



Epworth HealthCare

Annual Review 2021-22






Epworth



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About us



Epworth HealthCare is Victoria's largest not-for-profit private hospital group, renowned for excellence in diagnosis, treatment, care and rehabilitation. Founded in 1920, Epworth has been an innovator for more than 100 years, embracing the latest in evidence-based medicine to pioneer treatments and provide excellent, compassionate care for our patients, who are the focus in all that we do.

Acknowledgement of Country

Epworth HealthCare acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin Nations, the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we work and care for our patients. We honour the unique and continued spiritual connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to land, waters and culture.



This report is available online at [epworth.org.au](https://www.epworth.org.au)



Our strategic vision

Delivering another 100 years of exceptional healthcare and innovation to the Victorian community.

Our purpose

Every patient matters.

Our values

Compassion.
Accountability.
Respect.
Excellence.



Epworth highlights 2021-22



203,638

Patient
admissions



6,380

ICU bed days



7,400

Employees



46,649

Emergency
presentations



4,490

Children
treated



196

Volunteers



125,923

Procedures
undertaken



3,257

Births



Our hospitals

Epworth Brighton



Epworth Brighton provides inpatient, outpatient and home-based rehabilitation to support people through a range of health needs including orthopaedic surgery and musculoskeletal injuries, falls and balance concerns, active ageing, cardiac care, pulmonary conditions and neurological disorders including stroke, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Parkinson's disease.

Epworth Camberwell



Epworth Camberwell is a dedicated rehabilitation and mental health facility with 153 beds. Rehabilitation programs are available to support many health needs including orthopaedics, neurological conditions and chronic diseases such as arthritis, heart failure and cancer, falls and balance issues and persistent pain. Epworth Clinic is a mental health service offering psychiatric consulting, inpatient care and therapeutic day programs as well as a dedicated aged psychiatry unit and neurostimulation services including electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) and transcranial magnetic therapy (TMS). Epworth Camberwell also houses a specialist sleep studies unit.





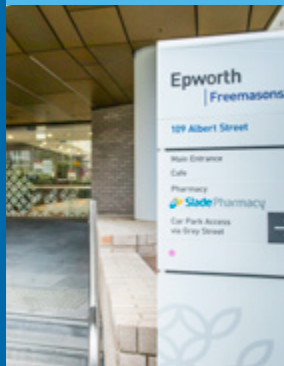
Our hospitals

Epworth Eastern

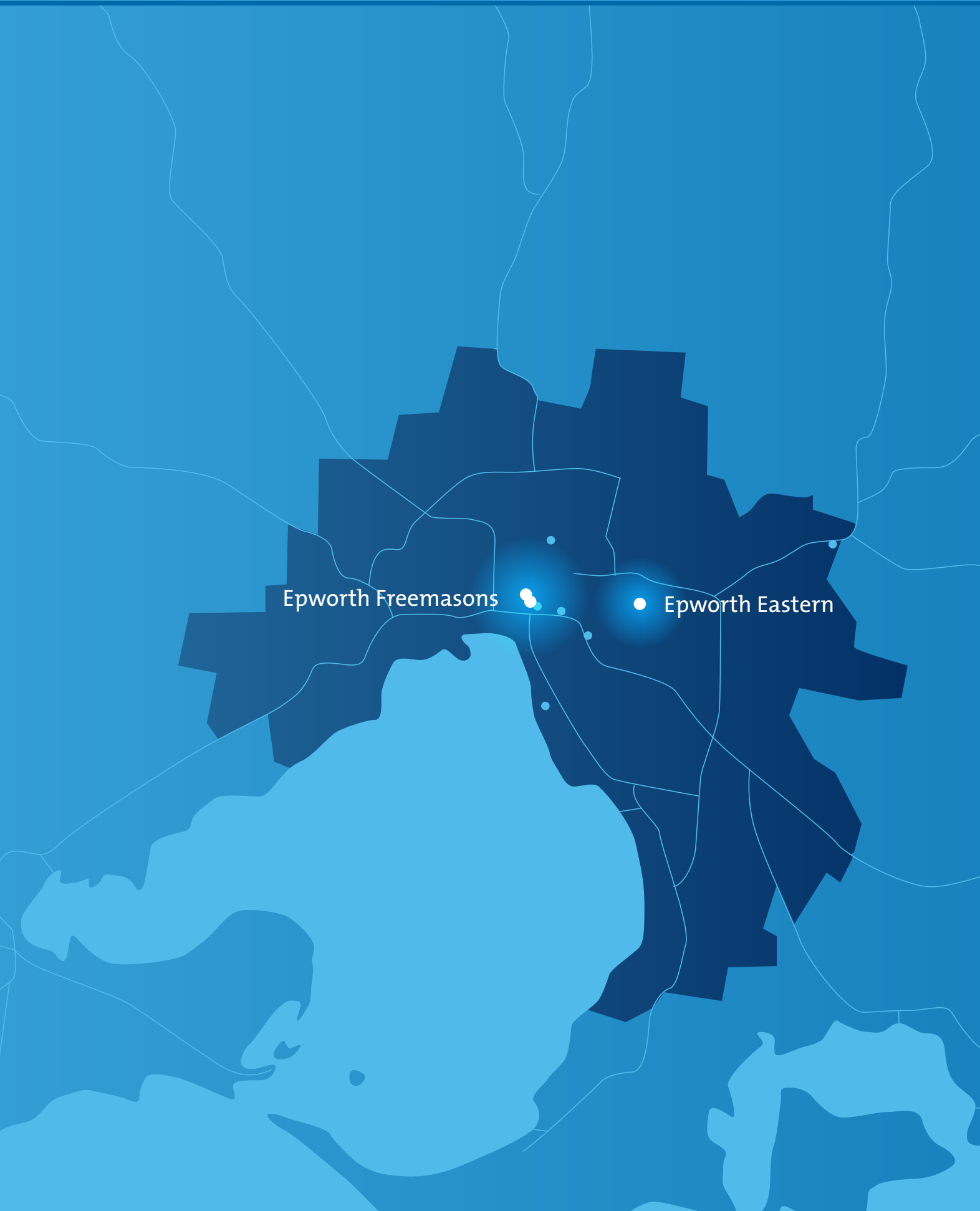


Epworth Eastern, a 231-bed hospital in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, is nearing completion on its redevelopment. A 14-storey East Wing Tower has provided additional beds, an expanded ICU, clinical facilities, four extra state-of-the-art operating theatres including a hybrid theatre (the first of its kind in Victoria), a dedicated endoscopy suite floor, an oncology Wellness Zone and a gymnasium, as well as additional doctor consultation suites. Epworth Eastern provides specialty cardiology and cardiothoracic services and has a da Vinci robotic system within its theatres. Specialties include orthopaedic care with expertise in knee, hip and upper and lower limbs, comprehensive oncology services and a nine-chair renal dialysis unit. Vascular, urology and plastic and reconstructive surgery services are also available.

