thrive and flourish, we make it our business to create solutions and make it happen.





#### **Our Values**

- We honour and promote the **dignity** of human life and of all creation.
- We act with **compassion** and integrity.
- We strive for excellence.

# **Our Mater network**



# **Year in review**



2022-23 at a glance



hospitals\*



241,269

in-patients



394,919

out-patients



111,030

procedures conducted



1,563

beds



105,216

emergency attendances



28,535

**Mater at Home** consultations



11,713

babies born



10,360

**Mater People** 

## **Mater Group**



#### In partnership with government

Delivering great health services is something that Mater and the state government have done together for many generations.

This continues today, with Mater working hand-in-hand with Hospital and Health Services in South East Queensland, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville to improve the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

United, we fought two Omicron waves this year, before integrating our COVID-19 response into 'business-as-usual' operations when the state's 'traffic light' alert system ended in June 2023.

The lasting impact of the pandemic has seen Mater perform a high number of surgeries this year as part of Queensland Health's Surgery Connect program to help ease the pressure on public hospital elective surgery waiting lists.

Following a landmark partnership with Queensland Health announced last year, work is now underway to expand Mater Private Hospital Springfield to meet growing healthcare demand in the region.

Mater partnered with Townsville Hospital and Health Service (THHS) and News Limited in February for Future Townsville-a campaign profiling the city's emergence as Northern Australia's health superhub and opportunities of further growth between now and 2040. This culminated in a panel event featuring Mater Group Chief Executive Dr Peter Steer, then Health Minister the Honourable Yvette D'ath, and THHS Chief Executive Officer Kieran Keyes, attended by more than 300 industry leaders and healthcare representatives.

In a game-changing agreement with the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, Wide Bay patients requiring public urological care may no longer have to travel to Brisbane for treatment. Eligible public day procedure patients will be recommended for surgical transfer to Mater Private Hospital Bundaberg.

Looking to the future, Mater is continuing discussions with the state government for long-term funding for public services, and our plans for an integrated, connected healthcare, education and research campus at South Brisbane. With our Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) application for South Brisbane now underway, Mater is liaising with government to understand its requirements and the impact of staging the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in the South Brisbane area.

Looking to the future, Mater is continuing discussions with the state government for long-term funding for public services, and our plans for an integrated, connected healthcare, education and research campus at South Brisbane.

Natalie with her daughters Emariah, Calla'nimah and Unarra.

#### Reconciliation and Indigenous health

Following the release of Mater's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) last year, we continue to foster relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, and provide opportunities for integration and collaboration.

> Our reconciliation vision and The Heart to Heal, the Strength to Grow artwork have been warmly embraced across Mater facilities, with a mural in Rockhampton the latest to be unveiled.

As we progress into the next RAP phase-Innovate-guided by RAP Program Manager and proud Wiradjuri woman Jo Jones, Mater is strengthening our reconciliation commitment in new and exciting ways that will have a practical and lasting impact.

Mater's Birthing in Our Community (BiOC) program celebrated 10 years of supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their babies.

Developed in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, the award-winning program provides clinically and culturally-safe maternity and infant health services to help 'close the gap'.

Over the years, BiOC has dramatically improved many maternal and infant health outcomes, including more than halving the risk of preterm birth rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies.

Twins Emma and Sophia Hall wrapped in Mater's symbolic swaddles.



## Mater's next generation wrapped in love

All babies born at Mater hospitals during National Reconciliation Week, like tiny identical twins Emma and Sophia Hall, were gifted specially designed swaddles featuring Mater's RAP artwork. These symbolic swaddles signify Mater's culturally safe environment, expressing to the community that our door is open, everyone is welcome, and no one gets left behind.

#### Responsible healthcare practices for a healthier planet

Mater's dedication to our sustainability journey remains resolute, as we continuously explore new ways to deliver healthcare in an environmentally conscious manner.

To bolster our efforts, we have welcomed a new Environment and Sustainability Manager, adding expertise and focus to sustainability initiatives.

In pursuit of net-zero emissions by 2050, we have started a series of energy audits across our hospital network, commencing with Redland Hospital. The energy audit at Redland Hospital provided invaluable insights and numerous energy-saving opportunities for active implementation. Through strategic lighting upgrades, HVAC system enhancements, and the integration of renewable energy solutions such as solar PV systems, we are not only reducing our carbon footprint, but also optimising operational efficiency and effectively lowering energy costs.

Mater has continued to cut carbon emissions by buying 20 per cent renewable energy, certified by the Clean Energy Regulator, via our hospital network's power contract with CS Energy. This contract is set to be renewed next financial year, enabling Mater to further elevate our renewable energy procurement target to 40 to 50 per cent by 2025, and solidifying our position as a leader in clean energy adoption within the healthcare sector.

We are proactively engaging in innovative waste management practices, including conducting waste audits at our facilities.

For example, recognising the significant contribution of coffee cups to our waste volume, Mater is exploring sustainable solutions for coffee cup recycling. Our No Risk? No Glove! campaign encouraged Mater People to reduce inappropriate use of non-sterile nitrile gloves-reminding them that gloves are not a substitute for proper hand hygiene, and reducing consumption and waste in the process.

In pursuit of net-zero emissions by 2050, we have started a series of energy audits across our hospital network, commencing with Redland Hospital.



## **Mater Health**

#### **Evolving our COVID-19 response**

Mater has continued to play a critical role in Queensland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The year began with the state in the grip of its third major wave of COVID-19, leading to an influx of COVID-positive cases at Mater hospitals.

