



# Celebrating 30 years of stroke research excellence

2026



# Message from the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Research Advisory Committee

## Research fuels the fight against stroke and its devastating impacts.

We are delighted to present our 2026 Research Report, showcasing 30 years of outstanding research since Stroke Foundation's inauguration in 1996.

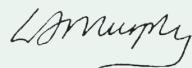
During this time, there have been exceptional breakthroughs in prevention, treatment and recovery, powered by brilliant minds and partnerships. Since 2008, over \$7.1 million in Research Grants has been awarded to 233 researchers.

The generous support of our donors ensures seed funding for early and mid-career researchers, kickstarting innovative projects and supporting the next generation of research leaders. Critical programs are tackling the debilitating effects of stroke in children and adults in areas including aphasia, mobility, social and emotional wellbeing, rehabilitation and fatigue.

At the heart of our Research Program are those most affected: survivors of stroke, their families and carers. Through our Lived Experience network, we are amplifying survivor voices and ensuring their insights shape the research agenda – creating stronger collaborations and better outcomes.

The medical breakthroughs over three decades are only possible because of those who believe in and invest in research. The projects reflect the growing urgency, especially as stroke increasingly affects younger Australians under 65 years of age<sup>1</sup>.

Together, we're creating lasting change. Thank you for standing with us in the fight against stroke.



**Dr Lisa Murphy**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Stroke Foundation

“

For 30 years, Stroke Foundation has championed world-class research that's saved lives and shaped stroke care. We know the next breakthroughs will come even faster if we continue to invest boldly in research.”

**Dr Lisa Murphy**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Stroke Foundation



Our vision is to see fewer strokes, better outcomes, and support and care for all. Unfortunately, stroke is still one of the leading causes of death in Australia. Stroke kills more women than breast cancer and more men than prostate cancer<sup>2</sup>.

One in four people globally will experience a stroke in their lifetime<sup>3</sup>. In Australia, a stroke occurs on average every 11 minutes and there are over 440,000 survivors of stroke living in our community<sup>4</sup>, the majority with a disability that impacts their everyday lives.

Alarming, the rate among Indigenous peoples is almost three times higher than the non-Indigenous population<sup>5</sup> and regional populations are 17% more likely to suffer a stroke than those in metropolitan centres<sup>6</sup>.

By 2050, it is predicted there will be 72,000 strokes per year<sup>4</sup>, causing a huge burden on our health system. In 2023 alone, the economic cost of stroke in Australia was \$9 billion<sup>4</sup>.

Stroke Foundation is focused on the development of young, emerging researchers. We attract the best and brightest who use their talents to address the research questions needed to improve stroke prevention, treatment and recovery.

Stroke Foundation offers a range of endowment funds to support stroke research and innovation, as well as frontline stroke support services.

We are deeply grateful to the visionary families who have established endowments focusing on prevention, aphasia, young adult stroke and improved detection, treatment and support for people affected by stroke.

We are passionate and dedicated, investing in people, ideas and programs which will help us reduce preventable stroke and transform the outcomes for the many thousands of Australians impacted by stroke each year.

We are empowered by your support – please join us in working to reduce the devastating impact of stroke.



**Professor Coralie English**  
Chair of the Research  
Advisory Committee



“

Our 30-year anniversary reflects decades of collaboration, innovation and determination to improve outcomes for every Australian affected by stroke.

**Professor Coralie English**  
Chair, Research Advisory Committee

# Thank you for investing in stroke research

**Stroke is one of Australia's biggest killers, yet 80% of strokes are preventable<sup>7</sup>.**

A stroke can change a life in an instant – not only for the individual, but for their family, community, and the broader health and economic systems.

Stroke has long been recognised as one of Australia's most expensive disease groups.

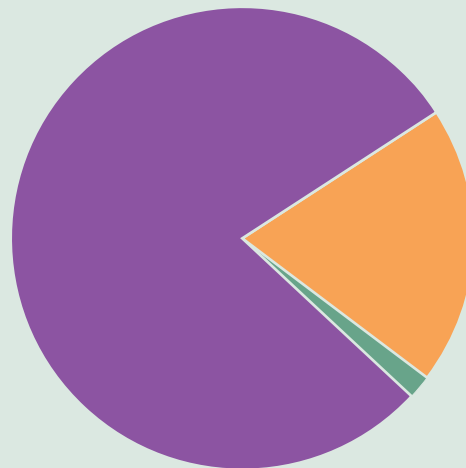
The 2024 Economic Impact of Stroke Report (analysing 2023 data) estimated the direct healthcare, NDIS and lost productivity costs to exceed \$15 billion, averaging \$350,000 per survivor of stroke<sup>4</sup>.

