



Annual Report 2024

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“
*Supporting bone marrow
and stem cell transplant patients,
and those who care for them,
for over 30 years”*

Our Impact 2023 / 2024 at a Glance



Patient Support

\$173K

Distributed through our patient support program

451

patients supported

970

Requests for financial assistance approved

76

Social workers referring to us

28

Hospitals in our referrer network across Australia

2

New patient programs launched



Healthcare Professional

\$36K

Spent on healthcare professional education

7

Healthcare professionals sponsored to attend overseas Conferences

3

Graduate Certificate of Cancer Nursing scholarships issued

1

Masters of Cancer and Haematology Nursing scholarship issued

1

New Scholarship program launched



Medical Research

\$93K

Spent on medical research

Two PhD Scholarships supported

Haploidentical trial study funded

Three data registry scholarships issued

Our Organisation

Arrow is the only charity in Australia dedicated to helping bone marrow and stem cell transplant patients.

Over 19,000 Australians are diagnosed with blood cancer such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma each year. Many more are diagnosed with autoimmune diseases such as MS, blood diseases like anaemia, and other non-malignant diseases.

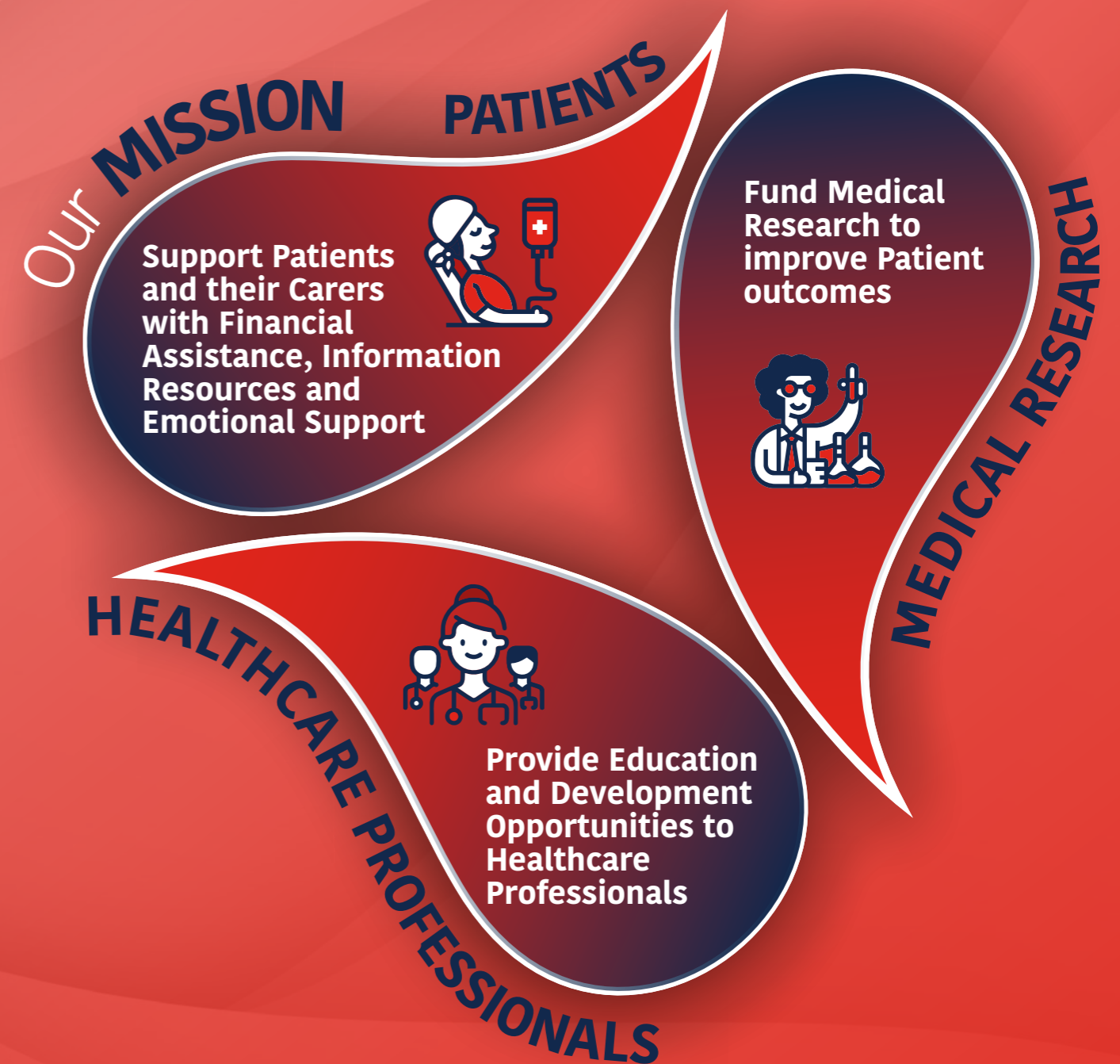
In many cases, a bone marrow or stem cell transplant offers the best chance of recovery.

Over 2,000 patients receive a bone marrow or stem cell transplant in Australia each year. Bone marrow and stem cell transplants are life-saving, but also come with risks and significant side effects.

We look forward to the day when bone marrow and stem cell transplants are no longer needed because researchers have found a better way to treat blood diseases.

Until then, we exist to improve the quality of life of bone marrow and stem cell transplant patients and those who care for them.

