



**ST VINCENT'S  
PRIVATE HOSPITAL**  
MELBOURNE

A FACILITY OF ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA



Better and  
fairer care.  
**Always.**

**2025 Quality of Care**

A year in review

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### Statement of Acknowledgment

St Vincent's acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work. We respect historical and continuing spiritual connections to Country and community and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. As a health care provider, we commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

### Inclusivity

We celebrate, value and include people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies and abilities.

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Cover Image:  
Victoria Matulin, Nurse  
Unit Manager of Fitzroy  
Perioperative Services.  
Vic is a highly respected,  
long serving staff  
member and recent  
recipient of the Values  
in Practice (VIP) Award.

# CEO Message

**It is with great pleasure that I present the 2025 Quality of Care Report. It is a particularly special report for me as it will be my last as CEO of St Vincent's Private Hospitals Victoria. After 23 years, I have decided to retire and this incredibly hard decision was made even harder by the brilliant people I work with at our St Vincent's Private Hospitals.**

Every day, I'm continually inspired by the passion, dedication and excellence in our St Vincent's community. It's the kind of place you come to and don't want to leave. But it's this brilliance which gives me comfort in making this decision – I know I leave our private hospitals in the best hands to continue our legacy and maintain the patient focus for which we are known.

As I reflect on 2025, I want to recognise the remarkable dedication and teamwork that led to the successful completion of our new 12-storey tower in Fitzroy, a project that was many years in planning and development. In Werribee, we recently broke ground in readiness for development of a new radiation therapy centre with our partners Genesis Care. Construction is underway, and when the centre opens in mid-2026, it will be a key part of the most comprehensive oncology services in Melbourne's western region.

This year, all four of our hospitals have achieved outstanding patient experience results. Our Kew hospital in particular received recognition for its success in human connection as well as patient outcomes. This recognition is a wonderful reminder of the positive impact our staff are having on patients each and every day.

St Vincent's Private Victoria proudly launched its inaugural Access and Inclusion Plan in 2025. The plan sets out our ongoing commitment to fostering a more inclusive culture, one that ensures the representation and full participation of people with disabilities and everyone who faces barriers to access and equity.

This Quality of Care Report provides a window into some of our many accomplishments, and I hope you enjoy reading the stories that reflect our shared journey over the past year. On a personal note, I wish to thank every person who has enriched my time at St Vincent's. I am grateful for your support, friendship and camaraderie over many years and look forward to seeing St Vincent's continue to flourish.



**Janine Loader**  
Regional CEO  
St Vincent's Private Hospitals Victoria



# Who we are

St Vincent's has been a leader in Australia's health and aged care landscape for more than 165 years.

What started with five Sisters of Charity who arrived in the colony of New South Wales in 1838 – and opened the first hospital in 1857 – is now a unique not-for-profit social enterprise that operates two major inner-city health networks in Melbourne and Sydney, 10 private hospitals, 25 aged care facilities, and a range of virtual and home care options across three states.

St Vincent's comprises a team of over 30,000 people including employees, visiting medical officers (VMOs) and volunteers working from regional Queensland to Melbourne's western suburbs.

Each year across its service, St Vincent's has close to 3 million connections with patients and residents, including 1,300,000 outpatient appointments, 330,000 admissions, and 138,000 Emergency Department (ED) presentations.

Our integrated health innovation precincts in Sydney and Melbourne host globally-renowned medical institutes, all founded by St Vincent's.

The St Vincent's promise to its people, patients, residents, partners, and the broader community is to provide better and fairer care, always.



TRUSTEES OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES

ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA

## Our structure

10 PRIVATE HOSPITALS

2 MAJOR PUBLIC HOSPITAL NETWORKS

25 AGED CARE FACILITIES

6 CO-LOCATED RESEARCH INSTITUTES

### ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL MELBOURNE:

FOUR PRIVATE HOSPITALS AT

- EAST MELBOURNE
- FITZROY
- KEW
- WERRIBEE

Better and fairer care.

**Always.**

It's the bar we set ourselves to make sure we are always delivering the care Australians need.

## St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne

### Our major specialties



EAR, NOSE AND THROAT



HEART



MATERNITY



NEUROSCIENCES



ONCOLOGY



ORTHOPAEDICS



PAEDIATRICS



RECONSTRUCTIVE PLASTIC SURGERY

St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne (SVPHM) is a facility of the larger St Vincent's Health Australia group and operates as a not-for-profit, private, Catholic hospital which combines the highest quality healthcare with modern facilities and cutting-edge technology.

SVPHM is one of Melbourne's largest and busiest acute care hospital groups, with sites in Fitzroy, East Melbourne, Kew and Werribee.

Our proud history of leadership in compassionate care, healing and serving people with special needs forms the foundation of the reputation we continue to build across our four sites.

