



# Annual Report 2021-22



OVARIAN  
CANCER  
AUSTRALIA

[ovariancancer.net.au](https://ovariancancer.net.au)





*Pictured: Hannah*

*Front page: Julie, Vanessa Alford (Project Manager), Sabrina*



Ovarian Cancer Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. We celebrate the stories, culture and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders of all communities who also work and live on this land.

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# OVERVIEW

**Ovarian Cancer Australia is an independent national not-for-profit organisation supporting people impacted with ovarian cancer. Our focus is to provide care and support for those affected by ovarian cancer and their families and represent them by leading change.**

Ovarian Cancer Australia is a member of the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition, which works to raise awareness globally. Jane Hill, our CEO, is a Director and Vice-Chair of the coalition, enabling Ovarian Cancer Australia to be connected to a network of organisations worldwide.

## **Our Vision**

To save lives and ensure no woman with ovarian cancer walks alone.

## **Our Mission**

We provide care and support for those affected by ovarian cancer, and represent them by leading change.

## **Our Core Values**

We listen. We are inclusive. We are courageous. We act with integrity.





# **NO ONE WALKS ALONE.**

*Pictured: Veronica Perera (Communications Specialist)*

# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

## PLAN

### If we...



**Listen to people** and their families impacted by ovarian cancer and put their interests at the heart of everything we do



**Advocate and work collaboratively** to make ovarian cancer a national priority

### by...



Provide a range of direct **services to women** and their families



Stage **awareness** activities and **campaigns**



Actively **advocate** to and **engage with government**



**Build alliances** to develop and implement the National Action Plan

Inputs



Activities



Ovarian Cancer Australia's Theory of Change outlines how we can achieve our vision to save lives and ensure no woman with ovarian cancer walks alone, and our mission to provide care and support for those affected by ovarian cancer, and represent them by leading change.

## RESULT

we...



**Increase** the availability and accessibility of services



**Increase community awareness** of ovarian cancer



**Strengthen engagement** with government



**Increase collaboration** between ovarian cancer organisations and professionals

which leads to...



**Improved quality of life and increased survival rates** for people diagnosed with ovarian cancer



**Increased community engagement** and support



**Increased and more consistent funding** from government



**An ovarian cancer community united** behind the National Action Plan

ensuring that...



**No one** with ovarian cancer walks alone



People diagnosed with ovarian cancer and their families have **improved physical health and emotional wellbeing**



People at risk or diagnosed with ovarian cancer have **improved survival**

→ **Outputs**

→ **Outcomes**

→ **Impact**



# OUR IMPACT



**558**

people received personalised support from their own ovarian cancer nurse through our Teal Support Program



**1200+**

women, partners, family and friends impacted by ovarian cancer received advice and information through our ovarian cancer nurses on the helpline



**1200+**

Resilience Kits distributed to people impacted by ovarian cancer. Resilience Kits are a tailored support guide for people with an ovarian cancer diagnosis



**300+**

people have joined our closed Facebook peer-to-peer support group where people with an ovarian cancer diagnosis can seek support and advice from others who also have a diagnosis



**\$722,125**

raised on Giving Day by our generous donors



**\$2.9MIL**

in Federal Government Funding secured at OCA's Annual Parliamentary Breakfast for our ovarian cancer nurses as part of the Teal Support Program & TRACEBACK programs



**\$700,000**

committed by the Victorian State Government to ovarian cancer research as a result of Ovarian Cancer Australia's advocacy work



**40%**

of the women on our Teal Support Program receive psychological and social support for issues like anxiety, depression, sexuality, relationship issues and fear of cancer returning



**400+**

people attended our online peer to peer support groups, including our Male Partners Program and Younger Women's Network

**"Getting a diagnosis of ovarian cancer was bad enough. To learn that my ovarian cancer was Mucinous Adenocarcinoma and only affects 3% of women diagnosed was frightening.**

**Having access to my own nurse, has been amazing to help me process my diagnosis, talk through the limited information about mucinous adenocarcinoma that is available and generally keep my fears in check as I make my way through the ups and downs of treatment and recovery."**

Joanne







*Pictured: Annie Chuang, Gynaecological Oncology Care Coordinator, Royal Women's Hospital*



Pictured: Meghan Speers, OCA Chair



# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

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**My first year as Chair of the Board at Ovarian Cancer Australia has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. Having been diagnosed with ovarian cancer myself at the age of 29, I have long been an advocate of Ovarian Cancer Australia and their work, so it is a privilege to now Chair the organisation.**



In February, at our annual Parliamentary Breakfast, we welcomed the commitment from the Liberal Government of \$2 million over two years and from the Labor Government of \$4 million over four years for our Teal Support Program. This has helped us to continue to expand this essential service and we look forward to working with both State and Federal governments across Australia so every person with an ovarian cancer diagnosis is able to access the best care possible.

The psychosocial support OCA provides for people diagnosed with ovarian cancer and their families is so important, which is why I am thrilled that our team of nurses, psychologists, social workers and allied health assistants has grown exponentially this financial year. Their expertise and guidance is crucial in ensuring people with an ovarian cancer diagnosis have access to free, holistic treatment no matter where they live in Australia.

New research into ovarian cancer treatments and early detection tests is something that necessitates large scale and long-term funding, which is why our advocacy work is such an essential part of our offering at OCA. We're looking forward to continuing our efforts to raise awareness amongst parliamentarians leading to further funding for the goals of our National Action Plan.

Our organisation is grateful for the continued support from all of our partners, donors and volunteers – your contribution ensures our organisation can continue to perform at the highest level.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to my fellow Board members, who I feel honoured to work alongside. The wealth of knowledge, experience and passion that our Board members provide contributes immeasurably to the success of our organisation.

We are also thankful for all of the people affected by ovarian cancer and their families who continue to share their stories. We're proud to represent you and amplify your voice on a national scale.

Ovarian Cancer Australia is an organisation full of passionate and dedicated people who work tirelessly every day towards our vision of ensuring no one with ovarian cancer walks alone. I look forward to continuing to work with everyone to provide our crucial advocacy, awareness and support services to the highest level.



**MEGHAN SPEERS**  
CHAIR



# PROVIDING THE BEST CARE POSSIBLE.

*Pictured: Di Keneally (Ovarian Cancer Nurse Consultant), Jo*



# CEO'S MESSAGE

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Ovarian Cancer Australia has had yet another strong year of progress, with new campaigns, a growing body of tailored resources for people with ovarian cancer and a rapidly expanding support team, ensuring we're able to provide support and guidance to people affected by ovarian cancer no matter where they live.

This is all part of our vision to make certain no one with ovarian cancer walks alone.





*Pictured: Jane Hill, OCA CEO*

In addition to significant investment into our new programs and services, Ovarian Cancer Australia ended the financial year with strong revenue and a surplus of \$712,347.

Some of the highlights in the last financial year include:

- Doubling our team of supportive health professionals to ensure more people with ovarian cancer can access psychosocial support and care
- Developing several new free resources for people with ovarian cancer and their families including a new sexuality resource to complement the pilot sexuality counselling program and a new male partners resource
- Expanding our support group network, with the launch of a new support group in South Australia
- Continuing our partnership with the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute to deliver the groundbreaking TRACEBACK program which aims to identify ovarian cancer patients who missed the opportunity to receive genetic testing while alive, allowing us to inform living relatives who may be unaware they are at increased genetic risk of a cancer diagnosis.
- The launch of our exercise and nutrition survey, in response to a consumer survey in which 66% of people with an ovarian cancer diagnosis indicated they would like an exercise and nutrition program tailored to their health needs.

