Delivering the Future

Summer 2025/26

Women & Infants
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Healthy women. Healthy babies. Healthy families.

A note from our CEO

We are overjoyed to share some wonderful news – the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF) has been named a Western Australian State Winner in the 2025 Telstra Best of Business Awards. WIRF received top honours in the Championing Health category, celebrating organisations that are driving innovation and making a real difference in health outcomes across Australia.

We are also proud to be a WA State Finalist in two other categories – Building Communities and Embracing Innovation. Being selected from more than 23,000 nominations nationwide is a heartfelt reminder of the incredible impact of our work and the community that supports it.

As we look towards our 50th anniversary, this recognition feels particularly special. It acknowledges our world-class research, education, and community programs that are making life-changing differences – from preventing preterm birth to improving long-term outcomes for premature babies, like Jamie, featured on our front cover, whose life has come full circle and today cares for sick and premature babies as a paediatrician at Royal Darwin Hospital. It also highlights our ongoing commitment to tackling some of the most pressing and often under-recognised challenges in women's health.

We are truly humbled to be recognised among Western Australia's most impactful organisations. This achievement reflects the dedication, passion, and hard work of our small but mighty Foundation team, our brilliant researchers, our clinical and community partners, and you, our generous supporters – all of whom share our vision of giving every baby the best possible start, every woman the brightest future, and every family the opportunity to thrive.

A heartfelt thank you to each of you – this recognition is as much yours as it is ours.

Next year, we look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary, and we hope you will join us at our very special Gala on 23 May 2026 for an evening of celebration, inspiration, and reflection on the incredible journey we have shared together.

Over the past six months, there has been much to celebrate and many new developments.

At the Board level, we are delighted to welcome Tanya Brown as our new Chair. Tanya brings immense experience, wisdom, and energy to WIRF, and we are excited for the journey ahead with her guidance. We said goodbye to our former Chair Tony Walsh and to our former Acting Chair and Treasurer Wylie Collins. I sincerely thank them for their exceptional leadership and dedication – their contributions have shaped WIRF's direction and impact. We're incredibly grateful for everything they have done for WIRF.

We also welcomed Kari Musick as our new Development Manager. Kari's expertise and passion for connecting people to meaningful causes will be an incredible asset to our Foundation. Kate Miles will continue to be a valued member of the WIRF team, offering her support on special projects.

This newsletter is bursting with highlights from the past months, and I hope you enjoy catching up on all the exciting developments. On behalf of the entire WIRF family, thank you for your continued generosity, encouragement, and belief in our work.

I wish you a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season, and look forward to continuing this important journey together in the year ahead.

Warm regards,

Deb

Deb Portughes
Chief Executive Officer

WIRF builds global connections in London

In June, WIRF CEO Deb Portughes and researcher Dr Sean Carter travelled to London to raise international awareness of WIRF's groundbreaking research and transformative programs improving health outcomes for women, babies, and families.

During the visit, Deb had the honour of meeting His Excellency the Hon Stephen Smith, Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, and WA Agent General Angela Kelly PSM, to share WIRF's vision, partnerships, and ambitions to advance women's and perinatal health on a global scale.

WIRF extends our sincere thanks to the High Commissioner and Ms Kelly for their time and keen interest in the Foundation's work.

A special thank you also to Ms Kelly for hosting a WIRF sundowner at the WA Agent General's Offices at the Australia Centre. Guests gathered to connect, collaborate, and learn more about WIRF's mission to create brighter, healthier futures for women, babies, and families everywhere.

ABOVE His Excellency the Hon Stephen Smith, Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Ms Deb Portughes, and WA Agent General Angela Kelly PSM.

Strengthening national ties in Sydney

A private sundowner, hosted by WIRF at the Union, University & Schools Club in Sydney in November, brought together supporters and friends to spotlight the impact of preterm birth and the vital work driving change.

The evening aimed to raise awareness of the life-changing research and transformative programs led by WIRF. Guests heard from WIRF Ambassadors Amy and Mike Hussey, WIRF CEO Deb Portughes and researcher Dr Sean Carter. They shared powerful stories and insights into the bold new advances shaping the future of women's and babies' health.

WIRF extends our heartfelt thanks to Pharmacy 777 for its generous support of this event, to John Fairfax AO for his kind support as our member sponsor for the venue, and to everyone who joined us for their interest, generosity, and commitment to our cause.

Mike and Amy Hussey, Deb Portughes, Tanya Brown, and Dr Sean Carter

Pharmacy 777

In celebration of our 50th Anniversary the Women and Infants Research Foundation warmly invites you to our

50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

SATURDAY 23 MAY 2026

Please save the date for an evening of inspiration, celebration, and impact.

FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SHARED SOON.

LEFT Jamie in NICU at Royal Darwin Hospital. **RIGHT** Today, Jamie cares for sick and premature babies as a paediatrician at Royal Darwin Hospital.

From premature baby to paediatrician: Jamie's journey comes full circle

Thirty-three years ago, Jamie Hullick was welcomed into this world six weeks early.

He spent his first few weeks of life in an incubator in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Royal Darwin Hospital. Today, he walks those same corridors – this time in scrubs, caring for premature and sick babies as a paediatrician.

What brought him full circle is a commitment to giving vulnerable newborns the best possible start in life – a journey shaped by his own beginnings and the values and hard work instilled in him by his parents.

A difficult start to a strong future

When Jamie's mum, 22-year-old Suzie, went into early labour, nothing prepared her for what lay ahead. Her baby boy arrived early via emergency caesarean. What she remembers most is sitting on the floor of the shower before going into the operating theatre, overwhelmed and frightened, but comforted by her husband Andy.

After his birth, Jamie was taken straight to the NICU, next door to the hospital where Suzie was recovering. She wouldn't properly lay eyes on her tiny son until the following day, wouldn't be able to hold him for some time, and wouldn't get to be with him as much as she had wanted.

Weighing just over two kilos, Jamie was fed through a tube and surrounded by tape, drips, and machines.

Those first weeks were nothing like the new-mother experience Suzie had imagined.

"You dream of the fairy tale – the natural birth, the car seat ready, the nursery set up, the breastfeeding, cuddling him, spending lots of time together. We had none of that. Instead, I went home without my baby, and I felt so disconnected," Suzie said.

Suzie also had worries that she didn't expect to have when her first child was born: Would Jamie's lungs develop properly? Would he be able to run and play like other children? Would he face lifelong health challenges?