### In 2025 we had...



**66,717**  
ADMISSIONS



**37,215**  
DAY ONLY  
ADMISSIONS



**47,165**  
OPERATIONS



**2,157**  
BIRTHS



**607**  
BEDS



**2,159**  
STAFF



**70**  
VOLUNTEERS



**17** CONSUMER  
REPRESENTATIVES

The Sisters founded the hospitals to serve the sick and disadvantaged in Melbourne. Their vision was to create the most well-equipped hospitals in Australia and promote the Healing Ministry of Jesus. This mission remains at the heart of all we do.



## Blessing the new Fitzroy tower

**2025 was a big year for St Vincent's Private Fitzroy with completion of the 12 storey, state-of-the-art East Tower. The official blessing in October acknowledged the hospital's vision for the future of St Vincent's.**

At the Blessing, we were honoured to be joined by Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Colin Hunter Jnr, who performed a Welcome to Country, and the Most Reverend Archbishop Comensoli, who led the Official Blessing. Dignitaries and speakers included Sister Laureen Dixon rsc (Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity), St Vincent's Chairman Paul O'Sullivan, St Vincent's Health Australia CEO Chris Blake, Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries Richard Haddock and CEO Private Hospitals Richard Ryan.

"The successful completion of this redevelopment is a true testament to the extraordinary team effort" said Victoria Private's CEO Janine Loader. "Managing this complex, phased transition while the hospital remained fully operational is truly an amazing achievement. To every single person involved over the years, from nurses, midwives, doctors, allied health professionals, clinicians, to front and back of house staff and consumer representatives, your unwavering commitment is the real success story of this entire project. The celebration of the hospital redevelopment is a testament to what we can achieve when we unite vision, compassion, and commitment."



Our success caught the attention of the media, with Channel 9 News attending the official opening and featuring a story with Chris Blake on our hospital on the evening news.

WATCH NOW



## St Vincent's Private Radiology

St Vincent's Private Radiology has a new facility in the new Fitzroy east wing. Located on the Ground Floor of the East Tower, this thoughtfully designed hub aims to enhance patient comfort and convenience.

It offers state-of-the-art CT, ultrasound, and general X-ray services tailored to meet inpatient needs, providing easier access to essential imaging within the hospital. The new location will also serve outpatient imaging requirements. Established services in Nuclear Medicine, MRI, and PET will continue uninterrupted at the Public Hospital site, ensuring seamless care for patients.



## Celebrating robotic milestones

This year St Vincent's Private East Melbourne celebrated 2,500 Stryker MAKO robotic hip and knee surgeries which included 1,000 total knee arthroplasties. At St Vincent's Private Kew, 500 ROSA robotic knee replacement surgeries were undertaken.

## State-of-the-art operating theatres

New theatres with advanced technology were handed over in the latter part of the year, the final chapter in our major Fitzroy redevelopment project. St Vincent's Private Fitzroy now has a total of 12 theatres including two shells for future expansion needs.

These theatres have been designed to accommodate the latest in advanced surgical technology, including robotic-assisted procedures and navigational and screening procedures, ensuring our teams can continue to deliver world-class care to patients in a modern, purpose-built environment.



## Day Infusion Centre

**Our Day Infusion Service at Fitzroy proudly boasts a new home, providing next level care and comfort for patients.**

Patient feedback was key in designing a new space for patients requiring chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and other targeted therapies. The key considerations were privacy and a space to comfortably accommodate partners/support persons.

We are proud to have delivered a new space that meets these needs and now caters for the enormous growth we have had in the day infusion service.



## Service expansion in the west

This year St Vincent's Private Werribee opened a new Day Infusion Centre. The new, larger unit has been designed to create a calming, purpose-built environment for patients receiving regular treatments such as cancer care. Werribee also opened a brand new operating theatre to continue the expansion of our health services in the west.



## Special Care Nursery and maternity hub

A truly special environment, our new Special Care Nursery, opened in October after much anticipation. The purpose-built unit completes our maternity hub and will support our tiniest patients and their families.

We welcomed 2,157 new babies into the world this year including one eager baby, Tahlia, pictured with parents Lidiana and David Dellai. Tahlia was born in the front seat of the family car on Melbourne's Citylink en route to us. Supported by midwife Amy over the phone, the emergency roadside birth occurred safely, with the family arriving at the hospital shortly afterwards.



## Breaking ground for radiation services at Werribee

**In November, we celebrated the ground-breaking of our new radiation therapy centre with our partners Genesis Care.**

Construction is underway, and when the centre opens in mid-2026 at St Vincent's Private Hospital Werribee, it will be a key part of the most comprehensive oncology services in Melbourne's western region.

By combining Genesis Care's high-quality, evidence-based radiation treatments with Werribee's established surgery and medical oncology services, patients in Melbourne's west will have access to more cancer care options closer to home.





## Our mission

We express God's love through the healing ministry of Jesus. We are especially committed to people who are poor or vulnerable.

## Our vision

Every person, whoever and wherever they are, is served with excellent and compassionate care, by a better and fairer health and aged care system.

## Our values



### Compassion

Our care is an act of love. We are present and accompany people when they are most in need.



### Justice

Our pursuit of what is right and just, empowers us to speak and act with courage on behalf of those in need.