COVID-19 ward Mater Hospital Brisbane.

The total number of COVID-positive patients cared for and discharged by Mater since the pandemic began reached 6,430 in June 2023.

Dedicated COVID-19 wards were stood up as needed throughout the year and Mater People responded effectively to the evolving requirements determined by the state's Chief Health Officer.

The total number of COVID-positive patients cared for and discharged by Mater since the pandemic began reached 6,430 in June 2023. There was, however, a noticeable decline in the number of Queensland cases and deaths over the 12 months, with both Mater and the state

government moving to a 'businessas-usual' approach to dealing with the virus. Queensland's 'traffic light' COVID-19 alert system formally ended in June 2023, following the World Health Organisation's declaration that COVID-19 was no longer a public health emergency.

Mater Health remains alert to the dangers posed by the disease to our community and our workforce, and is ready to respond swiftly to future increases in community transmission.

#### Reimagining perinatal mental health care for parents at Catherine's House

Mater's newest service for mothers and babies—and Queensland's first integrated perinatal mental healthcare centre—was blessed and officially opened at South Brisbane in March 2023.

Named in honour of Sisters of Mercy founder Catherine McAuley, Catherine's House for Mothers, **Babies and Families** provides urgently-needed perinatal mental healthcare to Queensland parents diagnosed with mental health conditions around the arrival of their new baby.

A partnership between Mater and Queensland Health has enabled Catherine's House to deliver a dedicated unit with 10 rooms, where public and private patients with acute perinatal mental health diagnoses can stay with their babies for up to three weeks while receiving treatment and care. A range of support programs and individual and group therapy treatments are also provided for in-patients and out-patients.

More than \$17.6 million in generous community donations to Mater Foundation, as well as a \$7 million capital contribution from the Queensland Government has enabled Mater to transform the former Sisters of Mercy convent into this fit-for-purpose, contemporary and family-focused facility.

In his blessing, Most Reverend Mark Coleridge Archbishop of Brisbane recognised the former convent as a centre for care, compassion, healing and mercy that will continue to live on through Catherine's House. Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk hailed the service a 'landmark' for perinatal mental healthcare in Queensland.

Positioned alongside Mater Mothers' hospitals, Catherine's House complements and integrates with the existing neonatal, paediatric, pregnancy and maternity services at South Brisbane, while delivering tailored mental healthcare led by a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists and allied health professionals.

Catherine's House provides urgently-needed perinatal mental healthcare to Queensland parents diagnosed with mental health conditions around the arrival of their new baby.



new parents in need to the refurbished convent, now called Catherine's House

A place for rest, recovery and connection.

Beth Mah Catherine's House Medical Director with Stephanie and babies Bonnie and Ayla.



Rachelle Smith-Pedler and baby Oliver.



Step inside Catherine's House and see the spectrum of care provided to promote wellness, parental mental healthcare and child development.





#### **Cutting edge healthcare**

Mater has always been a leader in innovation and the adoption of new health technology—improved patient care is at the heart of our Mission.

This year, Mater performed more robotic surgeries than ever before. Continuing our rolling investment in surgical robotics, Mater Private Hospital Rockhampton became the first hospital in Central Queensland to introduce the VELYS knee replacement robotic technology.

In a southern-hemisphere first, Mater is now home to state-of-the-art Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy technology, which offers patients a minimally invasive neurosurgical alternative for conditions such as brain tumours, radiation necrosis and medically refractory

focal epilepsy. The MRI-guided technology allows surgical teams to insert a laser probe through a small skin incision in the skull to destroy the unwanted tissue.

A partnership with the state government's Advance Queensland Private Sector Pathways Program has seen Mater connect with three Queensland businesses to develop cutting edge solutions to real-world health problems, and injected more than \$864,000 into Queensland's innovation economy.

- Partnering with Cardihab to expand our successful virtual cardiac rehabilitation service
  Townsville pilot across the state.
- Developing a virtual reality training package with People Tech Revolution centred on Mater's Speaking with Good Judgement course.
- Partnering with Eduvidd to develop an immersive learning experience—including a chatbot— for the next generation of healthcare workers in Brisbane and Townsville.

#### **Expansion for our growing communities**

Stage 2 expansion at Mater Private Hospital Springfield started with enabling works in February and the appointment of John Holland Group as preferred tenderer. In partnership with the state government, this expansion will deliver a much-needed emergency department and new maternity and birthing services, bringing the total number of public and private beds to 228 for the greater Springfield community.

Springfield's new Mater hospital will also be equipped with a state-ofthe-art robotic pharmacy system funded by Mater Foundation that will deliver around 100.000 prescriptions a year to patients and medical staff within minutes.

Practical completion of the family-focused Mater Health Hub, Springfield is due next financial year and will be home to new consulting rooms for doctors, allied health, renal services, women's healthcare, paediatric and child development services, and wellbeing and health services.

Mater Private Hospital Mackay began construction on a \$7.3 million refurbishment and expansion of its perioperative theatres to meet the growing healthcare needs of the community. This expansion work will include a sixth perioperative theatre, a redesign of the pre-operative, recovery and patient amenity zones, and a new storage area.

Mater Private Hospital Townsville opened its new \$19.75 million 400 vehicle multi-storey carpark in September, unveiling a bespoke indigenous artwork by Townsville artist, Gail Mabo.

Planning is underway for the design and construction of a new purposebuilt maternity unit and refurbished space for a renal unit. The new Mater Mothers' facility will deliver 18 in-patient beds (including five early parenting rooms), assessment and birthing suites, and special care nursery cots.