"He was so tiny. I feared he wouldn't be strong enough. I worried about feeding him, I worried about the tape on his skin. Nothing felt natural," she said.

Despite his fragile start, Jamie grew into a robust and healthy child. He became an active sportsman, representing the Northern Territory in hockey at national level.

Academically, he stood out for his extraordinary memory and love of learning. In his teenage years, he became set on becoming a doctor. And, according to his mum, he's always been amazing with kids.

Finding purpose

Jamie completed a biomedical science degree before earning a scholarship through the Northern Territory Government to study medicine. Along the way, he worked in Indigenous communities, gaining early experience working with children.

Jamie found his calling in paediatrics, discovered through his love of working with children, and driven by the belief that children are vulnerable and deserve the best care.

"The only time I consistently felt excited to go to work was when I was working with kids," he said.

"Almost never is it a child's fault that they're unwell. They deserve every chance and the best care."

That belief now guides his work in the very same NICU where he began life. Often, he draws on his own story to reassure worried families.

"When I talk to parents of premature babies, I can say: I was born here, too. It will be OK. Things will work out and we're going to do all of the things that your baby needs to make sure that they get the best start."

The rewards and heartbreaks

For Jamie, one of the most rewarding aspects of the job is helping families navigate the stress of the NICU.

"It's a unique place, full of alarms and machines. Being able to explain what's happening, reassure parents, and sometimes stabilise a newborn so they can have their first cuddle – that's incredibly special."

But there are also moments of deep heartbreak.

"Losing a premature baby in the intensive care is always incredibly gut-wrenching. The grief that families experience is devastating. Fortunately, it's not common, but I think it is without doubt the hardest part of working in intensive care, especially in the NICU."

Jamie's sense of purpose is closely tied to community, and he sees his work as a way of giving back to Darwin, the place that gave him his start.

"I feel very connected to this community, and it's a privilege to be able to live and work here alongside the Larrakia people," he said.

"Aboriginal families face such unfair health challenges, and I want to help bridge these inequities. It's critical for me moving forward to walk alongside Aboriginal people and see their communities empowered to shape culturally appropriate care and improve outcomes for their families."

Looking to the future

Neonatal care has advanced enormously since Jamie's first weeks of life. He points to CPAP and improved surfactant therapy as game-changers, allowing babies to breathe without intubation.

Skin-to-skin contact, now known as kangaroo care, has also become standard practice, something his mum wishes she had experienced more of when he was born.

"Seeing a struggling baby's breathing ease when they're on their mum's chest shows just how important those changes are," Jamie said.

Looking ahead, Jamie hopes to see smarter automation in neonatal care – systems that finely regulate oxygen to keep babies stable and safeguard their developing brains and lungs – together with breakthroughs in neuroprotection that could transform long-term outcomes.

"I'd like us to reduce the burden of conditions like cerebral palsy and cognitive impairment so that every child has the same opportunities as others."

Full circle

For Suzie, watching her son's journey has been a source of immense pride.

"You're proud of your kids no matter what they do and what they choose. The fact that Jamie chose paediatrics is such a contribution to families and to his community. We need people like him.

"He's worked so hard. Nothing came easy, but he's resilient. And there's no doubt he loves what he does. You can see it when he walks in the door, even if it's been a hard day."

Medicine and neonatal care have advanced enormously in 30 years, but one thing remains unchanged: the resilience of premature babies and the dedication of those who care for them.

The tiny baby who once lay in an incubator now stands beside those same machines – this time as the doctor giving fragile newborns the best possible chance at life.

> *A heartfelt thank you to Jamie, and to all the dedicated health professionals at Royal Darwin Hospital, for the extraordinary care and support you provide to precious babies and their families every day.*

Josie, Jamie, Suzi, Andrew, and Jason Hullick, and Georgia Sullivan at their family trek around Mount Blanc.

Chief Scientist's Message

Over the past three years WIRF has been working to deliver on its scientific strategy of addressing the women's and newborn health challenges that are important today, whilst building the systems and intellectual capital that we need to protect the future health of women, mothers, and babies. This newsletter serves as an important update to these efforts as the Foundation approaches its 50th birthday.

WIRF remains a proud WA organisation and maintains a focus on driving impactful research in our state. It is increasingly clear, however, that delivering on this mission requires strong engagement at local, national, and international levels. One of the things I am most enthusiastic about is how WIRF has embraced this challenge over the past three years, and the research and capacity benefits that are now starting to flow from this approach. Over the coming months the Foundation will be announcing new partnerships with leading international institutions, as well as funding support for important local, national, and international organisations working to support women's and newborn health through world-changing research and education.

At its core, WIRF is a community focussed organisation. It makes sense then that the Foundation places particular emphasis on engaging with our local community, not just in terms of education and support, but also in fostering strong collaborative links that allow the community to interact with our research teams across the lifecycle of our research programs. WIRF proudly has strong community input into its research activities via a dedicated representative on its Scientific Committee and Grants Committee. In this newsletter you will hear more about the Foundation's newly established Community and Consumer Panel, which is designed to support meaningful and ongoing community engagement with key research projects from inception through to completion, whilst providing guidance to our researchers, the Foundation's management and board, and the wider research community. I am extremely grateful to Joanne Beedie for leading this committee, and I am excited about the work we have planned over the next few years.

Many of you will have attended the recent 2025 WIRF Scientific Dialogue, held at the University Club of Western Australia. Reframed as a vehicle to promote trans-disciplinary communication and collaboration, and drive engagement with our community, the event saw leading WA researchers present their work alongside some of Australia's leading research talent. In particular, keynote lectures by visiting professors Ben Mol and Brett Manley highlighted the importance of critically assessing the data we use to design healthcare systems, and the need for new adaptable approaches to generate high quality trials data.

A highlight of the WIRF Scientific Dialogue was the announcement of the 2025 Research Acceleration Awards, along with a special grant targeting women's cancer, and a new prize for the best student research presentation. These awards allow WIRF to support outstanding WA research targeting unmet areas of need in women's and newborn health – whilst simultaneously supporting the careers of the WA researchers that our state will rely on to secure the wellbeing of our population over the long term. The Foundation was also delighted to announce an expansion of its Research Acceleration Awards scheme, with the 2026 round to offer a total of $500,000 in funding for WA researchers.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the dedicated service of Mr Tony Walsh, WIRF's retiring Board Chair, and Mr Wylie Collins, WIRF's retiring Acting Chair and Treasurer. Tony and Wylie have each made a remarkable contribution to the Foundation. Their commitment and courage leaves WIRF ideally placed to make a positive contribution to the health of women, babies, and families for many years to come.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the WIRF newsletter, and thank you, as always, for your support.

