Foundation for A Bloody Great Cause Limited **ANNUAL REPORT**

Year ending 30 June 2023



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FOUNDATION FOR A BLOODY GREAT CAUSE

OUR VISION

Finding cures. Saving Lives.

OUR MISSION

Raising funds and advocating for the world-leading Haematology Clinical Research Unit at Concord Cancer Centre, Concord Hospital.



Concord laboratory scientists and clinicians bring research from the bench to the bedside and back again.



Haematology scientists in action



The Haematology Clinical Research Unit: Front Row: Director, Dr Nicole Wong Doo with Unit Manager, Jennifer Harman RN

FOR OUR SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

A message from Marie Piccin, Chair, Foundation for A Bloody Great Cause

The 2022-2023 financial year has been a very busy one for all of the board members, and we are very grateful for the tremendous support of such a bloody great community. Sadly, Mary Nassibian, our fellow board member and long-time committee stalwart, passed away in November. Mary was a founding chair of the Fundraising Committee and, in 2019, a founding director of the Foundation for A Bloody Great Cause.

Mary's vision of giving back to the Concord Haematology Clinical Research Unit began our Fundraising journey in 2012. In 2022 the committee, with Mary's help, has raised over a million dollars. Mary's dedication to this cause, her artistic creativity through all five Bloody Great Night Out! events and her tireless fundraising efforts will be greatly missed, but more so her true friendship and warm smile. Our sincerest condolences to Mary's family.



We welcomed Rosanna Campisi as a new board member. Rosanna is both our board and committee secretary and as always, her tireless efforts over the past year have been outstanding. Thank you, Rosanna, for all of your hard work. We also welcomed two new Foundation members, Dr. Nicole Wong Doo and Paul Dovico OAM.

I would like to make mention of Professor Judith Trotman, Head of Haematology, Concord Hospital and one of our Foundation Directors, who travelled to Madrid to receive the global Peter S. Bing Award for Humanitarianism and Activism on behalf of patients with the rare lymphoma Waldenström Macroglobulinemia. Judith led the global development of the novel enzyme inhibitors providing an effective chemo-free option for patients with this type of lymphoma. Congratulations to you, Judith. You are a tireless and talented champion for blood cancer clinical trials at Concord Hospital, and the Foundation for A Bloody Great Cause is very proud to support you and your medical teams in providing innovative world-class therapies locally.

As I reflect on the past financial year, I must acknowledge our major fundraising events, particularly A Bloody Great Night Out! and our International Women's Day Breakfast. It was wonderful to welcome so many of our supporters to these events, and I would like to thank the Bloody Great Committee for their tireless efforts in preparation for these events.

Fortunately, they enabled us to hand over a cheque to the Haematology Clinical Research Unit for \$230,000 in March. This is a terrific boost to the research team and is something that would not have been possible without our sponsors and supporters. We have also made some new community connections, and I recognise Breakfast Point Rotary, The Breakfast Point Men's Shed and Concord Op shop, who have all generously donated funds to a Bloody Great Cause.

I would also like to acknowledge the generosity and ongoing support of the City of Canada Bay Council and the Majors Bay Chamber of Commerce.

I am also very humbled by the generosity of our patients. Your donations and support for our EOFY appeal, among other gestures, certainly give our board the endorsement it needs to forge ahead.

We have increased awareness on social media in the past twelve months thanks to Lara Meli, who has worked diligently to make sure we never leave an event without a story and some carefully curated photographs. We also continue to increase our visibility in the Haematology clinic, and this will remain our focus throughout the year ahead.

Susan MacGregor continues her leadership of The Bloody Great Committee, and I want to thank her for her expertise and commitment to a cause that is so close to her heart. My thanks as well to Paul Dovico and MAZARS Australia, our accountants who so generously donated their services.

Finally, to our amazing committee, the staff at Concord Hospital, our local community and our patient supporters, thank you for helping us Find Cures and Save Lives.



The Foundation Board and Dr Nicole Wong Doo at International Women's Day 23.