- Our four-year partnership with Hanes Australasia culminating in our most successful year yet, surpassing our target of raising \$300,000
- I have recently been appointed Vice Chair of the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition, ensuring Ovarian Cancer Australia is at the forefront of a global movement to improve outcomes for people with ovarian cancer

These initiatives and more are detailed throughout our report, I hope you enjoy reading about them.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible staff, whose passion and dedication is crucial to ensuring our organisation can continue to prosper and provide essential support to our community. I am proud to lead an organisation where every day our staff put in the work to raise awareness and advocate for and support people with ovarian cancer and their families. Without you, our vision and achievements would not be possible.

Thank you to our partners, donors, community fundraisers and supporters. Your loyalty, commitment and creativity in raising awareness and funds for this essential cause is extraordinary. You provide the strong foundation we need to continue to grow our organisation and, ultimately, improve the lives of people with an ovarian cancer diagnosis.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the generosity of the late Ian Hemming, whose bequest has ensured we have strong financial reserves and allows us to plan well into the future.

Thank you to our Board – your advice and wise counsel is always welcomed. My deep gratitude to our retiring board members: our Chair, Marina Go, and Directors, Marco D'Avino, Suzi Nicoletti and Professor Ian Jacobs. Welcome to our new Directors: Professor Karen Strickland, Professor Juliet Bourke and Marise Maltman.

Finally, I wish to express my commitment to all those living with ovarian cancer, their carers, families and friends. Thank you for sharing your stories, for supporting each other and giving us a platform to work harder than ever to ensure better outcomes for you and future generations. We pledge to you that we will use our expertise to save lives and reduce the impact ovarian cancer has across the country.

Our work at Ovarian Cancer Australia would not be possible without all of our supporters, in both the past and present. In the year ahead, we will double down on our efforts to ensure more awareness is raised, more people are supported, and more people know that, if they have an ovarian cancer diagnosis, they are not alone.



**JANE HILL**

CEO





# COMMUNITY UNITED.

*Pictured: Julie, Sabrina, Di Kenneally (Ovarian Cancer Australia Support Nurse)*



# BETTER TOGETHER.

*Pictured: Georgie McKenzie (Ovarian Cancer Australia Nurse Consultant)*





# OUR SUPPORT

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**Our Support services comprise of a range of professions including Ovarian Cancer Nurses, Psychologists, Counsellors, social workers, sexuality counsellors, genetic counsellor, exercise physiologists and dieticians, all specialised in ovarian cancer.**

**Our programs are free and accessible for all Australians impacted by ovarian cancer, including partners and family, ensuring every person has access to holistic treatment no matter where they live.**

## Teal Support Program

The Teal Support Program is a free telehealth outreach program supporting people through their ovarian cancer diagnosis and treatment. The program is managed by our specialist ovarian cancer nurses, who offer them regular support and work directly with each person's medical team.

It is available to people with an ovarian cancer diagnosis throughout the country including in rural and regional areas, where access to specialised support can be difficult.

The program provides continuity of care particularly through the follow up phases after treatment, providing support with ongoing unmet needs.

Supported by:



Australian Government  
Department of Health

In the 2021-22 financial year, 558 people received personalised support from their own ovarian cancer nurse through our Teal Support Program.

## Exercise & Nutrition Program

Ovarian Cancer Australia's Exercise and Nutrition program is in development for launch in July 2022 in response to a 2021 consumer survey in which 66% of people with an ovarian cancer diagnosis indicated they would like an exercise and nutrition program tailored to their health needs.

The program is being developed in consultation with an advisory committee consisting of Exercise Physiologists and Dietitians with expertise in oncology.

The program will support and co-ordinate access to an exercise physiologist and dietician with oncology expertise to develop individualised plans based on their goals, needs and circumstances. This may enhance the physical and emotional well-being of people with ovarian cancer both during and post treatment.

Funded by:



# Resource Development

This year has seen significant growth in the development of new information and support resources at Ovarian Cancer Australia, as well as the review of many existing resources.

We have been fortunate to receive sufficient funding for these projects, which ensures that the ovarian cancer community has access to evidence based, tailored support information. The work has included:

- New sexuality resource to complement the pilot Sexuality Counselling Program, supported by AstraZeneca
- New male partners resource as one of the initiatives of the Male Partners Program, supported by Dry July Foundation
- New Survivorship resource encapsulating the varied experiences of those impacted by ovarian cancer following their diagnosis, supported by AstraZeneca
- Review of Genetics booklet to align the content more distinctly to those with a diagnosis of ovarian cancer, with a separate factsheet underway to guide those with a family history or at higher risk
- Major review of Resilience Kit content to ensure it remains up to date and evidence based, supported by the Australian Government, Department of Health
- Engagement with sector organisations and community members to establish a resource for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples with ovarian cancer, their family members, and friends, supported by the Australian Government, Department of Health

OCA would like to acknowledge that the resource development work wouldn't be possible without the involvement of people with ovarian cancer and their families with lived experience as well as health professionals, all who have dedicated their time and expertise. We thank them for their involvement in the process.



From left to right: Veronica Perera (Communications Specialist), Vanessa Alford (Project Manager), Rosetta Hart (Ovarian Cancer Australia Nurse Consultant), Georgia McKenzie (Ovarian Cancer Support Nurse), Di Kenneally (Ovarian Cancer Nurse Consultant)

# HESTA Australian Nursing & Midwifery Awards

Sue Hegarty, Chief of Support Programs at Ovarian Cancer Australia, was named Nurse of the Year at the 2022 HESTA Australian Nursing & Midwifery Awards in May.

Each year, the HESTA Awards acknowledge an exceptional nurse delivering outstanding patient care. The 2022 award recognised Sue's outstanding leadership in specialist cancer nursing.

In her role at Ovarian Cancer Australia, Sue leads a group of specialist ovarian cancer nurses, psychologists, social workers, and other allied health professionals in delivering Australia-wide support and information for women with ovarian cancer.

In addition to her support work, Sue spearheads crucial research and advocacy work at Ovarian Cancer Australia.

In taking out this award, Sue received prize money of \$10,000, which will go towards ensuring our support team has access to bi-annual evidence-based communications skills training.

Communication skills training is critical in the ongoing professional development of our support team. This ensures that our team are equipped with the skills needed to support people impacted by ovarian cancer in having difficult, emotional and challenging conversations that may occur throughout diagnosis, treatment and beyond.



From left to right: Jacquie Smith (Beautesert Hospital Maternity), Sue Hegarty (Chief of Support Programs, OCA), Melanie Briggs (Waminda South Coast Women's Health & Welfare Aboriginal Corporation)






Pictured: Sue Hegarty (Chief of Support Programs)







**"The Male Partners Program has assisted me in understanding the ways in which I can support my partner while caring for myself at the same time. The program provides support through professional presentations on areas such as coping with the stress of cancer in someone you love, fears of a possible recurrence and areas such as relationships.**

**Ovarian Cancer Australia is understanding and compassionate whilst the support from the other men in the group allows you to know you are not alone. I would encourage other men to join the program as it is a comfortable secure space to connect with others on the same journey."**

John

*Pictured: Julie and  
her partner, Paul*



**OVARIAN  
CANCER  
AUSTRALIA**



# OUR ADVOCACY

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**Ovarian Cancer Australia is the leading advocacy organisation for Australians impacted by ovarian cancer.**

**Based on the latest research and evidence, we work closely with government, advisory bodies and other changemakers in the ovarian cancer space to update laws, improve policies, and redirect funding to create better outcomes for people with ovarian cancer.**





# IMPROVING ACCESS TO TREATMENT.

*Pictured: Andrea, Hayley Russell (Senior Research Manager)*

# Parliamentary Breakfast

In February, as part of Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, we worked in partnership with the government to host our annual Parliamentary Breakfast, which this year was held virtually due to an increase in COVID-19 cases.

