



women & infants
research foundation

Media Release

National Volunteers Week 2019: Hospital volunteers worth more than \$716,000

Thursday, 23 May 2019

The contributions of more than 90 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 2019.

Acting Executive Director, Women and Newborn Health Service, Dr Jodi Graham 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,” she said,

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

WIRF Volunteer Manager, Paula O’Connell said the tentacles of WIRF’s volunteers continue to reach far and wide throughout the hospital, WIRF and the WA community.

“Our volunteers provide vital services across a range of departments and services including: the hospital’s café / gift shop, op shop, perinatal loss service, social work, physiotherapy, the Centenary and West Wing Clinic and nurseries – adding a human touch to everything we do.”

“Using Volunteering WA’s Benefits Calculator, the contributions of our family of volunteers delivered \$716,665 worth of value to the WA community this past year which is just incredible!”

As part of the Lotterywest supported event, volunteers celebrating 5, 10 and 20 years of service awards were recognised.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of National Volunteer Week and the national campaign to promote the amazing contributions of our country of dedicated volunteers. The theme for National Volunteers Week 2019 is ‘Making a World of Difference’.

In April of this year, KEMH and WIRF celebrated another major milestone – the 20th birthday of the WIRF Café. Since opening, proceeds from the WIRF Café/Gift Shop have generated a staggering \$5 million in profits which have directly supported the Foundation’s many research programs.

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Background:

The Women & Infants Research Foundation is one of Australia’s leading independent research institutes dedicated to improving the health of women and infants. We focus our research and programs across three principal areas: the prevention of preterm birth, gynaecological cancers, and women’s mental health. This research and programs have directly contributed to a number of improved clinical practices and health outcomes.