Breakfast Point Rotary Artshow 23 with board and committee members and guests.

A MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR JUDITH TROTMAN

Head of Haematology, Concord Cancer Centre, Concord Repatriation General Hospital

The life of every person supporting the Foundation for A Bloody Great Cause has been touched by a blood disorder. Concord Haematology's relationship with the Foundation is central to community engagement and a patient-centred focus in our commitment to deliver *"World-class care, locally"*.

The Foundation's endorsement of our clinical trials research and the pride of our local community in supporting the largest haematology clinical research unit in NSW motivates us daily to deliver more lifesaving, life-changing emerging therapies for you.



The funds raised by the Foundation support our financial independence to design and conduct the research of greatest importance to our patients. The funding and advocacy enable us to collaborate with our community to design clinical research to answer their priority questions.

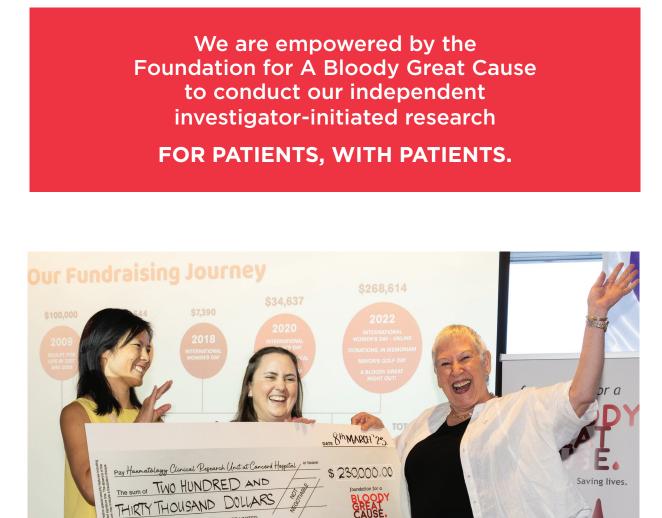
I want to congratulate and thank our lead patient investigator Mr Andrew Warden, the driving force behind the global WhiMSICAL study, and all our young Hodgkin Lymphoma patients who tested our pilot My Hodgkin My Health smart phone App These modern digital initiatives are empowering the patient voice reflecting their lived experience after treatment for blood cancer.

In 2022-23 Concord Haematology farewelled Dr Jane Estell, previous Director of the Clinical Research Unit who combined warm, compassionate patient care with deeply engaged leadership of the Unit. We thank Dr Estell for her partnership with our Research Nurse Manager of the Unit, Jennifer Harman RN in keeping the CRU going and growing during the COVID-era.

We then welcomed Dr Nicole Wong Doo, clinician researcher with a strong commitment to investigator-initiated research, as the new Director of the Clinical Research Unit (CRU). During 2022/23 Dr Wong Doo and Ms Harman delivered a major organisational restructure to ensure our growing CRU is staffed with the appropriate mix of nursing and data management, research governance, finance and people management skills. A patient-centered and constant learning focus is also central to the practice of two new haematologists who joined Concord Haematology in early 2023:

- Dr Riana van der Linde, our laboratory lead, doubly qualified in both South Africa and Australia, is completing her PhD studying the detection of minimal residual disease in Acute Myeloid Leukaemia; and
- Dr Ibrahim Tohidi-Esfahani, a previous CRU Fellow, who having completed his PhD in A/Professor Chen's lab at the ANZAC Medical Research Institute, has worked in a specialised clotting disorders service in London. Dr Tohidi-Esfahani brings breadth to our bleeding and clotting clinical research as well as our rare lymphoma research portfolio as the principal investigator of the WhiMSICAL study.

At Concord Haematology we are inspired by the patients we cure and driven by the patients we can't.



Susan MacGregor, Chair of The Bloody Great Committee, is thrilled to hand over a Foundation cheque for \$230 000 to the Director of the CRU – Dr Nicole Wong Doo and Manager of the CRU Jennifer Harman RN.