Attendees had the honour of listening to a powerful speech from keynote speaker, Amy Phillips, who shared the story of her ovarian cancer diagnosis and delivered an impassioned plea for politicians to further fund psychosocial services and treatment and prevention options for ovarian cancer.

The event included speeches from the then Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, then Leader of the Opposition, Anthony Albanese, and the then Minister for Health, Greg Hunt.

Subsequently, \$2 million in funding was pledged by the Liberal government and \$3.9 million in funding was committed by Labor to fund Ovarian Cancer Australia's Teal Support Program.



*Pictured: The OCA Annual Parliamentary Breakfast was held virtually in 2022.*

## Submissions

Timely access to effective and affordable treatments is a key area of Ovarian Cancer Australia's advocacy work. OCA has engaged with various policy reviews and submission processes over the past year to advocate for greater access to better treatments and outline the real-life experiences of those with a diagnosis of ovarian cancer.

### National Medicines Policy

OCA has been a voice to the National Medicines Policy review. We provided a submission outlining the experience of those impacted by ovarian cancer when engaging with current medicine processes, and the changes required to ensure novel therapies coming through the pipeline in ovarian cancer can be more quickly and efficiently accessed by all.

### The Australian Cancer Plan

The Australian Cancer Plan aims to identify issues in cancer care that require a national approach. As a rarer cancer it is essential the challenges experienced by our patient population are recognised in the plan. Participating in reviews such as these ensures the systemic challenges and barriers many of our community face are recognised and addressed.

### Advocating for new medicines

Multiple medicines have been put forward in the past year for assessment by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), with the hope of more medicines being subsidised by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Ovarian Cancer Australia represents the voice of those impacted by ovarian cancer to the committee, and we have also encouraged people to provide their own stories and experiences to the process. Some of these listings have been recommended, and others not yet. OCA will continue to do what we can to see a greater number of medicines listed more quickly for a greater number of people.

Throughout all these submissions is the voice of those living with ovarian cancer, and we are grateful to all who have contributed to strengthen these submissions with their powerful stories.

## TRACEBACK

Led by Drs Rachel Delahunty and Kathryn Alsop as a collaborative project between Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and OCA TRACEBACK opened on 4th May 2018 and aimed to identify ovarian cancer patients who missed the opportunity to receive genetic testing while alive.

The results of the testing have been used to inform living relatives who may be unaware they are at increased genetic risk of a cancer diagnosis. By facilitating predictive testing of relatives, we have the opportunity to reduce new ovarian, breast and other cancers diagnosed in relatives

of deceased ovarian cancer patients who carry an inherited mutation that increases their risk.

The project is nearing completion. To date, the frequency of disease causing genetic mutations identified in TRACEBACK is equivalent to that achieved previously for clinic patients and in conventional studies in Australia and internationally.

The findings were accepted for publication in the prestigious international Journal of Clinical Oncology (JCO) at the end of 2021.

## TRACEBACK.E

The remaining funds from the TRACEBACK project have been allocated to TRACEBACK.E, a continuation of the original project.

TRACEBACK.E has been designed to evaluate participants' experiences of receiving this genetic information and to assess the acceptability and value of TRACEBACK.

In addition, TRACEBACK.E will provide evidence regarding social and economic barriers to genetic testing, helping inform future clinical directives about the type and amount of support needed.

## TRACKFORWARD

A grant from the Department of Health of \$900,000 over three years will fund TRACKFORWARD, led by Dr Elizabeth Christie at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

To understand the impact on subsequent treatment, TRACKFORWARD will monitor the emergence of mutations that restore activity of the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene, and render cancer cells resistant to treatment, in ovarian cancer patients identified to carry either mutation.

Understanding the factors affecting the emergence of these, so called, reversion mutations is likely to suggest approaches to limit their development, identify patients at most risk of emergence of resistance, and help characterise mechanisms of resistance in reversion-negative patients.

Importantly, understanding the patterns of resistance and associated treatment responses will better inform clinicians in the management of patients with progressive disease.



# Psychosocial Research

The 2021 Support and Resources Plan was completed and launched showcasing current lived experiences of ovarian cancer and assisting to shape the direction of future support services and psychosocial research.

Ovarian Cancer Australia Senior Research Manager Hayley Russell co-authored papers published in the European Journal of Cancer Care and Psycho-Oncology Journal regarding sexuality and ovarian cancer through the lens of a sociocultural context and the psychological constructs underpinning fear of cancer recurrence and fear of cancer progression.

Data from psychosocial research collaborations was accepted and presented at the Cancer Nurse Society of Australia conference and an abstract was accepted for presentation at the Cancer Nurses' Society of Australia Conference and at the International Psycho Oncology Symposium World Congress in Toronto.

Psychosocial research collaborations resulted in the initiation of several new support programs including an online fear of cancer recurrence intervention IConquerFear, a written resource on sexuality and ovarian cancer.

New projects were established with the University of Sydney regarding scanxiety and ovarian cancer, the University of New South Wales regarding efficacy of the IConquerFear intervention and the University of South Australia regarding issues of identity for sexual minority women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with gynaecological cancer.




Andrea, Hannah



Bridget Bradhurst (Ovarian Cancer Australia Support Nurse) & Hayley Russell (Senior Research Manager)



A teal-tinted photograph of three women standing side-by-side. The woman on the left is older with short grey hair, wearing a light-colored dress. The woman in the center is younger with long dark hair, wearing a dark polo shirt with a small logo that says 'OVARIAN CANCER AUSTRALIA'. The woman on the right is younger with blonde hair, wearing a patterned dress. The background is teal with several white concentric circles at the top. The text 'SHAPING THE FUTURE.' is overlaid in large white letters, with a yellow brushstroke underline under 'FUTURE.'.

# SHAPING THE FUTURE.

*Pictured: Andrea, Bridget Bradhurst (Ovarian Cancer Australia Support Nurse), Hannah*





**"The last 18 months have been a rollercoaster of emotions and feelings. Going through ovarian cancer during COVID has been hard but Di, my ovarian cancer nurse, and the nurses at Ovarian Cancer Australia made me feel like nothing was too much for them. I had many laughs with Di.**

**Through the support I have received, I know OCA have the most amazing people working for them. On the tough days, I knew I could call in and get good advice. Sometimes it's just the little things that make our day - like a tip, advice, a laugh, or just to hear a voice."**

Kerol



A teal-colored background featuring two women. The woman on the left has dark curly hair and is wearing a grey Bonds bra and matching high-cut underwear. She has a tattoo of a snake on her right arm and the word 'BONDS' is visible on the waistband of her underwear. The woman on the right has blonde hair and is wearing a white ribbed tank top and grey high-cut underwear. Both women are looking directly at the camera with serious expressions. White geometric lines, including circles and triangles, are scattered across the background.

# **TAKING ON CANCER, HEADFIRST.**

Pictured: Kee'ahn, Emma Fitzgerald, Take On Cancer In Your Undies campaign, 2022





# OUR CAMPAIGNS

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**Our campaigns are an opportunity for OCA to increase awareness, engage supporters and advocate for our cause.**

**The stories of people with an ovarian cancer diagnosis are the foundation of our campaigns and inform how we take campaigns to market.**

## Workout 4 Women

Workout 4 Women 2021 was a month-long event held in November where we challenged our supporters to walk, run or move in any way they can 4km every day to raise funds to support people diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

The campaign proved to be a huge success, boasting 1,053 participants (a 144% increase on 2020), 5,814 donors (a 210% increase on 2020), and raising \$328,443 (a 79% increase on 2020).

