

Annual Report 2022

Enriching children's lives
through research



The Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation of South Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we are located and their continuing connection to the land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to ethical, equitable and inclusive research that benefits all Australians.

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Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation of SA Inc.

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Who We Are

Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation of South Australia (CRF) Inc. supports research into things that shouldn't be part of a kid's life.

Established in 1976 with proceeds from the Channel 7 (then Channel 10) Telethon Christmas Appeal, CRF remains an independent not-for-profit organisation that today allocates around \$1.8M per year to research into children's health, education and welfare.

Throughout our 46-years, organisations including Flinders University, SA Pathology, University of South Australia, The University of Adelaide, SAHMRI, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Novita, and the Women's and Children's Health Network have accessed over \$45M (today's dollars) of CRF funding for more than 1,000 children's research projects.

CRF is also passionate about fostering research talent and career opportunities for young researchers through Early Career Researcher Grant opportunities and our partnership with Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA) for support of PhD scholarships.



To find out more about CRF please visit our website at [crf.org.au](https://www.crf.org.au)

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

Our Focus

Children's Health, Education and Welfare

WE SUPPORT

- Research Outcomes for SA
- Research Careers in SA
- Early and Mid-career Researchers
- Proof-of-concept Research

QUALITY RESEARCH

into the cause, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of any condition which affects a child's health, education or welfare

PRIORITY AREAS

- Improving Mental Health
- Reducing Obesity
- Improving Child Protection
- Understanding Social Determinants of health and wellbeing



Our Outlook

ADVANCE RESEARCH

to improve the health, education and welfare of children

WE NEED SUPPORT

There's a million ways to build CRF into a great children's charity through your partnership and advocacy

HELP US, HELP THEM

100% of all donations and sponsorship dollars go directly to funding quality children's research

DELIVER INCREASED FUNDING

to support more projects each year

Message from the Chair and Executive Director

In 2022, the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation (CRF) marked its 46th year supporting children's research in South Australia.

On behalf of the CRF Board of Directors, it is our pleasure to present this 46th Annual Report.

It's been an exciting and busy year, with new initiatives launched and concepts developed as we continue to work hard at elevating CRF's profile in South Australia to grow the number of children's research projects we can fund.

As we deliver this overview of the previous financial year, we're excited to see our new brand awareness campaign rolling out in South Australia across TV, Radio, Billboard, Streaming, Podcast and Digital News. We hope it conveys insight and trust in what we strive to achieve at Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation, and the equity our brand can adjoin to organisations that would like to partner with us in funding quality children's research.

Our Board re-confirmed that the fundamental focus for grants awarded by CRF would be to support quality research into any area of children's health, education and welfare. Research would need to be undertaken in South Australia, and to be led by state-based researchers to meet CRF's commitment to fostering research talent and careers in SA.

Funding commenced in January for the 19 research projects selected for a grant in our 2022 annual grants round, with a total of \$1,526,642 awarded. A summary of these research grants can be found on page 18.

February heralded the beginning of our grant application program for children's research commencing in 2023, resulting in 101 expressions of interest received across the basic science, community based study and clinical study categories. From these, 46 were shortlisted to progress to the full grant application stage for what will be CRF's 47th successive grant round.

This year the CRF also announced a new 'Enabling Grants' program to expand on its contribution to research, and to support South Australian researchers seeking co-funding support for NHMRC Partnership and ARC Linkage grant applications. Submissions for the inaugural grants were invited to be submitted by 31 July 2022.

CRF also continued to nurture and unveil new opportunities to increase its funding pool for research through its Partnership Program, implemented in 2021 to invite corporate investment and philanthropic donations to grow our children's research endeavours.

October 2021 marked a special month of celebration and recognition by CRF of the remarkable South Australians taking children's research to new heights. For the first time, CRF publicly announced its annual grants for children's research at the inaugural Annual Research Grants and Awards event, which is sure to become a highly anticipated date in the South Australian research community calendar.

We also unveiled the inaugural CRF Achievement in Children's Research Awards, named in honour of three remarkable CRF visionaries; Emeritus Professor Colin Matthews AO, Mr Len Frankham, and the late Mr Dennis Earl. These awards recognise the impressive alumni of researchers who have been funded by the CRF.

CRF joined Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA) to announce the 2022 and 11th Cohort recipients of the Annual CRF HDA PhD Excellence Awards and the Schools Communicator Award. We also marked 15-years in partnership with HDA to build research excellence and careers in children's health and development in South Australia.

We are honoured and grateful that the incoming Governor of South Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, agreed to extend patronage to the CRF jointly with her husband, Mr Rod Buntin, continuing this tradition of South Australian Governors.

And in what was a solid fiscal year, we recognise the work of CRF's Treasurer and Finance Committee. Notwithstanding the economic impacts of COVID-19 and volatility in the investment market, the CRF was able to increase its distributions to Annual Grants, and CRF Fellowships and continued to support research through these challenging times.

The Board farewelled Professor Pat Buckley, valuing her insights and energy during her 8-year term as representative of the University of South Australia. Professor Carol Maher was welcomed as she continues the UniSA contribution to the CRF.

In closing, we offer sincere thanks to the Board and Research Committee members for generously giving of their time and expertise, and we look forward to continuing to work with them to support children's research in South Australia through our 47th year in 2023.



Paul Jury
Chair and Channel 7
Foundation Member



Greg Ward
Executive Director

Our Board re-confirmed that the fundamental focus for grants awarded by CRF would be to support quality research into any area of children's health, education and welfare.