Our **VISION** is to improve the quality of life for all people receiving a **bone marrow or stem cell transplant**



Our **VALUES**



We act with **Integrity** and **Compassion**, and have **Patients** at the heart of everything we do

Message from the Chair



Over 2,000 people in Australia receive bone marrow or stem cell transplants each year. In Financial Year 2024 Arrow supported 451 of these transplant recipients, an increase of 117% on the previous year and a great step towards achieving our vision: to improve the quality of life for all people receiving a bone marrow or stem cell transplant.

As outlined in this Annual Report, Arrow also increased our activities in funding medical research to improve patient outcomes and providing education and development opportunities to healthcare professionals.

Arrow is in a strong financial position thanks to the fundraising efforts of our team and to many generous donors, thank you. In particular, a generous bequest was received from Anne Robertson in memory of her niece, Katherine Robertson. We are deeply grateful to the Robertson family for this substantial donation and look forward to working with the family to honour the legacies of Anne and Katherine.

Our partnerships with Australia and New Zealand Transplant and Cellular Therapies (ANZTCT) and Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand (HSANZ) have been highly beneficial, leading to successful collaborations on various projects.

It was a pleasure to attend the ANZTCT's inaugural Annual Scientific Meeting and witness first-hand the incredible group of healthcare professionals collaborating in support of bone marrow and stem cell transplant patients.

I had the privilege of meeting two of our PhD research scholarship recipients, Ritika Saxena and Dr Michael Ashby, at the HSANZ Blood Conference. Ritika's research in laboratory grown blood cells and Michael's research in the causes of relapse after transplant may lead to greatly improved patient outcomes.

The return of the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic was a highlight this year. It was inspiring to meet the dedicated volunteers and paddlers who support Arrow through their 111 kilometre paddle along the Hawkesbury River. Thank you for your long-standing and important support of Arrow.

None of Arrow's achievements would be possible without the Arrow team, led by CEO Richelle Koller. It has been a huge year of growth at Arrow and with more exciting times on the horizon. Thank you, Richelle and team, for your hard work and dedication.

Thank you also to our board and committee members for their contributions and dedication. Long-standing board member Leonie Wilcox retired from the board but remains a member of the Patients and Programmes Committee. Thank you, Leonie, for your commitment over many years. It was a pleasure to welcome new board member Yvonne Panek-Hudson and committee member Associate Professor John Moore. Your expertise and experience are a valuable addition to Arrow.

Chris Murray
Chairperson



Message from the CEO

This year, we have been excited to build our community of bone marrow transplant patients. We have supported 451 patients and their carers in FY 2024, and are proud to help the community connect and find support and comfort in one another. Many of these patient introductions were made possible by the social workers and nurses that we work with across the country, and we are grateful for our relationships with these important healthcare professionals.

In FY 2024, we also launched two exciting new patient programs: Transplant Tribe, an online peer support network, and Transplant Talk Live, an interactive webinar series. Both programs were exceptionally successful and received strong positive feedback. We are pleased to be able to expand the support we provide to bone marrow transplant patients and their carers and look forward to continuing these programs into the future.

Our commitment to supporting the transplant community extends to healthcare professionals as well. This year, we expanded our scholarship and research programs, funding eleven specialist transplant healthcare professionals and two PhD research students. Thank you to our donors, many of whom have been loyal donors to Arrow over many years, for enabling this growth.

Our expansion of services could not have happened without our amazing team of staff and volunteer board and committee members. The team have worked hard to deliver this year, resulting in a 30% growth in funds distributed across all of our programs.

A very special end to this financial year was the news of the most generous \$2 million bequest donation from the late Anne Robertson, followed by an additional \$1.5 million donation received after the end of the year. This \$3.5 million donation is transformative for Arrow and will significantly enhance our ability to make an impact in supporting bone marrow and stem cell transplant patients. We are most grateful to the Robertson family for the trust they have placed in Arrow and the opportunities that such a large amount of funding provides. This funding will enable us to fast track our plans over the coming years and it is wonderful to have the support of the Robertson family in executing those plans.

Richelle Koller
Chief Executive Officer

Patient Support

In line with our goals for the year, Arrow continued to grow our support of patients before, during and after bone marrow transplant. We helped 451 bone marrow and stem cell transplant patients and their families this year with financial assistance, information resources, and emotional support.

Financially, we assisted 389 bone marrow transplant patients and their families, approving 970 requests for support. Help with grocery and petrol cards remained the most requested item for financial support during a time when cost of living pressures have been felt throughout the community. This success was made possible due to the strong referral network we have built during the year, including 39 new social work referrers and 9 new hospitals across Australia.

In addition to much-needed financial support, we also focused our efforts this year on how we can support patients and their carers emotionally and with access to information resources, particularly for those patients that are more than one year on from transplant. This resulted in the launch of two new patient programs during the year – Transplant Talk Live and Transplant Tribe.

Transplant Talk Live is an online webinar series involving healthcare professionals presenting on topics including returning to work/study, and long-term self-care after transplant, as well as patients sharing their transplant experiences. The webinars were well attended with over 230 registered attendees and nearly all participants (98%) saying they enjoyed the webinars and would recommend them to others. The webinar series was made possible thanks to funding from Tour de Cure and we look forward to continuing to provide these valuable webinars to our community.



“It was validating to hear somebody else grappling with the same feelings and issues” Webinar attendee

Our second new program of the year, Transplant Tribe, is a peer support group for bone marrow transplant patients and their carers. Meetings are held online and this forum provides an excellent opportunity for those who have received a transplant to share their stories and provide emotional support to those who are at a different stage of treatment. We give special thanks to Lyndell Wills the founder of Transplant Tribe who established the group in her local area and has passed on the reigns to Arrow to grow the program nationally.