Epworth Freemasons



Epworth Freemasons operates across two sites in East Melbourne (Albert Street and Victoria Parade) and comprises 291 beds. With a \$100 million redevelopment completed in 2019, Epworth Freemasons has a 20-chair Day Oncology Unit, advanced education and simulation centre, 18 operating theatres and an eight-bed intensive care unit (ICU). The renovated maternity unit has 34 postnatal suites, nine delivery suites and a 10-bed special care nursery. With radiotherapy and imaging services onsite, including PET-CT scanning, Epworth Freemasons delivers comprehensive cancer care and a range of surgical services, including robotic-assisted surgery. The hospital also has a dedicated Breast Clinic, urodynamics service and Victoria's first private Colposcopy Clinic.





Our hospitals

Epworth Geelong



Epworth Geelong is a 211-bed acute hospital featuring an Emergency Department (which expanded to a 24-hour service this year), 12-bed ICU, eight-bed coronary care unit, eight operating theatres, two endoscopy suites, catheter laboratory, day oncology unit, renal dialysis unit, birthing suites and special care nursery. Specialties include cardiology, oncology, neurology, neurosurgery, gastroenterology, colorectal surgery, orthopaedics, urology, vascular surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology (O&G), and rehabilitation.

Epworth Hawthorn



Epworth Hawthorn collocates surgical and rehabilitation services. A boutique surgical centre that specialises in orthopaedics, plastic surgery, urology, oral faciomaxillary, general surgery, vascular, gynaecology and assisted reproductive services with Monash IVF. Epworth Hawthorn also houses the renowned multi-trauma orthopaedic rehabilitation service, supporting people who have sustained traumatic orthopaedic injury, minor brain injuries, amputation, complex wounds and burns following an accident or injury.

Epworth Geelong ●

● Epworth Hawthorn



Our hospitals

Epworth Richmond



Epworth Richmond is a 627-bed acute medical and surgical hospital. It has an emergency department, 26-bed ICU and 31-theatre perioperative department. Specialties include cardiology, neurosciences, orthopaedics, cancer, ear, nose and throat (ENT), general medicine and surgery. Paediatric patients are cared for through our emergency services and a specialised paediatric ward. Hospital in the Home is available to eligible patients. Epworth Richmond also delivers inpatient, outpatient and home-based rehabilitation with a specialist neurological and brain injury unit, as well as an orthopaedic and general rehabilitation ward.

Specialist centres

- > **Epworth Specialist Centre Lilydale** provides a range of medical, radiology, surgical and allied health services, before and after surgery.
- > **Epworth Transitional Living Centre (TLC)** is a residential property in Thornbury that provides a home and community environment for people to adjust to life after traumatic brain injury, relearning everyday skills while preparing for independent living.

Epworth Specialist Centre, Lilydale

Epworth Richmond

TLC,
Thornbury



From our President

In this, my first year as President of the Board of Epworth HealthCare, I continue to be both humbled by and proud of our staff and doctors and their commitment to providing quality care, despite numerous challenges within the healthcare sector.

The past 12 months have been incredibly difficult for private hospitals with workforce pressures, restricted surgical activity and ongoing uncertainty for patients, staff, doctors and their families negotiating all the issues of the pandemic. Notwithstanding this and despite the increased demands of COVID-19, Epworth has delivered some significant innovation goals as highlighted below. The year has also seen the launch of a new Epworth three-year strategy (Epworth 2025), as well as the development of a new Clinical Services Plan (CSP). This important work will guide the Board's future planning and investment decisions.

Cardiac care

Critical to the Epworth CSP is cardiac care and this year, Epworth celebrated 40 years of caring for Victorians with heart conditions. The first open heart surgery in a private hospital in Victoria was performed by Mr George Westlake at Epworth Richmond. The cardiology unit at Richmond was established in 1981 and since then, several innovations and milestones have been achieved, including opening the first intensive care unit offering cardiac surgery management in a private hospital in Australia in 1991. This has allowed for cardiac surgery and interventional cardiology to thrive at Epworth. Patients and their families have benefitted from shorter stays in hospital and improved clinical outcomes.

Epworth is approaching 30,000 cardiac surgery procedures. We are extremely proud that many lives have been saved or lengthened thanks to the treatment delivered by our cardiac surgical program and of the fact that Epworth continues to meet or exceed national benchmarks set in cardiac surgery. Sadly one of the Epworth pioneers of cardiac surgery, Mr Brian Buxton, passed away this year and I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution he made in setting up cardiac surgery at Epworth and across Victoria.



From our President

Oncology research

Research at Epworth continues to improve the lives of many patients and families who are part of our community. Cancer care is a large part of this work and unfortunately affects increasing numbers of Victorians.

This year, Epworth has invested in several new areas of research linked to our extraordinary philanthropic program. We are thrilled at the recognition from two levels of government for our Jreissati Pancreatic Centre at Epworth (JPCE). In 2022, the Federal government provided \$5 million, followed by the State Government giving an additional \$5 million towards the costs of establishing this unique care facility. In just 18 months since opening, JPCE has 25 research studies underway, ranging from early detection studies to better treatments and supportive care for patients with pancreatic cancer.

Recognising the importance of early detection, Epworth has improved its connection with GPs through education and information forums, with a focus on early recognition of symptoms and referral.

Treating children

During the pandemic, we have seen an increase in the number of children being treated at our hospitals. Again, supported by our generous donors, we have introduced a unique new experience for our youngest patients at Epworth Eastern. A novel way to settle the nerves and anxiety of children (and parents) before surgery is driving them to the operating theatre in a remote-controlled four-wheel-drive.



Our youngest patients drive to the operating theatre at Epworth Eastern.



From our President

Rehab at home

Since the onset of the pandemic, Rehab in the Home sessions have doubled at Epworth, with tailored models of care to suit the diverse needs of our patients. We now regularly help patients rehabilitate in their own homes, with research supporting improved clinical outcomes with care in people's own environment.

Philanthropy

Despite many disruptions to our major fundraising events due to the pandemic, our donors and community have been incredibly generous, allowing the Epworth Medical Foundation to achieve great results in supporting our patients and their families. This includes the purchase of an apartment in Geelong to help care for patients from rural and regional areas by providing complimentary and supportive accommodation. The space can also be used by patients' families travelling long distances to visit their loved ones in hospital and will make such a difference to the holistic care Epworth provides.

Contributions to our Workplace Giving Program through the Ethel Gray Benevolent Fund have also been impressive, with employees' donations directly helping patients, their families and Epworth colleagues in significant times of need.

Thank you

It's been a busy first year as President. Thank you to all Epworth staff, doctors, donors, volunteers, Group Executive and my fellow Board members for their ongoing commitment to this wonderful organisation. I would particularly like to acknowledge the strong leadership of Dr Lachlan Henderson in steering Epworth through the challenges of these past 12 months.

Wendy Thorpe





From our Group Chief Executive

The past 12 months have seen Epworth continue to be impacted by the pandemic, with significant disruption to the private hospital sector more broadly. Statistics quoted by the Australian Private Hospital Association (APHA) reveal that across Australia, 440,000 fewer patients have been treated in private hospitals than anticipated since January 2020 (5% decline). With more lockdowns and significantly restricted elective surgery, the decline in Victoria has been closer to 10%.

The Epworth workforce has been incredibly resilient during this period, coping with increased sick leave, family illness and changed working conditions to keep our patients safe. The dedication and compassion shown by staff to patients and their families truly reflects the Epworth purpose that “Every patient matters”. A renewed sense of optimism can be felt across Epworth as we look forward to better times in the months and years ahead.

