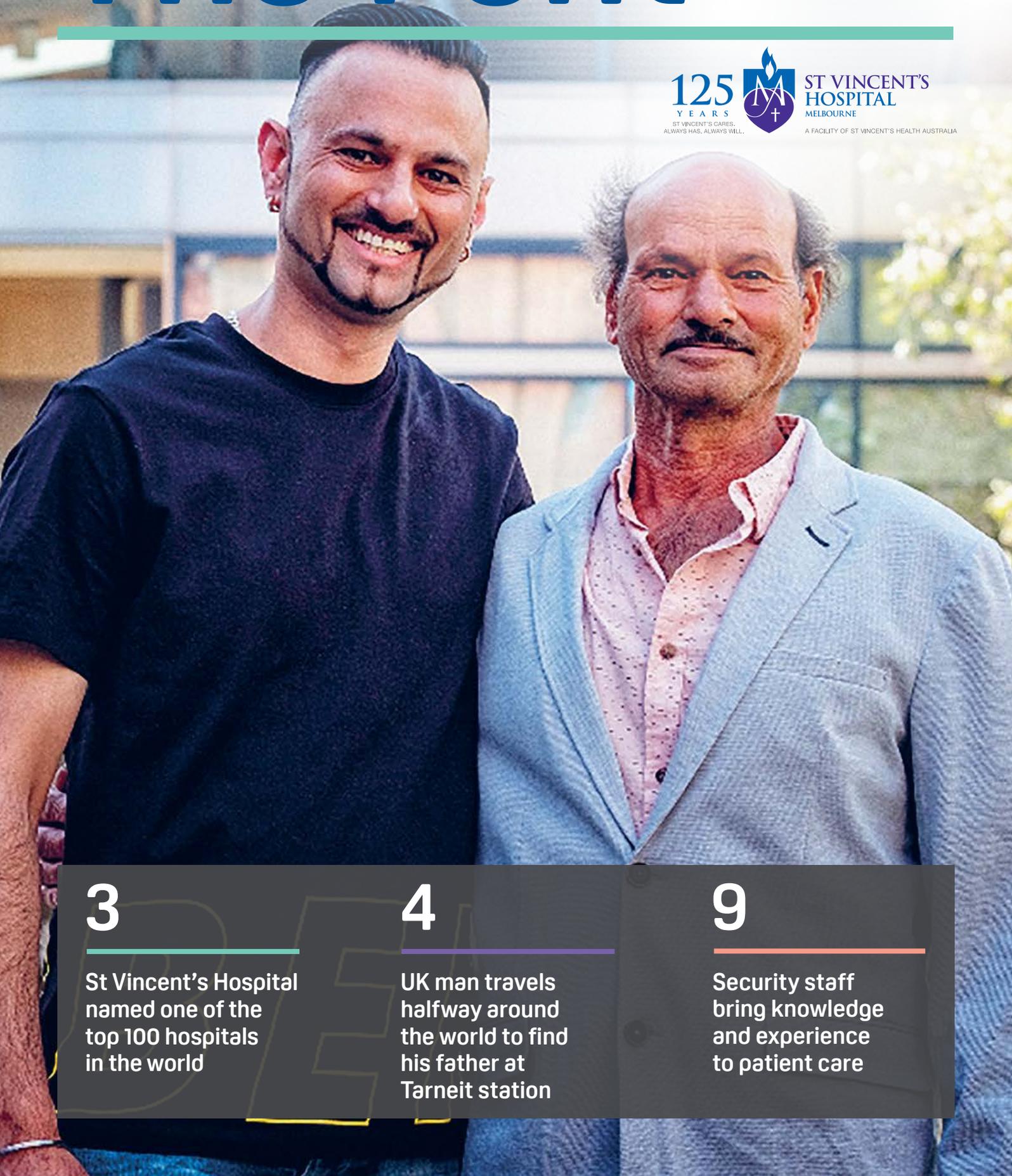


# The Font

*Celebrating  
125 years*



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Security staff bring knowledge and experience to patient care



## Message from the CEO

### What do the Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins University Hospital and St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne have in common? They are all in the top 100 hospitals in the world!