Despite these alarming figures, stroke research remains vastly underfunded.

Without greater support, many promising and potentially life-changing research projects are left unfunded.

Increased investment will allow more of these critical projects to move forward – helping to save lives and transform the future of stroke in Australia.

**Less than 2% of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding in 2025 went towards stroke research:**



**79.08%**  
All other research

**19.38%**  
Cancer research

**1.54%**  
Stroke research

Importantly, we want to ensure that research insights translate to changes in practice and policy which then lead to improvements in quality of life for survivors of stroke, their families and carers.

# Stroke in Australia

A **stroke** occurs every



**11 minutes** in Australia<sup>4</sup>

Around **80%** of **strokes**



**can be prevented**<sup>7</sup>

**Two-thirds of Australians** (66%) can identify



at least **one F.A.S.T. sign** unaided<sup>8</sup>

**Stroke** is on the rise in



people **under 65** years of age<sup>1</sup>

The **economic cost of stroke** exceeds **\$9 billion** annually



and **\$26 billion** in **lost wellbeing**<sup>4</sup>

**Regional Australians** are **17% more likely** to

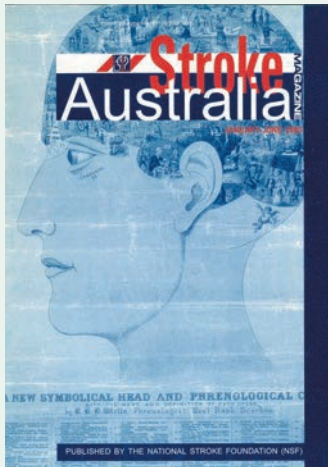
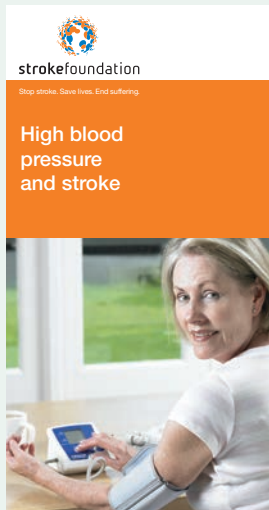


**suffer a stroke** than those in **metropolitan areas**<sup>6</sup>

# Important research milestones powering stroke prevention, treatment and recovery

1996

Stroke was made a national health priority by the Federal Government, and the organisation became known as National Stroke Foundation.



1998

A \$1 million epidemiology study of stroke (NEMESIS) was undertaken, supported by our dedicated research arm (subsidiary) – the largest undertaken in Australia at the time.



2008

Stroke Foundation ran its first Research Grant round, awarding four Small Project Grants focused on the quality of life for survivors of stroke (total \$75,214).



2026

In total over \$7.1 million in Stroke Foundation Research Grants has been awarded to 233 researchers.

2022

The first Tim Glendinning Memorial Fund for Young Adult Stroke Research Grant for Co-designing a health service model for young stroke survivors helped leverage the \$10 million MRFF grant for Australia's first Young Stroke Service.



2012

An Early Career Fellowship Grant was awarded to Professor Bruce Campbell whose subsequent groundbreaking trial, *Endovascular Therapy for Ischaemic Stroke (EXTEND-IA)* was published in 2015, leading to a paradigm shift in acute stroke treatment in Australia and internationally.



2021

As part of the Australian Stroke Alliance, \$40 million was awarded for the *Stroke Golden Hour* project from the Australian Government – to develop lightweight, ambulance ready brain scanners and telestroke.



2014

Stroke Foundation and Heart Foundation co-funded Professor Mark Parsons' 2014 Future Leader Fellowship, enabling the international *TASTE* trial (*Tenecteplase vs Alteplase*), informing clinical guidelines.



2020

The world-first *Australian Paediatric Acute Code Stroke (PACS) Study* was launched in partnership with Murdoch Children's Research Institute, securing \$4 million over six years through the Australian Government's Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).