### Integrity

Our actions and decisions are transparent and aligned with our values.



### Excellence

Our services are safe and evidence-based, and we continually seek to improve in everything we do.

# Living the Mission

## A legacy of care: Christine's story

**For Dr Christine Sammartino, medicine wasn't the obvious path, but St Vincent's was always part of the story. Though she initially enrolled in law, the quiet pull of her father's legacy as a GP obstetrician at St Vincent's Private in Fitzroy eventually led her to a career in healthcare.**

Dr Vincent Sammartino, a first-generation Italian and one of the few Italians in the St Vincent's medical school at the time, was known for his calm presence. He worked alongside the Sisters for decades, building a reputation for compassion and a willingness to go the extra mile for patients.

Christine remembers visiting the hospital as a child, where her father would introduce her to colleagues who felt more like extended family. "Growing up, I was surrounded by stories of St Vincent's," she recalls. "The babies he delivered, the Sisters he worked with, it was all deeply human, and purpose driven. That stayed with me."

### A full circle moment

In a remarkable twist of fate, Christine was born at St Vincent's Private, delivered by her own father when the on-call obstetrician didn't arrive in time. "Life has come full circle," she reflects.

Today, she works across both the public and private campuses in Melbourne and teaches at the St Vincent's Clinical School, mentoring the next generation of doctors.

Her experience across both settings has shaped a balanced approach to care. "Private practice keeps me sharp and efficient. Public practice keeps me grounded," she says. "Regardless of the setting, the values of compassion, excellence, and listening, always stay the same."

Continuing her father's legacy at St Vincent's is a source of pride. "I kept my maiden name to honour him," Christine shares.

"Walking through the hospital, I often imagine what it was like during his time. The medicine may have changed, but the Mission hasn't."



# Living the Mission

Our wonderful staff live and breathe the Mission. Throughout the year they give generously, helping those in need through various appeals and donation drives.



### Cycling for Ukraine:

Chloe Mirams, Kate McClymont, Naomi Grigoletti and David Iser (some of our 6th Floor Fitzroy team) took part in Ride Around the Bay, cycling to raise funds in support of USF Australia - our very own Natalia Pastushenko's charity.

Their efforts contribute to the annual Christmas Gift Appeal for orphaned and seriously ill children in Ukraine.

## Global community service

### Bringing smiles and support to children in Nepal:

Sarada Gurung, our Associate Nurse Manager of the Continuum of Care service, has a family connection to the Nepalese town of Kathmandu and travels there twice a year. Each time she returns, she visits the local orphanage to spend time with the children.

"Several of my St Vincent's colleagues know about my visits and give me financial gifts to pass on to the orphanage.

On a recent visit, I asked how I could help and for a comparatively small amount, we were able to provide uniforms for all 12 children," explains Sarada.

"I enjoyed spending time with the children and, always the nurse, used the opportunity to talk to them about good hand hygiene."



### To Fiji with love:

In September, two of our East Melbourne nurses - Pip and Frances - travelled to Vanuatu to present a nurse education program on behalf of Interplast Australia. "We spent four very valuable days at the National Hospital in Port Vila, teaching and running workshops, whilst also learning from the local staff as we assisted on the ward."



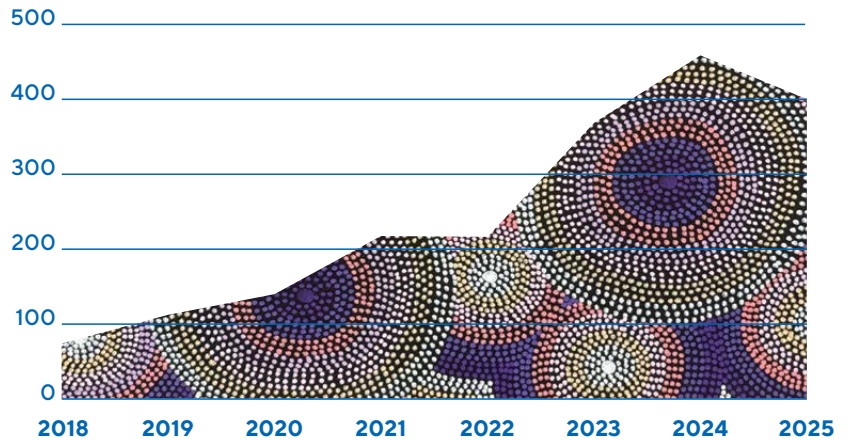
With multiple trips to various destinations, they both agree that volunteering with Interplast is an enriching and rewarding experience. "It is a privilege to be able to meet some wonderful nurses and share knowledge and skills. We'd like to acknowledge and thank our respective managers and wider SVPHM community, for all their support over the years".

## Closing the gap on First Nations healthcare

### Accessing cultural support

Patient centred cultural support for our First Nations patients is offered prior to and during admission as required. Twenty (20) First Nations patients reached out for extra support this year and this was provided in a variety of ways to meet the specific needs of each patient.

Overwhelmingly, the feedback from patients was extremely positive with comments such as: feeling welcomed, supported, appreciative of and very happy with the care.