Finally, Arrow supported the production of the second season of the Straight and Marrow podcast. The podcast is a wonderful resource discussing all things allogeneic bone marrow transplant from pre-transplant considerations to survivorship, as told by experienced healthcare providers, patients and carers. In fact, the podcast is so wonderful that it was shortlisted this year for a Victorian Public Healthcare Award. The podcast was also presented on the world stage at this year’s European Bone Marrow Transplant (EBMT) Conference and we congratulate Yvonne Panek-Hudson and Alex Rivalland for their production of the Straight and Marrow <https://www.straightandmarrow.net/>



Meet Sam

Meet Sam Sheehan. Sam is an Aussie who was living and working in Vietnam. When some seemingly innocent health woes came up, Sam put it down to travel bugs and a difference in health care systems. But as one symptom led to another, Sam with his ever positive outlook on life, started to come to the realisation that there was something more sinister at play.

A relaxation massage that resulted in bruising, tiredness, lingering headaches, a burst blood vessel in his eye and dizziness led to the discovery by a dentist (of all people), that he had a serious blood disease. The dentist had noticed some unusual bleeding during a clean, and ran some blood tests.

Sam received a phone call from his dentist the next day to say that he needed to get to hospital immediately. Unconvinced of the urgency, Sam sent a copy of his blood test results to a medically trained friend of the family back home in Australia.

He confirmed the news “Mate, those numbers don’t look good. You’re sick. It’s either leukaemia or aplastic anaemia.”

Sam replied, “I hope it’s aplastic anaemia, because leukaemia’s cancer, right? Anaemia just means my iron’s a bit low. I can just start eating a bit more red meat and I’ll be fine.”

Sam soon learned, however, that aplastic anaemia is a rare and life-threatening disease that needs urgent treatment.

After a short and shocking visit to the local hospital in Vietnam where they performed a blood transfusion, Sam spent 7 days in ICU before being well enough to fly back to Australia escorted by a nurse and paramedic.

Back on home soil, Sam attended the Mater Hospital Brisbane where he had a bone marrow biopsy which led to a formal diagnosis of severe aplastic anaemia. More tests, and it changed to very severe aplastic anaemia.

“Right,” thought Sam. “You’re all just trying to be funny now with your adjectives.” But Sam’s haematologist explained that it was the worst he’d ever seen, with less than 5% of his bone marrow functioning properly.

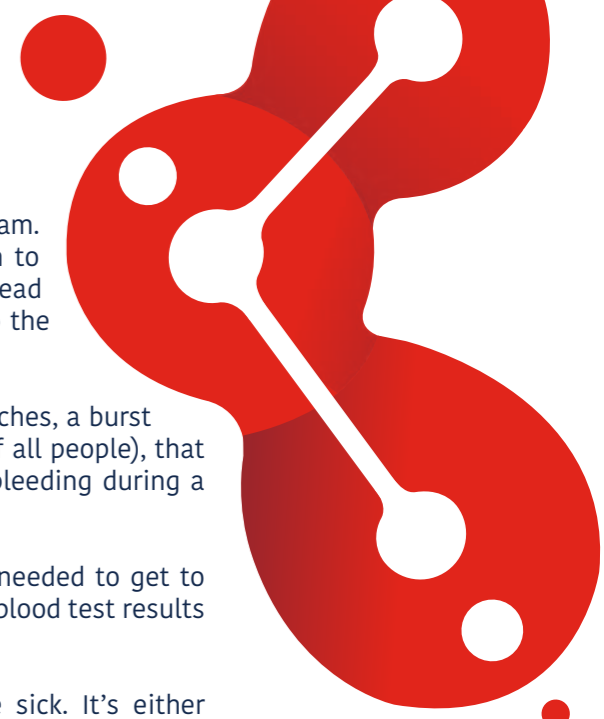
Ahead lay a 12-day infection, intravenous antibiotics, a blood transfusion and an urgent allogeneic bone marrow transplant. Thankfully Sam’s brother was a donor match and Sam commenced 7-8 days of chemotherapy in preparation for his transplant. Chemo was short and sweet, but it was tough, and Sam felt deathly ill.

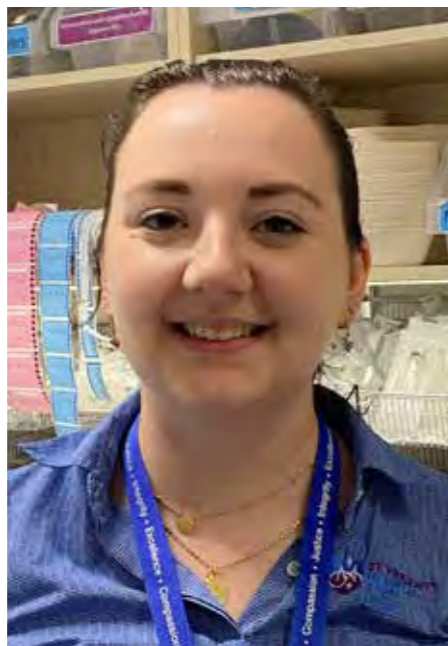
The transplant itself happened in record time. Sam’s brother had bone marrow harvested from his hip in the morning, and it was transfused into Sam by 2 o’clock that afternoon.

And from there the story gets a little foggy for Sam. He spent 2 weeks in ICU of which he has little recollection at all. Sam’s parents and family prepared for the worst. Sam got fever after fever, one infection after another. Bacterial infections and fungal infections that were difficult to beat. They estimated a 3-5 week hospital stay, but it ended up being 67 days.

Sam is now 120 days out from transplant and back home. He is still the happy-go-lucky guy he has always been but is physically, mentally, and emotionally exhausted. He would love to say that the whole ordeal has made him stronger, but there’s still a lot of healing to do before he can comfortably lay claim to that.