Hospital activity

While elective surgery is no longer restricted, a combination of staff, patient and Visiting Medical Officer (VMO) sick leave has resulted in ongoing lower activity across Epworth sites. Pleasingly, however, we still attended to more patients and provided care to a growing number of patients who attended our Emergency Departments than in the previous 12 months.

In FY22, Epworth provided care to thousands of Victorians, including:

- > over 203,600 patient admissions, a 2% increase on the last financial year
- > more than 3,250 babies born in our hospitals (1% decrease)
- > 46,600 Emergency Department presentations (6% increase)
- > surgical procedures numbering more than 125,900 (3% increase)
- > attending to the needs of 4,490 children (8% increase).



From our Group Chief Executive

Epworth 2025

Following a period of consultation with Epworth staff, VMOs and our key stakeholders, the Epworth 2025 strategy was launched in 2022. Throughout its history, Epworth has always had an eye on the future and the strategy is a key document to ensure the organisation continues to thrive.

Our purpose and values have been revised and clear strategic priorities developed. These include optimising patient outcomes and their experience in our hospitals; ensuring a thriving and sustainable organisation; being a remarkable place to work; and continuing to progress digital solutions across Epworth. Our goal is to ensure Epworth can deliver another 100 years of quality, safe and compassionate care to our community across Victoria. Linked to the new strategy has been the development of a new Clinical Services Plan (CSP).





From our Group Chief Executive

Clinical Services Plan

The Epworth Clinical Services Plan (CSP) supports the delivery of the Epworth strategy and seeks to optimise how and where clinical services are delivered to ensure Epworth continues to meet the changing needs of our patients and communities. Epworth has identified six clinical Centres of Excellence – Cancer Services, Cardiac Care, Neurosciences, Orthopaedics, Surgery, and Women’s and Children’s. These are supported by our foundational clinical specialties – Critical Care, Medical Specialties, Rehabilitation and Clinical Support services. Supporting the CSP is the Epworth commitment to research, education and innovative models of care. This year Epworth has developed several new research centres of excellence.

The Jreissati Pancreatic Centre at Epworth is assisting patients across Victoria by linking treatment protocols with clinical research projects aiming to improve quality of life for patients while significantly improving survival rates. During the past 12 months, Epworth also launched the Julia Argyrou Endometriosis Centre aimed at developing new ways to treat this debilitating condition. The Epworth Clinical Services Plan will also help to inform our future workforce and property strategies.

Planning for the future

During the past 12 months, Epworth entered into a new commercial property deal with NorthWest Healthcare Properties involving Epworth Geelong and the Elim building at Epworth Richmond. Epworth has an existing relationship with NorthWest at several other Epworth sites and the new venture aligns with the Epworth 2025 strategy, in particular exploring the creation of health precincts and new models of care to benefit our community.

Thank you to Wendy Thorpe, Board President, and all members of the Epworth Board for your leadership to help guide us through a difficult 12 months. To the Epworth Group Executive and Hospital Executive teams, thanks for your ongoing commitment and support. This year, Epworth welcomed two new Executive Directors – Natasha Toohey, Chief Operating Officer, Hospitals, and James Quinn, Chief Information Officer. Tash and James add significant experience and expertise to the Epworth team and will play important roles in the delivery of Epworth 2025.

Finally, sincere thanks to our dedicated staff and doctors. I continue to be inspired by the amazing work that you do to care for our patients and their families, particularly during such challenging times. Better times are ahead, and your support of Epworth is greatly appreciated.

Dr Lachlan Henderson





Year at a glance

While the global pandemic continues to affect our activity levels, there was a return to usual care throughout 2021-22.

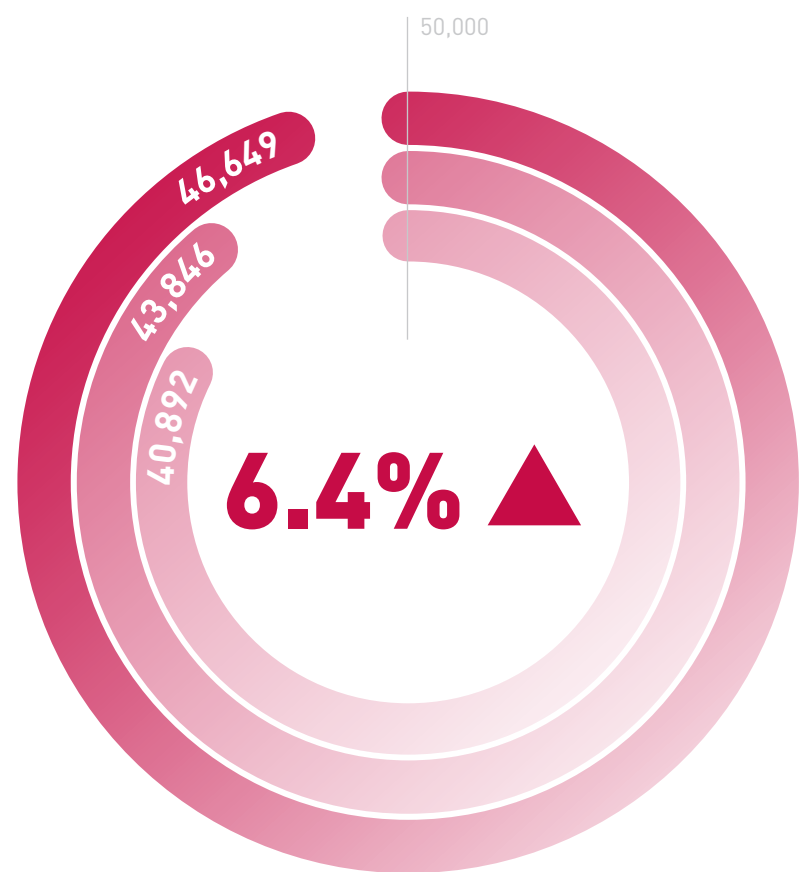




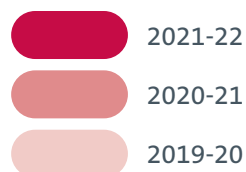
Year at a glance



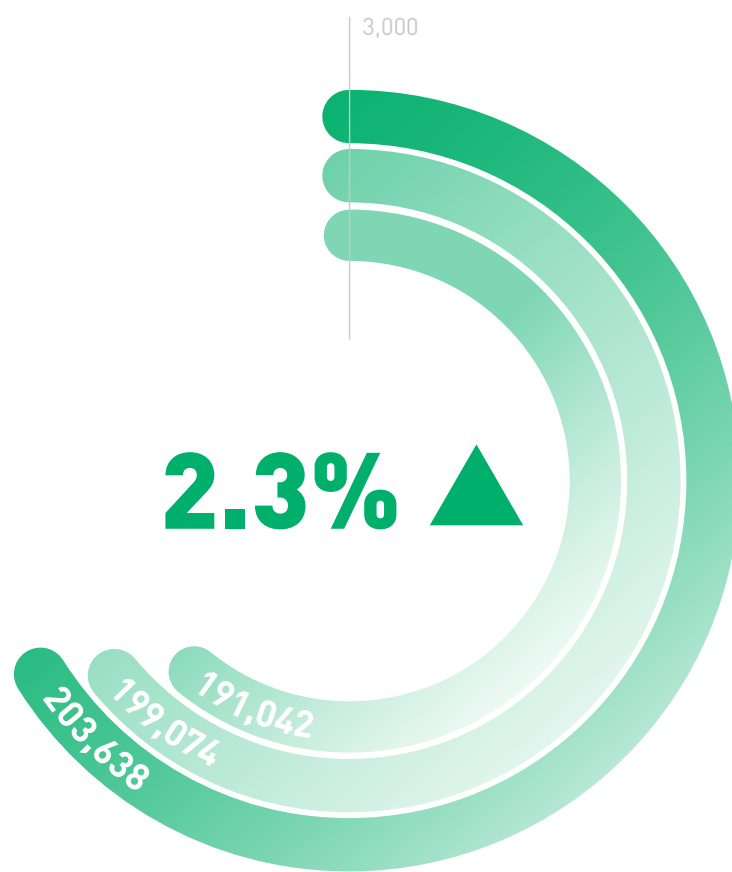
Emergency Department care (Epworth Richmond and Epworth Geelong)