Margregor

Raising funds

A MESSAGE FROM DR NICOLE WONG DOO

Director of the Haematology Clinical Research Unit, Concord Cancer Centre, Concord Repatriation General Hospital

It is my pleasure to present the report of the Concord Haematology Clinical Research Unit (HCRU) for 2022-23. It has been a busy and fruitful year for the Unit, re-emerging from COVID into a truly exciting era of new therapies for blood diseases.

In April 2022, I assumed the role of Director of the Unit, following on from the wonderful leadership of Dr Jane Estell. Partnering with me has been Jennifer Harman RN, Manager of the Unit, a role she took on in April 2023.



2023 also marks 20 years since the inception of the Unit, originally founded by Professor Judith Trotman in 2003. It

is with this background that we held our recent strategic planning meeting, and laid down the future goals for the next three years.

We plan to continue our mission to provide quality clinical trials integrated into clinical practice, to provide patients with world-class care through access to emerging therapies across a diverse trial portfolio and to contribute independently to evidence-based medicine.

More specifically, we set goals

- to continue to grow the Unit's identity as a high-quality and successful unit across all types of clinical research,
- to continue to deliver cutting-edge trials to our patients as new agents are developed,
- to support our staff to thrive personally and professionally, and
- to ensure the sustainability of the unit into the future.

In 2022, we enrolled approximately 50 patients to clinical trials, including a number of phase I trials, representing the first time a drug or drug combination has been trialled in humans. One third of our clinical trials are investigator initiated trials (IITs), meaning they are independent from private or pharmaceutical influences.

In 2022, the Unit also contributed to investigator-led clinical non-clinical trial research. This research, although not directly administering treatments to patients, provides the scientific background and rationale to develop new treatments, or studies ways in which to improve patient quality of life, improve equity of access to treatment, or reduce toxicity of treatment.

Some examples are:

 The internationally-recognised clinical translational research led by Associate Professor Vivien Chen on the role of abnormal platelets in the blood disease Essential Thrombocythaemia. This study has now enrolled over 100 patients which would not be possible without support from the Haematology Clinical Research Unit.

- Quality of life research in the Patient Experiences of Taking Oral Medication for Blood Diseases study led by Dr Nicole Wong Doo.
- The Unit has provided seed funding to the exciting new digital initiative My Hodgkin My Health (MHMH), which invites patients to use a novel mobile application to enter their own long-term health data and be partners in research. MHMH, led by Professor Trotman and Dr Nicole Wong Doo, received ethics committee approval in 2023, and the pilot will commence by the end of 2023, with a view to this becoming an international project.

In 2022, we contributed over 100 patients into national registries for rare diseases, contributing further to research into conditions such as lymphoma, multiple myeloma and leukaemia. Concord's high participation in these registries would not be possible without support from the Foundation.

The research output of our Haematologist investigators consistently outperforms in terms of number and quality of publications, with nearly 60 publications in peer-reviewed journals in 2022 including the New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of Clinical Oncology, The Lancet and Blood. In 2022, haematology investigators in our unit had a total of eight active NHMRC or MRFF grants and three other active competitive grants. This funding is highly competitive and is a sign of the quality research within our Department.

However, these grants typically support research costs without covering ongoing staff funding and hence the Foundation's support allows us to provide research nurse support to make these competitive grant-funded projects feasible.

I give my tremendous thanks to the Foundation for A Bloody Great Cause and The Bloody Great Committee for their fundraising in 2022, in particular, the unprecedented amount of \$222,000 raised from *A Bloody Great Night Out!*. As in previous years, the Unit use this to employ our clinical research nurses who provide safe care for all of our patients on clinical trials.

In 2022, the additional amount raised will also contribute to one of our clinical research fellows who we would like to recognise as our inaugural Bloody Great Fellow.