“I am so grateful to Arrow. The grocery cards that you sent to us were so great. It might only be a couple of hundred bucks here and there, enough to get you through a tough week or two, but don’t underestimate the psychological help that gives as well. It might seem to some to be a small amount of money, but just knowing there is support available has a ripple effect on everything. It gives you one less thing to worry about when there is so much else going on in your life”.





Healthcare Professional Education



Thanks to our new sponsor, Jazz Pharmaceuticals Australia, we have been able to nearly double the value of our healthcare professional scholarships program this financial year. We are pleased to have received a high calibre of experienced applicants this year, particularly for our overseas travel scholarships.

We have funded eleven education scholarships: four for post graduate studies and seven to assist with travel to scientific meetings and conferences. Together, these scholarships represent a total of \$36,000 funding for the continuing education of healthcare professionals involved in bone marrow and stem cell transplant.

Our successful scholarship recipients for this year were:

Professor Geoffrey Driscoll Nursing Scholarships

- Charlotte Anderson – Royal Hobart Hospital
- Jaclyn Lindstrom – Calvary Mater Newcastle
- Jessica Cashford – Townsville University Hospital

Jazz Pharmaceuticals Travel Scholarships

- Alia Cibich – Royal Adelaide Hospital – American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy Tandem Conference, Texas USA
- Emma Munro – Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital – Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC), France
- Priscilla Gates – Peter MacCallum Centre Melbourne – Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC), France
- Jessica Cheng – St Vincent’s Hospital Sydney – Asia Pacific Blood and Marrow Transplantation (APBMT) Group, Singapore
- Yvonne Panek-Hudson – Peter MacCallum Centre Melbourne – European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT), Scotland

Masters of Cancer and Haematology Nursing Scholarship

- Cristina Lucas – St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney

Sylvia Hartog Travel Scholarship

- Simone Jensen – St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney – Asia Pacific Blood and Marrow Transplantation (APBMT) Group, Singapore

Shaun Rosen Travel Scholarship

- Serafina Levak – St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney – Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand (HSANZ) Blood Conference, Melbourne



Meet Alia

Alia Cibich, Clinical Data Manager at the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Royal Adelaide Hospital, was awarded the first ever Jazz Pharmaceutical scholarship this year to help her attend the 2024 Tandem Meeting of American Society of Transplant and Cellular Therapies (ASTCT) and Centre for International Bone Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) held in San Antonio, Texas.

Alia maintains a statewide clinical database with over 2,000 patients spanning more than 40 years. She brings a unique lived experience to her work as the child and carer of a transplant survivor. Alia understands first hand the challenges patients and their loved ones experience during and after treatment - a huge motivator for her work.

Alia is also a PhD student through the University of Adelaide and has a special interest in the development of new cancers after an allogeneic stem cell transplant. New cancers are a devastating late complication after transplant, and there is still a lot to learn about the reasons for the development of these cancers and their best clinical management. Alia's research aims to help fill these gaps in knowledge. She has started working with the South Australian dataset, and presented her findings from that initial work at the Tandem Conference.

Alia has discovered through her review of the South Australian dataset that 19% of adults who are a year or more post allogeneic stem cell transplant go on to develop a secondary cancer. This finding is limited, however, due to the relatively small population size behind the dataset she was working on. The bigger the dataset, the more powerful the results of analyses like these can be.

Global collaboration and data sharing is crucial in order to understand the patterns of secondary cancer development after bone marrow transplant, and this is why Arrow is proud to have been able to help Alia attend the conference in Texas where she was able to begin forging collaborative relationships with data managers from around the globe.

Alia said that her attendance at the conference was “highly productive” and “enabled rich discussion with key stakeholders”. She was able to meet and build relationships with data managers from around the world, making it easier for strong international collaborations to flourish, which will ultimately lead to a better understanding of the long-term effects of bone marrow transplants.

“I feel incredibly privileged to be awarded this scholarship and be offered the opportunity to accelerate my research” said Alia. We’re looking forward to seeing where these collaborations might lead, and we wish Alia every success with her research.



**“
This top up scholarship plays a
crucial role in ensuring I can prioritise
my full-time PhD studies without
having to work part-time to make ends
meet” Ritika Saxena**

Medical Research

The third arm of our strategy is to fund research with the purpose of improving bone marrow and stem cell transplant patient outcomes.

This year we awarded our first PhD scholarship in partnership with the Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand to Dr Michael Ashby from Monash University.

Michael’s research is focused on the prevention of acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) relapse following an allogeneic stem cell transplant. This is a significant area of interest given the unfortunately high rates of relapse in AML patients post transplant. Michael is grateful for his scholarship saying that it is “not only a tremendous financial relief, but also a significant affirmation of my academic achievements and potential. I am deeply honoured and thrilled to have been selected as a recipient of this prestigious scholarship.”

We also continued our support of Ritika Saxena who is now in the third and final year of her PhD. This year Ritika benefitted from a 3-month-long exchange program to the University of Copenhagen in Denmark and the San Raffaele-Telethon Institute of Gene Therapy in Milan, Italy. This exchange provided Ritika with access to world-class facilities and enabled her to learn from overseas colleagues to help refine her experiments back home.

Ritika provided us with a wonderful update which you can find online here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSCxDYJtBSw&t=2s>

Also this year, we partnered with Australia and New Zealand Transplant and Cellular Therapy (the ANZTCT) to deliver their first Annual Scientific Meeting. The conference brought together healthcare professionals from across Australia and New Zealand involved in the clinical or laboratory management of patients undergoing blood or marrow stem cell transplantation and cellular therapies. Arrow supported a national meeting of Data Managers at the conference as part of our long-standing relationship with the ANZTCT Data Registry and in recognition of the important role data plays in research and management of bone marrow transplant patients.