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne has been ranked one of the top 100 hospitals in the world and one of the top four hospitals in Australia by Newsweek. This is a testament to the incredible work being done here every day by our staff.

As a major tertiary teaching hospital, St Vincent's has a well-earned reputation as one of Australia's most respected public healthcare providers. St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne has been dedicated to improving lives for 125 years. As we say, St Vincent's cares. Always has. Always will.

Newsweek selected the hospitals based on recommendations from medical professionals, patient survey results and medical performance indicators. They have credited the hospitals that made it on to the top 100 list as at the forefront of adapting to new challenges while providing outstanding patient care.

That care is evident in so many things we do – including our dedication to research. St Vincent's has a highly active research community, recognised internationally for translational research.

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne is proud to be part of the St Vincent's Health Australia group, which is the second largest health and aged care provider in the country. SVHA's mission is to bring God's love to those in need through the healing ministry of Jesus. We are guided by the values of compassion, justice, integrity, and excellence.

St Vincent's will further cement its position as a world-class health campus with the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD). Australia's first hospital-based biomedical engineering research facility, ACMD will become a reality thanks to a cash commitment by both the State and Federal Governments.

The State Government's commitment to allocate \$60 million, first announced in 2014, in conjunction with \$30 million recently announced by the Federal Government will allow this \$180 million project to commence. Private philanthropy and commercial partners will complete the required funding for the project.

The ACMD will be a vital piece of infrastructure to help keep Australia at the forefront of medical innovation, developing new healthcare breakthroughs to improve patient outcomes and improve the cost effectiveness of health care into the future. The key to the success of this centre is concentrating engineers, scientists and developers, as well as commercial bio-medical firms in one place, all located in a working hospital

ACMD has already produced ground-breaking medical innovations, including an implant that talks to an epilepsy patient's mobile phone, warning them when a seizure is imminent, and the 3D printing of human stem cells which are then injected into joints to prevent the onset of osteoarthritis.

By bringing diverse experts together to solve patient problems in novel ways, I am confident we will see St Vincent's reputation in patient care and research continue to grow on a global scale.

**Angela Nolan**  
Chief Executive Officer  
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

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# St Vincent's Hospital named one of the top 100 hospitals in the world



St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne has been ranked as one of the top 100 hospitals in the world by news outlet, Newsweek.

St Vincent's further cemented its position as a world-class hospital and health care provider by being rated number four on the list of the best hospitals in Australia.

CEO of St Vincent's, Angela Nolan, said this international recognition was a credit to the Hospital's exceptional staff.

"We are really thrilled to be acknowledged as a world leading hospital. It is thanks to our extraordinarily talented and dedicated staff that we were able to achieve this outstanding world rating."

Newsweek selected one thousand hospitals based on recommendations from medical professionals, patient survey results and medical performance indicators. They have credited the hospitals that made it on to the top 100 list as at the forefront of adapting to new challenges while providing top-notch patient care.

"Our committed staff go above and beyond in both patient care and research and it's wonderful to see this recognised on a global scale," Angela said.

The full list of World's Best Hospitals 2019 is available at [www.newsweek.com/best-hospitals-2019](http://www.newsweek.com/best-hospitals-2019)

**'We are really thrilled to be acknowledged as a world leading hospital.'**

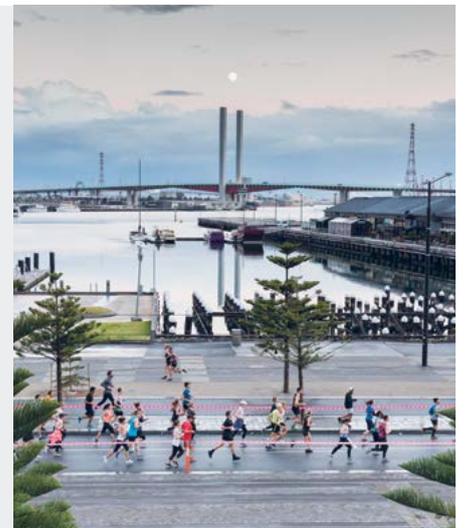
## Join us for Run Melbourne

Join the St Vincent's Run Melbourne team on Sunday 28 July to run for a great cause! Choose from the 5km Walk/Run, 10km Run or Half Marathon events.