Stephen Fabbro with the new virtual Cardihab app.

#### Cardiac care at home

For North Queensland cane farmer Stephen Fabbro, travelling to Townsville for heart surgery was a necessity, but attending regular rehabilitation sessions afterwards was not possible.

Stephen became one of the first patients to participate in Mater Private Hospital Townsville's new virtual cardiac rehabilitation program, enabling him to complete post-surgery treatment from his own home. The virtual rehabilitation program includes two video consultations a week with a specialist clinician and a mobile app that specialists use to track heart rate, blood pressure, steps walked and more.

"Doing the virtual rehabilitation sped my recovery up-it was twice as fastand it was very easy. It has made a big difference to my recovery and quality of life," Stephen said.

Watch how virtual rehab is changing lives for regional Queenslanders like Stephen.

#### Helping epilepsy patients find their voice

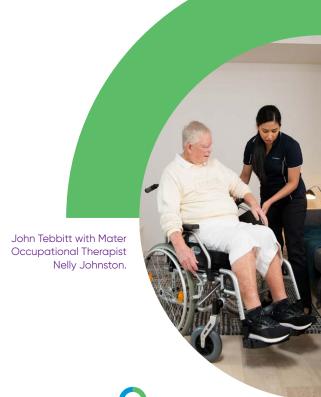
The power of voice is undeniable, but for Mater epilepsy patient Karly Jol, it hasn't come easy. Karly's seizures emanate from the language associated parts of her brain. Apart from the seizures, speaking and vocalising her thoughts are some of the most frustrating aspects of her epilepsy.

> In a Queensland first, the Mater Epilepsy Unit is changing the conversation in epilepsy care, by appointing a dedicated speechlanguage pathologist to help fine tune diagnosis and improve treatments for patients.

The innovative care model is part of Mater's strategy to broaden the holistic approach to patient-centred epilepsy management by incorporating specialist speech-language assessment in the pre-surgery care plans for epilepsy patients. "I didn't tell people I had epilepsy for a very long time because there was so much stigma around it, but now I am finding it easier to talk about it and share my story so that maybe I can help others with the condition. I'm so grateful the team at Mater has given me the courage and tools to speak more openly about my journey," Karly said.







#### **Delivering care where it counts**

As more Queenslanders voice their preference to access healthcare services outside hospital walls, Mater is responding to the call.

Mater at Home continues to lead the way in providing personalised and responsive community-based allied health and nursing services in and around South East Queensland. Hospital-in-the-Home and allied health teams travel to people's homes, providing healthcare, where, when and how it is neededfrom aged care and NDIS support to rehabilitation and blood transfusions.

This year has seen Mater at Home respond to evolving community needs with these new programs:

- In partnership with Queensland Ambulance Service, Mater launched Mater at Home Direct—a new patient response service for non-critical cases. Mater at Home Direct has responded to more than 240 low priority triple zero callers this year, delivering care to patients in the comfort of their own home, while helping to ease pressure on ambulance services and emergency departments in South East Queensland.
- a dedicated Emergency Department social worker to assist patients who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. These vulnerable patients are supported to effectively engage with community-based services and reduce hospital attendance / dependence, by delivering outreach services that connect people with clinical care, community support and housing. Mater at Home commenced a

Working with MICAH Projects,

Mater at Home introduced the

Homefront program, embedding

Rehab in the Home (RITH) pilot program for private patients to receive post-arthroplasty rehabilitation in the comfort of their own homes. The program gives patients greater choice and convenience, while ensuring a high standard of safe, coordinated and medically-led care. 9,469 patients / referrals





Connecting with communities



#### Celebrating 21 years of Mater refugee care

Mater celebrated 21 years of delivering free, high-quality healthcare to people from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds at the Mater Refugee Complex Care Clinic (MRCCC).

MRCCC is the longest continuing clinic of its kind in Australia, with a passionate and dedicated team of nurses, GPs and refugee health consultants providing culturally appropriate care to hundreds of patients every year—and at no cost to those seeking asylum who do not have Medicare and have complex healthcare needs.

This year, MRCCC provided 1,701 clinical appointments across GP, nursing, psychiatry and paediatrics. The Clinic saw 234 new patients from 26 different countries, including Papua New Guinea, Iran, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Somalia and Ukraine. Of the 1,342 appointments provided by GPs, psychiatry or paediatric specialists this year, 52 per cent of these appointments were provided to people without Medicare.

Mater Refugee Health extends well beyond clinical walls, partnering with other community service providers, such as QPASST and Romero, and Queensland Health to deliver important services for those most marginalised in our community.

Mater auspices the Refugee Health Network Queensland and delivers the Mater Integrated Refugee Health Service (MIRHS) with Queensland Health funding-providing refugee health assessments for new arrivals in Brisbane and more recently introducing the Mater Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Health Coordinator Service (M-CHooSe) pilot program.

M-CHooSe was developed during the COVID-19 pandemic to help marginalised people from CALD communities improve their health and wellbeing through better access to care. It embedded nurse-led coordination into the patients' primary care service, leading to a level of advocacy beyond the hospital system, into the areas of disability, social, family and education support, community mental health, medication management and health system navigation.

This program was recognised with a Catholic Health Australia Outreach Health Care Award, and has recently received a \$930,000 grant from the state government-the largest single injection of funding into multicultural health-to secure its continuation and expansion across Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan.

Providing compassionate, fair and equitable healthcare regardless of language, background or culture.



Sr Sandra Lupi, Shamshad Osman and Donata Sackev celebrate 21 years of MRCCC.