The campaign was led by Annalei Warren, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2020 at the age of 33.



Above: Annalei Warren

# WORKOUT 4 WOMEN



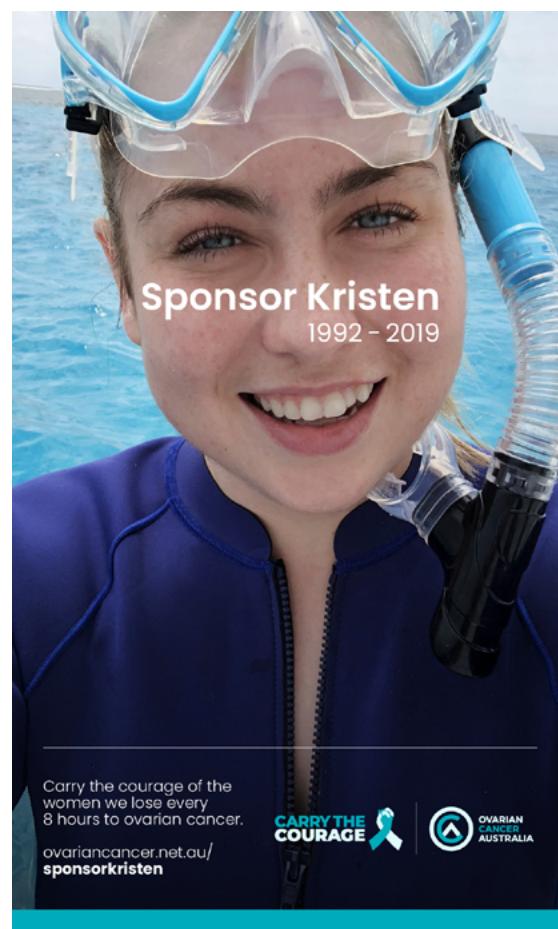
Workout 4 Women participants

## Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month (OCAM)

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, held each year in February, is an opportunity to raise awareness of the disease, advocate for more research and better treatment options and share the stories of people with an ovarian cancer diagnosis.

For the 2022 campaign, OCA partnered with the brilliant DDB to create 'Carry the Courage'. The idea behind the campaign was to acknowledge that ovarian cancer requires courage, whether that be living with ovarian cancer, caring for and supporting someone with ovarian cancer or even researching ovarian cancer.

We celebrated the courageous women we have lost to ovarian cancer, encouraging Australians to sponsor these women to ensure their courage continues. Our annual Giving Day raised a total of \$722,125. A massive thank you to DDB Australia and the fantastic donated media partners.



Carry The Courage campaign, 2022

## Take On Cancer In Your Undies

In the lead up to World Ovarian Cancer Day on 8 May 2022, OCA teamed up with Hanes Australasia (Bonds, Jockey and Bras N Things) to raise awareness and funds to support people with an ovarian cancer diagnosis. In 2022, the campaign, 'Take On Cancer In Your Undies', underwent a bold refresh and, for the first time, was supported by Coles who stocked an exclusive range of Bonds product across 630 of their stores.

The campaign, which was developed in collaboration with Special Group Australia, brought people who had been directly affected by ovarian cancer to the forefront, including Emma Fitzgerald, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2020 at the age of 26.

Surpassing our target of \$300,000, we doubled the funds from 2021 and achieved \$130,000 in donated media. We had media coverage across a strong cross section of platforms including print, online, tv and radio, resulting in estimated impressions of 120 million, a 2000% increase from the previous year.

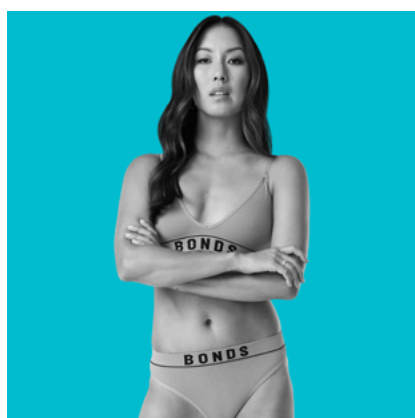
A huge thanks to creative agency Special Group who donated their time to create the new campaign, to OMD for supporting with media and of course the incredible and passionate teams and people at Hanes Australasia and Coles Group.



Emma Fitzgerald



Kee'ahn,  
Emma Fitzgerald



Take On Cancer In  
Your Undies  
campaign



Scan to  
watch

Sarah Davidson

## Dry July

Dry July is a fundraiser that encourages people to go alcohol-free in July and raise funds for people affected by cancer. 2021 was Ovarian Cancer Australia's second year participating and our first year as a major beneficiary of Dry July funding.

An extraordinary \$414,500 was raised by 1,014 participants. On top of the funds already raised by participants, as a Major Beneficiary, we secured \$246,571 of additional funding meaning we received a total of \$661,071 from Dry July.

This support allows us to further fund our psychosocial team, who provide psychological, practical, and emotional support to people diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