Warm regards,

Matt

Professor Matt Kemp
WIRF Chief Scientist

WIRF
Scientific Dialogue

From Eminence to Evidence: WIRF Scientific Dialogue 2025 sparks fresh insights in women's, newborn, and family health

In September, WIRF welcomed more than 150 health professionals, researchers, academics, consumers and supporters to its annual WIRF Scientific Dialogue: *From Eminence to Evidence – The importance of generating and using robust data to ensure the health of women, mothers and babies*.

Chaired by WIRF's Chief Scientist, Professor Matt Kemp, the Dialogue once again brought together leading voices from across the research, medical and community sectors to explore the future of evidence-based care in women's, maternal, newborn, and family health.

The event opened with a community and consumer panel discussion: *From Insight to Impact: Elevating Community Perspectives*. Facilitated by Mrs Joanne Beedie and Dr Mathias Epee-Bekima, with guest panellists Mr Kabe Redfern, Ms Deb Portughes and Ms Cassie Silver, the discussion highlighted the importance of embedding consumer insight into research to ensure real-world impact. »

ABOVE Professors Mol, Manley and Kemp.

Two internationally recognised leaders in maternity and infant health delivered this year's keynote addresses.

Professor Brett Manley

Neonatologist, Professor, and Director of Newborn Research at the Mercy Hospital for Women and The University of Melbourne – presented *Puggles and Premmies: The PLATIPUS perinatal adaptive platform trial*.

Professor Manley outlined the challenges of traditional perinatal clinical research and introduced the innovative PLATIPUS adaptive platform trial – a world-first initiative he is co-leading that will soon begin recruiting to both pregnancy and neonatal domains.

Prior to delivering his keynote at the WIRF Scientific Dialogue, Professor Manley joined Nadia Mitsopoulos on ABC Radio Perth – WA Mornings to talk about the urgent challenge of preterm birth and the need to innovate in the way research is done. **Listen to the ABC Radio interview by scanning the QR code.**

Professor Ben Mol

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Monash University – presented *Scientific Integrity of Randomised Trials: Now we have the data, but are they true?*

Professor Mol drew attention to the growing issue of flawed or untrustworthy data in clinical trials – potentially affecting up to 40% of published research – and explored strategies to detect, prevent and overcome such challenges, drawing from his own experience in evidence synthesis and trial integrity.

Outstanding emerging and senior WA researchers, including Dr Kate Buchanan, Dr Erin Johnson, Dr Bradley MacDonald, Dr Vincent Mancini, Dr Brennen Mills and Professor Mary Steen, presented new and thought-provoking findings across multiple disciplines.

Their presentations explored advances in perinatal mental health and wellbeing, the role of midwife-led, woman-centred conversations in post-birth care, and new approaches to refining antenatal steroid therapy. They also examined the key enablers needed for successful rare disease clinical trials in Western Australia, and showcased how immersive and digital simulation technologies are reshaping education and practice in women's and newborn health.

For the first time, the Dialogue hosted a student and early career researcher competition, offering a unique platform for emerging researchers to showcase their work.

Three abstracts were selected for oral presentation, with the $1,000 prize awarded to Xuehua Jin from The University of Western Australia for her presentation on *Reassessing low milk supply and risk factors in breastfeeding women using a data-driven approach*.

WIRF extends our sincere thanks to all speakers, delegates, exhibitors and supporters who made the 2025 Scientific Dialogue a success.

Special acknowledgment goes to our **Gold sponsors**: CERI, Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, and Edith Cowan University – and **Silver sponsors**: Pharmacy 777, and Eastcourt Foundation – whose generous contributions enabled this premier scientific event.

All WIRF Scientific Dialogue presentations are available to watch on our YouTube channel by scanning the QR code.

WIRF awards $260,000 in research funding

To mark the final day of Women's Health Week in September, WIRF announced $260,000 in funding to support research projects aimed at improving the health of women, babies, and families.

The funding, awarded through WIRF's Research Acceleration Awards and the Tony McCartney Gynaecologic Oncology Special Grant – presented by Tony's son Tom McCartney – will support five innovative projects spanning ovarian cancer, chemotherapy-related side effects, childbirth trauma, rare diseases, and neonatal health.

Dr Yu Yu

The Tony McCartney Gynaecologic Oncology Special Grant, valued at **$100,000**, was awarded to Dr Yu Yu – a senior research fellow at Curtin University – for her project *Developing a New Treatment for Chemotherapy Resistant Ovarian Cancer Using Bispecific SLIT-ROBO Antibody*.

Natalie Williams

– a nurse researcher in gynaecology at King Edward Memorial Hospital, received the Tony McCartney Gynaecologic Oncology Special Seed Grant, valued at **$25,000**, for her project *The CIPNEX Study: A Hand-Foot Exercise Intervention for Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy in Gynaecologic Oncology*.

Three WIRF Research Acceleration Awards, each valued at **$45,000**, were presented to Dr Bradley MacDonald, Dr Kelli MacMillan, and Dr Gayatri Jape.

Dr Bradley MacDonald

– a paediatrician and clinical trial lead at the Clinical Centre of Expertise for Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases, Perth Children's Hospital – received support for his project *Developing an Adaptive Rare Diseases Platform Trial (ARDaPT) for therapeutic trial access*.

Dr Kelli MacMillan

– a clinical psychologist at King Edward Memorial Hospital and senior lecturer at Murdoch University – was awarded funding for her project *Screening for childbirth related post-traumatic stress disorder at an Australian women's tertiary hospital*.

Dr Gayatri Jape

– a neonatal paediatrician at King Edward Memorial Hospital – secured funding to advance her project *Implementation of a clinical risk score (Check-NEC score) for predicting the risk of NEC in preterm infants*.

WIRF Chief Scientist Professor Matt Kemp said the funding reflects WIRF's commitment to tackling pressing health challenges affecting women, babies and families through world-class research.

"We congratulate each of our award recipients on their outstanding projects," Professor Kemp said.

"These projects are addressing some of the most urgent and under-recognised challenges in women's and family health – from ovarian cancer relapse to the long-term impacts of chemotherapy, to childbirth trauma, neonatal disease, and the devastating inequities facing families affected by rare diseases.

"By investing in these researchers, we are investing in better futures for women, babies and families."