#### Restoring vision and hope

A Mater eye surgeon has helped restore the vision of a 'near-blind' refugee with Down Syndrome who was rescued from the frontline of the war in Ukraine by his beloved sister.



Arriving in Australia with only his passport and a small bundle of clothes. Viktor was assessed and provided healthcare at MRCCC at no cost to him or his family.

Following cataract surgery performed at Mater Hospital Brisbane, Viktor is now jumping for joy at being able to see again.

Watch how MRCCC is restoring health and hope for refugees like Viktor.

MRCCC patient Viktor Olepir thanks his surgeon Associate Professor Anthony Kwan.

#### Drones to deliver faster medical testing for Queenslanders

A network of drones will soon be shuttling pathology samples from across South East Queensland to Mater Pathology testing labs under a new partnership between Mater and Australian drone logistics company, Swoop Aero.



The service is due to begin later this year, after securing federal funding and the first of several flight path approvals. Once approved for takeoff, the drone fleet will collect more

than 80,000 pathology samples a year from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service patients on Stradbroke Island, as well as other patients across Russell Island, Macleay Island, Redlands and Hope Island on the Gold Coast.

**Taking pathology** to the skies.



#### **Nurturing our tiniest treasures at Mater Mothers**

Mater Mothers is Australia's largest maternity services provider, with five leading private maternity hospitals and one public maternity hospital located across Queensland. This year, Mater Mothers' hospitals welcomed 11,713 babies into the world, with our dedicated nurses, midwifes and doctors supporting families every step of the way from preconception, pregnancy and birth to early parenthood.

Women choosing to have their babies at Mater Mothers' Private Brisbane now have access to two new programs-My Mater Midwife and Bundle of Joy.

As part of the My Mater Midwife program, a dedicated midwife works alongside participating Mater obstetricians, to support pregnant women and their families during pregnancy, birth, and the early weeks of parenthood.

The new Bundle of Jov card offers unique benefits and significant savings by bundling together services received at Mater and other costs associated with having a baby to help reduce some out-of-pocket costs not covered by private health insurance or Medicare. Both programs are proving popular with strong uptakes in their first six months.

Mater's Centre for Maternal Fetal Medicine continues to lead the way. expanding its women's ultrasound and imaging service from high-risk pregnancies. From early pregnancy through to the third trimester, all privately insured women can now access a full spectrum of pregnancy imaging services, screening, prenatal diagnostics, and fetal therapy (in-utero) at Mater Maternal Fetal Medicine Women's Imaging.

At the press of a button, neonatal nurses and neonatologists in Brisbane can be virtually in the room, supporting our clinicians and families in Rockhampton and Mackay following the launch of Mater's Australian-first virtual care program for expecting families. The neonatal virtual care program provides regional clinicians with 24/7 rapid access to experienced neonatologists in the event of unexpected neonatal resuscitation. 1 in 5 **Queensland** babies born at Mater





babies born each day on average

Women choosing to have their babies at Mater Mothers' Private Brisbane now have access to two new programs-My Mater Midwife and Bundle of Joy.



#### Mater saves baby born with tumour double her size

Mater doctors saved the life of newborn baby Saylor after successfully removing a 2kg tumour from her spine when she was born three months early at Mater Mothers' Hospital in South Brisbane.



Rachel Thomson with baby Saylor. Photo by Annette Dew.

The sacrococcygeal teratoma weighed twice as much Saylor's tiny body and is so rare it occurs in about one in 35.000 births.

Mater Maternal Fetal Medicine Unit Professor Sailesh Kumar delivered Saylor with support from a team of 25 surgeons, neonatologists, anaesthetists, theatre staff, nurses and midwives who removed the tumour in a complex six-hour operation.

The surgery included removing part of Saylor's tailbone to prevent the tumour growing back again. Despite needing five blood transfusions during surgery, this strong-willed little fighter made a fantastic recovery, and is now a happy, bubbly little girl almost one year on.

#### Mater surgeon gives hope to baby Daisy

Despite daughter Daisy being born with Apert Syndromea rare genetic condition causing her skull, hands and feet bones to fuse and restricting her brain growth—Debb and Caine Stevens are facing the future with hope.

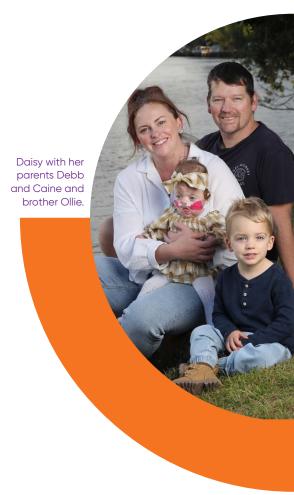
Their precious girl is receiving worldleading reconstructive treatment by Mater Private Hospital Brisbane Specialist and Reconstructive Surgeon Dr Diana Kennedy.

Dr Kennedy is helping to transform Daisy's skull and face so she can live a better life, with multiple surgeries starting this year.

"The aim of the surgeries is to normalise Daisy's physical anatomy as much as possible to optimise her development and function, while also aiming to improve how Daisy looks and feels about herself.

"This is very important to a child's psychosocial development and helps promote and foster formation or positive peer relationships.

"Reconstructing her skull to allow more room for her brain is just the first part of this. We will need to also move her brow bone forward to protect her eyes while focusing on making more room at the front of her skull," Dr Kennedy said.



## **Mater Research**



Turning scientific discovery into improved healthcare

A recognised leader in medical research, Mater Research is responsible for the robust management of all research and clinical trials at Mater.