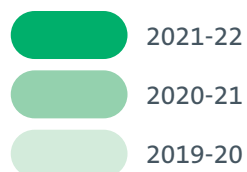
6.4% increase in Emergency presentations compared to last year.



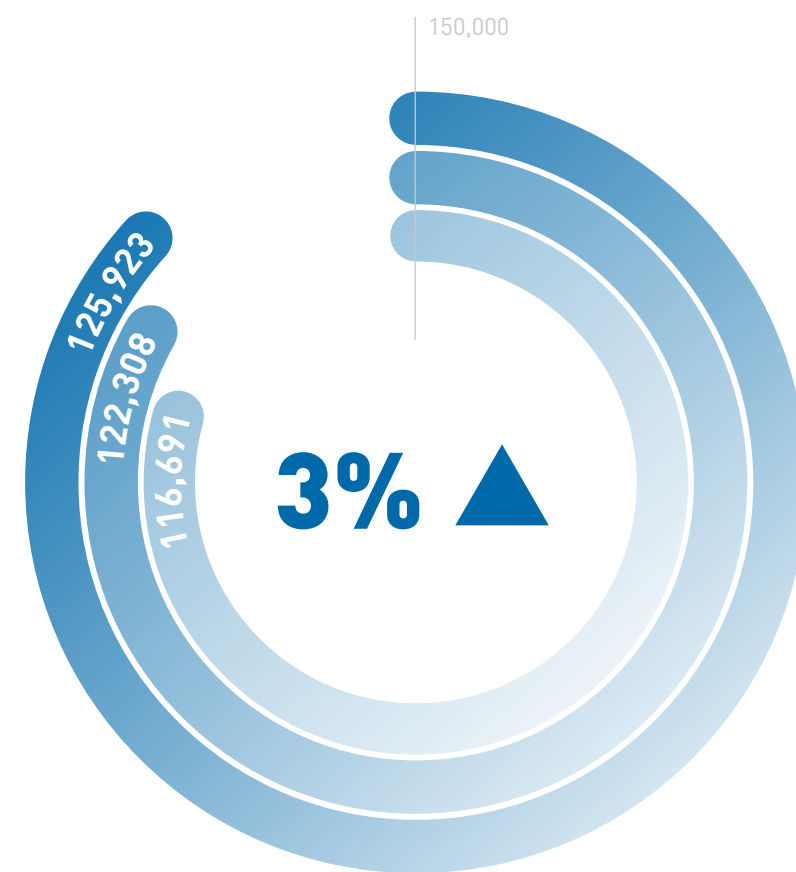
Patient admissions



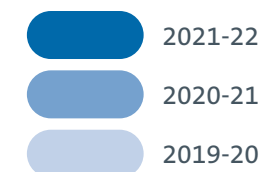
2.3% increase in patients admitted in the last year.



Surgical procedures undertaken



3% increase in procedures undertaken in the last year.