The Research Acceleration Awards, now in their third year, have been made possible with the generous support of the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and the Bass Family Foundation. In 2026, this partnership will enable WIRF to award $500,000 in research grants to advance local research into the health of women, babies, and families.

The Tony McCartney Gynaecologic Oncology Special Grant is named in honour of Dr Tony McCartney, who was WA's first gynaecological cancer specialist and invented a device known as the McCartney tube, which simplified keyhole hysterectomies.

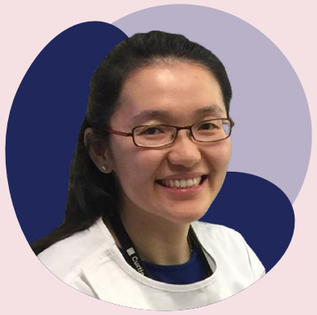
The awards were presented at the WIRF Scientific Dialogue.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AWARD RECIPIENTS' RESEARCH PROJECTS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

LEFT TO RIGHT Prof Matt Kemp, Dr Gayatri Jape, Dr Kelli MacMillan, Natalie Williams, Dr Bradley MacDonald, Dr Yu Yu, and Ms Deb Portughes.

Researchers in the Spotlight

WIRF Tony McCartney Gynaecologic Oncology Special Grant and Research Acceleration Award Recipients



Dr Yu Yu, Curtin University

PROJECT: Developing new treatment for chemotherapy resistant ovarian cancer using bispecific SLIT/ROBO antibody

Fighting Chemoresistant Ovarian Cancer: A New Target in Sight

Ovarian cancer remains one of the deadliest cancers affecting women, with high-grade serous carcinoma often relapsing after initial treatment. Dr Yu Yu's team has identified a little-studied cell signalling pathway, known as SLIT-ROBO, that may enable cancer cells to survive chemotherapy. By testing a new bispecific antibody treatment in patient-derived tumour models that targets the SLITs or ROBO proteins, this research aims to overcome chemoresistance and offer new hope for women whose cancers no longer respond to standard treatment.

Natalie Williams, King Edward Memorial Hospital

PROJECT: The CIPNEX Study: A hand-foot exercise intervention for chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy in gynaecologic oncology

Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy affects up to 70% of women undergoing treatment for ovarian and other gynaecological cancers, leading to pain, numbness, falls, and reduced quality of life. With no effective medical treatments available, this project will co-design, test, and evaluate a sustainable hand-foot exercise program. The end goal is to provide women with practical self-management tools to reduce symptom severity and improve daily functioning.

Dr Bradley MacDonald, Clinical Centre of Expertise for Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases, Perth Children's Hospital

PROJECT: Developing an Adaptive Rare Diseases Platform Trial (ARDaPT) for therapeutic trial access

Dr Bradley MacDonald is leading the *Adaptive Rare Diseases Platform Trial (ARDaPT)* project to improve clinical trial access for the 63,000 Western Australian children living with rare diseases. With 95% of rare diseases lacking specific drug treatments, participation in a clinical trial is often the only pathway to potential therapy – yet access in WA remains limited. ARDaPT will establish scalable, regulatory-approved infrastructure to make rare disease trials faster, more equitable, and locally accessible. By streamlining approval processes and creating a reusable platform for multiple conditions, this initiative will help deliver timely, life-changing treatments to patients suffering from rare diseases.

Dr Kelli MacMillan, King Edward Memorial Hospital

PROJECT: Screening for childbirth related post-traumatic stress disorder at an Australian women's tertiary hospital

Dr Kelli MacMillan is leading a first-of-its-kind Australian study at King Edward Memorial Hospital to improve the identification and treatment of childbirth-related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Despite growing awareness of childbirth trauma, there is currently no consistent or reliable screening process within perinatal services. This project will evaluate the City Birth Trauma Scale, Short Form (City BiTS-SF) – a brief, evidence-based tool designed to quickly and effectively identify women at risk of PTSD following childbirth. The study's findings are expected to guide national best practice, enhance maternal and infant mental health, and transform how maternity services respond to women experiencing childbirth trauma.

Dr Gayatri Jape, King Edward Memorial Hospital

PROJECT: Implementation of a clinical risk score (Check-NEC score) for predicting the risk of NEC in preterm infants

Dr Gayatri Jape is leading a vital project to improve the early detection and treatment of necrotising enterocolitis (NEC) – a serious bowel disease that affects premature babies and carries high risks of death and long-term complications, including neurodevelopmental disability and growth impairment. The study will evaluate implementation of the Check-NEC clinical risk score, a predictive tool designed to identify infants most at risk so that life-saving interventions can begin sooner. By improving prediction and management of NEC, this research aims to enhance survival rates, reduce lifelong disabilities, and improve health outcomes for some of Western Australia's most vulnerable newborns.

Driving innovation in women's and newborn health

WIRF researchers continue to lead pioneering studies that are reshaping the future of maternal and neonatal care. From developing a skin patch to safely deliver antenatal steroids and improve preterm birth outcomes, to advancing blood tests that can predict fetal lung development and dangerous pregnancy complications, these breakthroughs are paving the way for earlier, more effective interventions. World-first, WIRF-led research has also shown that lifesaving ECMO therapy may be safely used in babies under 2kg – offering new hope for the smallest and most vulnerable newborns. The following provides an overview of WIRF's latest research advances.

Antenatal steroids delivered by a skin patch could improve preterm birth treatment

A new study has demonstrated for the first time that a transdermal (skin) patch can safely and effectively deliver antenatal steroids to promote preterm fetal lung maturation.

For decades, antenatal steroids (ANS) have been a cornerstone of obstetric care, given to mothers before premature delivery to accelerate fetal lung maturation and reduce the risk of respiratory complications.

Yet, the treatment has remained largely unchanged since its introduction in the 1970s, relying on painful intramuscular injections that deliver high doses of steroids to both mother and baby and carry potential long-term risks.

Now, research led by Dr Sean Carter from WIRF, in collaboration with the National University of Singapore, has demonstrated for the first time that a transdermal patch can safely and effectively deliver antenatal steroids to promote fetal lung maturation.

The study demonstrated that the patch delivers a controlled, low-dose release of the steroid betamethasone – a method shown to accelerate lung maturation as effectively as the standard intra-muscular treatment whilst potentially reducing harm to the developing brain and other organs.

In preterm lamb models, the patch achieved the same improvements in respiratory outcomes as traditional injections, but with up to 10 times less drug exposure.