Adopting a bench-to-bedside approach, we collaborate with Mater's health and education ministries and our partners-The University of Queensland, Translational Research Institute and Health Translation Queensland-to turn scientific discovery into the best possible treatment, care, and outcomes for patients and the broader community.

Our strong track record of successful grant applications and fellowship recipients is underpinned by significant financial support from Mater Foundation. During the year, Mater Research secured \$20.8 million in newly awarded external funding and \$12.3 million from Mater Foundation, so our dedicated researchers can continue to tackle global challenges in health and medical research.

Central to the successful translation of research is the Mater Clinical Trials Service. There were 107 new clinical trials at Mater this year, which aim to evaluate the safety and efficacy of experimental medications, medical devices, or other health interventions.

Mater Research is leading the trial of a game-changing flu vaccine that could mean the end of the yearly flu jab.

The universal flu vaccine OVX836 will target the parts of the virus that are less susceptible to mutationsmeaning one dose could protect recipients for years at a time.

Despite growing popularity in using cannabidiol (CBD) for therapeutic benefit, an Australian-first treatment trial for advanced cancer patients found that medicinal cannabis is not all it has been hyped up to be. Although well tolerated, CBD was no better than placebo in improving individual symptoms, depression/ anxiety, and quality of life or reducing requirements for pain relief.

Other significant research projects and outcomes have included:

- Scientists identified a key cause of severe COVID-19 infections, paving the way for an entirely new treatment for both existing and future variants of the disease.
- A study that identified fat molecules contribute to sleep disturbances in children diagnosed with autism prompted a major shift in autism research. The study highlighted how important it is to screen for and manage sleep problems in children with neurodevelopmental differences to improve their longterm health.

- A breakthrough in understanding the causes of Inflammatory Bowel Disease and potential future treatments-identifying five strains of gut bacteria that suppress inappropriate gut inflammation and disease symptoms. The research findings could pave the way for new treatments for the chronic, debilitating condition and could also potentially help prevent some forms of bowel cancer.
- Scientists identified a previously unknown genetic link between platelets and Parkinson's Disease, suggesting that platelet parameters could be potential biomarkers for early detection.
- A study by Mater Research and The University of Queensland is investigating the use of smartwatches to help people living with epilepsy to better anticipate seizures.
- Mater Researchers reimagined the traditional model of care for pregnant women diagnosed with gestational diabetes mellitus. The research team looked at a digital model using education videos alongside the CSIRO 'MOTHer' smart phone app/ portal-dramatically reducing the schedule of visits and saving money for women and maternity service providers.



Professor Aileen McGonigal from Mater Research.

Professor Katharina Ronacher at Mater Research.





in newly awarded external funding



\$12.3m

in funding from **Mater Foundation** 



423

research publications in 2022



#### Research grants and fellowships and award wins

On top of the generosity of donors' support through Mater Foundation funding, Mater Researchers receive external grants and fellowships from prestigious overseas and national funding bodies.

Mater Researchers were also recognised for their outstanding contributions to scientific discovery.

Some highlights include:

Dr Chloe Yap won the 2022 CSL Florey Next Generation Award for her research on autism-aut microbiome associations.

- Professor Lewis Perrin received the 2022 Jeannie Ferris Cancer Australia Award for his lifetime commitment to treating and researching gynaecological cancers-and saving women's lives.
- Associate Professor Kym Rae who leads Mater Research's Indigenous Health Group, was named the inaugural winner of the Inspiring Diversity in STEM category at the 2022 Women in Technology Awards.
- Adjunct Professor Liisa Laakso's 30 years of clinical and biomedical research was recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the European Medical Laser Association.

#### New Mater cancer treatment saves lives

When Brisbane GP Dr Chamari Jayawardena was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer, she feared she may never again visit the orphanages she had supported in Sri Lanka for the last 20 years.

But today she is in complete remission—and has been back to see the children who inspired her fight for life-after undergoing a novel chemotherapy treatment at Mater Private Hospital Brisbane called HIPEC therapy.

Dr Jayawardena is among 30 women to receive HIPEC therapy at Mater as part of Australia's first feasibility and safety study into the treatment.

In HIPEC therapy, heated, high-dose chemotherapy is flushed through the patient's abdomen for 90 minutes after their tumour is removedslowing or even halting the return of the disease.





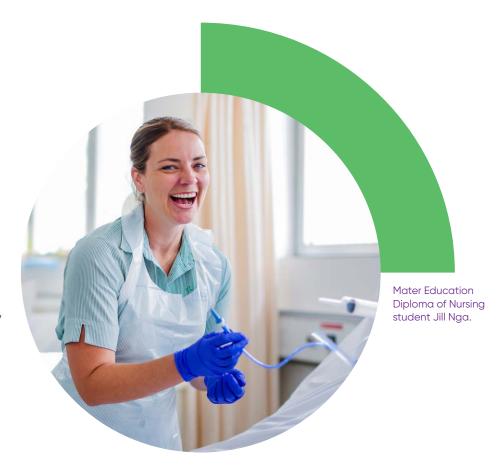


## **Mater Education**

## **Transforming healthcare** through education

Mater Education is a leading provider of healthcare education, simulation and interprofessional learning.

Best-practice health and community care are at the heart of everything we do, and it's through our handson and immersive education that we deliver real-world impacts in healthcare.



#### Developing our next generation of healthcare heroes

With Queensland needing almost 12,000 new nurses and midwives by 2025, Mater Education is focused on building the next generation of healthcare professionals through early career qualifications and school-based training.