Dr Monique Menzies-Wojtowicz has been working as a research fellow at Concord Haematology Clinical Research Unit since early 2022 and has provided invaluable senior medical input within the Unit. Her compassionate approach with patients who are undertaking a leap of faith by participating in clinical research is outstanding, and many patients note that her empathic approach helps to set the Research Unit apart from other departments. Dr Monique Menzies-Wojtowicz is a tremendous team player who is a great role model for other fellows and impresses our research staff with her generosity of time and availability.

With respect to the sustainability of the Research Unit into the future, in 2022 we put into place an organisational restructure, approved by the Sydney Local Health District's Chief Executive, to expand the Unit. We have instituted a leadership team consisting of the Unit Manager, Deputy Manager and Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC). This leadership team provides a more sustainable way to manage our growing research unit and ensures there are clear roles and responsibilities within the unit.

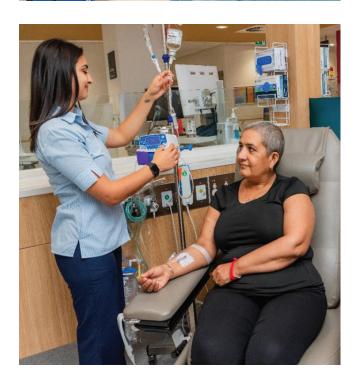
I am truly excited about the opportunities we have to look forward to in 2023-24, and beyond. The Haematology Clinical Research Unit is ideally positioned to take part in the many exciting developments in the treatment of blood diseases.

















The Bloody Great Cause Supporters: Dr Nicole Wong Doo (Director of CRU) with a patient and Foundation for A Bloody Great Cause supporter Mr Peter Lean and Foundation Board Members, Professors Trotman & Cunningham.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of 30 June 2023



Marie Piccin – Chair Community member



Susan MacGregor Community member



A/Prof Ilona Cunningham Clinical Director Cancer Services and Palliative Care for Sydney Local Health District



Rosanna Campisi - Secretary Community member



Prof Judith Trotman Head of Haematology Department, Concord Cancer Centre, Concord Hospital



Steven Nassibian Community member



Vale Mary Nassibian

A founding chair of the Fundraising Committee and in 2019 a founding director of the Foundation for A Bloody Great Cause. Her tireless fundraising efforts will be greatly missed, but more so her true friendship and warm smile.

Our gratitude and sincere thanks goes to:

- Rosanna Campisi Company Secretary.
- Paul Dovico & MAZARS for ongoing pro-bono financial services
- Lisa Ogle & Alders IP for their contribution for Trademark Services
- James Campisi, for undertaking pro-bono all the related legal work
- City of Canada Bay Council for their ongoing support
- Majors Bay Rd Chamber of Commerce for their continual support.





THE BLOODY GREAT COMMITTEE

(as of 30 June 2023)

- Maria Budeja
- Natalino Bongiorno
- Christian Bracci
- Rosanna Campisi
- Susan MacGregor
- Lara Meli
- Steven Nassibian
- David Osborn
- Marie Piccin
- Judith Trotman









A MESSAGE FROM THE BLOODY GREAT COMMITTEE

Susan MacGregor, Chair, The Bloody Great Committee

It is with great pleasure that I present my second report as Chair of the Fundraising Committee for 2022/2023 and I am pleased to report that over \$300,000 was made in this financial period. Your generous donations made this possible and your future donations are the key to our continued success.

I often look back and am amazed about what has arisen from a simple idea from like-minded people affected in some way by blood cancer, to make great contributions, either financially or physically on a regular basis.

To all my fellow committee members, every volunteer who helped us fundraise and the professional staff in the Haematology Clinical Trials Unit – my heartfelt thanks.



I hope that like us you will be inspired by our plans to help patients to live fulfilling and healthy lives and want to be a part of our story. If you want to help or even donate in any way we would love to hear from you.

We really do make a difference.