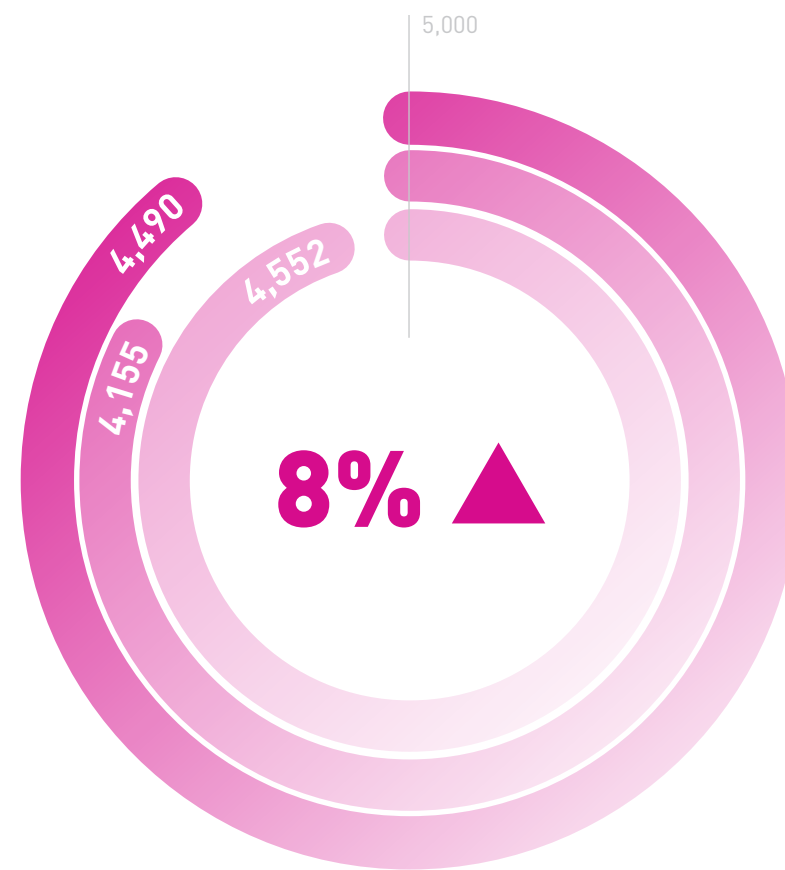




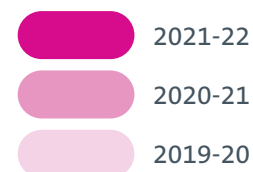
Year at a glance



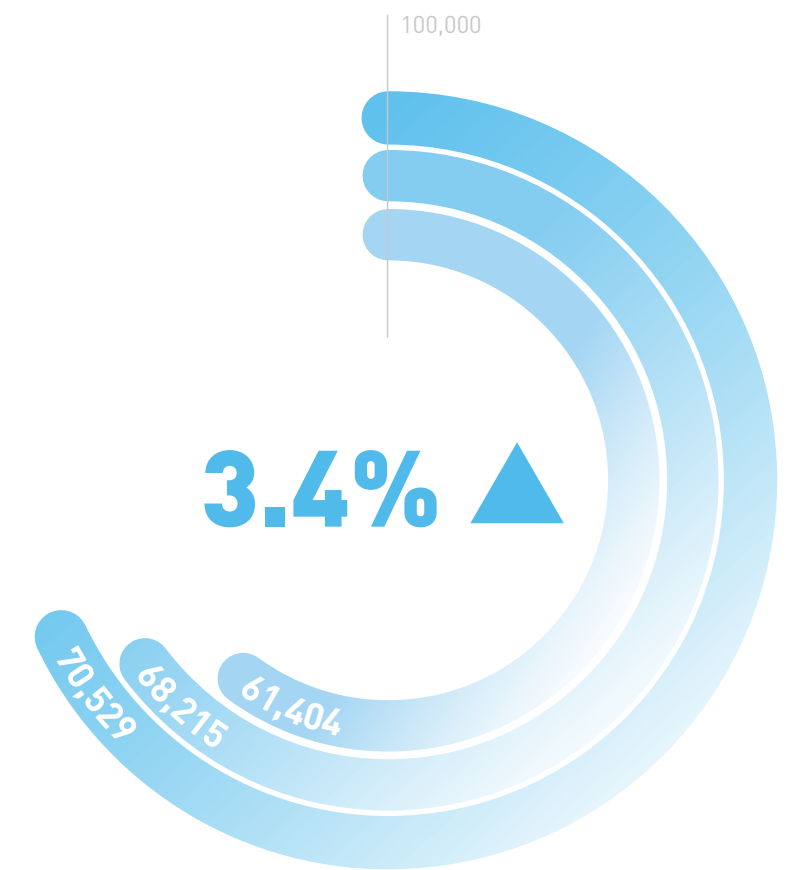
Children treated



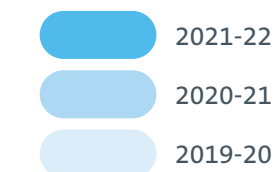
8% increase in number of children treated in the last year.



Same-day procedures



3.4% increase of same-day procedures in the last year.