More than 1,600 students have graduated from Mater's Diploma of Nursing program since its launch 11 years ago. All nursing students are trained at Mater hospital campuses by experienced healthcare professionals, so they are ready to hit the ground running on graduation.

This year, Mater Education launched a refreshed Diploma of Nursing Strategy to build brand awareness and market share in a changing, post-pandemic world-lifting enrolment numbers and achieving a record intake for Townsville.

We welcomed 249 Diploma of Nursing graduates at our South Brisbane and Townsville campuses, and this number is set to rise as Mater Education expands into Springfield.

The soon to be opened Mater Health Hub, Springfield includes new training and simulation rooms to deliver our Diploma of Nursing program and provide students with practical experience in nearby Mater Private Hospital Springfield.

Mater Education significantly expanded the Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) program during the year. A total of 1,145 VETiS qualifications were achieved in Certificate II in Health Support Services and Certificate III in Health Services Assistance during the 2022 school year.

Mater Education started 2023 at a record high as well-with 600 new high school students across 32 student cohorts in South East Queensland and Townsville, including new External Health Hubs at St Saviour's College in Toowoomba and Pimlico State High School in Townsville.

Our High School Health Adventure program reached its 1,000th student milestone and expanded into Townsville-giving even more students the opportunity to experience a-day-in-the-life of a health professional.



#### Unlocking our people potential

Mater is committed to the professional learning, on-going development and upskilling and re-skilling of our Mater People.

During the year, Mater People completed more than 78,000 LEAP courses. Our corporate learning team delivered a series of team building and leadership development workshops, leadership breakfasts and round tables, and Speaking with Good Judgement coaching sessions as part of our cultural transformation.

Mater People are also benefitting from a virtual reality version of

Mater's Speaking with Good Judgement course developed by Brisbane business, People Tech Revolution using \$40,000 of matched funding from Advance Queensland, Mater Education and Mater Foundation.

Our clinical education team continued their ongoing support to Mater's clinical workforce, delivering 29 pop-up in-hospital simulation training events and 20 Optisims

(simulation methodology and human factors expertise for improved healthcare delivery).

More than 1,400 Mater People participated in clinical training statewide across topics including advance life support, paediatric life support, neonatal resuscitation, maternity emergency management and critical skills training.

#### Winning partnerships and cutting edge simulation

We have continued to forge partnerships to establish Mater Education as a leader in healthcare education, simulation training and as a player in the wider leadership and culture change training space.

Highlights included:

- Winning the Queensland Health tender to support the wellbeing of junior doctors across Queensland through a new suite of e-learning modules. Designed by leading experts and stakeholders, the modules take a holistic approach to identifying the unique workplace stressors and pressures facing Queensland's junior doctors and equip them with a framework, tools and techniques they can use throughout their career.
- Rolling out Mater's High Value Conversation program to nonhealthcare audiences, including to more than 3,000 Downer Group coaches and staff nationally.
- Partnering with Advance Queensland and professional development software and training company, Eduvidd, to develop an immersive learning experience-including a chatbot-for our Diploma of Nursing students.
- In an exclusive partnership with the Boston-based Centre for Medical Simulation, delivering simulation instructor training to senior health professionals across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

More than 1,100 people across Queensland learnt life-saving skills for babies in Mater **Education's popular First** Aid for Babies course.



High School Health Adventure students.





graduates

students started **Diploma of Nursing** study



1,145 Certificate II and III qualifications



78,322 **LEAP** courses completed



1,115 people attended **First Aid for Babies courses** 



Mater Education Diploma of Nursing graduate Lily Ashburner.

Meet Lily and other members of her graduating class of 2022.

## **Graduating class of 2022**

Lily Ashburner first started experiencing health issues when she was nine, and following years of health challenges had a hysterectomy at age 23.

"When I was in hospital, I was looked after by a nurse who did the Diploma of Nursing with Mater and I thought 'I want to be a nurse like him' so I signed up to the program," Lily said.

Fast forward a few years, Lily has graduated from Mater Education's Diploma of Nursing program in Brisbane and secured a job in Mater's graduate program in the Young Adults Health Centre.



## **Mater Foundation**

#### Making good things happen

Philanthropy and raising money to help people in need are part of Mater's DNA. Through Mater Foundation's philanthropic programs and fundraising events, the community generously provides funds for ground-breaking research, exceptional patient care and education at Mater.

#### **Mater Foundation** distributions 2022-23









This year, Mater Foundation provided over \$30 million in tangible support to improve patient outcomes through health, education and research.

These funds were directed to introducing cutting edge technology such as da Vinci surgical robots for South Brisbane and Mackay, next generation anaesthetic machines in Rockhampton, Redland and South Brisbane, and equipment for a dedicated neonatal clinic for preterm and complex babies at Mater Mothers' Hospital. Funding was also directed to enabling our brightest minds to research new therapies and treatments that will positively impact patients' lives.

Another great example of philanthropy is the opening of Catherine's House in April 2023 made possible with \$17.6 million generously donated by the community in recent years.

This year, Mater Foundation provided over \$30 million in tangible support to improve patient outcomes through health, education and research.

This year, we proved once again that we can make miracles happen in 24 hours. More than \$1.9 million was raised during the third annual Mater Giving Day thanks to the community spirit of Queenslanders-and our 'Matched Givers' who tripled every donation received.

Team Smiddy accomplished extraordinary fundraising success this year, accumulating an impressive \$1.1 million through the Noosa Triathlon, Point to Pinnacle and Challenge Tasmania events.