2017

Australia's first Stroke Ambulance (Mobile Stroke Unit or MSU) was launched, led by the Royal Melbourne Hospital.



2018

The world's first Living Clinical Stroke Guidelines took shape – a next generation approach that rapidly translates new evidence into practice. By 2022, these were estimated to have helped prevent around 300 people from death or long-term disability caused by stroke.

# 1996: Stroke becomes a national priority

## Foundational leaders

Research has been an integral part of Stroke Foundation since it began. The organisation was originally established by Professor David Brownbill AM and Sir John Holland AC and known as the Stroke Research Foundation.

It later became the Australian Stroke and Neurosciences Institute, with its dedicated research arm, the National Stroke Research Institute. In 1996, stroke was made a national health priority by the Federal Government and the organisation became known as Stroke Foundation.

## Professor David Brownbill AM Neurosurgeon, Co-Founder & Patron Stroke Foundation

"Since 1996, Stroke Foundation has championed breakthrough research, improved treatment protocols, and raised public awareness."



## Sir John Holland AC Co-Founder Stroke Foundation

"I'm proud of my father, the late Sir John Holland AC who helped establish Stroke Foundation in 1996 with David Brownbill AM. It gives me great pleasure to support Stroke Foundation's work."



Above: Holland family including Sir John Holland's daughter Sue. Right: the late Sir John Holland AC.

# From 2008: Significant breakthroughs driving impact

## Showcasing research excellence

Stroke Foundation Research Grants have kickstarted a life-long commitment to tackling the most complex stroke challenges, driving extraordinary breakthroughs.

### Associate Professor Kate Hayward

The University of Melbourne  
2010 Stroke Foundation-Heart Foundation PhD Scholarship  
2014 Small Project Grant  
2016 Future Leader Grant  
2018 Seed Grant

Associate Professor Hayward is a physiotherapist and international leader in stroke recovery and rehabilitation research.

Her interdisciplinary team seeks to determine when the ideal time is to start therapy after stroke, how much therapy to provide, and who stands to benefit most from therapy.

Associate Professor Hayward is now setting up a whole of stroke care platform trial focused on unmet stroke needs to deliver better solutions quicker to the people that need them.



You don't forget who supported the beginning of your career. There is an incredible opportunity for Stroke Foundation to fund people as well as projects."

*Associate Professor Kate Hayward*



Physical disability remains a significant consequence of stroke, but it is not always the primary challenge for survivors. Many report psychosocial difficulties, with fatigue consistently rated as one of the greatest ongoing burdens."

*Associate Professor Andrew Bivard*



### Associate Professor Andrew Bivard

Hunter New England Local Health District  
2009 Honours Grant  
2016 Seed Grant

Part of Associate Professor Bivard's research program has focused on evaluating the efficacy of Modafinil, a wakefulness-promoting agent, for the treatment of post-stroke fatigue at three months following stroke.

A prior phase II trial conducted in Newcastle in collaboration with Professor Christopher Levi demonstrated that Modafinil treatment was associated with reduced fatigue and improved quality of life among survivors of stroke.

Building on this work, Associate Professor Bivard is now co-leading MIDAS-2, a \$1.5 million phase III clinical trial supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

# Our Research Grants – empowering communities, teams and individuals

## Dr Di Marsden

Hunter New England Local Health District  
2021 Research Seed Grant

*Let's have a yarn about our bladder*

This project was led by Aboriginal people from the start, who recognised the key barrier to urinary incontinence issues was lack of knowledge. Lived experience experts, clinicians, and Dr Marsden yarned to co-produce resources to start the conversation, develop training videos for clinicians and provide awareness videos in emergency department waiting rooms.

As a result, the community has been empowered to understand causes and symptoms, speak up and seek help, without shame or embarrassment.

“

Your donations have inspired Aboriginal Elders, community and clinicians to lead nationally in destigmatising bladder control issues, share cultural knowledge and build pride through Aboriginal community-led research.”

*Dr Di Marsden*



*Di with Aboriginal clinicians Karen Baker, Angie Knox, and Tammy Baker at the launch of the resources.*



*Aboriginal Elders, community, and clinicians from Narrabri came together specifically for the project.*

## Dr Jade Dignam

The University of Queensland  
2022 Lady Marigold Southey Aphasia  
Research Grant

*CHAT-Maintain: Maintaining language and quality of life gains with low-dose technology-delivered aphasia therapy.*

Dr Dignam's work is rapidly advancing, using technology to help people with aphasia connect and communicate with greater confidence.