**DRY JULY**  
FOUNDATION



Dry July campaign





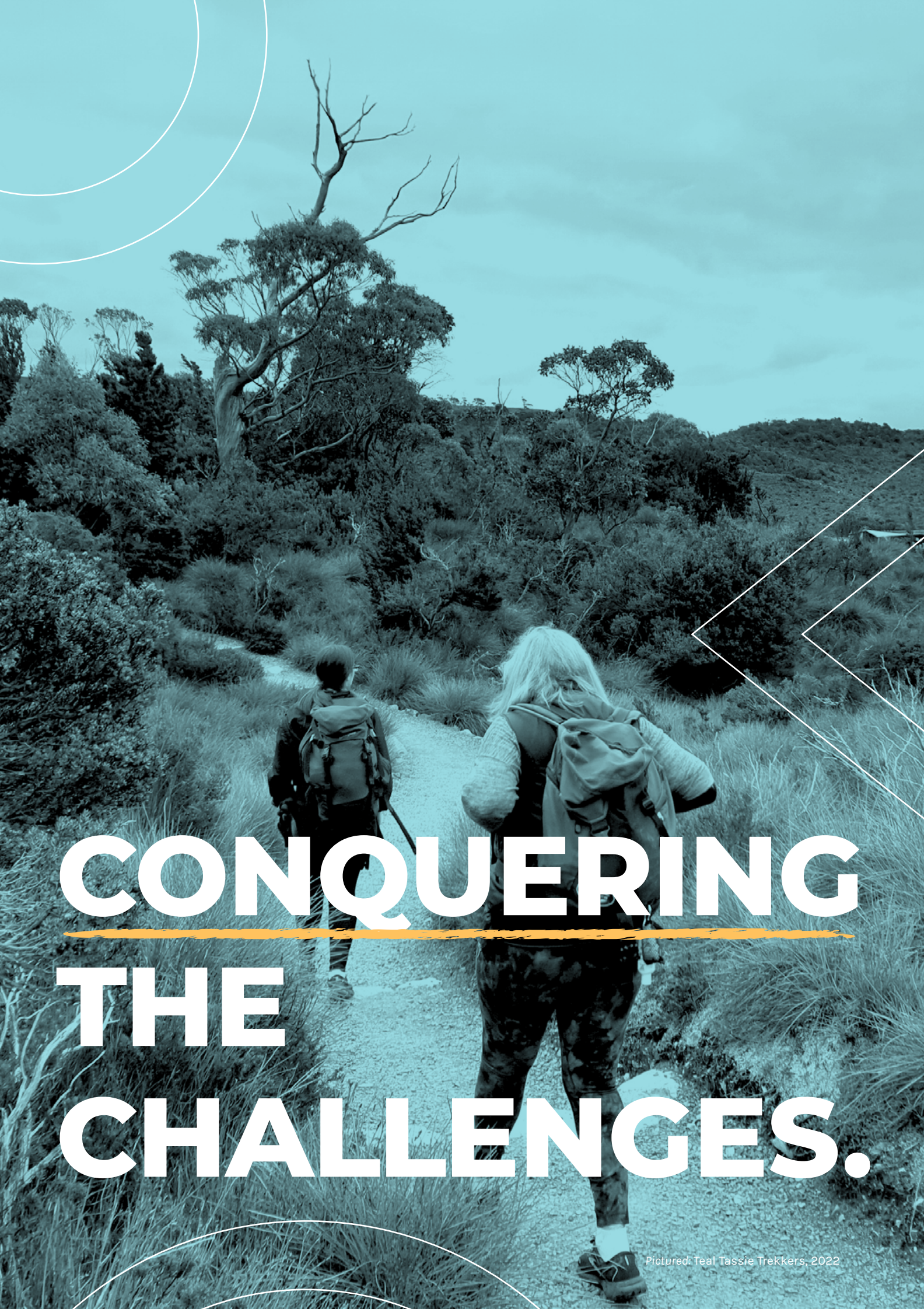
# OUR FUNDRAISING

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**Our fundraisers are the backbone of our organisation. We are regularly in awe of their passion and dedication and the creative ways in which they choose to raise funds.**

**As a not-for-profit organisation, we are proud to be underpinned by an incredible group of people who, year after year, continue to advocate for our organisation and the people we support.**





# CONQUERING --- THE CHALLENGES.

Pictured: Teal Tassie Trekkers, 2022



## Teal Teas

Once again, our wonderful community stepped up in great numbers to host Teal Teas for Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Our supporters blew us away with their creativity: whether it was finding ingenious ways of working around venue restrictions or putting a fresh new spin on a morning tea to get everyone participating, for example, teal nail painting stations! The ideas were many and support strong as ever.

This year, the Teal Tea campaign will run throughout the year so that supporters who were unable to hold their event in February can still participate.



Teal Teas supporters

## Teal Tassie Trek

In April, a group of incredible supporters hiked through the wild beauty of Tasmania in support of Ovarian Cancer Australia and raised over \$100,000.

The team of 16, including CEO of OCA, Jane Hill and Partnerships Manager, Donnette Rushworth, took part in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend a week together; bonding over shared experiences and encouraging each other to conquer the physical challenges.

The team took in the stunning views and native wildlife while sharing stories of their connection to Ovarian Cancer Australia and the impact it has on them. The funds were raised through a variety of activities such as quiz nights, long lunches and movie nights.

A participant summed it up best when they said, "It was a privilege to be a part of this team and get to know the incredible women - they are truly inspiring!"



Teal Tassie Trekkers, 2022



# Community Fundraising: Sue Sheedy

To share her story and raise awareness of ovarian cancer in her community, Sue decided to host a 'Teal Appeal' dinner where, amidst a gathering of friends and supporters, Sue talked about the importance of the support she received from Ovarian Cancer Australia. "My (Ovarian Cancer Australia) virtual oncology nurse Jacinta was a ray of light in the darkness, she was my virtual medical support and my confidant, there wasn't a time that she wasn't there for me."

Sue raised an incredible \$31,000 and is already planning to return the following year because, as Sue puts it: No woman with ovarian cancer should walk alone.

**"After my stage 3 diagnosis last year I was devastated and so lost. I knew nothing about ovarian cancer. We were in a COVID lockdown and I was alone in hospital with no one to help me understand when the doctors were throwing medical jargon around. I was directed to Ovarian Cancer Australia's Teal Support Program, which helped enormously!"**

Sue Sheedy, diagnosed in 2021



Guests and supporters of Sue Sheedy's 'Teal Appeal' dinner, 2022

Pictured: TerryWhite Chemmart



**DRIVING  
AWARENESS.**



# OUR PARTNERS

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**Our partners play a vital role in our mission to support people affected by ovarian cancer and lead change. They amplify our voice and stand beside us during our advocacy efforts.**

**We are eternally grateful for their partnership and for the passion and support of their people and communities.**



# HIGHLIGHTS

For four years, **Hanes Australasia** (Bonds, Jockey & Bras N Things) have sold teal underwear from April to June to raise funds and awareness for Ovarian Cancer Australia. The team at Hanes goes above and beyond each year to grow the partnership, ensuring this year's campaign was our biggest success yet, raising over \$300,000.

We were thrilled to collaborate with **Coles** for our Take on Cancer in Your Undies campaign. Coles donated valuable ad space in their monthly Coles Magazine and promoted the campaign to their 8,000 staff via internal publications and communications. In addition, their register round-up donation campaign helped raise a further \$7,800 for OCA!

Now in our 16th year of partnership, **TerryWhite Chemmart** are bold champions of our cause as they continue to raise awareness of ovarian cancer across the country. Showing incredible generosity and passion at their annual masterclass on the Gold Coast, TerryWhite Chemmart raised over \$14,000 for OCA in just 24hrs.

Throughout their campaign for Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in February, **Wynstan** donated a portion of all sales to OCA, which, along with their workplace giving and a Morning Teal fundraiser, raised close to \$60,000 this year. In addition, Wynstan donated over \$170,000 in radio and magazine advertising throughout the month to drive awareness of ovarian cancer and the work OCA does.



Hanes Australasia, Take On Cancer In Your Undies campaign, 2022



TerryWhite Chemmart, Free Symptom Diary campaign, 2022



Wynstan, Workplace Giving campaign touchpoints, 2022

# PARTNER PROFILE

## Black Pepper

Black Pepper and Ovarian Cancer Australia are celebrating six years of partnership and in that time they have raised just shy of \$700,000 for OCA. For the first time ever, Black Pepper featured four ovarian cancer survivors in their Women Support Women 2022 campaign – Jan, Jenn, Jane and Dawn.



Black Pepper, Women Supporting Women campaign, 2022

Rachel Digby, General Manager of Black Pepper, shares some insights about what makes the partnership between OCA and Black Pepper special.

### **What inspires Black Pepper to support Ovarian Cancer Australia?**

Throughout the years Black Pepper has partnered with OCA, we've seen firsthand the impact ovarian cancer has, not only on the women, but their family and friends too. Ovarian cancer accounts for more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system, and with no early detection tests, it's important to Black Pepper that we help raise awareness and much needed funds to support OCA in their aim to provide care and support for those affected by ovarian cancer.

### **What was the inspiration behind this year's campaign "Women Supporting Women"?**

At Black Pepper, all our ranges are designed by Australian women, for women. We believe in empowering women in every aspect of life, from the clothes she wears, to feeling confident and beautiful from within.

It's so important for us to stand behind OCA and the courageous women affected by ovarian cancer, to show that we support them, admire them, and will do whatever it takes to know they aren't alone.

### **What did the campaign mean for your staff and your community?**

It's been incredible to watch each campaign unfold, and the overwhelming response we have from both the Black Pepper team and our amazing community. Those who have experienced ovarian cancer in their family or friendship circles, or survivors themselves come into stores and thank us for helping spread awareness. It's those moments where you know you're making a difference, that makes each campaign extra special.

### **Over the course of the partnership, is there anything you've seen or learnt that has surprised you?**

Every year we learn more about ovarian cancer and the impact it has. Through our campaign "women supporting women" and interviewing four incredible survivors, we truly understood the experiences these women go through. From the diagnoses, to telling their family and friends and each step of the way through treatment. We got an insight into how lonely and isolating it can feel, not knowing what's going to happen next. It was incredible to see their strength, resilience and their newborn outlook on life, after everything they had been through.