NUMBER OF FIRST NATIONS PATIENTS ADMITTED 2018 - 2025

### Celebrating National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day

Held annually on 4 August, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day is a dedicated day to celebrate Indigenous children. This year’s theme, “Little Footsteps, Big Future,” celebrated the strength, resilience and cultural journey of First Nations children. The theme highlighted the importance of guiding children with culture, community and connection to Country.

To mark this special day, we gave a meaningful gift to every child born at our Fitzroy hospital. Each new baby in the Delivery Suite on 4 August received a copy of the beautiful children’s book, “Welcome to Country,” by Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin. The books were prepared with a lovely insert from the hospital, making this an even more personal and memorable gift for these new arrivals.

This special day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and learn about the impact that culture, family and community play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.



# Living the Mission

## Reconciliation Week art exhibition

During Reconciliation Week, St Vincent's Private East Melbourne hosted an art exhibition for First Nations artist Anjee-Lee Bamblett where she talked about her work, her story and her life. Anjee-Lee's people are the Morengo-Ngarigo (East Gippsland) and Gooreng Gooreng (Queensland). One of her beautiful pieces is featured in Breast Screen Victoria at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne.



## Stretch RAP

St Vincent's Health has proudly launched its third **Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (2025 -28)**, a bold and necessary step forward on our reconciliation journey.

Reconciliation benefits all Australians. We are stronger together and privileged to learn, grow and serve through our relationships with one another. This new RAP builds on more than 15 years of sustained commitment to justice, truth-telling and culturally safe care. It reflects what we've achieved, what we've learned, and most importantly, what still needs to change.

Developed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, staff and communities, this plan is firmly embedded in our organisational strategy. St Vincent's aims to implement evidence-based, practical actions to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These actions prioritise equitable access to high quality, culturally safe health care services and strategic opportunities (e.g. employment, procurement) that in turn impact individuals and communities beyond the walls of our facilities.

DOWNLOAD  
A COPY OF  
THE PLAN



## Rest in peace Sister Josephine

**It was with sadness that we shared the news in November of the passing of Sister Josephine (1918–2025), one of the Sisters of Charity. Her extraordinary life, spanning 107 years, was defined by her deep dedication to faith, education and service.**

Born in 1918 in Tasmania, Sister Josephine was a committed member of the Sisters of Charity since 1934. She spent many years as a respected school teacher, inspiring students at schools like St Joseph’s Primary School in Collingwood and St Columba’s College in Essendon. Her commitment to her students was detailed in her book, *A Seed that Grew: The Story of St Columba’s*. She also authored *To the Beckoning Shores: Urged on by the Love of Christ*, which recounts the historic journey of the three Sisters to Tasmania in 1847.



Rest in peace, Sister Josephine. Thank you for your ministry of love and for the many lives you touched.



## Marg’s volunteering milestone

In June this year, we celebrated Marg Urquhart for her incredible 20 years of dedicated volunteer service at St Vincent’s Private Hospital East Melbourne. Since she started, Marg has been an invaluable part of the team, volunteering every Monday on the fourth floor. She assists with essential tasks from filing and compiling documents to making patient deliveries. Her colleagues describe her as a joy to work with.

Marg’s commitment was inspired by a personal connection to the hospital. Her mother, Arline Joan Urquhart (née Shankelton – who passed away in 2006),

worked at Mater Hospital in Sydney and travelled by train to attend the opening of the newest Mercy Hospital in 1934 – what we now know as our very own St Vincent’s Private Hospital East Melbourne. Arline even captured a sepia photo of the hospital with her box Brownie camera in 1936. Twenty years ago, after retiring from teaching, Marg saw a request for volunteers in her local parish bulletin at St John’s Heidelberg and, remembering her mother’s story, reached out to Sister Kate Keady to get involved. She was interviewed in the hospital foyer and began volunteering the very next Monday.

A heartfelt thank you to Marg for her unwavering hard work, dedication, generosity and care over the past 20 years. We are also incredibly grateful for her kindness in sharing her mother’s beautiful memories with us. Marg truly embodies the mission of St Vincent’s.

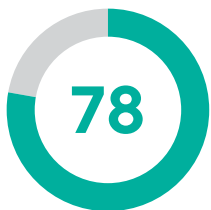
Above, from left: Mercy Hospital 1934; Marg receiving her milestone award.

# Providing safe care

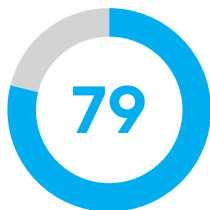
At St Vincent’s Private Hospital Melbourne we want every person to feel welcome, valued and safe in our care. We seek ongoing feedback from patients about their experience and use this feedback to improve our service.

## Patient feedback

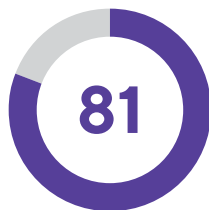
Patients are asked if they would recommend the hospital to friends or family. The 2025 scores below are the percentage of people who said they would ‘probably or definitely’ recommend our hospitals.