Key Highlights

- Donors In 2022 we saw donor numbers increase by 40%.
- Database Membership has grown after each project which we see as a wonderful result of our efforts.
- A Bloody Great Night Out! (October 2022) This flagship and fantastic evening is proving to be an event not to be missed. A detailed review can be seen further in this report.
- Mayor's Golf Day (November 2022) A very early start for our volunteers on this particular day but we joined a very enthusiastic Canada Bay Council team and helped them raise a significant amount which this year was donated to our Cause. More about this wonderful community day in this report.
- International Women's Day Breakfast (March 2023) This very popular annual event is always completely booked out. There was not one sound in the room this year while our attendees listened to our guest speaker, Margaret Cunneen. Further details elsewhere in this report. So you don't miss out - diarise the date – 8 March 2024.
- End of Year Online Appeal (June 2023) The generosity from our database donors never ceases to surprise us and we very gratefully received over \$32,000 for a small effort.
- In Memorium /Other Funds Although the Haematology Clinical Trials Unit does receive direct bequests from bereaved families which are not included in our fundraising, we

have been very fortunate this past twelve months to receive monetary 'gifts' which grateful patients source after a birthday or event celebration. Rather than receive a gift they ask family and friends to support our Foundation. This generosity has seen great success and we thank those people who offered/gave this support.

PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDRAISING

As with all not-for-profit associations, we would not be able to function without support from our sponsors, many of whom have been with us from the start. Regrettably, there are far too many to list here but will be elsewhere on these pages. We encourage you to support these special and very generous companies.

It is the same with local community groups. We have had such fun these past twelve months with our committee members being involved in many projects.

We give special thanks to the following groups who have given their time and funds to support the Foundation:

- Breakfast Point Rotary Group Art Show
- Concord Uniting Church Opportunity Shop monies received
- Majors Bay Chamber of Commerce Mother's Day stall in Concord and a combined stall at Ferragosto Italian Street Festival, Five Dock.



VOLUNTEERS

We were very pleased to have even more interaction this past twelve months from our wonderful volunteers (who are now friends). We hope to enlist more helpful hands in the months ahead – we all truly believe that many hands make light work!

Our work has been very much lightened with the help from hospital staff and apart from working alongside us at many events they are the best sellers of raffle tickets for which we are very, very grateful.

There are many great stories of our journey so far and we look forward to continuing having fun with our fundraising efforts while making new friends and achieving even better results.

Susan MacGregor

a BLOODY great night out!®

A sea of red welcomed over 560 guests at Le Montage, Lilyfield on Friday 21st October 2022 as Foundation for A Bloody Great Cause and The Bloody Great Committee hosted yet another Bloody Great Night Out! According to many, the best ever!

Due to Covid, the 2021 dinner had to be postponed, so everyone was ready to have a fabulous night of dancing and entertainment and help raise much-needed funds for blood cancer trials and research at Concord Haematology Clinical Research Unit.

Our amazing community, patients, families and sponsors helped the Committee raise over \$220,000!

Dr Nicole Wong Doo, Director of the Haematology Clinical Research Unit, stated, "We are thrilled that our target to raise \$160,000 to fund two additional clinical research nurses, was smashed. Our amazing, generous supporters raised over \$220,000! Now more patients with life-threatening blood cancers can participate in our clinical trials. Being able to fund two more nurses will allow us to access millions of dollars' worth of innovative medicines, long before they are publicly funded."

Many of the trial patients attended the night and were involved in the fundraising activities and many shared their stories. David Osborn, a patient who has been on a clinical trial said **"Not only do these doctors, nurses, and their teams save your life but they become part of your family – I can't thank them enough for what they have done for me".** David is now a valued Committee member who works hard and is very generous with his time.

Entertainment was provided by Violin by Mel, acoustic guitar by Haematology Registrar Dr Patrick Tunney, Ophir the Magician, a special performance by the Mary Nassibian Dancers and live music by the fabulous Party Latte. A beautiful tribute to Mary Nassibian, highlighting her contribution as a founding member of the fundraising committee, ended the night's entertainment.

It was a wonderful night of friendship, celebrating partnerships between medical teams, patients, community members and volunteers. As usual, there was a very crowded dance floor.

We thank all our major sponsors for their continual support and many thanks to over 100 community companies for their support in providing prizes for the fundraising activities. None of the above was possible without generosity.