Dr Carter said the findings mark a major advance in maternal-fetal medicine.

"For more than 50 years, antenatal steroids have saved countless lives, but the way these drugs are administered has never been optimised. Our study is the first to show that a patch – which is pain-free, needle-free, and heat-stable – can deliver these drugs effectively and safely."

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP: WIRF researcher Dr Sean Carter.
OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM: WIRF researcher Dr Haruo Usuda.

New blood test predicts fetal lung maturation

For the first time, researchers have shown that a simple blood test from the mother could accurately predict how well a baby's lungs are developing before birth.

The research, also led by Dr Sean Carter, in collaboration with the National University of Singapore and Tohoku University Hospital (Japan), demonstrated that fragments of genetic material known as cell-free RNA (cfRNA) – which circulate in the mother's bloodstream – can reveal the maturity of a baby's lungs.

This discovery could pave the way for a minimally invasive, cost-effective tool to help doctors decide whether a mother at risk of preterm birth should receive steroid treatment to speed up lung development.

Dr Carter said that for decades, one of the greatest challenges in perinatal medicine has been finding a safe way to measure fetal development in real time.

"Our study shows that cfRNA analysis could provide doctors with a powerful new tool to assess lung maturity without resorting to invasive procedures or guesswork."

Every year, millions of women at risk of preterm delivery are given antenatal steroids to help their baby's lungs mature. While lifesaving in many cases, the treatment is often used broadly because there has been no reliable way to measure whether an individual baby actually needs it. Unnecessary or repeated steroid use may carry risks for both mother and child.

The findings of this study suggest that cfRNA testing could one day become a rapid bedside tool for obstetricians, guiding whether steroids should be given – and whether repeat courses are necessary.

"This is proof-of-principle work, but it shows the huge potential of cfRNA as a window into fetal health," Dr Carter said.

"With further development, we could see a future where pregnancy care is more personalised, safer, and better informed."

Larger clinical studies are now needed to validate the test in diverse patient groups and to explore how it could be integrated into routine care.

World-first ECMO breakthrough offers hope for preterm babies under 2kg

A new study, led by Dr Haruo Usuda from WIRF, in collaboration with the National University of Singapore and Tohoku University Hospital (Japan), has demonstrated for the first time the successful use of a pump-free ECMO (extracorporeal membranous oxygenation) system in premature lambs weighing under 2kg.

This innovation could offer a life-saving alternative for preterm infants with severe respiratory failure who are currently too small or fragile for conventional ECMO systems.

ECMO systems are used worldwide to treat babies with respiratory failure. ECMO is usually limited to preterm babies with a birth weight greater than 2 kg, or an adjusted gestational age of 34 weeks or older.

However, with advancements in neonatology and the increasingly higher survival rates of preterm infants born before 34 weeks, the demand to provide this technology to neonates of even younger gestational age without raising associated complications is growing.

Unlike traditional ECMO, which relies on external pumps, this system uses the infant's own heart to drive blood through a membrane oxygenator – eliminating the need for invasive pumps and reducing the risk of neurological injury.

Key findings of the research demonstrated that nine out of 10 animals survived 48 hours on pumpless arteriovenous ECMO without ventilation, and the system maintained critical physiological parameters, including heart rate, without external support.

Dr Usuda said this study demonstrates that ECMO access could be expanded to a previously excluded population of vulnerable newborns.

"This research has allowed us to launch an entirely new avenue of research to address a key unmet challenge in neonatology – how to safely and effectively treat preterm infants weighing less than 2kg with respiratory failure."

A simple blood test shows promise for the early prediction of dangerous pregnancy complications

A non-invasive way to detect inflammation linked to intra-uterine infection (chorioamnionitis), preterm birth and preeclampsia has been developed by a team of researchers, led by Dr Sean Carter and in collaboration with the National University of Singapore.

The team developed a new blood test that could help doctors detect serious pregnancy complications – such as chorioamnionitis and preeclampsia – early, before symptoms appear.

These complications are often linked to inflammation and can lead to premature birth or serious health issues for both mother and baby. However, current tools for spotting them early in pregnancy are limited or invasive.

In this study, researchers tested a new approach using cell-free RNA (cfRNA) found in a pregnant woman's blood. These are tiny fragments of genetic material that can provide a real-time insight into what's happening inside the womb – without needing invasive procedures.

To develop the test, the team first worked with pregnant sheep, which have similar pregnancies to humans. Some sheep were given a substance that caused inflammation in the womb, either from an infection or from a sterile trigger (meaning no bacteria were involved). The researchers then collected blood samples and looked for specific cell-free RNA markers linked to inflammation.

Using a type of artificial intelligence (called a Random Forest algorithm), they identified a set of eight cell-free RNA markers that clearly separated the animals with inflammation from those without. The findings were remarkably accurate, even in cases where the inflammation wasn't caused by a bacterial infection.

Next, the researchers tested the same method in human pregnancies. They collected blood from women who had developed late onset preeclampsia (a serious high blood pressure condition during pregnancy) and from women with healthy pregnancies. The test was able to correctly identify signs of inflammation from as early as the first trimester – with high accuracy across all stages of pregnancy.

Dr Carter said the test could potentially offer a safe, simple, and early warning system for pregnancy complications that currently go undetected until much later, when treatment options are more limited.

"While more research and larger human trials are still needed, this study is a promising step toward a future where a routine blood test could help protect mothers and babies from some of pregnancy's most serious risks."

Community voices guiding WIRF's research

To ensure WIRF's research continues to reflect the needs and priorities of our community, the Foundation established a Community and Consumer Panel, chaired by Joanne Beedie from Helping Little Hands.

The panel brings together a diverse group of individuals with lived experience to ensure that the voices of women, parents, and families are at the heart of WIRF's work.

By sharing their insights, perspectives, and experiences, members will play a vital role in shaping WIRF's research priorities, support programs, and community initiatives.

WIRF extends our heartfelt thanks to the inaugural panel members – Joanne, Melissa, Angela, Blair, Cassie, and Vicki – for their openness, passion, and commitment.

Their stories and lived experience will help guide WIRF's mission to improve the health and wellbeing of women, babies, and families across Australia.

Together, we're building stronger partnerships between researchers and the community – ensuring every project we undertake is meaningful, inclusive, and impactful.

RIGHT: Inaugural panel members – Joanne, Melissa, Angela, Blair, Cassie, and Vicki – at the first meeting.

NEW PODCAST EPISODES

In Scientific Dialogue With...