This year we're raising money for the Good Samaritan Fund, a staff initiative that provides emergency aid to patients and their families who are experiencing hardship.

To register head to [www.stvfoundation.org.au](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au) and follow the links to enter.

Unable to participate but want to show your support for the Good Samaritan Fund? You can make a donation at [bit.ly/StVRunMelb](http://bit.ly/StVRunMelb)



## UK man travels halfway around the world to find his father



Above: Winder was reunited with his father Raj after a search that took him halfway around the world.

**A UK man has been reunited with his father in exceptional circumstances, after flying halfway around the world to find him after 20 years of separation.**

'I'm Winder, your son!' he said to his father, Janak Raj, who was lying in a hospital bed at St Vincent's, after being admitted from Tarneit train station.

Winder had become concerned when they had not heard from Raj, who was working in Australia to send money home to his family, for 12 months.

Now a frail 63 year old, Raj as he's known, had left India 20 years ago to help boost the family's fortunes, leaving behind his wife, Satnam, and his two sons, Gurnam then 19, and Winder who was a 16 year old boy.

In the intervening years Raj worked as a labourer on construction sites in a host of different countries in the Middle East, before coming to Australia. Raj worked in Sydney and Adelaide, before moving to Melbourne. His family, meantime had relocated from India to Enniskillen in Northern Ireland.

'We talked on a daily basis for many years,' says Winder, smiling gently at the quiet man sitting alongside him. 'Then we were talking every few

weeks, but he's been out of touch now for a year, and we were worried.'

Growing increasingly concerned, Winder and Satnam hopped on a plane, and flew to Australia, allowing themselves three weeks to find his Dad.

Landing in Adelaide, they connected with people who'd known Raj there some years ago; these discussions led to a Sydney connection, so they flew to the harbour city. Here they got in touch with others who knew Raj, and learnt he'd most recently been in Melbourne.

Three days after arriving in Australia, they arrived at Melbourne airport, having inexplicably been advised it was a small city. They decided to walk to their hotel from Southern Cross Station, thinking they might see Raj on the street. It soon dawned on Winder that this was a much bigger task than they had anticipated.

Sitting in the hotel room with his mother, Winder was briefly overwhelmed. 'How am I going to find him here? It's a needle in a haystack!' Then he remembered someone had mentioned Raj had been in Tarneit. Leaving his Mum at the hotel, Winder took a train to Tarneit.

**'How am I going to find him here? It's a needle in a haystack!' Then he remembered someone had mentioned Raj had been in Tarneit. Leaving his Mum at the hotel, Winder took a train to Tarneit.'**

Luckily for Winder, the Tarneit station has an attendant. Winder showed him a 20 year old photo of his Dad, and asked the man if he'd seen Raj. The attendant had seen him, only a few days earlier. Winder learnt that Raj used to spend quite a bit of time at the station, and in recent months had seemed homeless. Winder left his phone number, along with a request: "Please call me if you hear anything".

Winder set off to the nearby shops, where he showed the photo, heard further confirmation of his father's connection to Tarneit, and left his number.



Above: Raj and Winder with Nurse Unit Manager Lindsey Dobson.

Unbeknownst to Winder or the Tarneit station attendant, something had happened to Raj at the train station earlier that day. It's unclear whether he'd been assaulted, but he took a train to Southern Cross, and then was brought to St Vincent's Emergency Department without a wallet or ID, no phone and no shoes. He had injured ribs, and was confused. Raj was admitted to the Hospital.