To see the video and photos of the night visit: <u>www.abloodygreatcause.com.au/photo-gallery-2022/</u> www.abloodygreatcause.com.au/video-gallery/ Committee members and patients with Dr Nicole Wong Doo (centre) helping to raise funds



The haematology doctors dressed to party!









Masters of Ceremony - Bloody Great Committee members Lara Meli and Christian Bracci.



PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSORS







Father

Atanasio Gonelli

Charitable Fund Inc.



Barossa Valley







Mayor's Golf Day November 2022

It was a very brisk and early start for this long-awaited event, which had been cancelled a few times due to inclement weather and COVID-19. It was well worth the wait.

We sincerely acknowledge the City of Canada Bay Council, Mayor Angelo Tsirekas and their tireless Events Team for organising the 2022 Mayor's Golf Day at Massey Park Golf Course.

The Foundation was grateful to be the designated charity for this year's fundraising event.

It is always a popular event, and over 80 golfers participated in the excellent community day at a beautifully prepared Massey Park Golf Course. A special thank you to the Massey Park Golf Course staff for presenting the course immaculately and hosting a delicious lunch.

Huge thanks to the companies who supported the day and who continue to give generously. Thanks also to our Bloody Great Committee members, who helped us sell raffle tickets and encourage our Bloody Great golfers.

Mayor Angelo Tsirekas proudly presented a cheque for \$32,000 to Dr. Judith Trotman on behalf of the Foundation.







International Women's Day 8th March 2023

On Wednesday, 8 March, at the beautiful Aqua Luna function rooms, 200 guests attended the International Women's Day Breakfast hosted by the Foundation for A Bloody Great Cause and The Bloody Great Committee.



Director HCRU- Dr Nicole Wong-Doo and the Manager (HCRU) Jennifer Harman with the \$230,000 cheque presented by Susan MacGregor, Committee Chair and Marie Piccin, Foundation Chair.

Our guests had the pleasure of hearing from two brilliant speakers. A clinical trial patient whose story was filled with inspiration and hope about her experience, and Margaret Cunneen SC, whose law career is based on fairness and justice and reflected the theme for IWD23 #EmbraceEquity perfectly. Both speakers received a wonderful ovation.

At the breakfast, The Bloody Great Committee was thrilled to present a cheque for \$230,000 to the Haematology Clinical Research Unit at Concord Hospital. This money was raised at A Bloody Great Night Out! held in October 2022 and at the Mayor's Golf Day 2022 held at Massey Park Golf Course and sponsored by the City of Canada Bay Council.

Susan MacGregor, the Bloody Great Committee chair presented the cheque, on behalf of the Foundation to Dr Nicole Wong-Doo – Director of The Haematology Clinical Research Unit and Jennifer Harman, the Unit Manager.

Sincere thanks to all our supporters across both of these events who continue to support our fundraising efforts and our tireless volunteers who have worked non-stop in the last year to help us raise these much-needed funds.

The funds will be used to provide more clinical research nurses, giving more patients access to the life-saving blood cancer clinical trials at Concord Haematology, Concord Hospital. Our sincere thanks to the IWD sponsors (see logos below) and the many other generous companies who donated prizes for the breakfast. To see photos of the breakfast, visit: **www.abloodygreatcause.com.au/photo-gallery/**

See you all next year for our International Women's Day Breakfast on 8th March 2024.











Margaret Cunneen QC - guest speaker



The Doctors supporting IWD 23 #EmbraceEquity



Dr Emma Verner, with a clinical trial patient Stacey and Nurse Estele Swinny during a Q & A session