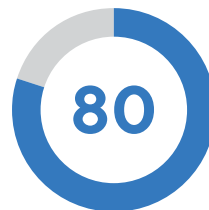
St Vincent’s Private EAST MELBOURNE



St Vincent’s Private FITZROY



St Vincent’s Private KEW



St Vincent’s Private WERRIBEE

## SNAP assessors confirm quality and safe care

### What is SNAP accreditation?

SNAP accreditation refers to Short Notice Accreditation Program for Australia’s National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards. Since July 2023, this mandatory system sees healthcare organisations receive only 24-48 hours’ notice before assessors arrive to check ongoing compliance with safety and quality measures, ensuring it reflects real time daily practices rather than just preparation for an audit.

In reporting the achievement to staff, CEO Janine Loader said “This achievement is a testament to the incredible work you all do every day. You truly showcased the high standards of quality care and compassion that make our hospital special.”

The assessors commented on how welcoming and responsive staff were and congratulated the team on the culture and openness to engage with them.

“Thank you once again for your unwavering dedication, not just during this assessment, but every single day.”

After a week hosting the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS) assessors across our four hospitals in late April, St Vincent’s was delighted to be informed that we had successfully completed our Short Notice Assessment Program (SNAP) accreditation.





medibank  
*Live Better*

## Rated No. 1 hospital for five consecutive years

St Vincent's Private Hospitals were rated **Number 1** by Medibank members for both overnight and same day procedures for the **fifth year in a row** as part of the health insurers annual patient experience survey.

The results reflect the exceptional dedication and care of our private hospital teams – from our doctors and specialists to our nursing and allied health staff, through to food, environmental and administrative services.

**This is an outstanding achievement for which we are immensely proud.**

We closely monitor our performance on a wide variety of safety indicators and these help us to focus our improvement efforts. Listed below are some of the key safety performance results for the period July 2024 to June 2025 as a percentage of patients discharged from our hospitals.



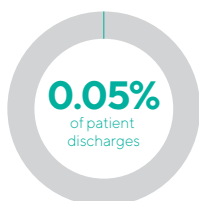
### Infections in hospital

When people are unwell they can be more likely to get an infection. Hospitals have a range of procedures to reduce the chance of this happening. We also monitor any cases of rare but serious infections like Staphylococcus Aureus Bacteraemia (also known as 'golden staph').

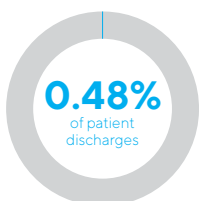


### Falls with harm

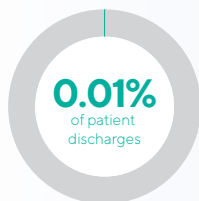
Hospitals are unfamiliar places and patients may be weak, dizzy, or less steady than they expect. A fall in hospital can delay a patient's recovery. In older people, it can contribute to a loss of independence. We use a range of strategies and tools to reduce the risk.



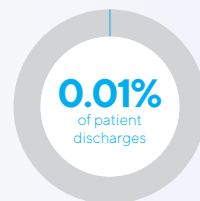
ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE EAST MELBOURNE



ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE FITZROY



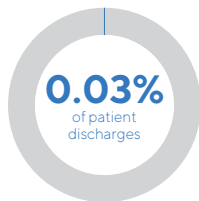
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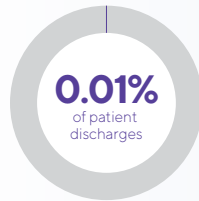
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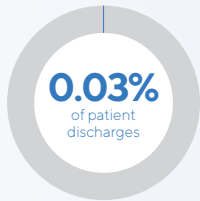
ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE KEW



ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE WERRIBEE



ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE KEW



ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE WERRIBEE



### Medication-related deaths

Medicines are the most common healthcare treatment. Used correctly, they are an effective and important part of care. However, medication errors can cause harm and, in rare cases, death. We report and investigate these cases to help prevent future errors.

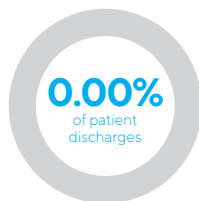


### Pressure injuries (Stages 3-4)

Anyone who needs to be in a bed or chair for a long time is at risk of developing a pressure injury, often referred to as 'bedsores'. They are most common on bony parts of the body like the hip, tail bone, or heel. Hospitals use a range of approaches to prevent and treat pressure injuries.