Our People

Honorary Board of Directors

The Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation Board comprises representatives of the Foundation's member organisations and appointed directors, who volunteer their time and expertise to guide and advance our vision:



Stephen Woolley
Deputy Chair
and Channel 7 Representative



Libby Rayner
Channel 7 Representative



Dr Jennifer Fereday
Women's and Children's Health
Network Representative



Professor Claire Roberts
Flinders University
Representative



Professor Carol Maher
University of South Australia
Representative



Greg Ward
Executive Director



Paul Jury
Chair
and Channel 7 Representative



Chantelle Hugo
Channel 7 Representative



Rosanna Mangiarelli
Channel 7 Representative
and CRF Ambassador



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



Professor John Lynch
The University of Adelaide
Representative



Greg de Cure
Novita Representative



Jonathon Grant
Treasurer

Independent Research Committee

The CRF provides grants through an annual competitive grants process and applications are rigorously reviewed by the independent Research Committee, comprising representatives from member organisations and Board-appointed members.

Professor Kevin Forsyth
Chairperson

Dr Rhiannon Pilkington
Co-opted by the Board

Mr Paul Jury
Representative
of the Board

Associate Professor Luke Grzeskowiak
Flinders University

Dr Tina Bianco-Miotto
The University of Adelaide

Professor Leanne Dibbens
University of South
Australia

Dr Jennifer Fereday
Women's and Children's
Health Network

Independent Referees

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

Our Board of Directors and Research Committee value the significant amount of time and expertise invested in the peer review process by reviewers and acknowledge the reviewers listed below, or anonymous, who participated for the 2022 Research Grants.

Prof Fiona Arney
A/Prof Christen Barras
Dr Jacqueline Beall
A/Prof Kerry Bissaker
Prof Frank Bloomfield
Prof Annette Briley
Dr Fiona Buchanan
Prof John Christodoulou
Dr Emma Colvin
Dr Alyson Crozier
Dr Benjamin Daniels
Prof Philip Darbyshire
Prof Michela Denti
Dr Christine Doucette
Dr Melissa Farnham
Prof Sue Fletcher
A/Prof Rebecca Giallo
Prof Rainer Haberberger
Prof Prue Hart
Prof Caroline Homer
Prof Ilan Katz
Prof Pranee Liamputtong
A/Prof Paul Licciardi
Prof Paul Lockhart
Dr Sam Manna
Dr Sarah Marshall
A/Prof Elspeth McInnes

Dr Divya Mehta
Dr Fiona Mensah
Dr Rachael Murray
A/Prof Hakan Muyderman
Prof Marco Rinaldo Oggioni
A/Prof Peter O'Loughlin
Adj A/Prof Michael Ortiz
Dr Ryan Paul
Prof Gerry Redmond
Dr Pedro Ribeiro Santiago
Dr Carmela Ricciardelli
Dr Calum Roberts
Dr Eugene Roscioli
A/Prof Joseph Rothnagel
A/Prof Alice Rumbold
Dr Beth Saggars
A/Prof Cheryl Shoubridge
Dr Sharon Siva
Dr Grace Skrzypiec
A/Prof Lisa Smithers
Dr Jennifer StGeorge
Clin Prof Tobias Strunk
Prof Patrick Tam
Dr Alexandra Tikhomirova
Prof John Warren
Dr Liam Welsh

Our Research Commitment

At the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation, we're committed to supporting quality research into the cause, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of any condition that may affect the general health, education or welfare of children.

Each year, the Foundation dedicates around \$1.5M towards basic science projects, clinical studies or community-based studies in children's research fields including allied health, fertility and pregnancy, education, environment, dentistry, nursing, medicine, mental health, midwifery, welfare and protection, and social sciences, within South Australia.

In 2022, we committed to fostering research excellence in the areas of:



Improving **child protection** and its effects



Improving **children's mental health** and the impact of development disorders



Reducing **childhood obesity** and its impact



Understanding the social determinants of **childhood health and development**

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



Fostering **early career** researchers



Funding **'proof of concept'** research



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



Supporting **established researchers** and retention of local research talent to deliver outcomes within South Australia



Report by the Independent Research Committee Chair

The world experienced another year of overcoming challenges presented by the pandemic, with research affected variously through lockdowns and working from home requirements, lack of laboratory supplies, inability to recruit research subjects and other factors.

The research community of South Australia, and indeed internationally, is to be commended for managing these distractions and persevering with their quests as well as they have.

We are very grateful for the ongoing voluntary participation in the peer review process by the international research community, especially in the face of such widespread disruption, and I respect their dedication to the pursuit of knowledge and excellence.

Please see page 11 for a list acknowledging the reviewers for the 2022 grants round.

While confirming that the CRF is interested in receiving applications in all topics that may affect the health, education and welfare of children, priorities were introduced in 2020 to encourage researchers to apply for funding in areas for which limited grant applications were being submitted, with the aim of broadening the reach of CRF research funding. It has been a step towards balancing between basic science and community based, social research, while basic science still makes up the larger proportion of grant applications, and the promulgated priorities will be regularly reviewed.

The grants awarded for 2022 consisted of ten basic science projects, four community-based studies and five clinical studies, covering a wide range of topics from epilepsy to ear infections, pre-term births to early-onset

criminal behaviour, and genetics to artificial intelligence in clinical settings.

These 19 projects were funded for a total of \$1,526,642, at Flinders University, The University of Adelaide, University of South Australia and the Women's and Children's Health Network.

I congratulate the recipients of grants in 2022 and wish them success in their work. Please see page 18 for details of the projects.

I also congratulate the two inaugural CRF Research Fellows appointed in July 2021: Associate Professor Luke Grzeskowiak at Flinders University, the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation Fellow in Medicines Use and Safety; and Dr Zlatko Kopecki at the University of South Australia, the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation Fellow in Childhood Wound Infections. They are both achieving excellence in their respective research fields.