“

I'm so grateful to Lady Southey for helping me progress tools to reduce social isolation for survivors by making communication with loved ones easier.”  
*Dr Jade Dignam*



*Dr Jade Dignam and Lady Southey AC.*

# Stronger together with lived experience



## Brooke Parsons

The Florey Institute  
2025 Future Leader Grant

Brooke experienced a stroke when she was just 13. She has dedicated her life to driving positive change and improving outcomes in the stroke community. Brooke's Future Leader Grant supported her attendance at the 2025 Conference of State Parties Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New York, where decisions were made that shape the future for people with disabilities.



Thank you for believing in me – to stand in that space was such an honour and profound responsibility.”

*Brooke Parsons*



Above: Brooke in New York.  
Right: Stroke Trials CRE Lived Experience Advisory Group Steering Committee members, including Co-Chairs Adrian O'Malley, Brenda Booth OAM and Stroke Foundation staff.

## Lived experience strengthening research

Driven by a powerful community movement, people with lived experience of stroke are stepping into research spaces with greater confidence and purpose, taking their place at the table and truly living the principle of *stronger together*. Their voices are strengthening research at every stage – from setting priorities and shaping study design, through to delivery and translation into practice.

Key partnerships, including our support of the lived experience stream of the Centre of Research Excellence to Accelerate Innovation and Translation in Stroke Trials, show how working together leads to more relevant, inclusive and impactful stroke research.



# Honouring lives through lasting impact

Endowment Funds are an incredible legacy to those affected by stroke and a powerful way of fuelling research programs. Here, we profile four Endowment Funds which commenced from 2018.



## Gavin Paul Bennier Memorial Research Fund

This Fund focuses on the rare brain disorder Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy (CAA).

The disorder causes bleeds on the brain and is more commonly associated with dementia and older people. CAA caused Gavin to have several strokes and tragically led to his death in 2017.

The Gavin Paul Bennier Memorial Grant was awarded in 2019 to Professor Vincent Thijs at The Florey Institute. The *SEARCH* study (*Screening for early-onset amyloid-related cerebral haemorrhage*) aims to improve early diagnosis of amyloid angiopathy, which could lead to better treatments in the future. Early detection is key, and ongoing research and clinical trials are crucial to tackling this disease.

“

We are extremely grateful to the Bennier family. The *SEARCH* study is gaining momentum and will provide haemorrhagic survivors of stroke with an accurate and timely diagnosis. With treatment options at the horizon, this world-first diagnostic work, supported by Gavin Paul Bennier's Fund, will gain further significance.”  
*Professor Vincent Thijs*



## Nancy & Vic Allen Stroke Prevention Memorial Fund



This Fund was made possible through the generosity of the late Vic Allen, who was passionate about preventing stroke after witnessing the devastating effect multiple strokes had on his beloved wife, Nancy.

The Fund encourages stroke prevention research combining best practice medical care and evidence-based integrative care.

Three outstanding research teams have received Grants supported by the Fund, led by:



## Professor Coralie English

The University of Newcastle

*i-REBOUND after stroke – development of an online program to prevent recurrent stroke and support long-term health and well-being, 2021.*



## Professor Caleb Ferguson

University of Wollongong

*INFORM-AF II – A Phase 1 pilot randomised controlled trial of a digital stroke prevention education program for people living with atrial fibrillation, 2023.*

## Professor Monique Kilkenny & Dr Stella Talic



Monash University

*Development and implementation of a new minimum set of primary care quality indicators to prevent stroke and heart disease in the Australian community, 2026.*





## Tim Glendinning Memorial Fund for Young Adult Stroke

This Fund has been established by the Glendinning family to improve the lives of young adults affected by stroke.

Tim Glendinning sadly lost his life to stroke at the age of just 36, following seven strokes in 17 years – each one impacting his physical and mental health and quality of life.

Four researchers have been supported through Tim’s fund, sparking major momentum in the field and catalysing an additional \$13 million investment in young adult stroke research.

### Dr Karen Borschmann

The Florey Institute  
2019 Tim Glendinning Memorial Grant

*Co-designing a health service model for young stroke survivors*

The first project supported by Tim’s fund identified key priorities for a new health service model for young survivors of stroke.