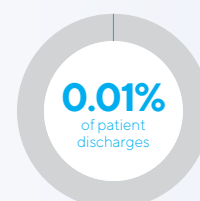
St Vincent's Private EAST MELBOURNE



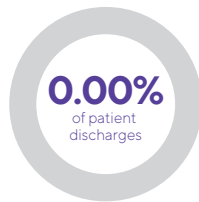
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ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE EAST MELBOURNE



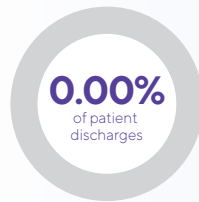
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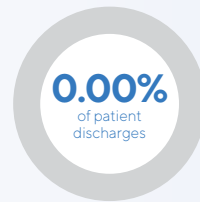
St Vincent's Private KEW



ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE WERRIBEE



ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE KEW



ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE WERRIBEE



# Kew's patient experience hits record high

**The team at Kew has set a new standard in delivering truly outstanding patient experience results. Looking at the benchmark, which includes world-class facilities like the Cleveland and Mayo Clinics, Kew's performance is nothing short of outstanding.**

St Vincent's Health Australia uses experience consulting firm, Insync, to manage ongoing patient experience surveying. Survey results are benchmarked by Insync against hundreds of hospitals internationally. While highlighting where we are doing well, they also enable us to focus our improvement efforts. "And that is what has happened here" reports our Kew General Manager/Director of Clinical Services, Carolyn Moore. "This high achievement didn't happen overnight; Kew has demonstrated a consistent and steady uplift in patient experience responses over recent survey periods. By embracing and acting on feedback, from both patients and staff, Kew has achieved these remarkable results across patient experience metrics while sustaining a positive, supportive workplace for our people."

Six sections ranked in the top 10% of the benchmark, and, remarkably, every single area had a result in the top 25% or higher.

What makes this even more meaningful are the specific areas showing the most significant improvement. The teams successfully tackled two critical patient comfort metrics: "How often was the area around your room quiet at night" and "How often did you get help as soon as you wanted it." This demonstrates focused, purposeful work translating directly into a better experience for our patients.

"Our success is not just measured in patient outcomes, but in the strength of human connection. We have worked hard to embed a culture where curiosity, compassion, and collaboration drive continuous improvement."

[LEARN MORE](#) about how St Vincent's Private Hospital Kew build better care through connection



Hear from our high performing team:

<p><i>We are a diverse team, and we support each other. Patients see the unity and it gives them confidence.</i></p> <p>–Jesmin Singh, Nurse</p>	<p><i>The gratitude from patients keeps us going. We know it's worth it for the care we provide.</i></p> <p>–Melissa Bordignon, Nurse</p>	<p><i>Carolyn embodies the St Vincent's values. She makes the effort to connect with staff every day and that makes all the difference.</i></p> <p>–Marg, ANUM Day Surgery</p>
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# My heart was hiding a secret

## Sarah Kerr, Consumer Representative

**Sarah Kerr's heart was hiding a secret that almost cut her life short when she went into cardiac arrest in the middle of the night. Sarah survived, thanks to the quick actions of her partner and emergency services, the vital care she received at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and a ground-breaking implant of a defibrillator at St Vincent's Private Hospital Fitzroy. Sarah was among the first in Australia to receive a minimally invasive implantable defibrillator, led by Associate Professor Uwais Mohamed.**

**Today Sarah is slowly rebuilding her life with the help of her family and friends. Here she shares her story.**

"I didn't even know I had a heart condition. I was 49. I was fit. I ate well. I went to the gym. I walked every day. I thought I was doing all the right things.

One moment I was at home in Thornbury, dropping my laptop bag on the couch like any normal evening. The next thing I knew, I was waking up in a hospital bed at St Vincent's, completely confused. Two days had passed, and I had no memory of what happened. My partner filled in the blanks for me... I'd gone into cardiac arrest in the middle of the night. My heart had just stopped. No warning. No symptoms. Nothing.

My partner woke up around 1:30am to strange noises I was making. He thought I was having a nightmare and tried to wake me, but I didn't respond.

He tried again. No response. When he turned on the light, he saw I'd turned a frightening shade of grey. Panic set in. He called 000 and started CPR, guided by the operator. Thankfully, his first aid training kicked in. It saved my life. The fire brigade arrived first with a defibrillator and shocked my heart back into beating.

My teenage son slept through most of this, and my 12-year-old was thankfully at a friend's house that night. I don't even want to imagine what it would've been like for them to see their mum go through all that.

The paramedics decided to take me to St Vincent's Hospital because of their expertise in cardiology. It's a decision I'll forever be grateful for. After two days in the Intensive Care Unit, I was moved to the Cardiology ward, still struggling with memory and confusion. The tests revealed an electrical fault in my heart.

My cardiologist, Dr Maria Brosnan, explained everything to me gently and clearly. I was so grateful to have a female cardiologist, and Maria was amazing. Even after I left the hospital, she called a few times to check in. I know that's not unusual, but it meant a lot.

Before I could go home, I had a defibrillator implanted at St Vincent's Private Hospital, Fitzroy. I was among the first patients in Australia to receive this new Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator device, which is less invasive than the traditional models. Associate Professor Uwais Mohamed, who specialises in this procedure, was part of the surgical team. I was in great hands.

**The care I received at St Vincent's was extraordinary. The nurses worked like a finely tuned team, and every person I encountered treated me with such kindness and professionalism.**

It's now been almost a year since that night, and I'm slowly rebuilding my life. Returning to work was harder than I expected. My memory, especially short-term, was unreliable, and even basic tasks could be mentally draining. I was honest with my colleagues – if I asked the same question twice, it wasn't because I wasn't listening. It was because I was healing.

