



women & infants  
research foundation

# Media Release

## Hospital volunteers recognised during National Volunteers Week

Friday, 25 May 2018

The contributions of more than 120 volunteers to King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) and the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF) were celebrated as part of a recent event to mark National Volunteers Week 2018.

Acting Executive, Women and Newborn Health Service, Graeme Boardley said the event was a fantastic opportunity to recognise an exceptional group of people.

“Volunteers at KEMH perform countless tasks that add that extra special touch to a mother and newborn’s journey. They form an invaluable resource, making a significant contribution to the ability of the Hospital to deliver the highest level of service,” he said,

“This annual event is all about recognising the contribution and achievements of this amazing group of volunteers.”

WIRF Chief Operations Director, Deb Portugues said during the past year, WIRF had grown its volunteer base from to more than 120.

“This team of volunteers contributes over 10,000 hours each year which is valued at a staggering \$465 000,” she said.

“The work of our volunteers extends to many of the Hospital’s departments. By engaging in patient and client activities, volunteers are a vital link between the clinical and nursing services, and together form a holistic approach to the quality health care that people need.”

As part of the event, volunteers celebrating 5 and 15 year long service awards were recognised. 5 year recipients were: Marianne Bartrop and Diana Ching. 15 year recipients were: Rema Starina and Elizabeth Hyde.

Volunteers at WIRF and KEMH provide vital services across a range of departments and services including: the hospital’s café and gift shop, op shop, perinatal loss service, social work, physiotherapy, the centenary clinic and nurseries.

**ENDS**

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**Background:** The Women and Infants Research Foundation is one of Australia’s leading independent research institution dedicated to improving the health of women, infants and reproductive health. For more than 40 years our research and programs have directly contributed to a number of improved clinical practices and health outcomes in areas of critical need.