

Your support of Smiling for Smiddy can help create a better future for people with melanoma.



Five people in Australia are expected to die from melanoma today*.

Melanoma has become known as Australia's national cancer and we have one of the highest rates in the world. Melanoma is now the third most common cancer in Australian men and women, with almost 14 000 of us predicted to be diagnosed with melanoma this year.

We believe in creating hope for those affected by melanoma.

If you believe this too, we would love to work with you. Perhaps you—or someone in your life—has been touched by melanoma?

You can help enhance the lives of people with melanoma by supporting research that is happening right now at Mater.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, the good news is that Mater's researchers are already making headway towards a better future for people with melanoma. But there is still so much to do.

How you can help provide hope today

Mater's world-class research institute—Mater Research—delivers medical and clinical research that aims to translate its findings from 'bench to bedside' as quickly as possible; directly benefiting patients at Mater, across Australia and around the world. Right now, a number of promising and world-leading melanoma research projects are underway, including:

- ▶ **Understanding melanoma and its treatment:** Professor Brian Gabrielli and his team are focusing on the skin's repair mechanisms. They have found that a molecular mechanism responsible for the normal repair of UV damage is often broken in melanomas. The team is trying to understand whether this damaged repair mechanism can be 'exploited' for treatment, by selectively killing the cancer cells with the damaged repair mechanism and leaving healthy normal cells unharmed. If this is successful, it may be possible to use an increase in UV mutations as a marker of a broken repair mechanism, that can be drugged to selectively kill a person's melanoma cells—leaving their normal cells unharmed and preventing further spread of the disease.



▶ **Working collaboratively on stopping melanoma in its tracks:**

Mater Research has played the lead role in creating and developing the Queensland Melanoma Collaborative. This alliance of leading melanoma researchers and clinicians, created in 2015, is working hard to prevent, treat and promote awareness of the disease across Queensland and beyond.

Their forums are used to not only highlight the latest research, but to explore better ways of working together to benefit those suffering from melanoma. This has already led to a number of exciting and promising collaborative research projects being planned.

By prioritising Queensland's research needs and educating medical professionals, the QMC also provides the latest melanoma information to the public, such as the importance of early diagnosis of melanoma as the key to a healthy recovery.

▶ **Lymphoedema trial aiming to help patients' quality of life:**

A team at Mater led by Dr Chris Allan is testing whether the early use of graduated compression garments and manual lymphatic drainage can prevent, or reduce, the onset of lymphoedema for patients after Stage III metastatic melanoma surgery of the groin/pelvis.

If the research trial is successful it could lead to the earlier detection, prevention or reduction of the onset of lower limb lymphoedema, improving life for men and women with melanoma.



Did you know?

In 2006, Adam Smiddy passed away from an aggressive melanoma. He was just 26 years old, a talented triathlete and respected physiotherapist with the world at his feet.

To honour Adam, in that same year his close friend Mark 'Sharky' Smoothy and two other mates Ron Steel and Oliver Bodak fulfilled one of Adam's unrealised dreams. They rode 1600 km from Brisbane to Adam's hometown Home Hill, with nothing but a credit card in their back pockets, and they raised \$24 000 for cancer research in the process. The next year, 22 more friends joined the ride.

Year on year Smiling for Smiddy has continued to grow, with more and more people joining the team and committing to riding in, and supporting, a range of epic cycling and triathlon challenges.

Over the past 12 years, together they have raised almost \$8 million for cancer research projects at Mater—projects such as the ones detailed on these pages.

Please join us in creating a better future

By helping the ongoing—and long term—investment in melanoma research at Mater, you can join the fight to help change the outcomes for so many people.

Thank you to all our generous donors who have already supported the work of Mater in creating a better future for people with melanoma. If you would like to show your support, contact us today and let's start a conversation about how you can be involved.

"Cancer research provides hope, and everyone deserves to have hope."

Kris Ramsay, Smiling for Smiddy rider and Mater Oncology Nurse.

"A colleague of mine summed it up brilliantly recently, explaining that people with cancer need four types of support in equal parts: medical, allied health, peer, and family and community."

Dr Maree Colosimo, Oncologist, Mater Cancer Care Centre

Get in touch

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*Source: melanoma.org.au