I am honoured to chair the CRF Research Committee and very appreciative of the contribution of the Committee members. Their generosity in sharing their time and knowledge allows the CRF to be confident of funding the highest quality research in South Australia to improve the lives of children everywhere.

On behalf of the Committee, I thank the Board for their support and vision, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to encourage research to improve the lives of children, and in doing so, build research excellence and foster research careers in South Australia.



Professor Kevin Forsyth

Co-opted by the Board,
CRF Research Committee Chair



Research at a Glance

what our funding supported in 2022



Sport Therapy for Mental Health and Wellbeing: RaceRunning for kids with Cerebral Palsy

Potential new therapies for treating childhood epilepsy

Protection against pre-term birth

Psychotropic medications in children and adolescents

Effects of out-of-home care



Evaluation of autism detection in early childhood



Skin wound healing in children

Understanding children who offend

Supporting children experiencing domestic and family violence



Improve antenatal and postnatal care of infants in families experiencing psychosocial adversity

Improve life trajectories for infants of emotionally dysregulated mothers



Treatment of ear infections

Artificial Intelligence for reducing radiation exposure and cancer risk in children

Childhood asthma

Improve child lifetime outcomes



Family and domestic violence in migrant and refugee communities

Our 2022 Research Grant Recipients

Expanding the toolkit for the treatment of ear infections

Dr Erin Brazel

Early Career Researcher

The University of Adelaide

Basic Science

\$40,000

Bacterial ear infections are the most common bacterial disease affecting children. In Australia, episodes range from 1-2.4 million each year, affecting over 600,000 individuals, with 40% of these children experiencing six or more recurrences before the age of eight. Persistent cases can result in hearing loss and learning difficulties, leading to developmental delays and impacts on psychosocial health. Chronic ear infections have also been linked to increased rates of obesity during childhood and later in life, which may be a result of prolonged antibiotic usage. This project aims to develop targeted strategies to improve antibiotic treatment outcomes for ear infections.

Sport Therapy for Mental Health and Wellbeing: Exploring changes in psychosocial and functional performance for children and adolescents with Cerebral Palsy with 12 weeks of RaceRunning.

Associate Professor Kade Davison

University of South Australia

Clinical Study

\$55,964

Children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) often experience feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression due to reduced independence, and participation with peers and in the community. Social participation and physical activity are both positively associated with better mental health and quality of life in these children. RaceRunning is gaining status as a Paraspport event and provides the opportunity for people with CP to participate in a structured internationally sanctioned sporting event to increase physical activity, social participation, physical function, and ultimately improve their psychosocial wellbeing.

Investigating FDA-approved drugs in an animal model of KCNT1-childhood epilepsy to identify potential new therapies for treating children

Professor Leanne Dibbens

University of South Australia

Basic Science

\$100,000

KCNT1 mutations cause one of the most severe forms of epilepsy in children, resulting in frequent drug resistant seizures and cognitive decline. Currently, there are no drugs available which specifically target the underlying cause of the seizures, the mutated KCNT1 ion channel. We have recently identified several FDA-approved drugs which block the action of the hyperactive mutated KCNT1 channel. We will investigate the ability of these drugs (up to 10) to reduce the seizure phenotype in our Drosophila model of KCNT1-childhood epilepsy. We predict this study will identify new therapies to treat children with KCNT1-drug resistant epilepsy.

Oligonucleotide-driven treatment of an inherited, Childhood-lethal Polyneuropathy: Generation and characterisation of a humanised preclinical mouse model

Professor Jozef Gécz

The University of Adelaide

Basic Science

\$100,000

One in six children has disability related to brain function. The most severe neuro-disabilities are predominantly genetic and can be passed on from generation to generation. We have identified a severe, childhood-lethal genetic disorder of the brain and muscles, very similar to spinal muscular atrophy also in its frequency in our population. Using sophisticated DNA tools we can treat the disorder on a dish and potentially save lives of the affected children. As the next step towards clinical therapy for these children, we aim to generate a mouse model with the human-specific alteration so we can test our treatment tools.

Targeting regulatory T cells to protect against preterm birth

Dr Ella Green

Early Career Researcher

The University of Adelaide

Basic Science

\$39,775

Preterm birth (PTB) is the leading cause of neonatal mortality, and preterm infants have an increased lifetime risk of developmental disorders (Cerebral Palsy, ADHD, ASD) and metabolic disorders (obesity, cardiovascular disease). As 8.7% of Australian babies are born preterm each year, it is imperative to understand biological mechanisms underpinning PTB and identify modifiable targets to develop interventions to alleviate this pregnancy complication. PTB is characterised by inflammation and is linked to dysfunction in the maternal immune system. This research will investigate the mechanisms by which immune cells called T cells have a causal role in the pathogenesis of preterm birth.

Psychotropic medications in children and adolescents: investigating longitudinal trends and determinants of use, persistence, and outcomes

Associate Professor Luke Grzeskowiak

Flinders University

Clinical Study

\$99,983

Considerable debate surrounds the widespread prescribing of psychotropic medications in young people. While these medications have the potential to help some young people affected by mental illness, evidence to support their efficacy and safety is limited. In particular, concerns surround potential long-term harms of psychotropic medication use on child health and neurodevelopment. This study will support current efforts aimed at improving the quality of prescribing of these powerful medicines in children and adolescents by providing contemporary and comprehensive nationally representative data on current trends and predictors of psychotropic medication use, persistence and outcomes in the Australian setting.