Mater Lotteries first commenced in 1954 and over the past year has continued to engage more support. A key highlight for the lottery program was our annual Christmas campaign 'Guaranteed Life Changer' that featured our brand ambassador and popular TV personality Andrew Winter from Selling Houses Australia and our biggest ever prize bundle of \$3.3 million.

#### Donation gives hope to finding hidden causes of miscarriage

Families who have experienced the loss of an unborn baby or fertility problems are being given new hope of becoming parents thanks to cutting edge research funded by a donation from The Lott by Golden Casket to Mater Foundation.

In Australia, one in six couples experience infertility problems and one in four pregnant women under the age of 35 will suffer a miscarriage. For women over 40 the risk of miscarriage increases significantly, to one in every two.

The new study aims to shed light on this devastating 'black box' of unexplained pregnancy loss and infertility.

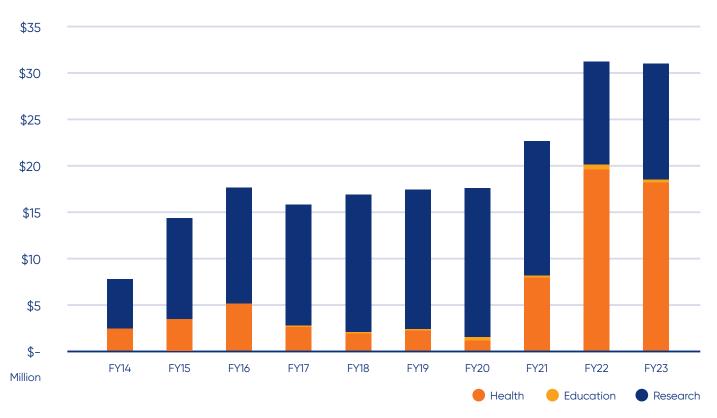
The project will study how mobile DNA elements, or 'jumping genes', can cause harmful changes, known as genetic mutations, during the development of an embryo, and investigate whether these mutations contribute to infertility and pregnancy loss.



Ramona Harvey and baby Diyon.

The new study aims to shed light on this devastating 'black box' of unexplained pregnancy loss and infertility.

## Mater Foundation distributions—10 year comparison



## International Women's Day Fun Run

Mater Foundation's sea of pink swelled to new heights this year, raising more than \$2 million through the International Women's Day Fun Run, presented by National Storage. Around 20,000 people walked, jogged and ran 5km through Brisbane, while another 3,500 people across Queensland and beyond ran in their own communities, to raise money for breast cancer services, equipment and world-class research.









# **Mater People**

Terry Cameron, Mater Mothers' Hospital.

## Celebrating the heart of Mater with the **Caring for Carers campaign**

Mater celebrated nurses, midwives and administration professionals in a statewide campaign aimed at caring for those who devote so much of their lives to caring for others. The initiative brought together four of Mater's significant celebrations-International Day of the Midwife, Administrative Professionals' Day, International Nurses Day and Mothers' Day.

Our Caring for Carers campaign supported their social, physical, mental, professional, spiritual, and financial health and wellbeing.

There were offers, events and activities, including multiple panel discussions and videos, a superannuation forum and a new \$5,000 scholarship grant for professional development.



Caring for mothers and babies is a vocation for Mater midwives—but for these four women it's in the blood. Kate Cooper and Leah Midwood are following in the footsteps of their mothers, Catherine Cooper and Claire Howlet respectively. They are part of Mater's 900-strong midwifery team which supports the biggest and busiest maternity unit in Australia.





Russell Lobo, our Emerging Leader Award winner.

The Mater Refugee Health team won the Mercy in Action Team Award.



Mike and Mary Cardillo, Mater Volunteers of the Year.





Our Leadership Excellence Award winner Monica Mooney with Gayle Knickle who won the Catherine McAuley Mater Lifetime Contribution Award.



Celebrating 25 years' service with Mater.

#### **Recognising Mater People**

The 2022 Mater People Awards shone the spotlight on Mater People and teams doing extraordinary things across Mater's health, education, research and foundation ministries.

From a record 400 nominations, 65 finalists were selected and ultimately 14 winners announced for going above and beyond in support of the Mater Mission.

The Catherine McCauley Mater Lifetime Contribution Award went to Mater Private Hospital Bundaberg hospitality manager Gayle Knickelrecognising her 38 years' of dedicated service, and the volunteer pastoral care she provides to so many staff and patients.

More than 700 people across the state were also celebrated for their dedication and service at the Mater Long Service Awards, marking 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service with Mater. Presentations of the awards coincided with Mercy Week (Sept 19–25) which celebrates compassion in action and honours the founder of the Sister of Mercy, Catherine McAuley.

Thank you for everything you do, every day, for Mater.



Our 2022 Mater People Award winners.

# Our governance

As the operator of Mater's ministries of health, education, research and foundation, Mercy Partners appoints members to the Board of Directors of Mater Misericordiae Limited.

Mater's vision is governed by our Board of Directors and implemented by the Group 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 Group Executive are well placed to guide Mater and our people in the delivery of our Mission, now and into the future.

A strong governance framework ensures effective management, and legal and regulatory obligations are met, in line with our Mission and Values.

