

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



In Australia this year, about 1500 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer\*.



It is sobering that **two in three women** diagnosed will eventually die from the disease. There are often no obvious signs of ovarian cancer, and a woman's symptoms can be vague and hard to detect—as a result, many cases are diagnosed only at an advanced stage.

**We believe that no woman should have to fear being taken away from her loved ones by ovarian cancer.**

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 ovarian cancer?

You can help change the future for women with ovarian cancer by supporting research happening right now at Mater—world-leading research that could help increase early diagnoses 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 improve the lives of women with ovarian cancer. 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 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 ovarian cancer research projects are underway, including:

- ▶ **Helping to create better treatment plans for women:** Professor John Hooper and his team are working to identify which drugs will inhibit cancer growth or even cause it to regress by comparing genetic samples of patient tumours with a genetic analysis of their blood. If successful, this research could turn ovarian cancer into a manageable disease, with individually tailored treatment plans based on genetic analysis of each patient.



► **Antibody drug trials on the horizon:** Mater researchers have developed an antibody drug that attacks cancerous ovarian cells and works to limit the serious side-effects of traditional treatments. This research has shown that cancerous ovarian cells produce a specific protein that could be targeted by the new drug. Human trials are yet to be conducted and it may be years before the drug is available commercially—but Mater is in a great position to better understand how to fight ovarian cancer and help save women's lives.

*“One of the really interesting things is that while normal ovaries don't produce this protein, the tumours of about 90 per cent of patients do. This means we can attack the cancerous cells while having little impact on the normal ovarian cells, and that reduces the side effects, which is obviously of great interest to patients.”*

**Professor John Hooper**, Mater Research.

► **Developing new molecular tools:** Although globally several different types of ovarian cancer have been identified, treatments have been the same for each type—with no significant improvement in drug treatments in recent years. But through the Mater Ovarian Cancer Research Collaborative (MOCRC), a research program is looking at what causes relapse, even after a woman has been through surgery and chemotherapy. The collaborative aims to develop molecular tools that will identify the best treatment options, as well as a pipeline of personalised treatments.

## Did you know?

Mater offers support to women with ovarian cancer through our specialist Mater Cancer Care Centres located in Brisbane, Redland and Springfield. Here, they can access all of the medical care and 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 ovarian cancer. From oncology appointments to counselling, music and art therapy, occupational therapy, psychology and physiotherapy—these services are all part of Mater's exceptional service delivery.



*“Ovarian cancer doesn't discriminate against age and there is still no early detection test such as a pap smear. We all know someone who has been touched by cancer so I think it's great to have research that will improve treatment options, as well as work towards an early detection test for women.”*

**Katherine**, diagnosed with ovarian cancer at just 22.

## Please join us in creating a better future

Sadly, the prognosis for ovarian cancer has not improved in recent times, and too many women are still dying every day. By helping the ongoing—and long term—investment in ovarian 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 ovarian 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: [ovarian-cancer.canceraustralia.gov.au/statistics](http://ovarian-cancer.canceraustralia.gov.au/statistics)