### **How important is it for Black Pepper to be part of the impact Ovarian Cancer Australia is making for women and the sector?**

Over the years we have seen the impact each campaign has made, not only raising much needed funds, but raising awareness. Every campaign leads to more people understanding ovarian cancer, being able to be aware of the signs and symptoms, and knowing that no matter what, they're not alone. We stand behind them.

### **What has been your biggest achievement partnering with Ovarian Cancer Australia?**

Every year we are so proud of our work alongside Ovarian Cancer Australia. Over the past 6 years we have raised a total of \$699.3k for OCA, not only through generous donations, but from the sale of our specially crafted Black Pepper x OCA Scarf, pin, nightie and pen.



# OUR GROWTH

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Ovarian Cancer Australia are proud of our continuous growth. By maintaining a strong financial position, we can ensure our programs, resources and advocacy work are at their best.

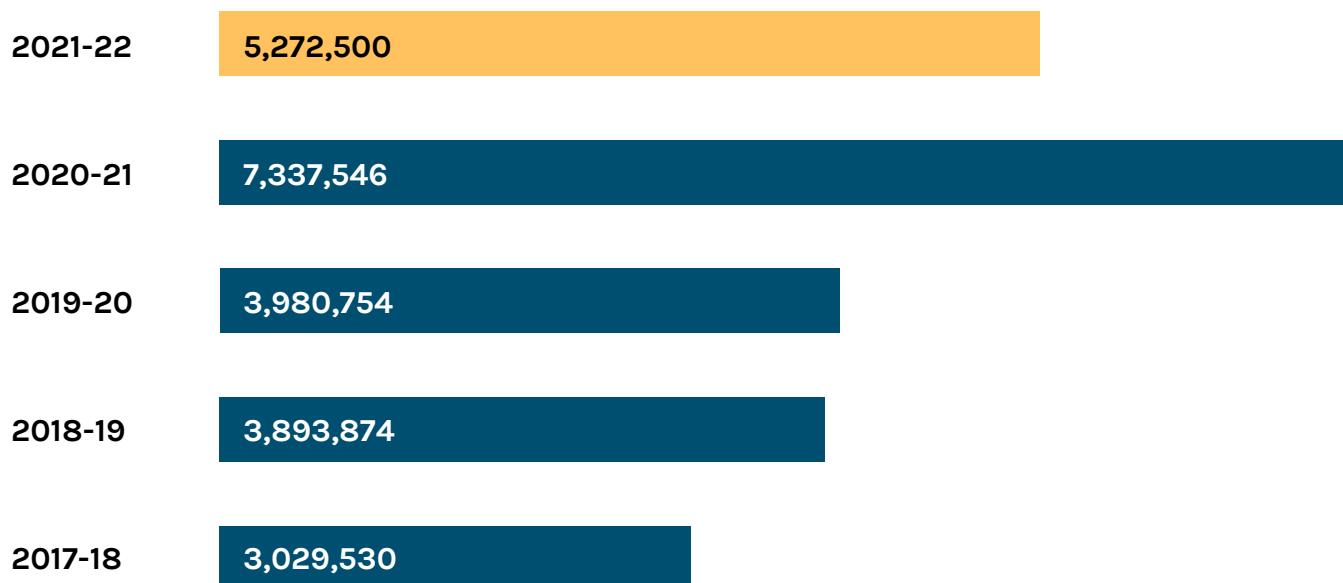




# MAKING THE DREAM WORK.

*Pictured: Rosetta Hart (Ovarian Cancer Australia Nurse Consultant)*

## Income Growth 2017-22

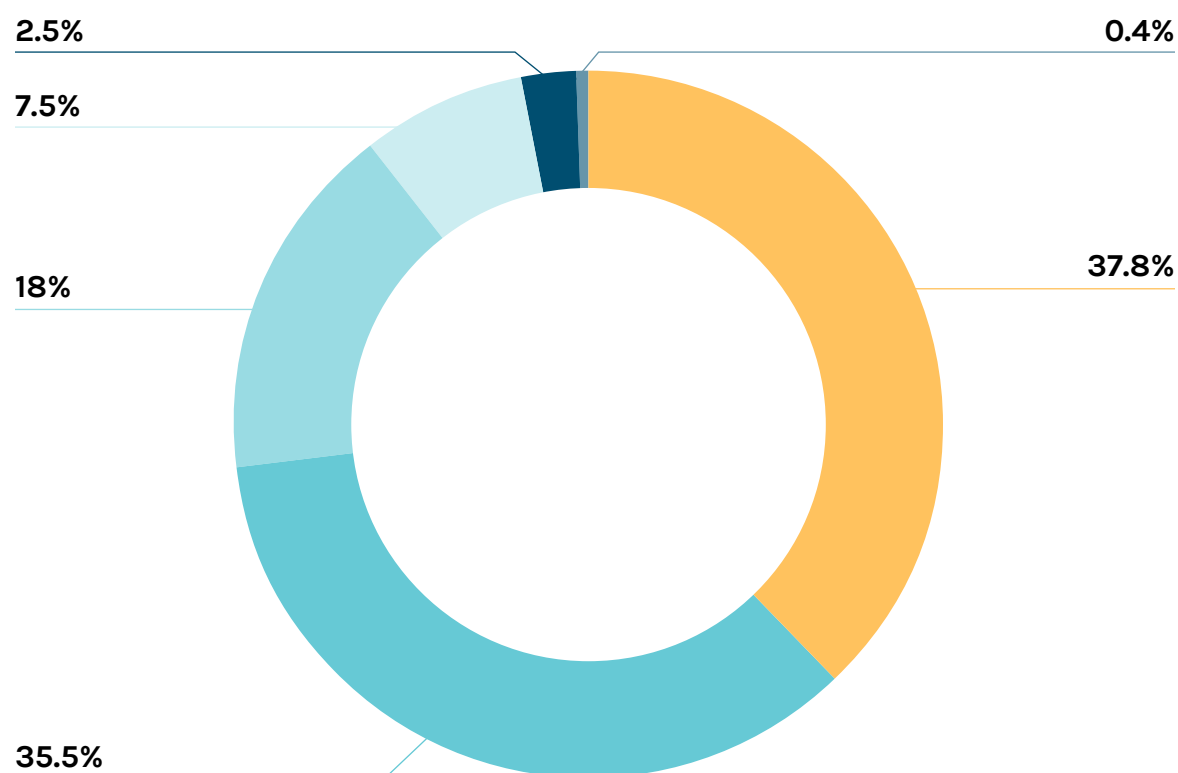


## Statement of Profit & Income 2021-22

Revenue	4,394,353
Interest income	17,327
Gain on sale of bequest property	856,968
Other income	3,853
Cost of goods sold	(29,800)
Support service delivery	(1,971,232)
Advocacy and awareness	(365,798)
Research programs	(252,650)
Public affairs and communication	(241,404)
Development and fundraising	(1,315,469)
Governance and operation expenses	(383,800)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>712,348</b>