While Winder was looking for his father in Tarneit, St Vincent's Hospital staff were looking for Raj's next of kin. Raj mentioned he had caught the train from Tarneit, and this is where the planets aligned to reunite this family.

St Vincent's Social Worker Helen McNicol called Tarneit Railway Station in an attempt to find out more information about Raj's circumstances and potentially identify a next of kin.

The station attendant was finishing his shift, and just about to walk out the door. Happily he stopped to answer the phone. He confirmed to the incredulous social worker that a family member had just been at the station looking for Raj. He gave her Winder's number. With Raj's permission, Helen called the number and was amazed to find that she was speaking to his son, who had travelled over 15,000km to search for him.

'Please don't tell him I'm coming,' Winder said. 'I want to surprise him.' Winder set off on the train. He didn't tell his mother, as he wanted to be sure all was OK before he got her hopes up too.

Raj had last seen Winder as a young teenager, and before him stood a handsome, self-assured man. It took Raj a few seconds for the penny to drop – here was his son! Raj cried. Winder cried, and there were tears from every staff member present, as the pair embraced.

Now that the family has been reunited, they plan to make up for lost time. Once Raj has documentation in order to travel, the family will return to Northern Ireland where Raj can be cared for and supported by his family.

**'It took Raj a few seconds for the penny to drop – here was his son! Raj cried. Winder cried, and there were tears from every staff member present, as the pair embraced.'**

## A special reason to support Dry July

Brenda McGuirk was inspired to take part in Dry July in 2018 for two reasons. Firstly to honour her husband Robin and to thank St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne's oncology and surgical staff for their incredible support during her husband's battle with metastatic lung cancer.

Being the first time she had participated in Dry July, Brenda was overwhelmed by the response she received from her family and friends.

'I had no idea how much I would raise, but thanks to the generosity of my family and friends, I was able to contribute over \$1,600 to support patients during their cancer treatment.'

'It was a great way to honour my adored husband Robin and to thank the wonderful St Vincent's oncology staff,' Brenda said.

Registrations are now open for Dry July. Go booze-free this July and fundraise to support cancer patients during their treatment. Visit [www.stvfoundation.org.au](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au) to join the St Vincent's Hospital Dry July team or sponsor one of their dedicated team members.





Above: Darren Jardine, Manager of Microbiology department with the new rapid flu testing machine.

## Rapid flu testing is easing winter woes

Winter has arrived across Victoria, and with it comes the influenza season. For patients finding themselves suffering flu like symptoms, it's essential that they get diagnosed, not only for their own benefit but for the benefit of the community.

'A couple of years ago, we had a particularly bad flu season here in Victoria, during which we found that we just weren't able to maintain the service that was required by the hospital,' says Darren Jardine, Manager of Microbiology.'

Now, thanks to funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, St Vincent's has installed a game changing rapid flu analyser that is making a vast difference in handling the influx of patients that come during the flu season.

'Our new rapid flu analyser is a molecular diagnostic tool that we

use here at St Vincent's for diagnosis of infectious diseases,' says Darren Jardine, Manager of Microbiology. 'We can rapidly know whether patients do or don't have influenza.'

This new technology has helped decrease the pressure put on the Emergency Department. Prior to the installation of this new technology, testing took too long – anywhere from 7-8 hours before a diagnosis. Now, rapid flu testing can be done in under an hour.

'Each flu season can be quite unpredictable,' says Dr Jonty Karro, Deputy Director of the Emergency Department. 'We need to be prepared to make sure that we're able to rapidly evaluate patients.'

'Prior to the installation of the rapid flu analyser we were only able to respond to about 30 cases per day. We're now able to perform up to 100 tests each day.'

## Lymphoedema service opens at St Vincent's

Lymphoedema is a condition caused by a blockage in the lymphatic system, part of the immune and circulatory systems. The main symptom of lymphoedema is swelling in an arm or leg, often accompanied by pain or discomfort.