There are still moments where I lose my words or get confused, but I've learned to go easier on myself. I see everything from a new perspective. I don't sweat the small stuff anymore. I was recently cleared to drive again, and I'm enjoying simple pleasures like going to the cinema, getting my nails done, spending time with people I love. Life feels precious in a way I never fully understood before. Getting to this point took a whole community... My family, my friends, and the incredible team of cardiologists and nurses at St Vincent's. I'm so grateful."



Sarah shared her powerful story with the St Vincent’s Board earlier this year. “This is something the Board does on a regular basis” explained Rosie Lee, Exceptional Experience Manager. “It’s one thing to review performance statistics and but hearing a patient’s story directly from them is a reminder of the human being behind each statistic. It provides an emotional connection and reinforces our mission to provide better and fairer care, always.”

“Sarah’s generosity did not end at sharing her story with the Board”, continues Rosie, “she also accepted our invitation to join the Clinical Governance Committee as a Consumer Representative. Further, she was the patient face of the 2025 Annual Tax Appeal which contributed to the purchase of Holter monitors, which detect heart rhythm issues, Transoesophageal Echo Probes for clearer imaging of the heart, portable ultrasound machines for quick heart assessments and training for our cardiology nurses at St Vincent’s.”

## Your gift is tangible

I hope my story encourages you to help the St Vincent’s Foundation Victoria to build a healthier tomorrow.

As a not-for-profit hospital, philanthropy and community support enable St Vincent’s to invest in state-of-the-art facilities, and innovative medical technologies, ensuring exceptional patient care.

Your generosity is part of the reason someone like me wakes up, heals and goes home. Your gift funds diagnostic equipment and devices such as those that detect hidden heart faults and abnormalities. It can also contribute to specialist training for staff - literally the hands that support life.

I hope you never need to see the inside of a hospital ward, but for those who do, knowing so many people chose to help fills me with gratitude and hope.

Heartfelt thanks for your generosity.

Sarah

PLEASE CONSIDER  
SUPPORTING US



ST VINCENT'S  
FOUNDATION  
VICTORIA

# Better access. More inclusion.

**St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne proudly launched its inaugural Access and Inclusion Plan in 2025.**

The plan sets out our ongoing commitment to fostering a more inclusive culture, one that ensures the representation and full participation of people with disabilities and everyone who faces barriers to access and equity. It details the actions we must take to improve accessibility in both our built environment and communications, while prioritising quality, safe, and patient-centred care for all.

This plan brings together our current initiatives and future goals across three key priority areas. It outlines targeted strategies to guide our efforts, along with clear performance indicators to track our progress and success.

I encourage you to take a moment to review the *Access and Inclusion Plan* and join us in advancing these vital goals.

This plan establishes a comprehensive framework to guide all improvement initiatives related to people with disability and others who experience barriers to access and inclusion.

Further, a new Access and Advisory Committee brings together key staff and people with lived experience to oversee the objectives of the plan.



## Dirty laundry

This year St Vincent's Private Hospital Fitzroy established a process to address patients' dirty laundry. "The issue is not huge and mostly effects longer staying country patients with limited family support but it was a need nevertheless" explains Diana Smith, Consumer Engagement Consultant.

"Occasionally a patient would ask if we had a laundry service. They were politely told we didn't but no real solution was offered. This year the Consumer Participation Committee decided to see what could be done. After investigating various options, we finally landed on a process that guides patients to a mobile laundry provider."

"Ward staff give the patient a flyer with the service and contact details along with a bag to pack their dirty laundry in. The patient contacts the provider directly to arrange pick up, payment and collection. The provider has generously decreased the minimum spend and feedback from staff, patients and the laundry service has all been very positive."



[VIEW THE 2025-2027 ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN](#)



## Neuro-affirming care for Laszlo

**When Gemma Callaghan booked her son Laszlo in for admission in September this year, she proactively contacted our Patient Liaison Manager in the hope that his special needs could be accommodated.**

Gemma highlighted that Laszlo, a child with autism, can become physically aggressive when distressed, noncompliant with medical procedures and she was concerned about sensory overload from theatre lights, beeping monitors, etc. A coordinated effort ensured the ward and operating theatre were well prepared for Laszlo and provided an experience that met his (and his parents) needs. Mum Gemma shared her feedback after Laszlo's admission:

"From entering the ward to discharge, every staff member we dealt with was highly professional and lovely. We were expected upon arrival, greeted warmly and attended to promptly. Sig was fantastic at orienting us and reassured that information we'd forwarded about Laszlo, as well as his care plan, was already in his file and had been read by staff. I immediately felt comfortable and relaxed after hearing this, as it meant I could better support Laszlo instead of spending energy communicating his accommodation requests and needs to others.