Since the launch of WIRF's podcast series earlier this year, WIRF's Research Talent Development Officer and podcast host Vicki Main has been interviewing inspiring individuals who are transforming maternal and newborn health in Western Australia.

Check out some of the latest episodes:

Women & Infants RESEARCH FOUNDATION
IN SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE WITH....
Healthy women. Healthy babies. Healthy families.

Joanne Beedie — #2

CEO and Founder of Helping Little Hands

Joanne is a driving force in embedding genuine consumer involvement in health research, particularly in women's and perinatal health. As Chair of WIRF's Community and Consumer Panel, she leads a passionate team of consumer advocates ensuring research is shaped by real-world needs and delivers meaningful impact. Joanne is also a member of WIRF's Scientific Steering Committee and Grant Sub-Committee, and is a regular contributor to the WIRF Scientific Dialogue. As an expert mentor contributor, Joanne supports early and mid-career researchers in building stronger, more ethical, and community-connected research.

Dr Brennen Mills — #3

Senior Lecturer and Lead of the Simulation and Immersive Digital Technology Group, Edith Cowan University

Dr Mills shares his expertise in building innovative, high-fidelity simulation environments and harnessing emerging technologies – including digital, augmented, and virtual reality – to improve learning, training, and resilience in high-pressure settings. From enhancing clinical preparedness to shaping the future of immersive education, this episode offers a fascinating look into the cutting edge of simulation science.

Dr Kate Buchanan — #5

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Edith Cowan University

With more than 20 years of clinical experience, Dr Buchanan's research explores midwifery philosophy, theory and ethics, and the midwifery role in debriefing post birth – offering insights into care that supports both mothers and healthcare teams.

Rare but Everywhere — #4

Rethinking Health and Health Systems Through the Lens of Rare Diseases

This episode features **Dr Gareth Baynam**, clinical geneticist, rare disease advocate, and intrapreneur, and **Dr Andy Poh**, healthcare strategist, executive, leadership and transformation advisor for health systems.

Rare diseases affect one in 17 people globally and are the leading cause of death in children in high-income countries. So why are they still so often invisible in our health systems? This episode explores the power of genomics to end the diagnostic odyssey, how to build health systems that embed genomics into routine care, and why rare diseases should be viewed as a catalyst for broader health system reform.

Defusing the Placenta Accreta Time Bomb — #6

This episode features **Dr Mathias Epee**, Head of the Placenta Accreta Service at King Edward Memorial Hospital, and **Emily Lopez**, a courageous mum who shares her personal journey after being diagnosed with placenta increta during pregnancy. Together, they explore the challenges of this high-risk condition, the life-saving clinical advances being made, and the profound impact of care on patients and families.

Follow the podcast and tune in to join the conversation – scan the QR code.

Celebrating our incredible SUPPORTERS

WIRF is continually inspired by the generosity and passion of our community. Through fundraising efforts, in-kind contributions, partnerships, and personal giving, supporters play an extraordinary role in advancing WIRF's mission.

Here's a look at just some of the wonderful individuals, groups, and organisations who have helped advance WIRF's mission over the past six months.

Telethon 2025 raises record-breaking $90 million for sick children

The generosity of Western Australians reached new heights in Telethon 2025, with a staggering $90 million raised for sick children – another record-breaking achievement. People across the state came together to support this important cause, demonstrating the phenomenal community spirit that makes Telethon so special.

WIRF is proud to have benefited from funding through the Channel 7 Telethon Trust. Last year, three Telethon grants helped advance vital research into gestational diabetes and its impact on newborn health, Placenta Accreta Spectrum, and antenatal steroid therapy for preterm babies, directly supporting projects that improve outcomes for women and babies.

WIRF congratulates everyone involved in making Telethon 2025 such a remarkable success and extends heartfelt thanks to the Channel 7 Telethon Trust for its continued support of life-changing research aimed at enhancing the health and wellbeing of women, babies, and families.

ABOVE WIRF staff and volunteers enjoyed an awe-inspiring day at the Telethon Family Fun Festival, meeting so many wonderful kids and families.

From service to legacy: One man's lifelong commitment to community

For Graham, giving back has always been a part of who he is.

Since arriving in Perth from Kenya with his late wife Sandy in 1974, Graham has dedicated his life to community service. He's volunteered on numerous committees, helped shape Perth's townscape, supported people into employment and aged housing, and contributed decades of leadership, including through Rotary, both at Club and District Level. In 2021, Graham was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to aged care and the broader community.

Now in retirement, Graham has chosen to extend his legacy by leaving a bequest to the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF).

"It was an easy decision," Graham said.

"Although I've tried to support WIRF through modest donations over the years, being a self-funded retiree limits what I can do. A bequest lets me do something more significant – something lasting."

Graham's connection to WIRF began during his wife Sandy's long and very brave battle with ovarian cancer, through her oncological surgeon, Professor Yee Leung.

"Sandy fought bravely for many years. We had a good life together, and we were very blessed, but it never ceases to amaze me how many people are affected by women's health issues – by cancer, by premature birth.

"My eldest niece devastatingly lost one of her twin boys at premature childbirth."

Through Sandy's journey, Graham became more aware of WIRF's work – not just in ovarian cancer and women's health, but in the prevention of preterm birth.

Having also served as a community member on the South Metropolitan Area Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee, Graham already had an interest in medical research.

He has followed the progress of the Foundation ever since.

"What WIRF is doing in the areas of preterm birth and women's health is globally significant," he said.

"WIRF's ability to attract such highly credentialed researchers and collaborators speaks volumes to me in terms of WIRF being an extremely worthy and highly regarded organisation that I am very pleased to support."

ABOVE For Graham, giving back has always been a part of who he is.

Sandy, too, found a way to contribute to WIRF, knitting beautiful items for the Foundation's Baby Bundles program – each bundle given to mothers and babies in crisis situations.

Today, Graham continues to support WIRF as a regular donor, but says leaving a bequest in his will is a simple and powerful way to give more.

"If you don't set it in concrete in your will, the opportunity might pass. Planned giving means that you've made that decision while you can, and the impact can live on after you."

When asked what he hopes his gift will help achieve, Graham doesn't hesitate.

"A world without premature birth. Where every baby is born as healthy as possible. I know research is a slow, patient process, but I hope it leads to the kind of breakthrough that answers some of the big questions these talented scientists are trying to answer."

WIRF is deeply grateful to Graham for his generosity, vision, and belief in our mission.