Approximately 20 per cent of breast, genito-urinary, gynaecological and melanoma survivors experience secondary lymphoedema as a result of cancer treatment.

These patients can now be treated at St Vincent's for the first time, with the opening of the Lymphoedema Assessment and Treatment Clinic.

Opened earlier this month, the service improves access to lymphoedema treatment for people that would otherwise not receive appropriate care, and will offer hope to a significant cohort of patients with undiagnosed and unmanaged lymphoedema.

Below: The new lymphoedema clinic staff.



'I have recently started as Nurse Unit Manager in the Chemotherapy Day Unit. I am completely new to St Vincent's, but so far it's going really well. The team have been extremely welcoming and the culture seems to be excellent. The Cancer Centre is brilliant – aesthetically looks great and the nurses seem to care a lot about the patients. It is a privilege to lead such a capable and passionate team of nurses and I'm looking forward to integrating myself in the team and getting involved in some clinical research.'

– Jessica Watmore-Tanner

## Australia-first study ranks alcohol our most harmful drug



Above: Associate Professor Yvonne Bonomo, Director of Addiction Medicine, says that alcohol is still the number one cause of harm in our society.

**Alcohol causes the most overall harm of any drug in Australia, followed by crystal methamphetamine, heroin and fentanyls, according to new research from a St Vincent's study.**

The Australian Drug Harms Ranking Study, published in the *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, evaluated 22 drugs and ranked them based on the harms they cause individual users – such as illness, injury and death – as well as the harms they cause the community, including relationship breakdown, violence and other crime.

The Australia-first study involved input and decision-making from 24 experts

across Australia involved in research, treatment services in addiction medicine, psychiatry, pain medicine, women and children, youth, Aboriginal health, homeless services, emergency services, police and justice.

Associate Professor Yvonne Bonomo, Director of Addiction Medicine, says the results should inform how governments and other authorities address the harms caused by alcohol and other drugs in Australia.

'For the first time in Australia, the harms associated with drug use have been considered and ranked and it's clear that alcohol is our most harmful substance overall,' said A/Prof Bonomo.

Fentanyls were ranked as the most harmful drug to individuals followed by heroin, crystal methamphetamine and alcohol. Alcohol was ranked the most harmful drug to the community followed by crystal methamphetamine, cigarettes and heroin. Alcohol was ranked the most harmful drug overall when harm to individuals and community were combined.

A/Prof Bonomo said alcohol's combined impact made it a clear frontrunner when it came to ranking overall harms.

'Close to 6,000 Australians die each year from alcohol-related causes, including cancer, injuries and cardiovascular disease – that's about one person every 90 minutes.

'One quarter of weekend presentations to St Vincent's Melbourne's ED are related to alcohol. Alcohol increases the likelihood, frequency and severity of violence against women.

'It's important to be explicit about alcohol-related harms because I'm not sure as a community we are responding in equal measures.

'For example, alcohol ads run at all hours on TV sporting contests on weekends and public holidays, and up to half a million Australians are unable to access the help they need from alcohol and other drug treatment services, with the largest unmet demand being for alcohol dependence.'

**'Close to 6,000 Australians die each year from alcohol-related causes, including cancer, injuries and cardiovascular disease – that's about one person every 90 minutes.'**

## Collaboration gives public patients first access to high-tech robotic surgery



St Vincent's is again at the cutting edge of the next advances in surgery, performing the first robotic prostate surgery on a public patient.

St Vincent's surgeons Mr Jeremy Goad, Mr Owen Niall and Mr Lih-Ming Wong have successfully performed robotic urology surgery on Victoria's first public patient, using the Da Vinci surgical robot system located within St Vincent's Private Hospital.

The Da Vinci Robot creates a kind of GPS system for the procedure, assisting the surgeon to stay within the pre-programmed route of the surgical area. The system has been shown to reduce post-operative pain and provide quicker recovery for patients due to the minimally invasive nature of the procedure.