Outcomes unlocked \$10 million in Australian Government funding, secured by Professors Julie Bernhardt and Vincent Thijs at The Florey Institute from 2022, to establish Australia’s first Young Stroke Service.



With supporters helping to fuel this work, we’re accelerating research into practical solutions that can improve recovery, connection and confidence for young people.”

*Dr Karen Borschmann*



### Associate Professor Alyna Turner

Deakin University  
2021 Tim Glendinning  
Memorial Grant



*Resuming Employment after Stroke: Enhancement through Telecoordination – RESET Rural Expansion*

Since 2017, Alyna has been developing a program that connects survivors of stroke returning to work with a dedicated work support clinician. Through her grant, this work has now grown into a national \$3 million, five-year clinical trial funded by the NHMRC, *Enhancing work participation after stroke: supporting regional and rural Australians.*

The program is already changing lives – helping people return to their businesses, work at a sustainable pace, and challenge stigma in their workplaces and communities.

### Professor Dana Wong

La Trobe University  
2024 Tim Glendinning  
Memorial Grant

*Co-designing a psychoeducation package to enhance psychosocial wellbeing for young adults living with stroke*

The first phase co-designed practical resources with young survivors, families and clinicians, focusing on their priority topics. This work was completed in 2025 and received national recognition, including an award for lived experience relevance. Evaluation is underway in 2026.



We are incredibly grateful to the Glendinning family and Tradeweb whose generous philanthropy has made this grant possible. We sincerely hope that it will lead to improvements in the wellbeing of young adults living with stroke in Australia and worldwide.”

*Professor Dana Wong*



## Associate Professor Elizabeth Lynch



Flinders University  
2026 Tim Glendinning  
Memorial Grant

*Re-imagining recovery after stroke: a Stroke Recovery College for Young Survivors of Stroke*

Associate Professor Elizabeth Lynch and her team are developing Australia's first Stroke Recovery College for young survivors aged 18–45, inspired by the successful mental health Recovery College model across the world.

“

This idea came from listening to survivors who felt abandoned and unsure how to rebuild life after stroke. The grant allows us to explore a hopeful new model of recovery focused on identity, purpose and peer support.”

*Associate Professor Elizabeth Lynch*

## Dr Anna Correll Memorial Fund

Anna was an inspirational speech pathologist, practising in South Australia from 1997 to 2016. Anna's husband, Nick set up an endowment fund in her memory, recognising the significant contribution she made to stroke research and recovery and creating a lasting legacy.

In 2026, we were delighted to award the first Dr Anna Correll Future Leader in Aphasia Research Grant to Dr Lisa Anemaat, The University of Queensland, as a stepping stone for an international collaborative priority setting project, specific to stroke and aphasia.

“

Thank you for this incredible opportunity to gain knowledge, wisdom, understanding and expertise in aphasia research.”

*Dr Lisa Anemaat*



*The late Dr Anna Correll.*

# Stronger Together – Our partnerships

## Australia's two Stroke Ambulances driving early stroke management

Since the inception of the first Stroke Ambulance in 2017, and subsequent second unit in 2024, the two Stroke Ambulances have played a vital role with over 14,000 patient dispatches, saving lives and improving recovery.

These are custom-built, specialist vehicles with clinical teams that allow patients to receive hospital-grade assessment and treatment on site, rather than waiting to arrive at a hospital.

The second Stroke Ambulance is equipped with an advanced CT brain scanner, using photon-counting technology to improve stroke diagnosis and treatment. Altogether, Stroke Foundation supporters contributed more than \$550,000 to the two Stroke Ambulances.



Kelly, Survivor of stroke.

“

I owe my recovery to the Stroke Ambulances. The quick dispatch prevented a more severe outcome. I'm so grateful to Stroke Foundation supporters who invested in the Stroke Ambulances.”

*Kelly, Survivor of stroke*

## Australian Stroke Alliance – Stroke Golden Hour project

The *Stroke Golden Hour* project is leading the way internationally with the latest innovation in stroke treatment and care – developing lightweight brain scanners for stroke, in road and air ambulances to save more lives across Australia.

## Australian Paediatric Acute Code Stroke (PACS) Study

Supported by the MRFF, Stroke Foundation joined forces with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute to revolutionise stroke care for children.