Out of home care is not one thing: effects of complex care patterns on health, development and welfare outcomes

Dr Dandara Haag

The University of Adelaide

Community Based Study

\$99,789

Out-of-home care (OOHC) experiences have significant implications on life outcomes. Early entry, while associated with longer-term stability, can lead to reduced family reunification. Later entries are also challenging, with older children often subject to longer periods of maltreatment, and a greater likelihood of restrictive placement experiences, including transitions from foster to residential care. Striking the optimal balance between early intervention and protection, family preservation/reunification and long-term, stable placements, and healthy outcomes is therefore of fundamental policy importance. Our proposal is to conduct Australia's first whole-of-population analysis of complex care patterns and pathways, and associated health, development and welfare outcomes.

Human umbilical cord-derived haemangioblasts: discovery of a robust stem cell population for skin wound healing in children

Dr Mohammadhossein Hassanshahi [Early Career Researcher]

The University of Adelaide

Basic Science

\$39,800

Paediatric patients generally have much more vulnerable skin, and are more likely to have acute trauma wounds, compared to adults. As an effective treatment, stem cell therapy has shown to be a very promising approach. Our group has recently discovered a unique population of stem cells in tissues of mice, called haemangioblasts, which possesses robust tissue vascularisation capacity in vivo. Interestingly, we have now discovered that human umbilical cord is a reservoir of these haemangioblasts, making them a promising stem cell type for banking or for autologous and allogenic stem cell transplantation, particularly for wound healing in children.

Development of an advanced wound dressing for the treatment of infected burns in children

Dr Zlatko Kopecki

University of South Australia

Basic Science

\$100,000

Burns are one of the most common injuries suffered by Australians and one of the top three causes of death in children under five. The emergence of multi-drug resistant bacteria, including hospital-acquired Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), is leading to increased numbers of paediatric burns patients suffering wound infections. While the survival rates for burns patients have improved substantially, systemic inflammatory response syndrome, sepsis, and multiple-organ dysfunction remain major causes of morbidity and mortality. We have taken a novel approach to develop an advanced wound dressing which could be a life-changing treatment for many children who suffer extensive burns.

Children who offend: Understanding and responding to early-onset criminal behaviour

Dr Catia Malvaso

The University of Adelaide

Community-Based Study

\$99,895

Governments and society recognise that children who break societal rules should be held accountable, but also acknowledge that these are vulnerable children who need support and protection. Australian governments are facing increasing pressure to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 in line with the Australian Medical Association's recommendations. Although raising the age will reduce justice system contact among younger children, it will not necessarily prevent early-onset offending behaviours. This project will advance knowledge by identifying children at-risk for early-onset offending, generate evidence needed to inform the 'raise the age' debate, and contribute to youth crime prevention.



Uncovering how sugar contributes to invasive pneumococcal disease

Miss Kimberley McLean

Early Career Researcher

The University of Adelaide

Basic Science

\$40,000

Annually, more than one million children die from diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae (the pneumococcus). For the pneumococcus to cause disease, it must firstly establish itself, or 'colonise', in the upper respiratory tract (URT). Colonisation is critical and guarantees that the pneumococcus can spread to other individuals and cause severe disease. This project focuses on learning how the pneumococcus uses galactose to cause disease, the predominant sugar in the URT. Understanding how galactose can be used to the pneumococcus' advantage in this environment opens new doors for the future development of targeted therapies to treat pneumococcal disease.

Supporting children experiencing domestic and family violence (DFV) through developing a child-informed, child-centred practice approach in DFV shelters

Associate Professor Kristin Natalier

Flinders University

Community-Based Study

\$87,628

This research will develop and evaluate a child-informed, child-centred practice approach, to strengthen the impact of domestic and family violence (DFV) shelter-based work with children and their families. Children experiencing DFV are at risk of poorer health, social, psychological and developmental outcomes. These diminish children's immediate wellbeing, corrode their life chances, increase the longer-term costs of providing social services, and hold intergenerational consequences. Such impacts were estimated to cost \$333 million in 2015-2016 alone. Investing in a child-centred, child-informed approach in DFV shelters creates a crucial targeted intervention offering health, economic and social benefits for individuals and society.

A preliminary evaluation of a new approach to improve the antenatal and postnatal care of infants in families experiencing psychosocial adversity

Dr Alyssa Sawyer

The University of Adelaide

Clinical Study

\$99,345

The aim of our new intervention is to provide more effective support for mothers and fathers identified during pregnancy as being at moderate risk for future parenting difficulties and child maltreatment. The intervention will test a novel combination of mentalising-based support, 4D ultrasound scans, and parent education focused on the skills needed to manage distressed infants provided during the antenatal and postnatal period. The aim is to help both mothers and fathers provide better care of their unborn child during the antenatal period, and more effective, responsive parenting of their infant after birth, particularly when infants are experiencing significant distress.

A new therapy to improve the life trajectories for the infants of emotionally dysregulated mothers

Associate Professor Anne Sved Williams

Women's and Children's Health Network

Clinical Study

\$99,978

A child's first 1000-2000 days are clearly crucial to the underpinnings of their physical and mental health, and general life trajectories. Good maternal mental health is crucial to these beginnings. Research shows that maternal borderline personality disorder clearly impacts negatively on developmental pathways from infancy onwards and yet no therapies currently attempt to improve these paths. Evaluation of a South Australian program, mother-infant dialectical behaviour therapy (MI-DBT) shows some but insufficient change in mother-infant relationships. MI-DBT+ will compare 2 different add-on therapies to better enhance infant development, thus potentially improving the lives of a significant percentage of children.

Artificial intelligence for reducing radiation exposure and cancer risk in children

Dr Minh-Son To

Flinders University

Basic Science

\$100,000

Computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are commonly used for diagnostic imaging. CT is preferred for visualising bony structures, while MRI is superior for soft tissues. The use of CT in children is associated with an increased incidence of cancer in later life. In contrast, MRI utilises non-ionising radiation and is not associated with this risk. In this study, we will develop and validate state-of-the-art artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms to generate CT-like bony images from MRI. Clinical deployment of this technology will enable reduced reliance on CT for a wide variety of indications in paediatric imaging.

