

2014/15 Funding Awarded

In 2014/15, we committed \$1.72 million for an additional 10 projects.



Research: Head of Molecular Diagnostics (0.4 EFT)

Institute: The Royal Children's Hospital, with Murdoch Childrens Research Institute

Recipient: A/Prof. Paul Ekert

Funding Partner: Steven Walter Children's Cancer Foundation

Funding: \$600,000 over 5 years (2014-19)

Salary funding for a leadership position with protected clinical research time to develop new molecular diagnostic tools and build expertise and research capacity. The key outcome will be evidence of the changes that occur in the genes of cancer cells, and how those changes can be used in cancer diagnosis and the selection of appropriate treatments.



Family: Family and Community Resource Liaison Officer (0.4 EFT)

Institute: Monash Children's Hospital

Funding: \$36,150 over 3 years (2014-17). Renewal – funded since 2007

Salary funding for a non-medical staff member providing practical and emotional support services for children and their families. The Family Resource Coordinator facilitates discussion between staff and families, and provides day-to-day support services through play, recreation, social activities and respite.



Clinical Trials: Clinical Research Associate – Early Phase Clinical Trials (1.0 EFT)

Institute: The Royal Children's Hospital, with Murdoch Childrens Research Institute

Funding: \$257,063 over 3 years (2014-17)

Salary funding to build a portfolio of trials to offer children new treatment options, supporting our goal of achieving 75% of all patients to be enrolled in a clinical trial. The Clinical Research Associate coordinates research clinical trials (phase I and II) focusing on new drugs to treat cancer, potentially providing better clinical outcomes for children and adolescents.



Family: The Beaded Journey

Institute: The Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Children's Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Funding: \$29,000 over 3 years (2014-17). Renewal – funded since 2008

The Beaded Journey, a therapeutic program that gives children the opportunity to tell their personal cancer story by marking key medical and non-medical events throughout their treatment. Each event is represented by a bead placed on a string to symbolise the child's tenacity and bravery.



Clinical: Psychologist (0.8 EFT)

Institute: Monash Children's Hospital

Funding: \$104,987 over 3 years (2014-17). Renewal – funded since 2008

Salary funding to provide mental health services to children and their families to improve their psychological adjustment to cancer diagnosis and treatment. The role also provides support and psychosocial education to Children's Cancer Centre staff.



Clinical: Music Therapist (0.8 EFT)

Institute: Monash Children's Hospital

Funding: \$263,417 over 3 years (2014-17). Renewal – funded since 2009

Salary funding to provide clinical music therapy services (song-writing, active music making, therapeutic music lessons, improvisation, relaxation) to children to improve their psychological adjustment to cancer diagnosis and treatment. Therapy sessions also provide support during procedures and for pain and anxiety management.



Clinical: Neuropsychologist (0.2 EFT)

Institute: Monash Children's Hospital

Funding: \$27,187 over 3 years (2014-17)

Salary funding to provide neuropsychology assessments to children with cancer at risk of long-term neurocognitive impact due to the effects of their disease or treatment. This new role addresses a service gap for children, providing assessments at key time points: initial assessment, treatment phase, post-treatment surveillance, and long term follow up.



Clinical: Procedural Pain and Play Therapist (1.0 EFT)

Institute: Monash Children's Hospital

Funding: \$32,761 (2014/15). Renewal – funded since 2007

Salary funding for a Procedural Pain and Play Therapist to provide positive coping strategies and manage the distress and anxiety commonly associated with cancer treatment. The therapist also manages The Beaded Journey, available to all children receiving treatment within the Children's Cancer Centre.



Clinical: Neuropsychologist (0.2 EFT)

Institute: The Royal Children's Hospital

Funding: \$115,800 over 3 years (2014-17). Renewal – funded since 2007

Salary funding to provide neuropsychology assessments to children with cancer at risk of long-term neurocognitive impact due to the effects of their disease or treatment. This role addresses a service gap for children who do not have access to a government-funded service in the critical post-treatment monitoring period (3-5 years).



Clinical: Art Therapist (1.0 EFT)

Institute: The Royal Children's Hospital

Funding: \$256,012 over 3 years (2014-17). Renewal – funded since 2010

Salary funding to provide art therapy services enabling children under treatment for cancer to process their emotions such as anxiety, depression, hopes and fears. Through non-verbal and safe mannered individual and group sessions, children can use creative avenues whilst socialising with other children sharing similar cancer experiences.