Each year, up to **120 babies** and **400 Australian children** experience a stroke<sup>9,10</sup> and more than half of young survivors will experience **long-term impairments**.<sup>11,12</sup>



Led by Professor Mark Mackay, this pioneering initiative has united researchers, clinicians, and individuals with lived experience.

To be completed

in 2026, this groundbreaking work will inform paediatric stroke care globally and lessen the long-term impact of disability in children affected by stroke by shortening time to diagnosis and minimising brain injury through use of treatments.

“

The *PACS Study* has empowered clinicians with the confidence to recognise and respond to childhood stroke faster than ever before, transforming outcomes for children and their families.”

*Belinda Stojanovski*

*Stroke Clinical Nurse Consultant  
PACS Study National Coordinator*



## Stroke Research Prioritisation Project

In 2024, Stroke Foundation began a national conversation to identify the stroke research priorities that matter most to survivors, families, carers and health professionals.

In partnership with leading Australian researchers and groups (the Stroke Trials Centre of Research Excellence), more than 300 people contributed through a national survey and online workshops, helping to shape priority areas across prevention, treatment and recovery. These priority areas are driving research efforts in the most important areas and will be used specifically in our Research Grants.



Engagement from across Australia in our national survey.

## Stroke Research Priorities

Rank	Prevention	Early treatment	Rehabilitation and life after stroke
1	Medical conditions that could lead to a first stroke	Better recognition and diagnosis of stroke and TIA	Post-stroke fatigue
2	Unexplained strokes	New treatments to protect the brain from damage	Mental health and wellbeing after stroke
3	Genetic, social and environmental factors in stroke	Understand how the body and brain recover from stroke	Communication difficulties and aphasia
4	Living healthier to prevent stroke	Treating stroke caused by blocked vessels	Memory, thinking or perception, and preventing post-stroke dementia
5	Government policies	Treating stroke caused by bleeding	Prevent another stroke and live well after stroke
6	Healthcare to prevent a first stroke	Management of complications during hospital care	Walking and/or arm movement after stroke
7			Post-stroke pain
8			Inflammation and immune system response



Stroke Research Prioritisation Project research team.

# Our brightest minds – emerging leaders

## Dr John Pierce

La Trobe University  
2023 Seed Grant and  
2024 Future Leader Grant

*M-MAT Tele: Maximising aphasia recovery through a group telehealth intervention*

Dr Pierce is co-designing solutions for people with aphasia and focusing on technology and how AI can be applied for more effective aphasia rehabilitation and management.

“

This Seed Grant allowed me to take an early idea and turn it into a fully developed research program that now has national support. Stroke Foundation support has helped me build new collaborations, secure further funding, and gain valuable experience leading a large project.”

*Dr John Pierce*



## Dr Matthew Berryman

La Trobe University  
2026 Future Leader Grant

Mentored by Dr John Pierce, Dr Berryman is an emerging leader in aphasia research exploring technologies such as large language models, virtual reality and AI-based speech evaluation. His 2026 Future Leader Grant is enabling collaboration with experts, identifying research gaps and advancing therapy in more realistic contexts while supporting his growth as a future leader in the field.

“

A huge thank you! This grant will fund not just research but well-engineered, accessible, and hopefully widespread technology in support of people with aphasia.”  
*Dr Matthew Berryman*



Dr Berryman experienced a haemorrhagic stroke in October 2022, which initially left him unable to talk and the right side of his body totally paralysed.

## Dr Taylor Jenkin

Murdoch Children's Research Institute  
2025 Research Seed Grant

*Finding my way: Co-designing an online psychosocial program to support adolescents with stroke in transitioning to adulthood.*

Dr Jenkin's project aims to give young people the clear information, practical tips, and confidence they need to navigate the complex transition to adulthood. By supporting adolescents at such a crucial stage, this project has the potential to strengthen long-term wellbeing and independence for a group that has rarely had resources designed specifically for them.

“

We are incredibly grateful to Stroke Foundation and the supporters whose generous philanthropy has made this grant possible. We hope that this work will lead to meaningful interventions that will support the wellbeing of adolescents as they navigate adulthood.”

*Dr Taylor Jenkin*



# Thank you to our supporters investing in stroke research

## Dear Donors,

A sincere thank you for your support of my Research Seed Grant.