Does airway epithelial progenitor cell reprogramming by viral and bacterial infections cause childhood asthma?

Dr Damon Tumes

University of South Australia

Basic Science

\$99,188

Childhood asthma is a significant burden on children and their caregivers. Bacterial and viral respiratory infections have been associated with development of childhood asthma. For example, approximately 50% of children who develop respiratory syncytial virus-associated bronchiolitis develop asthma or chronic wheezing within two years. However, it remains unknown how respiratory infections during early life can predispose the airway for asthma. We propose to define the molecular mechanisms by which respiratory infections permanently change the airway and predispose for asthma. This will allow us to define targets for treatments that block the development of asthma before it occurs.

Identifying embryonic regulators of health-span to improve child lifetime outcomes

Dr Yasmyn Winstanley

Early Career Researcher

The University of Adelaide

Basic Science

\$40,000

Children now are predicted to have shorter lifespan than their parents. This project will identify how maternal environmental signals impinge upon molecular machinery in embryonic cells that determines offspring lifespan. We discovered that embryos from female mice with obesity or advanced-age have shortened telomeres- the protective DNA at chromosome ends that determines lifespan. These results explain epidemiological studies showing children of obese and older mothers have shorter telomeres, and risk factors that decrease lifespan. We will now uncover mechanisms regulating telomere elongation during embryogenesis, identifying how nuclear and cytoplasmic portions of pluripotent embryonic cells establish postnatal telomere length and healthspan.

Evaluation of the Autism Detection in Early Childhood–Virtual (ADEC–V)

Professor Robyn Young

Flinders University

Clinical Science

\$85,319

Although signs of autism emerge in infancy, children often do not receive a diagnosis until much later, with an average wait time of around 2 years for an assessment. A screening tool for autism that is validated for use through telehealth would increase the accessibility of diagnostic assessments to young children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to be assessed, such as those in rural and remote areas or those impacted by current COVID-19 lockdowns. As an accurate diagnosis provides a gateway to early intervention, this would have significant benefits for improving functional outcomes for these young children.

Family and domestic violence in migrant and refugee communities – amplifying children’s voices and empowering communities in South Australia

Associate Professor Anna Ziersch

Flinders University

Community Based Study

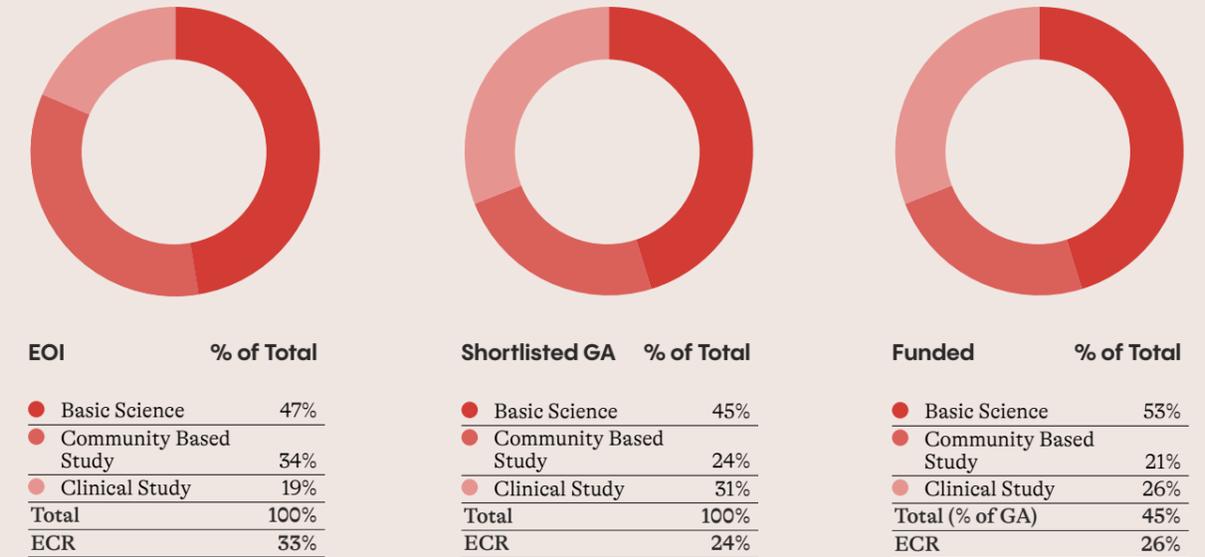
\$99,978

Exposure to family and domestic violence (FDV) has negative mental health and developmental impacts for children that extend into adulthood. Migrant and refugee communities and service providers have highlighted FDV as a priority. However, relatively little is known about risk factors and consequences of FDV for migrant and refugee children, particularly in South Australia. This study will provide an overview of programs and service provider perspectives on FDV in migrant and refugee communities, produce in-depth evidence on a community-led FDV prevention program, consult with refugee and migrant children about their priorities, and provide evidence-based recommendations for prevention and support programs.