The new robots are a part of striving for something greater in clinical and research excellence at St Vincent's and providing patients with the best clinical outcomes. This is a great example of collaboration and a fantastic opportunity for an ongoing partnership between St Vincent's Private and Public hospital.

## IDAHOBIT Day Celebrations on the Mental Health Inpatient Unit



St Vincent's Mental Health inpatient service hosted its first ever celebration of the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT Day) in May.

While changes in laws and attitudes have contributed to increasing numbers of people opening up about their sexual orientation and gender identity, a number of Australian studies document high levels of rejection and abuse, even violence towards gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual (LGBTQIA+) people. The studies also show people experiencing this level of rejection fare worse on every indicator of health and wellbeing.

St Vincent's is a welcoming and safe place for all consumers with a mission to provide excellent and compassionate health care for all, with a particular emphasis on care for vulnerable people.

To commemorate IDAHOBIT Day, St Vincent's Mental Health team held a staff and consumer morning tea on 17 May, specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organisation's decision in 1990 to declassify 'homosexuality' as a mental disorder.

The event also provided the opportunity to share the new SVHM Sexual and Gender Diversity Guideline with staff and consumers.

This event and other activities are directed by the St Vincent's Mental Health LGBTQIA+ Steering Committee. This committee contributes to St Vincent's best-practice strategy in working towards safe and inclusive service delivery for LGBTQIA+ people in our community.

'The aim of the steering committee is to drive quality improvement projects that affirm the dignity and value of each person, to live their lives free from discrimination, and to have access to services that address specific health and wellbeing needs,' said committee member and Social Worker Jan Kilicaslan. 'This is an important initiative and we thank our colleagues at every level for their ongoing support in this pursuit.'

Jan Kilicaslan can be contacted on [jan.kilicaslan@svha.org.au](mailto:jan.kilicaslan@svha.org.au) for further information on the SVHM LGBTQIA+ steering committee and projects.

## Security staff bring knowledge and experience to patient care

As Security Manager at St Vincent's, Paul Cunningham has seen the role of his team expand greatly over the past 15 years.

'Security has become a crucial part of patient and staff safety and there is a very large portfolio that we are involved with,' says Paul. 'Our main interests are environmental and asset protection and staff, patient and visitor safety.'

The Security team have a vast amount of experience and have become the experts in responding to patient aggression and threats of violence.

'95% of my team have been here for 15 years or more,' says Paul. 'There is a plethora of knowledge and experience among the group, which gives us a unique insight into the needs and requirements of patients. Healthcare is very complex and our greatest tool is our communication skills.'

'We respond to about 4,500 incidents of patient aggression per year, which works out to around 12 a day, for reasons such as mental health, delirium, dementia or substance abuse. We are there to assist, but also be that intervention between patient and staff where physical aggression or verbal violence is present.'

'Our involvement has evolved over the past 10-15 years. It used to be that we would stand by medical staff and only intervene if there was an escalation of the situation. Now we will go there

and actually be the voice that helps communicate the message that clinical staff are trying to get across.'

However it still remains that Security personnel are exposed to multiple episodes of violence and aggression, both physically and verbally, on a daily basis, and Security staff are continually placed at risk of injury and harm during these incidents.

Security staff have recently commenced wearing protective safety vests to ensure they remain safe at work, following a comprehensive site-wide review of past incidents.

These vests align St Vincent's with other healthcare organisations who have already introduced such measures.

'Vests are something we feel we need,' says Paul. 'I see them as an outer shell that can protect the person wearing it from kicks, punches, or god forbid if a weapon was pulled.'

'As security staff are at the forefront of patient aggression on a daily basis, any additional protection I can provide to my staff is a benefit.'

**'We respond to about 4,500 incidents of patient aggression per year, which works out to around 12 a day.'**



## Introducing our newest team member 'Manny'

The St Vincent's Clinical Education and Learning Centre has unveiled its new high-fidelity mannequin that simulates real-life scenarios and creates a realistic clinical setting with no threat to patient safety.