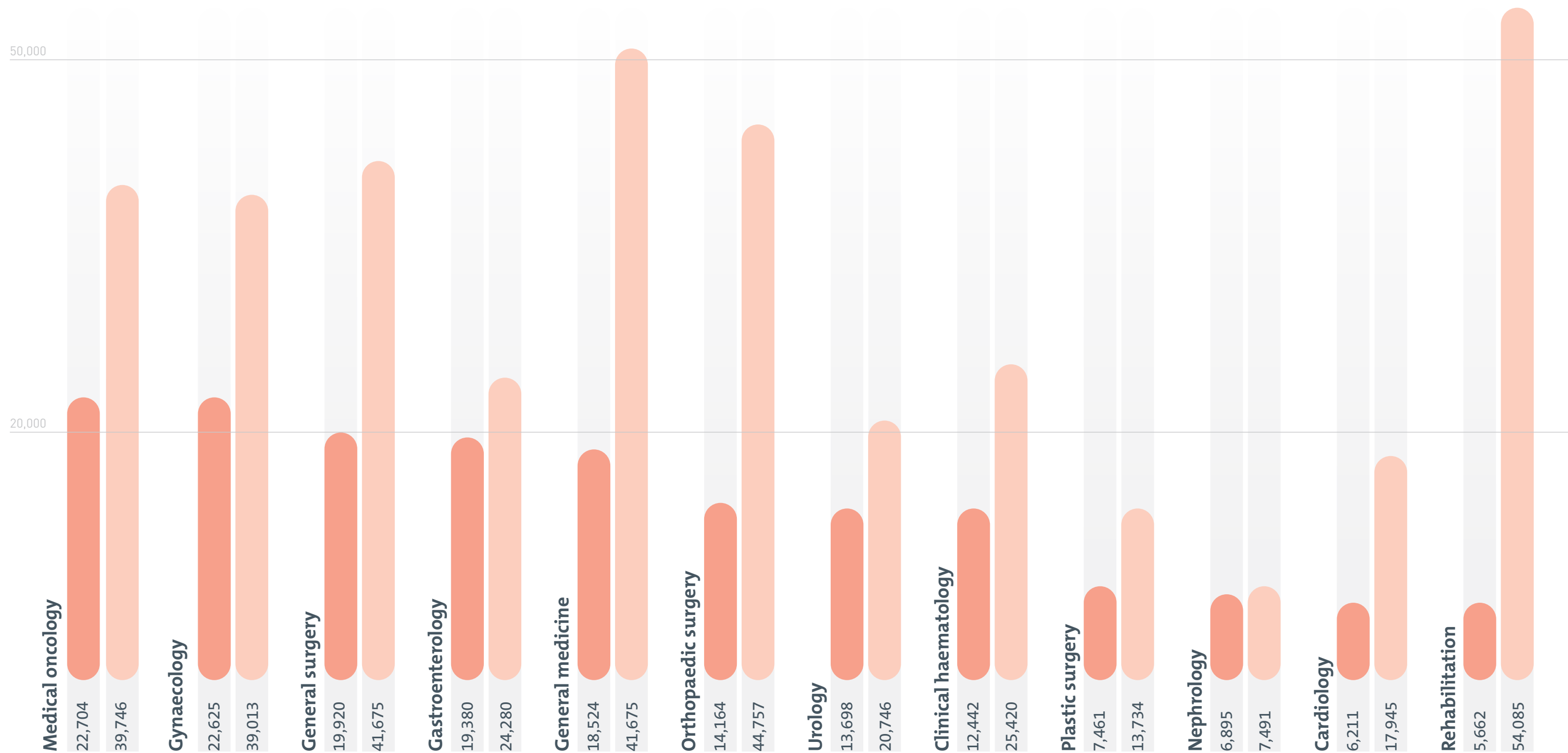




Year at a glance

Our top specialties in 2021-22 across all sites

Episodes of care Bed days



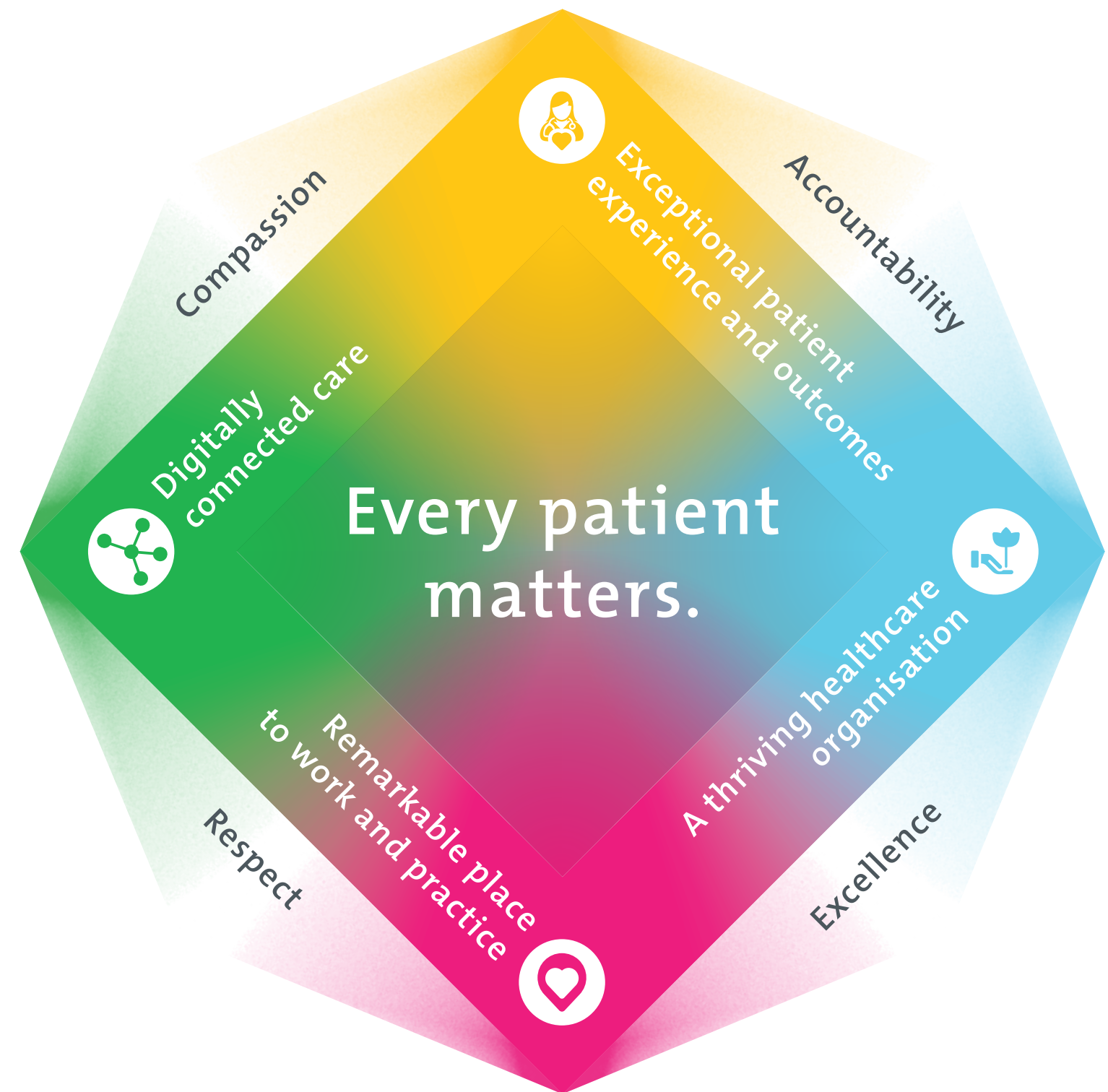


Our strategic plan

This year, Epworth launched its strategic plan, Epworth 2025, which focuses on delivering another 100 years of exceptional healthcare and innovation to the Victorian community.

The three-year plan was informed by widespread consultation with staff, doctors, consumers and external stakeholders. It considers projected market shifts in the private healthcare landscape that include:

- > changing consumer expectations
- > new models of care and same-day market growth
- > increasing competition for talent
- > rising out-of-pocket costs for patients
- > long-term impacts of climate change
- > increasing digitisation across the healthcare sector
- > ongoing impacts of the global pandemic.





Our strategic plan

Motivated by our purpose, “Every patient matters”, we will work with our staff, doctors and key strategic partners to deliver new and innovative care. Underpinning this ambition are four clear strategic priorities:



1. Exceptional patient experience and outcomes

We will empower our patients and deliver compassionate, expert and coordinated care.



2. A thriving healthcare organisation

We will adapt and grow in a changing healthcare landscape by delivering a unique private not-for-profit healthcare organisation.



3. Remarkable place to work and practice

We will ensure Epworth is an outstanding place to work and practice through a culture of care and investment in our people.



4. Digitally connected care

We will innovate and improve the digital experience, interactions and outcomes for our patients, staff and doctors.





Our strategic plan

Specific focus areas across the four priorities include:

Exceptional patient experience and outcomes

- > Meet the changing needs of our patients through the implementation of a new Clinical Services Plan
- > Continually improve clinical practice and deliver safe, effective and patient-centred care by sharing information, collaborating and learning from experiences
- > Invest in research and innovation to improve health outcomes
- > Embed consumer partnerships across the group.

A thriving healthcare organisation

- > Maintain our commitment and focus on environmental sustainability
- > Meet the future needs of our community through the design and implementation of health precincts and innovative models of care
- > Secure our financial position to invest in clinical and patient services and innovation
- > Collaborate with our doctors, health funds, government, research providers and other organisations to deliver the best outcomes for our patients.

Remarkable place to work and practice

- > Be a recognised leader in the wellbeing and safety of our staff
- > Support our people to grow their clinical, leadership, education and research skills to meet the needs of the Victorian community
- > Invest in the workforce of the future through implementation of our workforce strategy.

Digitally connected care

- > Implement a digital and integrated Epworth healthcare experience
- > Improve digital interactions for patients, doctors and staff and reduce paper-based communications
- > Deliver ongoing targeted investment in medical technologies.



Our strategic plan

In the six months since our strategy was launched, work has commenced across all priority areas. Key achievements include:

Strategic priority



1. Exceptional patient experience and outcomes



2. A thriving healthcare organisation



3. Remarkable place to work and practice



4. Digitally connected care

Achievement

- > 82% of patients surveyed agreed, overall, the quality of treatment and care they received at Epworth was favourable
- > Improved access to clinical patient outcome data through the launch of the clinical quality registries page on our website.
- > Nominated for the Waste Innovation and Recycling Award in the Outstanding Project: Metro category for our recycling organics and medical equipment trial
- > First stages of the new Epworth Eastern tower redevelopment opened.
- > Celebration of Thank You Day at Epworth to acknowledge the contribution of Epworth staff and doctors
- > After a new ruling by the Australian Tax Office, Epworth is now one of the few private hospitals in Australia approved to provide a higher salary-packaging benefit to staff.
- > Expansion of the Epworth Patient Portal to include paediatric and maternity patients. More than 60,000 patients provided their admission information through the portal in the first six months.



Patient experience

Feedback is an important way we ensure Epworth patients receive a positive experience and it also identifies ways we can improve.

We regularly survey our patients about their hospital stay, using the Australian Hospital Patient Experience Question Set. In the last financial year, 32,561 surveys were sent to our patients, with a 50% response rate. Of the 16,181 who replied:

- > **82%** agreed overall, the quality of treatment and care they received was favourable.

The Net Promoter Score, which indicates whether a patient would recommend Epworth to their friends and family, was **78, a strong and positive response.**



net promoter score is a strong response, indicating a patient would recommend Epworth to family and friends.