His gift is a powerful reminder that planned giving isn't just about leaving money – it's about leaving hope and making an impact on lives for generations to come.

To find out more about leaving a gift in your will to WIRF, please scan the QR code or contact WIRF Development Manager:

Kari Musick
(08) 6458 1437
kari.musick@wirf.com.au

In support of programs to help women and babies in crisis

WIRF's Baby Bundles and Women's Care Packages programs provide essential items to mothers and babies facing crisis situations at King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH).

In the last year, more than 7,000 babies were born at KEMH. Many arrive in emergencies, some prematurely, and too often the basic essentials aren't available. Through its Baby Bundles program, WIRF supports families in need by providing newborns with essential items such as hand-knitted cardigans, onesies, singlets, nappies, wraps, and colourful blankets. Each bundle is lovingly packed in a calico backpack, offering warmth and comfort when it's needed most. Around 700 babies and mothers benefit from this program every year.

WIRF also provides Women's Care Packages to patients admitted to KEMH in emergency or crisis situations – many from regional or remote areas of Western Australia. These women may face long hospital stays due to high-risk pregnancies, complex gynaecological conditions, or cancer treatment, and some are escaping domestic violence. Arriving with little more than the clothes they are wearing, they receive care packages containing essentials like toiletries, underwear, sanitary items, and clothing.

These meaningful bundles and packages, prepared by dedicated volunteers and distributed by KEMH's social work team, bring relief and dignity during times of stress and uncertainty.

These programs are unfunded, and demand for both Baby Bundles and Women's Care Packages continues to grow as more families face hardship. WIRF relies on community support and partnerships to continue providing these vital services to those who need them most. The following highlights the many ways our community contributes to these essential programs.

Over 700 dignity packs donated by Share the Dignity

With the support of Kerry (pictured left) and the dedicated Share the Dignity volunteer team, WIRF has been able to coordinate over 700 dignity packs for women through the KEMH social work team.

Share the Dignity makes a tangible difference for women, girls, and those who menstruate who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, domestic violence, or poverty. The charity distributes period products to those in need and works toward menstrual equity across Australia.

In addition to their ongoing work, Share the Dignity runs the annual *It's in the Bag* campaign, collecting and distributing bags filled with essential items to provide support and comfort during the Christmas season. Through these efforts, the charity continues to bring dignity, care, and hope to thousands of people in need.

WA Charity Direct

WA Charity Direct continues to make a meaningful impact through its support of WIRF's Baby Bundles program, generously donating $15,000 in 2025.

WA Charity Direct is proudly a Western Australian based charitable group that focuses solely on supporting the people of Western Australia. Established in 2005, the charity has made a significant difference to the lives of thousands of individuals and families.

WA Charity Direct's ongoing generosity plays a vital role in the success of the Baby Bundles program – helping ensure babies are welcomed into the world with comfort, dignity, and care.

ABOVE Debbie Salomone (left) and Liz Chidlow (right) have each dedicated over a decade to assembling Baby Bundles.

Coastal Lakes College crafting for a cause

The incredibly talented students at Coastal Lakes College donated handmade toiletries bags and quilts to the Baby Bundles and Women's Care Packages programs.

Each item reflects the students' creativity, skill, and attention to detail, transforming everyday materials into thoughtful gifts for mothers and babies facing crisis situations.

These heartfelt creations provide practical support and comfort at a critical time for families and make a real difference in the lives of women and babies across Western Australia.

Boronia Pre-release Centre Gala Day

WIRF is honoured to have been chosen as the 2025 Gala Day beneficiary by the Boronia Pre-release Centre for Women. Each year, the Centre's Community Engagement and Advisory Group selects a charity to receive proceeds from this special event.

The annual Gala Day celebrates the creativity and talents of the women at Boronia Pre-release Centre, featuring an inspiring range of handmade products, cakes and pastries, plants, crafts, and artworks available for purchase.

Funds raised from this year's event will directly support WIRF's Baby Bundles and Women's Care Packages programs. The generosity of the Boronia Pre-release Centre community will enable WIRF to continue delivering these crucial services, ensuring that every woman and baby receives the care, support, and compassion they need during critical moments in their lives.

WIRF extends heartfelt thanks to the Department of Justice WA and the women of Boronia Pre-release Centre for their generosity and commitment to making a difference in the lives of women and families across our community.

ABOVE Boronia Pre-Release Centre for Women A/Superintendent Sharon Higgs with WIRF Community Engagement Officer Paula O'Connell at the Gala Day.

Knitter Knatters crafting care and comfort

For the past three years, the Knitter Knatters group from Herald Avenue Senior Citizens Willetton have been generously knitting and sewing toys, wraps, blankets, toiletry bags, and more – all made with love for women and babies in need.

As Linda from the group shares:

"When a woman gives birth, it's meant to be a time of joy and elation. Sadly, some women give birth in crisis, often in very lonely circumstances. Our items are made with love and genuine joy to demonstrate that we sincerely care. Hopefully, they can feel that sense of love when an item is gifted."

The Knitter Knatters, currently 28 members aged 56 to 92, is a joyful, creative, and compassionate community dedicated to giving back. Their work brings comfort, warmth, and a sense of care to families during challenging times, making a real difference in the lives of women and babies across WA.

Wendy's warmth

In the midst of lockdown in 2020, Wendy (pictured centre) reached out to WIRF with a heart full of generosity, knowing that babies were still being born and frontline workers were under immense pressure. She wanted to help – and she has done so in extraordinary fashion.

Since then, Wendy has lovingly knitted more than 100 cardigans for vulnerable babies born at KEMH. Thanks to volunteers like her, WIRF's Baby Bundles include lovingly knitted cardigans that provide warmth, comfort, and a touch of love when it is needed most.

Nappy donation from The Nappy Collective and Penrhos College community

WIRF received 1,510 nappies thanks to the generosity of The Nappy Collective and the community at Penrhos College. Coordinated by The Nappy Collective volunteer Joyce (pictured above), the nappies will go directly to the Baby Bundles program. These essential items provide practical support to families during some of their most vulnerable moments.

Thank you to everyone who supports WIRF. Your generosity, compassion, and belief in our mission creates lasting change for women, babies, and families. Our work simply wouldn't be possible without you.

20 years of giving

For 20 years, Pam (pictured below) has been at the heart of WIRF's Baby Bundles program, quietly stitching comfort, care, and love into every item she creates. Her generosity and exceptional sewing skills not only support the Baby Bundles program but also assist physiotherapists and the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) teams at KEMH, making a real difference to families, and babies born too soon.