Your generosity has enabled the development of my *Surviving and Thriving After Stroke (STARS)* project – an intervention for families in which a parent has experienced a stroke.

As part of this work, my team and I created short animations co-designed with children and parents to explain stroke, its effects, and to support family conversations about rehabilitation and children's emotional responses.

Thank you so much for contributing to this important early-career work. I am so grateful!

With warmest regards,



## Dr Brooke Ryan

2022 Seed Grant Recipient  
University of Technology Sydney  
Curtin University



## Kerryn

Kerryn suffered a subarachnoid haemorrhagic stroke in 2017. He was very grateful for his quick recovery and owes this to his quick-thinking wife, Anna, the local doctor and the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

“

Research saved my life. I give because I want the same hope for others.”  
*Anna (partner) & Kerryn*



## Brendan

Brendan's father was fit and still working at the family business at 71 when he sadly experienced a stroke. Brendan is a long-term supporter of the Stroke Research and Innovation Future Fund.

“

I support the Fund as it provides sustainable revenue for critical programs that are reducing the rate of stroke and supporting those so deeply affected.”  
*Brendan*



## Dianne

Dianne and her family have been incredibly impacted by stroke. It has been life-changing incidents like this that have fuelled Dianne's support for stroke research.

“

Having lived through a stroke myself, I know just how suddenly and profoundly it can change you. I support stroke research because it gives hope – it is a vital investment in saving lives and restoring futures.”  
*Dianne*



## Professor James Angus

Former President, Stroke Foundation  
2014–2021

“

By supporting Stroke Foundation research, I hope to free my grandchildren and others from the devastation caused by stroke.”



# Message from the President

## Over the past 30 years, we have invested in groundbreaking stroke research and innovations in treatment.

Just like many Australians, I've seen first-hand, the devastating impact of stroke. As a young nurse in the early days of my working life, I cared for people who had a stroke; and as a palliative care expert years later, I met many more survivors of stroke, their carers and loved ones.

I lost my grandmother to a cerebral haemorrhage. But the most profound experience was watching how stroke affected my uncle. He was the CEO of a large company, actively involved in civic life, and a generous philanthropist – until stroke took away many of the things he loved.

Stroke Foundation is the voice of stroke in Australia. We must lead in stroke research while investing in the next generation of researchers to build knowledge and deliver the breakthroughs our community needs.



**Professor Linda Kristjanson AO**  
President, Stroke Foundation  
2021–2026

## President's Achievement Award

Brenda Booth OAM received the 2024 President's Achievement Award for her outstanding commitment to improving the lives of people affected by stroke. After experiencing a stroke at 41, she became a passionate advocate, using her lived experience to drive change. She has contributed significantly to Stroke Foundation through the Lived Experience Council, the Research Advisory Committee, and the Living Stroke Guidelines.









In 2025, we were delighted to recognise the outstanding contribution by Professor Julie Bernhardt AM with the President's Achievement Award. Professor Bernhardt served as inaugural Chair of the Research Advisory Committee, playing an integral role in establishing Stroke Foundation's Research Program. She is a world-renowned rehabilitation expert dedicated to improving recovery post-stroke.





### How to get more involved

-  **Give time** – become a volunteer.
-  **Raise funds** – donate or hold a fundraising event.
-  **Speak up** – join our advocacy team.
-  **Leave a lasting legacy** – include a gift in your Will.
-  **Know your numbers** – check your health regularly.
-  **Stay informed** – keep up-to-date and share our message.

### Contact us

-  **1300 194 196**
-  **[strokefoundation.org.au](https://strokefoundation.org.au)**
-  **[/strokefoundation](https://www.facebook.com/strokefoundation)**
-  **[@strokefdn](https://twitter.com/strokefdn)**
-  **[@strokefdn](https://www.instagram.com/strokefdn)**

**Stroke Foundation | 1300 194 196 | [strokefoundation.org.au](https://strokefoundation.org.au)**

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We also have offices in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Hobart.

ABN 42 006 173 379

*Cover photo: Dr Brooke Ryan (University of Technology Sydney/Curtin University), Dr Lisa Murphy, Emeritus Professor Linda Kristjanson AO, Bruce Simcock (Survivor of stroke) and partner, Robyn*

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