#### **Board of Directors**



Francis Sullivan AO Chair



Virginia Ryan Deputy Chair



Virginia Bourke Director (resigned November 2022)



**Pat Brady** Director



**Gerard Houlihan** Director Company Secretary (appointed Company Secretary April 2023)



Sr Sandra Lupi RSM Director



Jenny Parker Director



John Rivers Director



**Chris Townend** Director (appointed April 2023)



Jane Yacopetti Director (resigned June 2022)



Sally Frazer Company Secretary (appointed February 2023 and resigned April 2023)



Laurence Rogencamp Company Secretary (resigned February 2023)

#### **Group Executives**



**Dr Peter Steer** Group Chief Executive



**Donna Bonney** Chief Executive, Mater Health



**Alanna Jacoby** Chief, Mission



Donna McGrane Group Chief, People and Learning



Graeme McKenzie Group Chief, Development and Property



**Laurence Rogencamp** Group Chief, Corporate Development and Legal (effective February 2023)



**Jane Schmitt** Group Chief, Corporate Affairs and Growth



**Loretta Seamer** Chief Finance Officer (resigned June 2023)



**Alastair Sharman** Group Chief, Digital Technology



**Prof Maher Ghandi** Executive Director, Mater Research and Chief Research Officer



**Andrew Thomas** Chief Executive, Mater Foundation



Francis Sullivan, Alanna Jacoby, Fiona Hinchliffe, Sr Sandra Lupi and Dr Peter Steer.

# **Our performance**

# Mater Misericordiae Limited consolidated financial statement

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023
	(\$000)
Revenue	
Rendering of services	1,313,110
Sale of goods	87,423
Other revenue	189,448
Total revenue	1,589,981
Expenses	
Employee expenses	950,402
Pharmaceutical and medical expenses	321,463
Property and maintenance expenses	66,017
Catering and domestic expenses	35,861
Lottery expenses	52,349
Digital expenses	39,993
Administration expenses	69,254
Depreciation and amortisation expense	154,248
Finance expenses	5,935
Net loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	96
Total expenses	1,695,618
Operating (deficit)/surplus	(105,637)

# **Operational statistics**

Mater Hospitals	Patients discharged	Patient days	Procedures <sup>2</sup>
Mater Hospital Brisbane	57,153	121,235	12,827
Mater Private Hospital Brisbane	40,305	110,406	23,942
Mater Mothers' Hospital	25,365	59,256	3,911
Mater Mothers' Private Brisbane	9,342	43,693	2,557
Mater Children's Private Brisbane	4,862	7,706	3,247
Mater Private Hospital Rockhampton	16,492	36,124	9,784
Mater Private Hospital Mackay	15,395	29,764	12,182
Mater Private Hospital Townsville	35,627	69,365	22,805
Mater Private Hospital Bundaberg	5,110	10,955	4,109
Mater Private Hospital Redland	13,417	26,524	7,368
Mater Private Hospital Springfield	13,436	27,083	8,298
Mater Private Day Hospital Brookwater	4,765	4,765	-
Total	241,269	546,876	111,030
Emergency attendances			
Mater Hospital Brisbane			51,616
Mater Private Hospital Brisbane			16,149
Mater Private Hospital Rockhampton			9,493
Mater Private Hospital Mackay			14,750
Mater Private Hospital Townsville			13,208
Total			105,216
Births			
Mater Mothers' Hospital			5,819
Mater Mothers' Private Brisbane			4,119
Mater Private Hospital Rockhampton			502
Mater Private Hospital Mackay			442
Mater Private Hospital Townsville			577
Mater Private Hospital Redland			254
Total			11,713
Outpatient attendances			
Mater Hospital Brisbane			219,665
Mater Mothers' Hospital			138,309
Mater Private Hospital Springfield			41,521
Total			399,495

<sup>^</sup> Includes theatre procedures cardiac catheter procedures, minor operations and endoscopies. Source: SEQMPP and CNQ—WebPAS Cyberquery and HCP

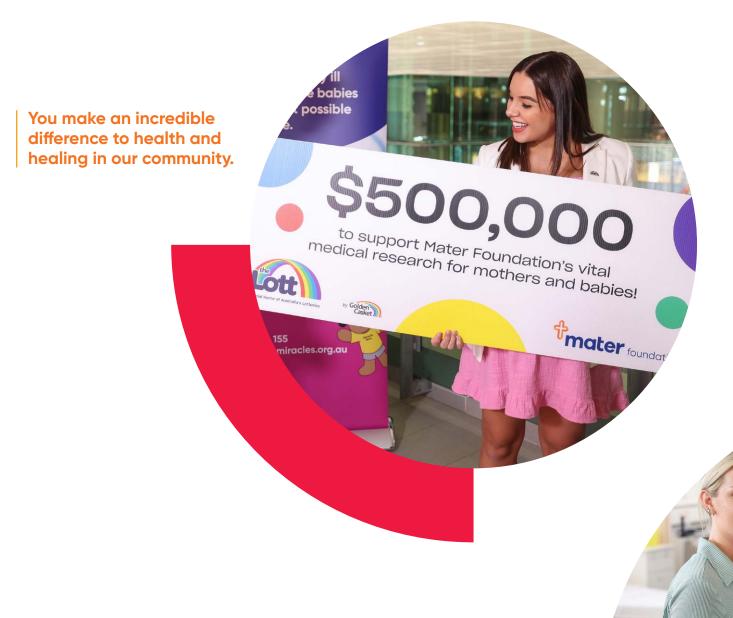
# How you can help

Giving is at the heart of who we are and what we do and because of you, we're able to continue our proud tradition of charity and giving to those who need it most.

With your generous support, Mater is able to extend our boundaries beyond traditional healthcare and focus on our Mission, shaped by the Sisters of Mercy, to respond to unmet community needs.

Our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to the Mater community, 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 bequeath gifts to Mater.



Carlena Pollock, Mater Private Hospital Townsville.

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

foundation@mater.org.au 1800 500 422 mater.org.au





Mater Education Diploma of Nursing students.