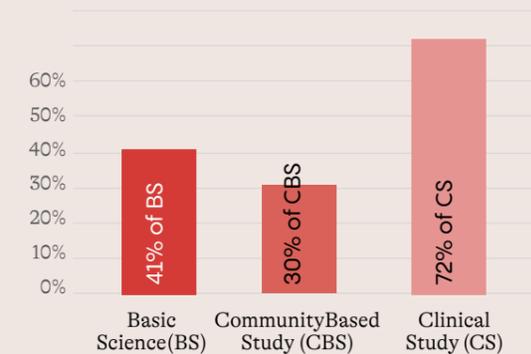
2022 Application Statistics

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

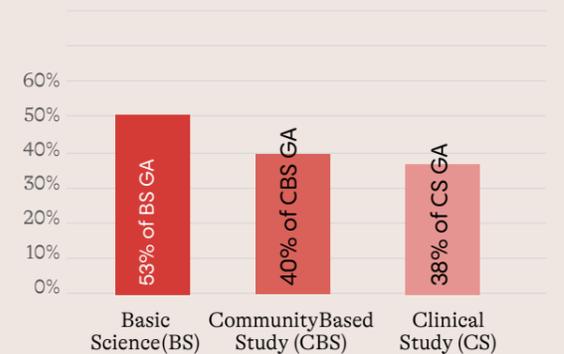
1. Expression of Interest (EOI).
2. Full Grant Application (GA) for short-listed applicants only.



EOI Success Rate



GA Success



2022 Funding by Administering Organisation



Highlights and Collaborations



\$1,526,642

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



\$300,000*

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

* Year one of three-year term



\$32,500

CRF HDA Scholars PhD Excellence Awards. Helping to build excellence and career development in children's research in South Australia.



\$5000

South Australia – Australian Society for Medical Research ASMR.

- State Sponsor ASMR Medical Research Week® Online Schools Quiz
- Sponsor 'ASMR at Science Alive!' and ASMR Medical Research Week®



\$3000

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

CRF Fellowships

The CRF Fellowship Program commenced in July 2021 and is designed to support mid-career researchers to pursue ground-breaking advances in childhood health, welfare or education. These two fixed-term, three-year mid-career Fellowships will invest additional funds of almost \$1M into children's research in South Australia.

Congratulations to our inaugural Fellows!

Dr Zlatko Kopecki

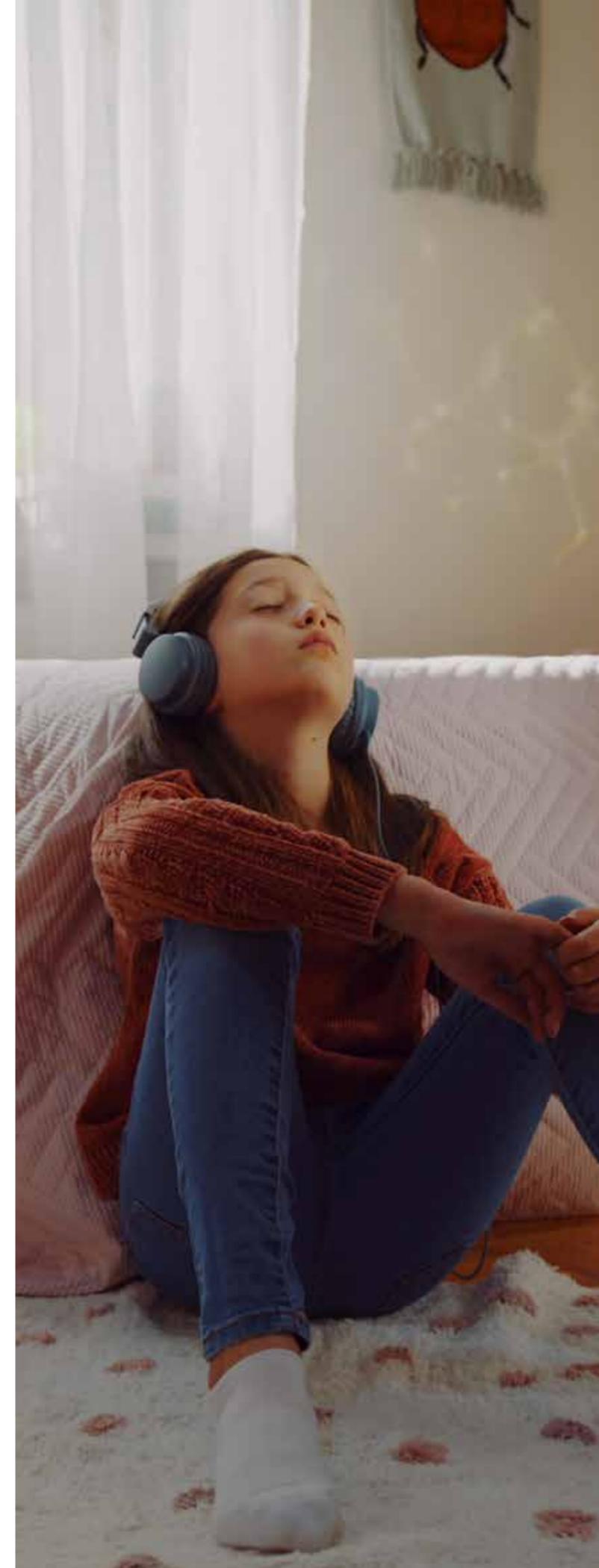
CRF Fellow in Childhood Wound Infections
Future Industries Institute Foundation Fellow (Senior Research Fellow), University of South Australia

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

Associate Professor Luke Grzeskowiak

CRF Fellow in Medicines Use and Safety
College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University

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





A CRF Enabling Grant will provide up to
\$30,000
A YEAR

Enabling Grants Program (co-funding)

A new tier to CRF's research funding program was introduced to support South Australian researchers seeking co-funding support for NHMRC Partnership and ARC Linkage grant applications.

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

This exciting new opportunity for South Australian researchers expands on the \$1.8M CRF annually gives to children's health, education and welfare research.

Achievement in Children's Research Awards

The first Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation **Achievement in Children's Research Awards** were presented in October 2021 at the inaugural annual event to recognise the long-term achievements and outcomes of the research and researchers CRF supports.