As a teaching hospital, St Vincent's has been using patient simulation as a learning technique for many years.

Manny Quinn, as he has been named by staff, is completely portable and can visit all clinical areas to run simulations.



## St Vincent's Graduate Nurses' Annual Lunch 2019

St Vincent's Graduate Nurses' Association warmly invites you to this annual lunch supporting St Vincent's Hospital and graduate nurses.

This special event includes pre-lunch drinks in the foyer, followed by two courses of fine dining, beverages, great company and some fantastic raffle prizes.

We'd love to have your support, come on your own or with a group of friends.

**Date:** Friday 6 September  
**Time:** 12.00pm to 3.00pm  
**Venue:** Park Hyatt Melbourne, 1 Parliament Square, East Melbourne  
**Tickets:** \$105.00  
**RSVP:** Wednesday 28th August

Visit [www.trybooking.com/BCBVY](http://www.trybooking.com/) to book your ticket or email [stvgna@gmail.com](mailto:stvgna@gmail.com) for enquires.

## Expanding the personalised nature of palliative care



St Vincent's has a long and proud history of providing excellent palliative care at all stages of a patient's healthcare journey.

Contemporary palliative care is not only for those with malignant disease or those at the end of their life but also for people living with chronic life limiting disease, to ensure they can live well

and have sufficient information to make informed choices about their care.

The St Vincent's Palliative Care Service contributes to the body of knowledge by collaborating in research projects to improve the physical and psychosocial wellbeing of patients and their family caregivers.

Researchers at St Vincent's are investigating the genetics behind different and better directed pain relief using opioid medications. Despite being prescribed for most patients in palliative care, there are many gaps in our knowledge about opioids.

According to Clinical Trial Coordinator Leeanne Pasanen, while opioids are highly effective, a group of people develop significant side effects such as nausea. This has led to the practice of 'opioid switching' in an attempt to achieve effective pain relief and fewer side effects.

'Currently there is no means of predicting who will get side effects

and with which opioid drug and formulation,' Leeanne said. 'It is likely that our individual genetic differences account for much of this variation. This study is the first step to investigate these differences in palliative care cancer patients.'

In the Opptic study, people with cancer are contributing to the establishment of a database of detailed clinical information (medications, doses, responses and side effects) linked with biological information. This database will set the foundation to allow researchers to map which drugs are best used in which person.

'This is an exciting new era and there is much to learn which will make life so much easier for people with cancer. The capacity to tailor treatment based upon a person's genetic profile is the next major step in medicine,' said Leeanne.

For more information about the trial, please contact Study Trial Nurses Di Saward ([di.saward@svha.org.au](mailto:di.saward@svha.org.au)) or Indy Khera ([indy.khera@svha.org.au](mailto:indy.khera@svha.org.au)).

## St Vincent's launches palliative care strategic plan

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne has a long and proud history of providing excellent end of life care.

As our health service continues to strive to be a leader in palliative care, we celebrated the release last month of our Palliative Care Strategic Plan.

The Palliative Care Strategic Plan provides a framework that supports St Vincent's to be known locally, nationally and internationally as one of Australia's leading providers of evidence based palliative care.

As we build the new Caritas Christi Hospice that will be completed by the end of 2020, the team will actively work to deliver the commitments in the Strategic Plan that will advance evidence based palliative care and improve the outcomes and experience of patients and their families.

The strategic commitments of St Vincent's Melbourne Palliative Care Services are:

### 1. Capability

People with life limiting conditions receiving palliative and end of life care are consistently experiencing excellent care utilising best practice evidence. This is occurring in specialist and generalist settings in hospitals and in their homes.

### 2. Visibility and Identity

More people will have early access to palliative care and specialist support through the benefits and value of palliative care being better understood, more visible and accessible.