Our people



7,400
employees including:



4,221
nurses and midwives
(57% of our workforce)



713
allied health employees



338
directly employed doctors



2,700+
Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs)





Our volunteers

196 hospital volunteers:



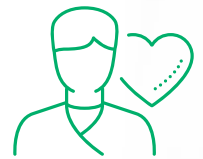
43

Epworth Richmond



36

Auxiliary volunteers



29

Epworth Geelong

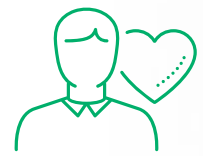
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Consumer advisors



28

Epworth Eastern



24

Epworth Freemasons



4

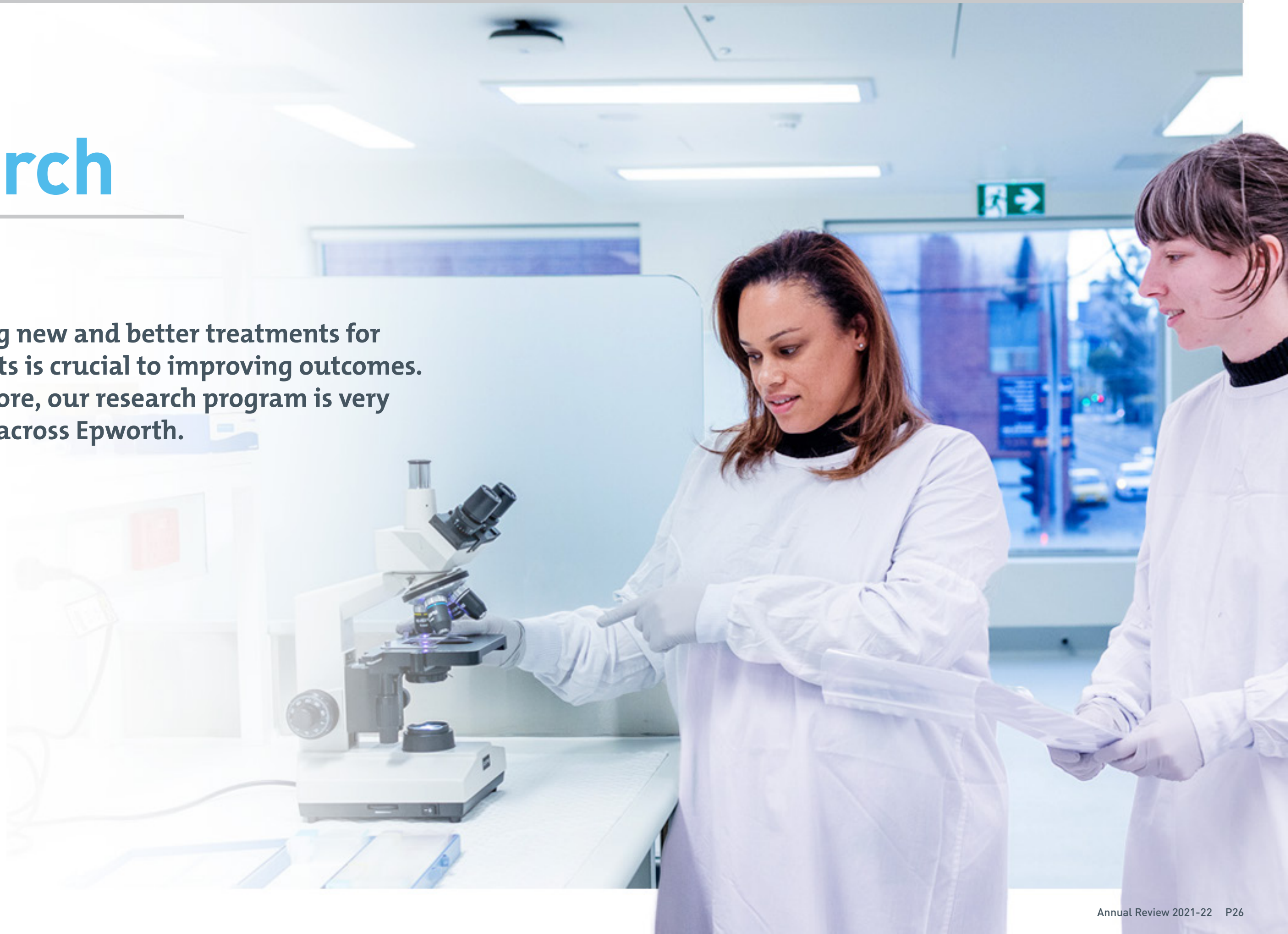
Epworth Rehabilitation





Research

Finding new and better treatments for patients is crucial to improving outcomes. Therefore, our research program is very active across Epworth.





Research



At 30 June 2022, Epworth had in progress.
327 research studies including:


 **181**
investigator-initiated
studies

 **50**
commercially-sponsored
studies

 **45**
collaborative group
studies

The studies at the Epworth Clinical Institutes focused
on a range of areas including:

 **cancer services (85)**

 **rehabilitation, mental health and
chronic pain (36)**

 **general surgery and
gastroenterology (34)**

 **critical care (22)**

 **uroRenal and
vascular (21)**

 **musculoskeletal (21)**

 **women's and
children's health (21)**

 **internal
medicine (17)**

 **cardiac
sciences (14)**



Two of our newly established centres of excellence have a strong focus on research.

Julia Argyrou Endometriosis Centre at Epworth (JAECE)

Since its official launch in May 2022, the Centre has engaged with multiple researchers to develop important research projects at Epworth. The focus of the JAECE is to support research that explores endometriosis aetiology, early diagnosis, novel treatments and improved understanding of connected effects.

JAECE is running five collaborative endometriosis research projects with 10 projects in active development.

Jreissati Pancreatic Centre at Epworth (JPCE)

In the 18 months since the Jreissati Pancreatic Centre at Epworth was established, it has 25 studies in progress, 19 in recruitment phase and six in development.

The five-year survival rates for pancreatic cancer are poor - less than 12%. The JPCE aims to lift those rates to the equivalent for the survival of breast cancer (over 90%).

Current studies at JPCE range from early detection to finding better treatments. The focus has been to build awareness of early symptoms as early detection of pancreatic cancer presents more options for patients.

JPCE was the first Australian private hospital centre to offer a pancreatic cancer treatment that uses a novel radiotherapy for people with advanced tumours that are considered inoperable. Radiation is injected into the tumour in a highly targeted dose, avoiding the usual side effects from traditional treatments. The aim is to reduce the size of the tumour to make surgery a viable option, thereby increasing survival time.



Our Board



Epworth Foundation is a body corporate established under the Epworth Foundation Act 1980 (Vic) that principally operates under the registered business name, Epworth HealthCare.

Our Board of Management consists of 11 members.



Our Board



Ms Wendy Thorpe, President

BA, BBus, Grad Dip Applied Finance & Investment, GAICD, FFin, Harvard AMP172

Appointed to the Epworth Board of Management in 2018, Ms Thorpe was elected President in November 2021. Ms Thorpe is Chair of Online Education Services, a non-Executive Director of Tower Ltd and People's Choice Credit Union and a member of Chief Executive Women. She previously served as a Director of Ausgrid, AMP Bank and Very Special Kids, and was a member of Council at Swinburne University. Ms Thorpe had an extensive executive career leading technology and operations within large, listed financial services companies. This includes senior executive roles at AXA (CIO and COO), ANZ (General Manager, Institutional Technology) and AMP (Group Executive, Operations).



Dr Alex Cockram, Deputy President

MBBS, MMed (Psych), FRANZCP, GAICD

A clinician and leader in mental health and acute healthcare, Dr Cockram served as a Commissioner to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. She has undertaken key roles as a strategic advisor to government and industry on mental health, alcohol and other drug services, and service system reform. Dr Cockram is also on the Boards of Central Adelaide Local Health Network, Silver Chain Group and New Footscray Hospital, Plenary Health and she was formerly Chief Executive of Western Health.