Congratulations to our inaugural recipients:

Colin Matthews AO Award
for outstanding achievement in children's **HEALTH** research

Awarded to **Professor Jennifer Couper** for her excellent and on-going work in the field of juvenile diabetes. Professor Jenny Couper is a paediatric endocrinologist who heads the Discipline of Paediatrics, at The University of Adelaide.

Len Frankham Award
for outstanding achievement in children's **EDUCATION** and **WELLBEING** research.

Awarded to **Professor Tracey Wade** for her work on eating disorders and supporting mental health support approaches in adolescents. Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor Tracey Wade has worked as a clinician and researcher in eating disorders for over 30 years.

Dennis Earl Award
for outstanding achievement in children's **WELFARE** research.

Awarded to **Emeritus Professor Michael Sawyer OAM** for his work in community child health, including child and adolescent mental health, as a researcher and educator. Professor Sawyer is currently the Honorary Medical Advisor for Australian Rotary Health.

RECOGNISING CRF'S INCREDIBLE RESEARCHER ALUMNI

Held annually, these Awards focus on the three children's research areas CRF is committed to – health, education and welfare – and are named in recognition of three remarkable CRF visionaries.



Our Collaborative Network

7NEWS continued to take CRF-funded research into the homes of South Australian families through its regular news bulletins. Exclusives were aired throughout 2022, including 'promising epilepsy treatment trials brings hope of seizure-free life for children', 'RaceRunning; the fleet-of-foot sport that's helping kids with cerebral palsy' and 'CRF grant to help advance wound dressings to change burn treatment in children'.

Partnering To Build Research Careers and Development

Our partnership with Healthy Development Adelaide entered its 15th year delivering the **Annual PhD Excellence Awards**; designed to build research excellence and career development in children's health and development in South Australia.

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

Sponsoring Initiatives for Early Career Researchers and encouraging interest in careers in STEM

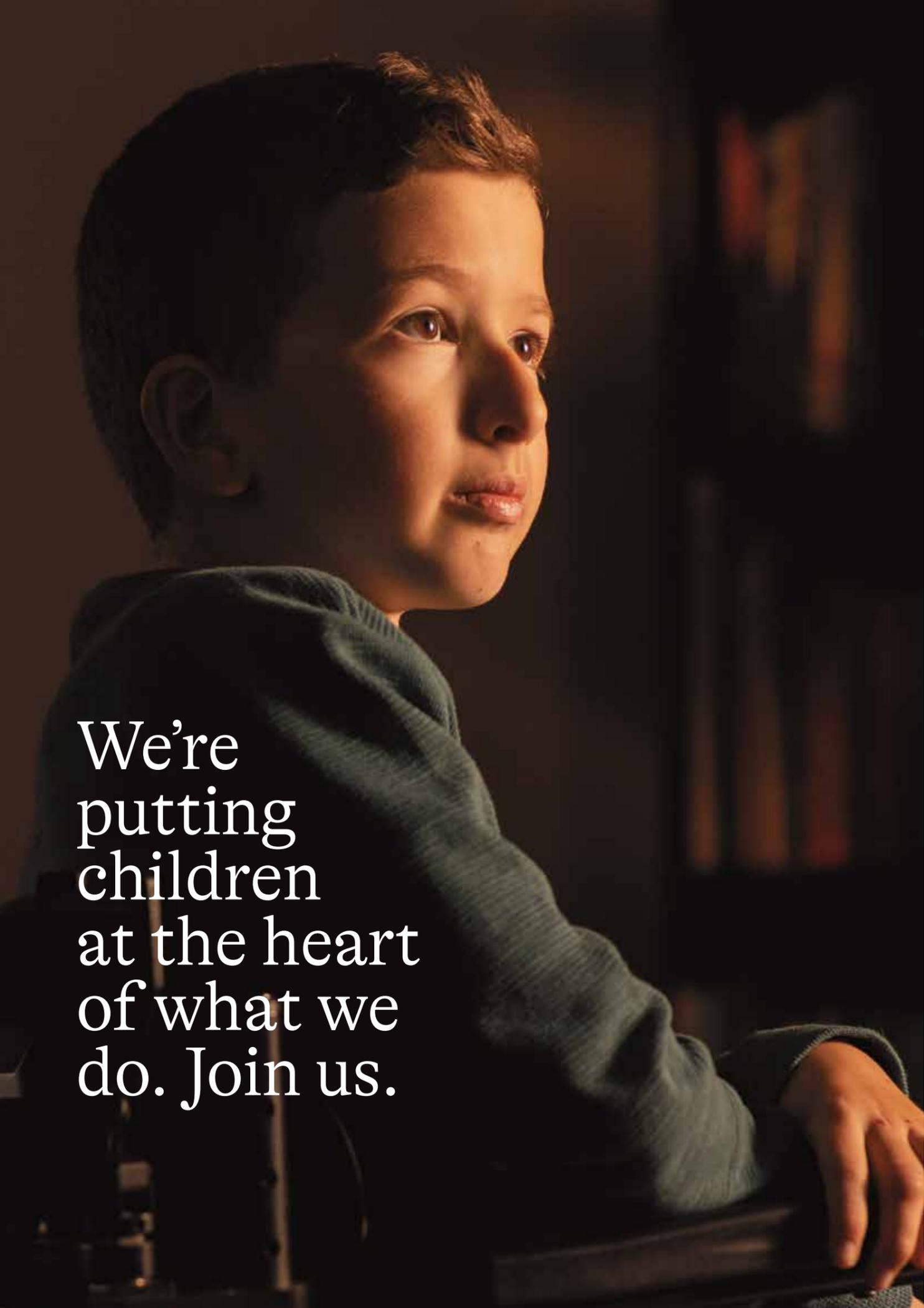
Our support of the Australian Society for Medical Research in South Australia (ASMR) continued as a sponsor of **Medical Research Week® 2022**. We commenced two new sponsorship initiatives aimed at stimulating awareness and interest at high school level in STEM careers; the **ASMR Medical Research Week® Online Schools Quiz** and **ASMR at Science Alive!**

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



Delivering the Annual
PhD Excellence Awards





We're
putting
children
at the heart
of what we
do. Join us.