# Income Sources

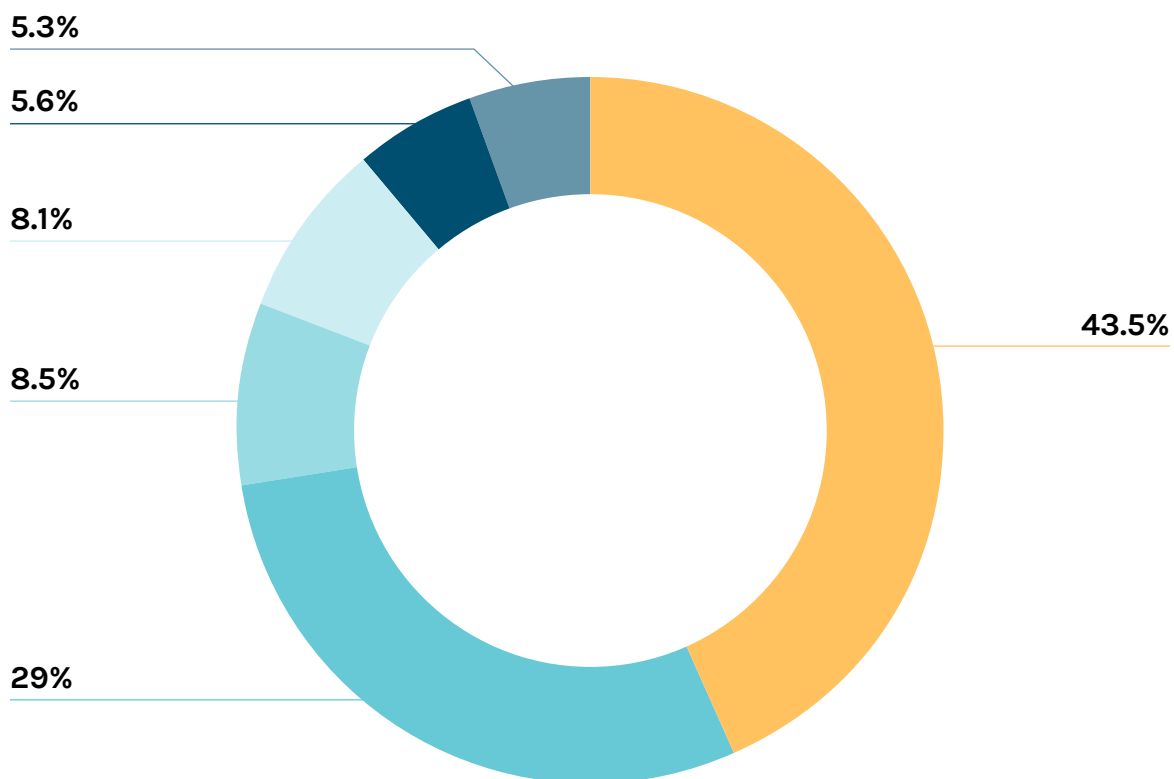
## 2021-22



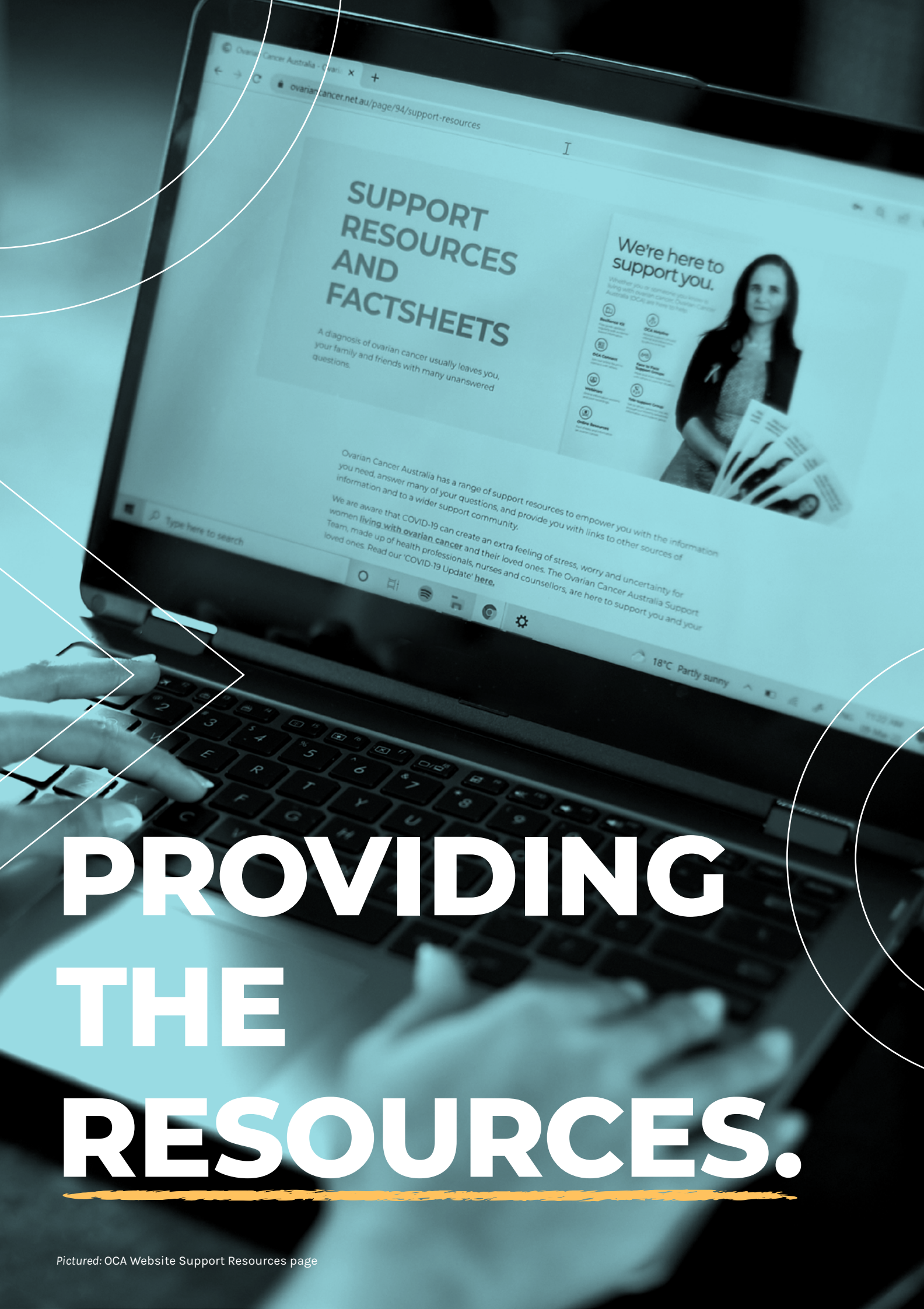
- Fundraising, donations and bequests 37.8%
- Grants 35.5%
- Gain on sale of asset 18%
- Corporate sponsors and partners 7.5%
- Merchandise sales 2.5%
- Other 0.4%



# Expenditure 2021-22



- Support service delivery 43.5%
- Development and fundraising 29%
- Governance and operational expenses 8.5%
- Advocacy and awareness 8.1%
- Research programs 5.6%
- Public affairs and communication 5.3%



# PROVIDING THE RESOURCES.





# LEADING THE CHANGE.

Pictured: Veronica Perera (Communications Specialist), Di Kenneally (Ovarian Cancer Australia Nurse Consultant)





# OUR GOVERNANCE

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Ovarian Cancer Australia's board of directors dedicates a huge amount of both professional and personal time and energy to our vision.

## CLINICAL & SCIENTIFIC EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL

Ovarian Cancer Australia is proud to have a panel of world-leading clinical and scientific experts in the field of ovarian cancer.

The panel provides an opportunity for Ovarian Cancer Australia to receive valuable advice from leading experts.