### 3. Unity

Our St Vincent's community will benefit from an integrated Palliative Care Service that enables the combined clinical, education and research components of the St Vincent's Palliative Care Service to strengthen each aspect and take full advantage of the Service's uniqueness.

## Sue-Anne McLachlan awarded VCCC 2019 Melbourne Business School Leadership Scholarship



**Congratulations to Associate Professor Sue-Anne McLachlan, Director Oncology and Cancer Services, who was announced as the recipient of the VCCC 2019 Melbourne Business School leadership scholarship.**

Sue-Anne will use this \$12,000 scholarship to undertake the Leading for Organisational Impact: The Looking Glass Experience program at the Melbourne Business School.

A/Prof McLachlan leads the oncology team at St Vincent's Hospital. As Director of Cancer Services, McLachlan facilitates the provision of multidisciplinary evidence-based care for patients with cancer.

A/Prof McLachlan will undertake the program in October, and work to action change and address some of the challenges faced by women in the medical profession.

'Our medical schools have as many women as men entering the profession now, however fewer women progress to leadership roles. I would like to work in some way to action change and address some of the challenges faced by women in our profession, at my institution and within the VCCC alliance,' A/Prof McLachlan said.

The leadership scholarship is in honour of Jo Leonard who was a longstanding and valued member of the MBS. In August 2016, Jo lost her battle to ovarian cancer—leaving her husband, teenage children and a huge network of family and friends.

## St Vincent's cares. Always has. Always will.

Yes, I want to support our brilliant and compassionate medical staff

### I want to make

Single gift:

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\*Your gift will be processed after the 15th of each month, and will continue unless you notify us to stop it.

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**Please return this completed form to:  
Reply Paid 65162, Fitzroy VIC 3065**

### Other ways to donate

 [www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate](http://www.stvfoundation.org.au/donate)

 (03) 9231 3365

 St Vincent's Foundation Office,  
Ground Floor, Rear, 55 Victoria Parade  
(next to Courtyard 55 Café)

All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. ABN: 22 052 110 755

**Please contact me as:**

- I would like to include St Vincent's in my Will  
 Keep me updated on future news and events  
 Do not send me future St Vincent's Foundation Communications

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June edition 2019

## Budget funding allocation confirms **ACMD to become a reality**

The Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD), Australia's first hospital-based biomedical engineering facility, will become a reality thanks to a cash commitment by both the State and Federal Governments.

The State Government's commitment to allocate \$60 million, first announced in 2014, in conjunction with \$30 million recently announced by the Federal Government will allow the \$180 million ACMD project to commence, and help cement Victoria's reputation as a nation-leader in the field of medical research. Private philanthropy and commercial partners will complete the required funding for the project.

The ACMD will be a vital piece of infrastructure to help keep Australia at the forefront of medical research,

bringing together medicine, engineering, science and industry to drive healthcare innovation and improve patient outcomes.

ACMD has already produced groundbreaking medical innovations, including an implant that talks to an epilepsy patient's mobile phone, warning them when a seizure is imminent, and the 3D printing of human stem cells which are then injected into joints to prevent the onset of osteoarthritis.

But the new 11-storey building, planned for the corner of Victoria Parade and Nicholson Street, has the potential to bring the centre's work to another level, according to Professor Mark Cook, Professor of Medicine at St Vincent's.

'I think it will change everything,' Prof Cook said. 'ACMD will be a unique facility like nothing else in Australia

and there are very few of these sorts of arrangements like this in the world where you've actually got the bio-engineering facility in a clinical site.'

Prof Cook said the key to the success of the centre was concentrating engineers, scientists and developers as well as commercial bio-medical firms in one place, all located in a working hospital.

'At the heart of it all was the idea that we took material scientists and engineers and put them in a clinical environment,' Prof Cook said. 'We saw this was the key to making new developments happen more quickly because you get everybody mixing together and the rapid exchange of ideas. Getting them all together is the key.'



**ST VINCENT'S  
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