Committee members working at IWD23

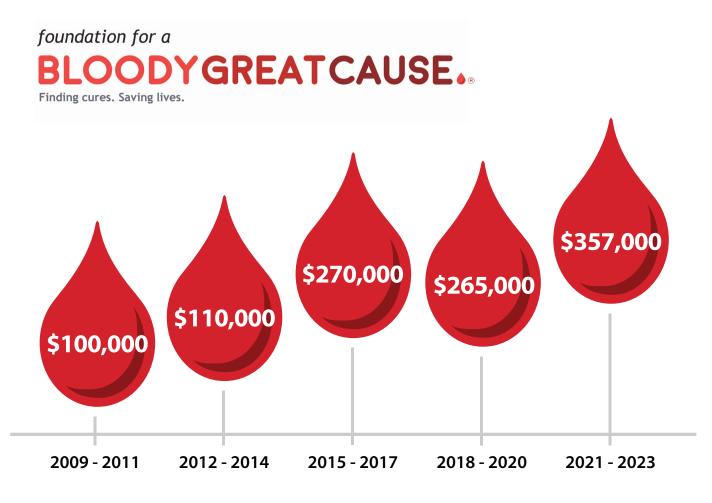
FUNDRAISING TALLY

Up to 30 June 2023

The main sources of our revenue over the years have been:

- Our signature event *A Bloody Great Night Out!* held in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 & 2022.
- International Women's Day held in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 (both online) & 2023.
- Specific donation appeals such as Christmas appeals 2020 & 2021 and End of Financial Year 2023 appeals.
- Individual donations from ongoing bequests, in memoriam donations, and celebration donations.
- Sponsorships for our fundraising events
- Grants from City of Canada Bay Council & Mayors Golf Day held in 2022, and government equipment grants.
- Local Community group donations such as Breakfast Point Rotary Art Show (2022), and Breakfast Point Men's Shed (2022).

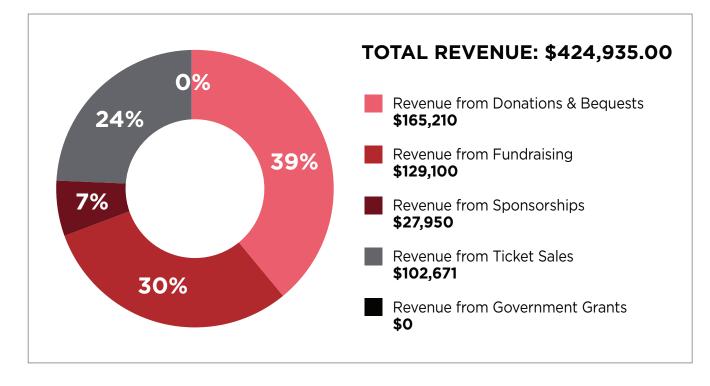
Our sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this amazing fundraising journey.



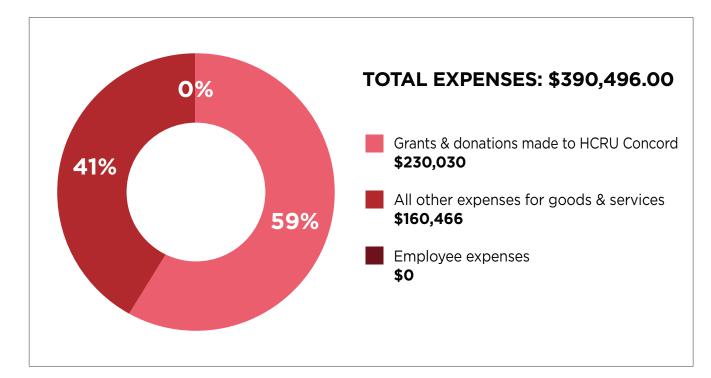
Total revenue raised up to 30 June 2023 - \$1,101,922

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2022 - 2023

REVENUE



EXPENSES



If you would like a copy of our financial statements for 2022-23 prepared for the Foundation on a pro bono basis by Paul Dovico, Partner MAZARS and the Audited Financial Report prepared by J. L. Roberts - Lane Cove, please contact us.



CONTACT US

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- ☑ @ABloodyGr8Cause
- @abloodygreatcause

Foundation for A Bloody Great Cause Limited. ABN 81 632 588 713 Sincere thanks to Chill Digital Media for helping design and prepare this Annual Report



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