Arrow also funded three scholarships for trainees to complete a national ANZTCT registry study focused on researching disease-specific outcomes to support improvements in clinical practice. We look forward to hearing the outcomes of these studies at next year’s conference.





Meet Michael

“When someone has acute myeloid leukaemia, nothing else matters. If we don’t fix the leukaemia, well... nothing else will be a problem for much longer either.”

That’s Michael Ashby, our newest PhD Scholarship recipient, doctor, researcher, father of three, marathon runner, and not one to mince words.

It’s Michael’s direct approach that draws him to translational research, work that aims to produce results that are directly applicable to patients and their team of haematologists, oncologists and specialist nurses to bring about improved treatment regimens and, ultimately, better outcomes for patients long term.

Michael’s PhD research is focused on relapse in patients who have had a bone marrow transplant to treat acute myeloid leukaemia. There are two main reasons for relapse:

- The drugs given after transplant to help manage graft v. host disease and to allow the donor cells take hold (engraft) may allow some diseased cells to linger, and
- some diseased cells may develop a way to evade the new immune system and then re-establish themselves in the patient.

Michael’s study aims to find ways to prevent these causes of relapse after transplant. The first part of his project has seen him delve into a bank of tissue samples collected from a previous clinical trial to compare two methods of post-transplant treatment. His aim was to see how these two methods impact the ability of newly established immune cells to find and destroy leukaemia cells.

Next, Michael will look into the processes by which leukaemia cells develop ways to escape the new immune system. He hopes to be able to develop lab tests to determine what mechanism is at work at a cellular level that is leading to relapse, so that a more targeted response can be developed for patients, rather than the current ‘one size fits all’ approach. Finally, Michael hopes to then establish a clinical trial of new post-transplant maintenance regimes.

When we asked Michael why he chose this line of work, he said that he has always been drawn to high impact disease. Most people with that kind of calling would naturally find themselves in emergency, but not Michael. Instead, Michael finds fulfillment in the relationships he develops with his patients and their families over the lengthy treatment periods associated with blood diseases.

“Being with patients through the biggest challenge of their lives is rewarding,” he says. “It’s important that patients are really informed about their treatment decisions. And it’s a whole team approach. My role as a doctor is to take a dispassionate look at all the treatment options available and to advise my patients of their options and the likely outcomes from each, but let’s be frank: many of the options are tough going. And that’s where the rest of the incredibly dedicated team comes in: the nurses, the dietitians, the physios, the psychologists and social workers, as well as support from family. Everyone needs to work together for the best outcomes for patients.”

Our Supporters

This year we received an incredibly generous bequest from the late Anne Robertson, made in memory of her niece Katherine Robertson. This donation will provide us with the ability to significantly fast track our strategic plans and support more bone marrow and stem cell transplant patients. Gifts in wills are such an important source of charity funding and we are grateful for all donations that were made this year in memory of passed loved ones.

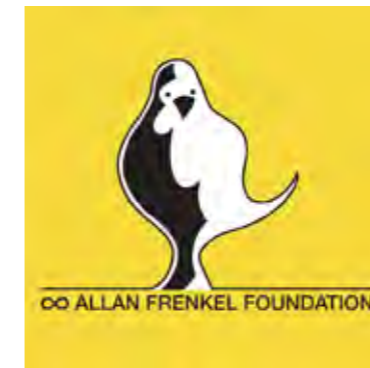
Liverpool Catholic Club remain a loyal and generous supporter of Arrow, increasing their donation to \$145,000 this year to support our mission. A number of other individual clubs have also joined us this year making donations through the ClubGRANTS program.

This year we were thrilled to see the return of the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, out on the river again after 3 years of setbacks with COVID and floods. This amazing event raised \$70,000 this year for Arrow. Thank you to all the paddlers and to the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic committee for their tireless work in the coordination of this event.

We also welcomed new supporters Jazz Pharmaceuticals Australia and Blake's Army. Jazz Pharmaceuticals provided funding for our new travel scholarship program. Blake's Army have partnered with us to provide financial support to people who have bone marrow failure.

Our fundraising team has also been busy this year working on a new campaign called "Paint the Town Red". This campaign will be launched in September 2024 during Blood Cancer Awareness month and will be a fun way for all supporters to get involved.

We are grateful to everyone who donated to Arrow in the 2024 financial year, including our regular givers who have supported us for many years. All donations, no matter how small, make a significant difference to our cause.





In memory of **Katherine**

Katherine Anne Robertson (1973 - 2000)

Katherine Robertson was a highly gifted and hard working student, gaining a 99.9 TER in her Higher School Certificate through Kincoppal-Rose Bay School. She commenced a Science/Law degree at the University of Sydney, but went on to use her extraordinary mathematics ability – a tutor once described her solutions to mathematical problems as “elegant” – to become an actuary with Trowbridge (now Deloitte), Sydney.

She had a wicked sense of humour, was well-liked by her colleagues, and had many close friends from school and university. She enjoyed skiing, running triathlons, overseas travel, and music, often going to the opera with her Aunt Anne.

Anne and Katherine had a close relationship, unusual between a high-spirited youngster and a stereotypically auntish Aunt. They shared a love for the theatre, travel and family. Anne was a highly qualified librarian and published author with a strong interest in Australian history. Katherine was Anne’s only niece and Anne was proud to observe Katherine’s achievements in her studies, going from success to success.

Life changed suddenly for Katherine, though, when she showed some unusual symptoms of fainting and unexpected bruising. Investigation revealed a diagnosis of Acute Lymphocytic Leukaemia (ALL).