Mr James Flintoft

LLB, BSc, M.B.A (Wharton), FAICD

Appointed to the Epworth Board of Management in November 2021, Mr Flintoft is an experienced non-Executive Director with extensive private and public sector experience, including strategy consulting with McKinsey & Co; commercial banking with ANZ; and policy and service delivery with government (Department of Prime Ministers & Cabinet, Regional Development Victoria). Mr Flintoft is currently on the Boards of the Transport Accident Commission, Development Victoria, Foundation for Rural & Regional Australia Renewal, Social Traders and Foundation House.



Dr Michael Georgeff

BSc, BE, PhD (London University), DIC

Dr Georgeff has extensive experience in digital health care and artificial intelligence. He is Executive Chairman of Sicura Health Pty Ltd, Fellow of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, Fellow of the Australian Computer Society and member of the Australasian Institute of Digital Health. He is also a Club Melbourne ambassador and sits on the Executive Committee, International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence. He was formerly founder and CEO of Precedence Health Care Pty Ltd, and Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University.



Our Board



Associate Professor Nerina Harley

AM MBBS, MD, FRACP, FJFIM, FCICM, PGDipEcho, AFRACMA

Associate Professor Harley is the Chair of the Group Medical Advisory Council (GMAC) and the Specialist Accreditation Committee at Epworth. She is a Director of the Intensive Care Council and Epworth ICUs at Epworth Freemasons and Epworth Geelong and was awarded an Order of Australia (AM) in January 2018. A/Prof Harley works with the Department of Health as a member of the Patient Measurement and Reporting Committee and the Expert Working Group; Critical Care Clinical Network, Safer Care Victoria and internationally as a consultant with the World Health Organisation (WHO).



Dr Lachlan Henderson

MBBS, FRACGP, MHSM, GAICD, Cert Sports Med

Dr Henderson is the Group Chief Executive of Epworth HealthCare and a medical practitioner with more than 30 years' experience in the healthcare industry. He joined Epworth in February 2017 and was previously CEO at St John of God (SJoG) Subiaco Hospital. Dr Henderson is President of the Australian Private Hospitals Association (APHA) and was appointed Chair of the Board of Directors, Cricket Australia, in February 2022.



Dr Peter Lowthian

MB BS (Hons), FRACP, FAFRM, FRCP, FRACMA

Dr Lowthian is Censor in Chief of the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators and a Board Member of the Australasian Cardiac Surgery Research Institution Ltd. Dr Lowthian has extensive experience in clinical governance and patient safety, medical leadership and engagement, organisational leadership and culture, research governance and medical education. He previously served as Group Director Medical Services and Clinical Governance at Cabrini Health.



Ms Janet Matton

AM BBus, GAICD

Ms Matton has extensive experience in the IT industry and business management. She spent 34 years with IBM, including as vice president of operations, and 12 years in key roles in Southeast Asia, the United States, Japan, China and Europe. Ms Matton is Chair of the Australian Centre of the Moving Image (ACMI) and the Eastern Community Legal Centre. She is on the Board of pitt&sherry (engineers) and previously Better Care Victoria. She was named the 2010 Victorian Telstra Business Woman of the Year and was awarded an Order of Australia (AM) in January 2020. She is a member of Chief Executive Women.



Our Board



Ms Ingrid Player

BEd, LLB (Hons), GAICD

Ms Player was appointed to the Epworth Board of Management in November 2021 and is an experienced non-Executive Director. In addition to the Epworth Board, she serves on the Boards of ASX listed companies, Cleanaway Waste Management Ltd and Cogstate Ltd, as well as HealthShare Victoria. During her executive career as a lawyer, she held several senior roles with private healthcare provider Healthscope Ltd, including Group Executive, General Counsel and Company Secretary.



Ms Michelle Somerville

BBus (Accounting), FCA, FAICD, Master Applied Finance

Ms Somerville is an experienced non-Executive Director, bringing relevant finance, risk and governance experience to our Board, having worked in the financial services industry in her executive and non-executive roles. Previously, Ms Somerville was an audit partner with KPMG Australia for nearly 14 years, with a focus on the financial services industry in Australia and overseas.



Reverend Sue Withers

DipTeach, BTh, GradDipPsych Grad Dip Professional Psychology, GAICD

An ordained minister of the Uniting Church of Australia, Rev. Withers is completing her Masters in Professional Psychology at Monash University. Rev. Withers is a past Moderator (2003-2006) and has had management and pastoral leadership roles associated with the Synod (Victoria and Tasmania) in the Uniting Church of Australia. She was Senior Chaplain at Methodist Ladies College from 1997-2003 following a career in secondary teaching.



Our Executives

Epworth HealthCare is led by a Group Executive team of eight, who bring a wealth of experience and expertise to our organisation.



Dr Lachlan Henderson

Group Chief Executive, Epworth HealthCare

A medical practitioner, Lachlan has more than 30 years' experience in the healthcare industry and joined Epworth in February 2017. Lachlan's focuses are patient care, doctor and staff satisfaction and business outcomes in a changing healthcare landscape.



Mr Scott Bulger

Executive Director, Epworth Medical Foundation and Brand

With extensive senior leadership experience in development, advancement, marketing and media across the private and not-for-profit (NFP) sectors, Scott joined Epworth in 2012. Prior to Epworth, Scott was Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Development and External Relations, at Bond University.



Our Executives



Ms Bridgid Connors

Chief People Officer

Bridgid joined Epworth in March 2021, bringing extensive experience in leading large teams and broader corporate services teams in complex regulatory environments. Bridgid was formerly Chief Human Resources Officer at Monash University.

* Bridgid left the organisation in September 2022.



Mr Cameron Fuller

Executive Director Finance / Chief Financial Officer

Cameron has more than 30 years' experience in banking and finance. Before joining Epworth, he spent four years with National Australia Bank as Executive General Manager, Growth Sectors and Specialised Banking. He was previously General Manager of NAB Health. Cameron also serves as a non-Executive Director of Very Special Kids.



Adjunct Professor Kate Gillan

Executive Director, Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Officer

Kate has extensive experience in healthcare leadership in public, private and NFP sectors across all specialties, including acute, aged care, community and primary care. Prior to joining Epworth in May 2021, Kate was Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer at Barwon Health and is an Adjunct Professor at Deakin School of Nursing.



Associate Professor Dr Luis Prado

Chief Medical Officer and Executive Director Academic and Medical Services

Luis has more than 30 years' experience specialising in medical administration and general practice, with senior roles in the public and private healthcare sectors. His expertise is in clinical governance, ensuring that Epworth remains at the forefront of patient safety. Luis joined Epworth in 2016.



Our Executives



Mr James Quinn

Chief Information Officer

Appointed to the role in April 2022, James has more than three decades' experience in Information Technology. James brings extensive commercial experience to Epworth having worked across multiple industries including finance, consultancy, private equities and digital marketing. A technology and business transformation leader, James has a strong reputation for transitioning enterprises to future-state technologies aligned to business goals that achieve value for businesses and their customers.



Ms Natasha Toohey

Chief Operating Officer, Hospitals

Natasha joined Epworth in February 2022. She was formerly Executive Director of Operations at Western Health. In this role, her multi-site operational remit encompassed major capital, commercial and clinical projects, including commissioning the Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital, introduction of a multi-campus electronic medical record, redevelopment of the Sunshine Hospital Emergency Department and leadership of Western Health's pandemic response.



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