

Your support of Smiling for Smiddy can help create a better future for women with breast cancer.



This year, breast cancer is expected to be the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia.



One in eight women will be diagnosed with the disease by their 85th birthday. And—most sadly—more than 3000 Australian women are expected to die from breast cancer this year*.

We believe that every woman diagnosed with breast cancer deserves the best possible care and support.

If you believe this too, we would love to work with you. Perhaps your life, or the life of someone close to you, has been touched by breast cancer?

You can help change the future for women with breast cancer by supporting research happening right now at Mater—world-leading research that could help improve treatment and raise survival rates in women.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Mater's researchers are already making significant headway in the fight to change the future for women with breast cancer. But, with more than 17 500 Australian women predicted to be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, 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 translates research 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 breast cancer research projects are underway, including:

- ▶ **Changing the course of treatment:** About 75 per cent of women with breast cancer have oestrogen receptor positive forms of cancer. Currently, all are treated with hormonal therapy but only half respond well. Mater's breast tumour pathologist, Dr Cameron Snell, hopes to develop a test to identify who will respond positively to hormone therapy, enabling clinicians to rapidly move them onto more appropriate treatments. This research has the potential to change the course of breast cancer treatment globally.



Targeting the spread of breast cancer:

Dr Patricia Carreira is focusing on retrotransposons, a type of mobile DNA. The Mater researcher is examining whether this mobile DNA can help identify which breast cancers are going to spread. If successful, her research could improve breast cancer survival rates by giving doctors a better understanding of a patient's specific cancer risk, and enabling them to provide treatments that suit a woman's individual circumstances.

"Women with oestrogen receptor positive breast cancer currently have no other choice but to undergo intensive hormonal therapy, with subsequent side effects, before waiting to see how their cancer responds. Through our research we hope to be able to better target a woman's individual cancer."

Dr Cameron Snell, Mater Research

Working to stop metastasis: About 15 per cent of women with breast cancer are diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer, which currently has no specific therapies, so treatment is often associated with significant side effects. Research at Mater is studying cancer cells in a bid to stop triple negative breast cancer from metastasising. Professor Greg Monteith and his team are using a protein that glows when breast cancer cells 'turn on' a specific signal—allowing them to see how breast cancer spreads throughout the body. They have begun to identify novel drug targets for the targeting of metastatic breast cancer cells.

Did you know?

Mater offers support to women with breast cancer through our specialist Mater Private Breast Cancer Centres located in Brisbane and Redland. Here, they can access the support services they need in one convenient location. These highly specialised, state-of-the-art facilities provide them with comprehensive and compassionate care, making life that much easier for women living with breast cancer. From oncology appointments to physiotherapy and a range of free programs including lifestyle seminars, yoga, art classes and support groups, the services are designed to enhance these women's lives.



"My wife Briony was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009 and given just a 12 per cent chance of survival. Research not only saved her life, it also meant she's been able to watch our daughter Bella grow up."

Scott Baum, Smiling for Smiddy rider

Please join us in creating a better future

Sadly, too many women are still dying every day from breast cancer. By helping the ongoing—and long term—investment in breast cancer research at Mater, you can join the fight to help change the outcomes for women diagnosed with this disease.

Thank you to all our generous donors who have already supported the work of Mater in creating a better future for women with breast cancer. 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.



"Research is the greatest tool we have in the fight against cancer."

Associate Professor Kristen Radford, Mater Researcher

Get in touch

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*Source: www.aihw.gov.au