Katherine needed a bone marrow transplant, and the whole family (and others) were tested for compatibility as a donor. Katherine’s Aunt Anne desperately hoped she might be able to help by donating her stem cells for Katherine. Anne was found to be the best available match, and the donation proceeded. Anne found the process of donation daunting, but persisted gamely.

The transplant followed, and Katherine received excellent care at St Vincent’s Hospital in Sydney, under the guidance of Dr Alan Concannon, with incredible support from the dedicated Clinical Nurse Specialists in the Haematology Unit. Katherine spent time in and out of hospital after the transplant, always surrounded by her loving family including parents Frank and Judith, and supportive friends. She even managed with their help to attend a few sessions of the Sydney Olympics. Sadly, despite the expert care, Katherine died at home in 2000 at the age of 26.

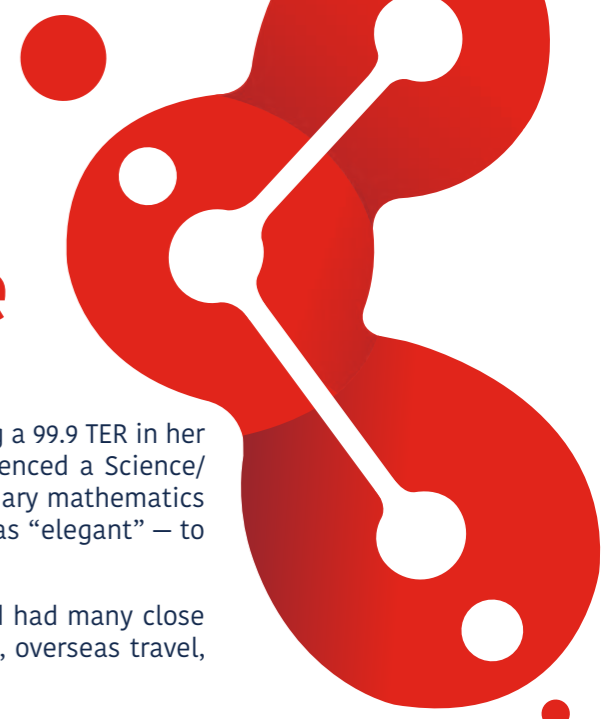
Anne was devastated when the transplant failed. Unbeknownst to the family, Anne made the selfless decision to donate the proceeds of her estate to Arrow the Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation.

Anne Robertson died in 2023 and very generously left a bequest to Arrow of \$3.5 million in legacy of her niece Katherine.

“Anne always found it difficult to spend money on herself. She would be delighted to have her donation going to the Foundation which was so close to Katherine’s heart” said Katherine’s parents, Frank and Judith.

Anne’s cousin and executor of her estate, Paul Robertson, and his wife Lenore added about the gift, **“Anne’s love and sadness at losing Katherine is manifested in her bequest. It’s a fitting full stop to who she was.”**

When we asked Paul how Anne would want the money to be used, he replied, “She would want to make sure it has an impact and is a lasting legacy of Katherine. She would enjoy seeing it help people living with diseases treatable by stem cell transplant, and not just the patient, but everyone around the patient. She saw first-hand the impact of transplant on the whole family, and she saw the dedication of the entire treating team. She would be pleased to know that her gift enabled Arrow grow significantly. If it also encourages others to consider leaving a gift in their will, all the better.”



Our Team

Arrow is managed on a day-to-day basis by our small team of part time staff.

“With the cost of living rising, electricity, food and fuel, times are tough. Thankfully we have support groups like yourself to ease the burden.”

Richelle Koller
Chief Executive Officer



Janna Gibbs
Programs Officer



Jennifer Taylor
Marketing and
Communications Manager



Kags Garrard
Fundraising and
Partnerships Manager



Our Board

Our volunteer board of directors have governance experience and skills across a variety of disciplines, united by their passion for the mission of Arrow.

This year Leonie Wilcox retired from the Board after 16 years of service. Leonie has provided invaluable insight and knowledge of bone marrow transplant recipients and made key connections for Arrow to doctors, nurses, data analysts and other healthcare professionals working in bone marrow transplant across the country. We are grateful for Leonie's contribution and service to Arrow over many years and look forward to continuing to work with Leonie in her ongoing role as a member of our Patients and Programs Committee.

We also welcomed to the board this year Yvonne Panek-Hudson, a Nurse Practitioner in Clinical Haematology at the Peter MacCallum Centre and Royal Melbourne Hospital in Melbourne. Yvonne has taken over the reigns as our new Chair of the Patients and Programs Committee and we are thrilled to have Yvonne join us with her many years of experience caring for bone marrow and stem cell transplant patients.



Chair
Chris Murray

Christopher is a senior executive with over 30 years' experience in the energy, renewables, resources, project development and technology development sectors in Australia and internationally. Christopher has a strong interest and experience in Non Executive director roles in charitable organisations, including seven years serving as a director on the board of Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland, and four years with Leukaemia Foundation of Australia.

Christopher is currently the Managing Director of Energy Power System Australia Pty Ltd. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of New South Wales and is a member of Engineers Australia. Christopher is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has studied an Advanced Management Programme at Harvard Business School.

Christopher joined the Arrow board in 2021 and was appointed Chair of the Board in 2022. He is also a member of the Arrow Finance and Governance Committee, and Patients and Programs Committee.