Over the years, Pam has lovingly crafted humidicrib covers, toiletry bags, wraps and bibs, physio peanuts for NICU, pouches, therapy snakes, tadpole pillows, and feely hearts.

Each piece is stitched with intention, care and love.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER WITH US TO DRIVE CHANGE?

Whether you're knitting, sewing, or offering time in our café, op shop, gift shop, or the hospital, your contribution will have a lasting impact on the lives of women, babies, and families. To find out more about joining our network of dedicated volunteers, scan the QR code.

WIRF welcomes new Board Chair Tanya Brown

WIRF is delighted to welcome Tanya Brown as the new Chair of its Board of Directors, succeeding former Chair Tony Walsh and Acting Chair and Treasurer Wylie Collins.

Ms Brown brings to WIRF a wealth of experience drawn from more than 20 years as a director leading a family office with diverse operations across commercial property, hospitality, large-scale festivals, and philanthropy. Alongside her commercial leadership, Ms Brown has served for over six years on the Board of Special Olympics Australia, where she played a pivotal role as Chair of the Perth bid to host the 2027 World Summer Games.

Ms Brown is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Harvard Business School, The University of Western Australia, and Methodist Ladies' College, with her career reflecting a rare balance of strategic, commercial, and community-minded leadership.

Motivated by opportunities to lead authentically, inspire others, and drive meaningful impact, Ms Brown's decision to join WIRF stems from a genuine passion for women's and infants' health and a deep respect for the Foundation's mission and people.

"I feel a deep connection to women's and infant health, and have a genuine interest in the challenges and possibilities of scientific research. Most of all, I'm inspired by the passionate people within the Foundation and the opportunity to be part of something so meaningful," Ms Brown said.

As Board Chair, Ms Brown hopes to lead WIRF toward collaborative scientific and medical breakthroughs that deliver sustainable health outcomes for women and babies both locally and globally.

"I hope to achieve shared success by leading diverse and high-performing teams to advance world-class research that transforms lives," she said.

"By focusing our investment decisions to position WIRF at the forefront of AI, technology and infrastructure for women's and infants' research – under the strategic framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – we can inspire unprecedented partnerships and improve health outcomes for generations to come."

Ms Brown's appointment marks an exciting new chapter for WIRF as the Foundation continues its mission to improve the health and wellbeing of women, babies and families.

Kari Musick joins WIRF as Development Manager

Kari Musick has joined WIRF as the Foundation's new Development Manager, bringing a wealth of experience and a passion for advancing life-saving research in women's and infant health.

Ms Musick is a trusted senior leader in the not-for-profit sector, with over 15 years' experience in health and medical research across Australia and the United States. She has a proven track record in mobilising transformational giving and building programs that deliver lasting impact.

Deeply committed to the power of philanthropy to change the course of human health, Ms Musick is passionate about connecting visionary donors with world-leading research that saves lives. Originally from Texas, with strong Australian family roots, Ms Musick has called Perth home since 2012, where she and her husband Brian are proud to contribute to the local community.

Ms Musick said that what excites her most about joining WIRF is the Foundation's collaborative model and unique ability to convert discovery into impact, powered by philanthropy.

"Being a part of this team means helping shape the future of babies and women's health for generations to come," Ms Musick said.

"My goal is to build a fundraising movement – not just a program – that inspires donors to see themselves as true partners in creating medical breakthroughs that change the course of lives."

Farewell and thanks to Tony Walsh and Wylie Collins

Mr Tony Walsh

Mr Walsh joined WIRF more than 10 years ago, motivated by the Foundation's meaningful cause and the opportunity to work alongside an excellent team of Board members. Over his tenure, Mr Walsh played a pivotal role in guiding WIRF through significant milestones, including the successful refinancing of the organisation, its transition from a WA-based association to a national charity, and the succession planning that led to the appointment of Chief Scientist Professor Matt Kemp, and a renewed Scientific Committee and WIRF Board.

Reflecting on his time with WIRF, Mr Walsh said the greatest reward has been seeing outstanding research flourish, driven by fresh ideas and new scientists who are valued and supported to make a real impact.

As he passes the baton, Mr Walsh hopes to see WIRF continue expanding its focus across broader areas of women's and infant health.

Mr Wylie Collins

Mr Collins joined the WIRF Board in 2015, bringing with him a strong background in leadership, strategy, and financial management. His personal connection to WIRF's mission runs deep – both of his children were high-risk pregnancies, with his eldest daughter born premature at just 25 weeks' gestation at King Edward Memorial Hospital in 2010, spending 99 days in the special care nurseries before finally going home. Mr Collins' motivation has always been to make a difference for families who may face similar challenges.

During his tenure, he has been particularly proud of the success of the Preterm Birth Prevention Initiative – a groundbreaking program that began at WIRF and went on to receive Commonwealth funding to expand nationally.

"This initiative has helped save countless babies and made a difference to families and the wider community," Mr Collins said.

"I take great pride in seeing WIRF stronger than ever and well positioned to achieve even greater breakthroughs in women's and infant health."

WIRF extends our sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr Walsh and Mr Collins for their exceptional leadership, commitment, and service to WIRF. Their guidance has been instrumental in shaping WIRF's strategic direction and strengthening our impact across the community.

Please consider giving the gift of life. Donate today.

Women & Infants
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Women give us the gift of life. We're committed to giving them and their families the healthiest future possible.

At the Women and Infants Research Foundation, one of Australia's leading medical research institutes, we're pioneering a new era of preventative medicine – addressing health challenges before they begin.

Our world-class research and healthcare programs target the most critical issues affecting women, babies, and families, including:

- preventing preterm birth
- advancing treatment for preterm babies, including development of an artificial womb
- gynaecological cancers and diseases such as endometriosis
- women's mental health

Together with our partners and supporters, we are advancing babies and women's healthcare in meaningful, lasting ways.

Your support has already helped us make significant strides in these vital areas, and we are proud of what we've achieved together.

But there's more to do. We invite you to continue supporting WIRF as we work toward a healthier future for all Australian families.

Give the gift of life today by supporting vital research and healthcare programs focused on the most pressing challenges faced by women, babies, and families. Your generosity can help ensure healthier futures for families in need.

To donate, please visit donate.wirf.com.au or scan the QR code.

Carson House, King Edward Memorial Hospital, 374 Bagot Road, Subiaco WA 6008

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Thank you!

All donations of $2 and over are tax deductible.