**Professor Anna DeFazio**  
Co-Chair

**Professor David Bowtell**  
Co-Chair

Discipline	Member
ANZGOG	Associate Professor Philip Beale
ASGO	Associate Professor Peter Sykes
Epidemiologist	Professor Penny Webb
Medical Oncologist	Professor Michael Friedlander
Medical Oncologist	Dr Tarek Meniawy
Medical Oncologist	Dr George Au-Yeung
Medical Oncologist / Population Health	Professor John Zalcberg
Medical Oncologist & Clinical Researcher	Professor Linda Mileschkin
Nursing	Distinguished Professor Patsy Yates
Nursing	Professor Ray Chan
Nursing	Anne Mellon
Researcher	Associate Professor Kylie Gorringer
Researcher	Dr Dale Garsed
Researcher	Dr Elizabeth Christie
Researcher	Dr Elaine Sanij
Researcher	Professor Susan Ramusz
Social Work	Kim Hobbs
Psycho-oncology	Professor Louise Sharpe
Psycho-oncology	Dr Michelle Peate
GP	Professor Jon Emery
Genetist	Associate Professor Alison Trainer
Genetist	Associate Professor Judy Kirk
Palliative Care	Physician Professor Peter Martin
Gynae-oncologist	Associate Professor Orla McNally
Gynae-oncologist	Associate Professor Rhonda Farrell
Gynae-oncologist	Associate Professor Alison Brand
Gynaecologist	Professor Martha Hickey
Pathologist	Associate Professor Lyndal Anderson

## PHARMACEUTICAL DONATIONS

Pharmaceutical companies are significant stakeholders in the cancer community. Ovarian Cancer Australia recognises the importance of maintaining an open dialogue and relationship with pharmaceutical companies that are producing products which may lead to benefits for people living with ovarian cancer.

We also recognise that transparency in these relationships is critical to maintaining our position and reputation as independent of influence from pharmaceutical companies over any of our organisational programs and activities. In recognition of this need for transparency, the following table outlines a summary of the donations and funding received from pharmaceutical companies over the past 12 months.

Our full policy on Collaboration with the Pharmaceutical Industry can be found at [www.ovariancancer.net.au](http://www.ovariancancer.net.au).

Company	Program funded	Amount (ex GST)
AstraZeneca	Ovarian Cancer Webinars	\$25,400*
AstraZeneca	Genetics Consumer Survey	\$80,044
GSK	Exercise & Nutrition Program	\$60,000
Total grant funding received from pharmaceutical companies in 2021-2022		\$165,444



## BOARD MEMBERS

Meghan Speers - *Chair*  
*Appointed 17 November 2018*  
*Board Chair from 22 November 2021*

Jo-Ann Hicks  
*Appointed 19 December 2014*

Marise Maltman  
*Appointed 17 August 2021*

Professor Juliet Bourke  
*Appointed 17 August 2021*

Professor Karen Strickland  
*Appointed 17 August 2021*

Marina Go  
*Retired 22 November 2021*

Marco D'Avino  
*Retired 4 May 2022*

Suzy Nicoletti  
*Retired 1 July 2021*

Professor Ian Jacobs  
*Retired 22 November 2021*

## FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

### Board Representatives

Marise Maltman - *Chair*

Meghan Speers

Professor Juliet Bourke

### External Representative

Chris Tiederman

### Management Representatives

Jane Hill - *OCA CEO*

Cindy Marcina- *OCA Chief, Finance & Business*

Naomi Podbury - *Secretary*

## DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

### Board Representatives

Jo-Ann Hicks - *Chair*

Meghan Speers

### Management Representatives

Jane Hill - *OCA CEO*

Jason Olive - *OCA Chief, Marketing, Fundraising and Communications Officer*

Cindy Marcina - *OCA Chief, Finance and Business Services (optional attendee)*

Naomi Podbury - *Secretary*

## **CULTURE & REMUNERATION COMMITTEE**

### **Board Representatives**

Professor Juliet Bourke -  
*Chair*

Professor Karen Strickland

Meghan Speers - *optional  
attendee*

### **Management Representatives**

Jane Hill - OCA CEO

Cindy Marcina - OCA Chief,  
*Finance and Business Services*

Shirley Getley - OCA Manager,  
*People and Culture (observer)*

Naomi Podbury - Secretary



# OUR APPRECIATION

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The foundation of Ovarian Cancer Australia is built by our supporters. Our dedicated fundraisers, partners, donors, ambassadors and employees are the reason we can continue to provide essential services for our community.

From everyone here at OCA, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you for all of your support over the years. We look forward to working with you into the future.





# THANK YOU.

*Pictured: Julie, Vanessa Alford (Project Manager)*

# A big thank you to all of our supporters.

## **Political ambassadors**

Dr Katie Allen, MP  
Meryl Swanson, MP  
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young

## **Special thanks**

Ovarian Cancer Australia volunteers  
Anne Marie Mulders  
Ashleigh Jennings-Fleischfresser  
Dr Bob House  
Heather Hawkins  
QVWC Management and community  
(including Jo Porter, Piper Hunyh, Ally De  
Havilland)

## **Major donors and Giving Day matching donors**

Barry & Elizabeth Frost of Frost Family  
Endowment  
Carolyn Bear  
Catherine Morgan  
Christine Elliot  
Cindy & Terry Lissiman  
In Memory of Eleanor Finlayson  
Jacinta Costa  
Jane Hill  
John Holding  
Flickering Memories  
Garry & Suzanne McNaughton  
Grace Scoleri  
Interflora Australia  
Karen's Gift  
Owen Sherrard  
Patricia Howman-Giles  
Renee Robinson  
Silvana Meo  
TerryWhite Chemmart  
Theresa Codner  
OCA Board Members

## **Trusts and Foundations**

Alfred and Jean Dickson Foundation  
The Dowd Foundation  
Dry July Foundation  
Equity Trustees  
Piers K Fowler Trust  
Red Rocketship Foundation  
Stack Family Foundation  
Sun Foundation  
Woolley Charitable Trust

**Community fundraisers**

Andrew Clark – Goulburn Swans  
 Richard Matthews Real Estate  
 Women of E&S  
 Griffith Blacks Rugby Club – Jane's Day  
 Katherine Lennard – Karen's Gift Paige  
 Caparello Jess Carter – Team Marg Carter  
 Sue Sheedy  
 Nikya Wright  
 Felicity Cocuzzoli  
 Sharon Morris  
 Molly Woodrow Evans  
 Jo Savage  
 Dhanja Sanjeevan  
 Amy Braes  
 Donna Jones  
 Ann Griffin  
 Charlie Finlayson  
 Renee Barratt  
 Sandringham Baseball Club  
 Settlers Run Golf & Country Club

**Teal Tassie Trek**

Amy Robinson  
 Debra McCann  
 Dianne Knight  
 Donnette Rushworth  
 Fiona Hall  
 Jane Hill  
 Jess Woods  
 Kristina Powell  
 Kyla Bugg  
 Lauren Ward  
 Linda Nero  
 Mary Serafini  
 Natasha Mastroianni  
 Sam Hall  
 Stacey Barnes

**Partners**

Black Pepper  
 Coles  
 HANES Australasia: Bonds, Jockey, Bras N Things  
 TerryWhite Chemmart  
 Wynstan

**Supporters and Campaigns Sponsors**

AHA Group  
 Brisbane Heat  
 Charity Greeting Cards  
 Destination Derrière  
 Hilary D'Angelo  
 Interflora Australia  
 IStrap  
 Kirsten Mulley  
 Microsoft  
 Property Council NSW

**Media Marketing Partners**

10 Feet Tall  
 Channel 10  
 DDB  
 OMD  
 Special Group Australia  
 Top Dog

**Other Pro-bono partners**

Bain & Co  
 GRA Cosway  
 Minter Ellison  
 NAB  
 Performance Frontiers (Natalie Richardson, Gretel Bakker, Celia Wallwork)  
 Vicinity Centres (Julie Chu, Gavin wood, Leon Musu)





QV Women's Centre  
210 Lonsdale St, Melbourne VIC 3000

[admin@ovariancancer.net.au](mailto:admin@ovariancancer.net.au)

Phone: 1300 660 334

[ovariancancer.net.au](http://ovariancancer.net.au)