David Maywald

David is a successful investor, executive and board member deeply experienced with infrastructure investment, economics and financial markets. David has over 20 years' experience in investment finance roles including most recently as Portfolio Manager and Senior Investment Analyst and Chair of the Investment Advisory Board for RARE Infrastructure where he was responsible for building the investment portfolio to \$11 billion in funds under management prior to a successful acquisition. Prior roles include Investment and International Equity Analyst roles at Credit Suisse Asset Management, JP Morgan and BT Financial Group.

David has a passion for environment, social and corporate governance issues. He serves on the board of St John ACT, and is Chair of the public company SolarShare Community Energy Ltd (developer of the largest community solar farm in Australia). David holds a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours and Bachelor of Economics at the Australian National University in Canberra, and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance and Investment. He is also a Graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

David joined the Arrow board in 2021 and is Chair of the Arrow Finance and Governance Committee.



Kim Mouret

Kim is a senior executive with 30 years' experience across 25 markets worldwide in the fast-moving consumer goods and healthcare sectors. Working with consumer goods global leader Proctor and Gamble, Kim's career has included senior executive level roles in sales, marketing, and strategy across a number of business units within Proctor and Gamble across the world.

During Kim's time at Proctor & Gamble she has lead a number of corporate pro bono initiatives including developing a strategic plan for the Special Olympics planned for Singapore in 2020, as well as leading the Diversity and Inclusion team for AMA Sales. Kim is also one of the founding members of Gidget Foundation Australia, a charity established to raise awareness of perinatal anxiety and depression. Kim has a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Marketing from University of Western Sydney and has completed studies in innovation at the Harvard Business School.

Kim joined the Arrow board in 2021 and is Chair of the Fundraising and Marketing Committee. Kim is also a member of the Patients and Programs Committee.



Roberto Trincherero

Roberto is an experienced senior business executive with over 20 years' expertise in business management, marketing, sales and leadership. Roberto is the Managing Director of Arneg Oceania Pty Ltd, an international leader in the design, manufacture and installation of complete equipment for the retail sector. Roberto was responsible for the successful establishment of Arneg in Australia in 1996 relocating from Italy to lead the new site for the overseas based parent company.

Roberto is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has completed the Foundations of General Management at the Macquarie Graduate School of Management. Roberto is a board member of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Australia and has been involved in numerous community fundraising events on behalf of the Chamber as well as other not for profit organisations.

Roberto joined the Arrow board in 2021 and is a member of the Fundraising and Marketing Committee as well as Finance and Governance Committee.



Stuart Snell

Stuart has over 30 years' experience in business strategy, reputation management, government and stakeholder relations, and media and communications. A former journalist, he worked professionally in a number of executive roles for large organisations, mainly in the financial services sector, and in recent years as a consultant dealing with a range of sectors.

He is also an experienced non executive director, having played an instrumental role in the development of a governance framework and successful business growth strategy for Road Sense Australia for three years to 2019, and currently at Your Side Australia since 2016. At Your Side, he was Chair of the Board overseeing 40% year-on-year revenue growth from 2019-2021, achieved as a result of strategic renewal and business transformation, which Stuart led as Chair including the development of the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan.

Stuart joined the Arrow board in 2021. He is a member of both the Arrow Finance and Governance Committee and Fundraising and Marketing Committee.



Yvonne Panek-Hudson

Yvonne Panek-Hudson is a Nurse Practitioner in Clinical Haematology at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre & Royal Melbourne Hospital in Australia. Yvonne is the clinical lead for the Allogeneic BMT long term follow up service. Yvonne specialises in late effects post allogeneic BMT, management of complex chronic graft vs host disease & sexual health post-transplant.

Yvonne has published papers on transitioning adolescents & young adults to adult long term follow up, shared care models of survivorship care, post BMT exercise programmes, and development of advanced practice roles in Australia. She is passionate about optimising physical and psychosocial health post AlloBMT, supporting patient self-management and the development of advanced practice nursing models of care.

Yvonne is Deputy Chair of ANZTCT nurses committee and a member of the HSAZ nurses committee Victoria. Yvonne is also co-founder of the 'Straight and Marrow' podcast.

Yvonne joined the Arrow board in November 2023 and is the Chair of the board Patients and Programs Committee.



Leonie Wilcox

Leonie has been a Director of the Arrow board since 2007, and was elected as Chair of the Arrow Patients and Programs Committee in 2022. Leonie is manager of the Australia and New Zealand Transplant and Cellular Therapies Registry, a role which requires coordination within the wide network of clinical professionals involved in the transplant process. Since 2019, Leonie has been a board member of the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA), the national peak body for clinical trials. Prior to the registry, Leonie worked in the statistics department at Macquarie University teaching and consulting. Leonie is also a trained nurse and midwife.



Our Committees

This year our three committees – Finance and Governance, Patients and Programs, and Fundraising and Marketing – continued their work in supporting the board to fulfill their governance duties and assist the team in the development and implementation of our strategic plans.

Patients and Programs Committee

Yvonne Panek-Hudson was appointed as the Chair of the Patients and Programs Committee following the retirement of Leonie Wilcox who continues to serve as a committee member. Associate Professor John Moore from St Vincent's Hospital Sydney was also appointed to our Patients and Programs Committee, and we welcome his expertise to the team. We thank Kim Mouret for her time as a member of the Patients and Programs Committee and Chris Murray who chaired the committee during the transition of leadership.

The Patients and Programs Committee assisted with the establishment of new patient programs this year – Transplant Tribe peer support group and Transplant Talk Live patient webinars. The Committee reviewed and approved eleven scholarship applications and were pleased to see an increase in the number of scholarship applications received this year.

The Committee also regularly reviewed the success of all programs against key KPI's. This included the review of patient feedback survey results, which provided positive and insightful feedback to our programs and affirmation of our recent changes to the patient financial support program.