Help Us, Help Them

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

Each year, our funding is able to support around 20 new projects for research into the health, education and welfare of children, and many promising EOIs received are not successful.

Our ambition is to say 'yes' to more, yet to do this we need to increase the funding pool available, which can only be achieved through the kindness of giving.

By joining the Foundation as a financial partner or regular donor, you can help make a difference to the lives of thousands of children and their families.

The Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation offers flexible opportunities for South Australian businesses, individuals and communities to be at the forefront of improving children's lives through research, including:

Match Funding

\$20k-\$50k

A dollar-for-dollar grant partnership with the Foundation

Sponsor a Grant

\$40k-100k

Align your brand with leadership in children's research

Fund a Fellow

\$50k-\$150k (p.a. fixed-term)

Help fund prevention of childhood disability and disease.

Support Careers in Research

\$40k

Play an active role in growing careers for South Australians, in South Australia

Breakthrough Challenge

\$100k (p.a. fixed-term)

An exclusive opportunity to create an impact by enabling ground-breaking research to happen

Workplace Giving

Include CRF in your company payroll giving program, and consider matching your employees efforts

Run a Fundraiser

Nominate CRF as your charity of choice for workplace fundraisers, raffles and more.

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

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

crf@crf.org.au
(08) 8202 8258
[crf.org.au](https://www.crf.org.au)



Summary Financial Report 2021-2022

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,081,102	2,257,843
Trade and Other Receivables	1,684,047	1,056,384
Other Assets	81,540	62,965
Total Current Assets	3,846,688	3,377,192
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments:		
Capital/Convertible Notes	5,941,534	4,312,061
Investments in Listed Companies	36,895,973	42,051,143
Total Non-Current Assets	42,837,507	46,363,204
TOTAL ASSETS	46,684,196	49,740,397
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Payables	285,708	371,278
Total Current Liabilities	285,708	371,278
TOTAL LIABILITIES	285,708	371,278
NET ASSETS	46,398,486	49,369,119
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Fair Value Reserve	11,174,714	15,250,125
Accumulated Surplus	35,223,772	34,118,994
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	46,398,486	49,369,119

Summary Financial Report

Statement of Profit or Loss & Other Comprehensive Income
for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Other Income	724	473
Refund of Research Grant (previous years)	763	183
TOTAL INCOME	1,487	656
EXPENDITURE		
Administration Fees	174,903	159,478
Advertising	5,280	9,859
Audit Fees	17,233	15,836
Legal Fees	2,223	7,546
Meeting Expenses	13,439	11,421
Postage, Stationery and Telephone	2,400	2,403
Research Grants	1,725,505	1,162,451
Research Support	37,932	36,625
Research Chair Support	(62,500)	250,000
Sundry Expenses	26,060	6,505
Website	1,135	15,590
Bad Debt Expenses	96,924	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,040,533	1,677,714
Deficit before Financial Income	(2,039,047)	(1,677,059)
Financial Income:		
Dividends Received	2,540,929	1,404,995
Interest on Investments	3,386	19,831
Franking Credit Refund	918,406	449,998
Revaluation of Investments	(318,897)	141,967
Net Financial Income	3,143,823	2,016,791
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	1,104,777	339,732
Net change in fair value of financial assets	(4,075,411)	8,612,101
Total other comprehensive income for the year	(4,075,411)	8,612,101
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(2,970,634)	8,951,833

Summary Financial Report

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Fair Value Reserve	Accumulated Surplus	Total Equity
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2020	6,638,024	33,779,262	40,417,286
Total comprehensive income	8,612,101	339,732	8,951,833
Balance at 30 June 2021	15,250,125	34,118,994	49,369,119
Balance at 1 July 2021	15,250,125	34,118,994	49,369,119
Total comprehensive income	(4,075,411)	1,104,777	(2,970,634)
Balance at 30 June 2022	11,174,715	35,223,772	46,398,487

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Summary Financial Report

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash receipts in the course of operations	(644,748)	(14,622)
Cash payments in the course of operations	(2,126,102)	(1,422,060)
Net cash used in operating activities	(2,770,851)	(1,436,682)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES		
Dividends and franking credits received	3,459,334	1,854,993
Interest received	3,386	3,195
Payments for investments	(4,957,647)	(3,970,450)
Proceeds from sale of investments	4,089,036	2,774,403
Net cash provided by investing activities	2,594,111	662,141
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held	(176,740)	(774,541)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	2,257,843	3,032,385
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	2,081,102	2,257,843



Financial Summary

Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

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

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

This financial report was authorised for issue by the Directors on 27 September 2022.

Basis of Preparation

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

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

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

Statement by the Board

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

The Association recorded a Net Financial Income of \$3.14M which consists of dividends received, interests on investments, franking credit refund and revaluation of investments. The summary financial report does not, and cannot be expected to, provide as full an understanding of the financial performance and position, financing and investing activities of the Association, as the full financial report.

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

Dated at Adelaide this 3rd day of November 2022. Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director

Director



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

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and financial summary, are derived from the audited financial report of Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation of South Australia Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2022.

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

Summary Financial Statements

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

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 8 November 2022.

Other matter - Basis of accounting

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

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

Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

BDO Audit Pty Ltd

G K Edwards
Director

Adelaide, 16 November 2022



CHILDREN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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