The Committee oversaw the establishment of new partnerships with Australian and New Zealand Transplant and Cellular Therapy (ANZTCT) and Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand (HSANZ) and recommended the approval of funding initiatives with these two organisations including our Arrow HSANZ PhD scholarship and a new data registry research scholarship issued this year in collaboration with ANZTCT.

The Committee also assisted with the introduction of new professional relationships to help facilitate the growth of our programs including Oncology Social Work Australia and New Zealand (OSWANZ) and US based charity BMT Infonet.

Finally, the Committee prepared a 3 year Patients and Programs Strategy highlighting our program priorities for the years ahead.

Fundraising and Marketing Committee

The Fundraising and Marketing Committee successfully oversaw the execution of our fundraising and marketing plans, and monitored progress against key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets.

This year, the Committee endorsed the engagement of an external agency to conduct an independent fundraising health check assessment. The insights gained from this assessment were pivotal in shaping our new three-year fundraising strategy, which the Committee reviewed and recommended progressing. Additionally, the Committee provided guidance and direction on various innovative fundraising initiatives to diversify our approach and ensure long term sustainability with our fundraising efforts.

The Committee provided a “sounding board” in the development of a new Arrow fundraising campaign, “Paint the Town Red,” scheduled for launch next financial year. We reviewed and approved newly created fundraising and marketing assets to ensure alignment with our strategic goals.

Finance and Governance Committee

The Finance and Governance Committee continued their role in the oversight of reporting and financial management including the annual budget. They utilised a Board Workplan to assist in the periodic review and update of policies and coordination of governance obligations. The Committee also worked on formalising our risk management framework and enhanced our risk management policies. This included a cyber security assessment with an independent report obtained of recommended actions.

This year the Committee assisted with the recruitment of new board and committee members and conducted a board evaluation survey.

The Committee engaged our auditors to conduct an additional payroll compliance review and assisted with the establishment of staff policies and evaluations.

Finally, the Committee reported and monitored our financial investment performance, regularly assessing performance to our investment policy. We also welcomed new member Roberto Trincherro to the Committee.



“I’m so grateful to have received the vouchers [from Arrow]. I’ve got them put aside for when we really need them. I’m just trying to get everything in place as much as I can before I go in for the transplant.”

Emma

Financials

Chair of Finance and Governance Committee Report

Arrow achieved a very pleasing year from both a financial and governance perspective. The annual results exceeded budget resulting in a stronger financial position than anticipated.

Fundraising revenue increased across all areas of revenue providing us with the ability to increase our program expenditure. Program delivery grew very substantially across Nurse Education, Patient and Carer Support, as well as Research Grants. We invested in additional staff resources and marketing expenses to enable us to deliver this growth in programs whilst maintaining a tight control of all operating expenses.

We were fortunate to receive a large bequest towards the end of the financial year, which has seen assets and equity increase by almost two million dollars. These funds have been invested in line with our investment policy resulting in an increase in financial assets from \$1.4m to \$3.5m this year. A plan is in place for the investment and distribution of these generously donated funds over the coming years.

The management of cash and investments has been fully internalised, with oversight by the Finance and Governance Committee. This has successfully reduced the management costs by more than 70%, as anticipated at the start of this transition.

The Board Workplan has been an effective tool for co-ordinating Arrow’s governance, including minor updates to policies and enhancements to governance.



Statement of Financial Position

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	626,990	818,403
Trade and other receivables	30,065	5,086
Other current assets	21,481	16,149
Total Current Assets	678,536	839,638
Non-Current Assets		
Financial assets	3,522,362	1,401,004
Property, plant and equipment	5,464	4,018
Total Non-Current Assets	3,527,826	1,405,022
Total Assets	4,206,362	2,244,660
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	42,578	34,264
Employee provisions	27,541	21,202
Total Current Liabilities	70,119	55,466
Net Assets	4,136,243	2,189,194
Equity		
Retained earnings	4,010,188	2,185,810
Reserves	126,055	3,384
Total Equity	4,136,243	2,189,194

For further details refer to Arrow's full audited financial statements available at: <https://arrow.org.au/about-us/#annual-reports>

Statement of Profit or Loss

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Donations	233,391	189,639
Bequests	2,036,343	427,421
Grants	59,222	11,286
Fundraising events	73,940	25,000
Membership revenue	654	900
Investment income	126,429	144,534
Total Revenue	2,529,979	798,780
Expenditure		
Program expenses		
Patient and carer support	(173,005)	(130,398)
Nurse education	(35,969)	(19,843)
Medical research	(93,105)	(81,146)
Program employment costs	(103,347)	(86,759)
Total Programs Expenses	(405,426)	(318,146)
Administration expense	(67,814)	(65,959)
Rental outgoing expense	(2,240)	(2,265)
Audit, legal and consultancy fees	(5,200)	(5,950)
Marketing expenses	(98,478)	(70,840)
Fundraising expenses	(104,607)	(50,387)
Other expenses	(21,836)	(25,386)
Total Operating Expenses	(300,175)	(220,787)
Total Expenditure	(705,601)	(538,933)
Profit for the year	1,824,378	259,847

For further details refer to Arrow's full audited financial statements available at: <https://arrow.org.au/about-us/#annual-reports>

Arrow Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation

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Arrow Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation is a company limited by guarantee (ABN: 42 135 196 244), registered with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC). We are a member of the Fundraising Institute of Australia and have a charity fundraising licence (CFN 10184). We are a deductible gift recipient (DGR) with the Australian Taxation Office meaning donations made to the charity are tax deductible.

To make a donation and support bone marrow transplant patients visit www.givenow.com.au/arrowbonemarrow