I really appreciated that we were placed in a quiet room away from the rest of the ward. This made a significant difference to Laszlo feeling as relaxed as possible. The sensory box was a hit, as were all the beautiful Christmas decorations and fantastic toy room (that our 10 month old also loved). The layout of the ward was great and the environment did not feel fast paced or overwhelming. Our discharge was delayed by 20 minutes waiting for pharmacy and we were met with patience and understanding. We didn't feel rushed to vacate our room and could pack our belongings calmly.

Ros was excellent (no surprises there as her support provided prior to our admission was fantastic) and took the time to build rapport with Laszlo, not rushing him and pivoting where needed (i.e. offering to mix Panadol into juice where medication administration was tricky).

I could go on but it was these things plus many more that led to an experience of neuro-affirming care, which in a clinical environment can be challenging. The level of organisation, thought and care that was placed into our admission made an event that could have induced medical trauma, as positive of an experience as possible. I was a very stressed mother about this surgery and had been dreading the day for months!

I wanted to pass on how much the stay meant to our family. A huge thanks to Ros, Sig, Beth and the very kind evening nurse who magicked up a "surprise" for Laszlo at his request! And thanks to Rosie (Patient Liaison) for supporting our admission at entry point.

I'm hopeful that other autistic families will have an experience at St Vincent's Private as positive as the one we had."



## Annual Consumer forum

On 6 October 2025, we gathered our Consumer Representatives for the annual Consumer Rep Forum, and it was a fantastic day of insights and collaboration. Hosted in the beautiful new Fitzroy 10th Floor meeting room, the day featured several informative presentations. CEO Janine Loader welcomed the Reps and provided an update of each of our sites and future plans for the organisation.

Our Art Curator, Monique Silk, shared a beautiful presentation regarding her role and the artworks now proudly displayed in our new SVPHM collection, each of which was reviewed and approved by our Consumer Reps.

Sarah Kerr, a new Consumer Rep shared her personal health journey, a dramatic beginning leading to a good outcome, followed by her long rehabilitation. Sarah's story revealed to all of us how precious our lives and our health are, and the impact of medical emergencies on our families, and our loved ones.

We also learned about efforts to speed up healing, as Annie Mooney presented on the ERAS Program (Early Recovery After Surgery). She highlighted streamlining initiatives, both pre- and post-op, to enhance the patient journey and expedite safe healing.

The group also received an exclusive tour of our state-of-the-art Special Care Nursery and our beautiful new ICU.

These annual days are a wonderful opportunity to not only share information with Reps, but to also glean vital feedback from them. We're already buzzing with ideas for the 2026 forum!



### A surgical milestone at Kew

"Teamwork makes the dreamwork" is a true saying in the case of St Vincent's Private Hospital Kew's Hayden Morris and Morgan Gutteridge who undertook their 1,000th primary knee replacement surgeries together. Completing this impressive milestone - capped off with a bilateral knee replacement getting them across the line - this dynamic duo first started working together in 2018 and it's safe to say, have changed many of our patients lives for the better since!

A big congratulations and well done to both Hayden and Morgan for reaching this incredible milestone - and we look forward to celebrating the next 1,000 with you!



## Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS) in bariatrics

**St Vincent's Private is proud to become the first private hospital in Australia to be recognised as an Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) provider for bariatric surgery.**

ERAS is an internationally recognised, evidence-based program designed to optimise perioperative care, improve patient outcomes and reduce length of stay. Introduced in October 2023 through a partnership with Encare, a Swedish-based company affiliated with the ERAS Society, the program was implemented by a dedicated multidisciplinary team including surgeons, physicians, anaesthetists, nursing staff, allied health, and the ERAS Coordinator.

The implementation was led by Anne-Maree Mooney, with accreditation achieved by A/Prof Michael Hii, Sara Gould, Tinmimi Maung, Chris Vonier, Sarah Gilmore, Michael Rattray, Amy Osborne and Thomas O'Sullivan.

For patients, ERAS provides significant benefits which can include shorter hospital stays, improved recovery, reduced fasting times, earlier return to eating and drinking, early mobilisation and earlier removal of tubes and catheters. This achievement marks a significant step forward in delivering world-class, patient-centred care in bariatric surgery.

## One of our own

**When you picture our amazing Kids Ward at East Melbourne, one name immediately comes to mind: our incredible Carrie Thomas and for good reason! This year, Carrie marks her 38th work anniversary with us, a remarkable journey that began with her training at Mercy Private in 1987.**

Carrie's early career saw her live on campus for a period of time in the "Nurses Home" (now Level 3 of our Gipps Street Consulting Suites) during her three-year training with the Mercy nuns. After graduating, she started on the Third Floor, working across adult ENT and Urology. In 1992, Carrie made the pivotal move to Paediatrics, then located in the basement where the holding bay is today.

Since then, Carrie has continually grown, furthering her post-graduate studies and excelling in a variety of roles. From the Resource Unit and hospital coordinating to Paediatrics ANUM, she now leads the team as our Paediatrics Nurse Unit Manager.

Reflecting on her decades of service, Carrie shared that the most special part of her career is the bond she forms with her young patients and watching them grow into young adults. She also noted that while St Vincent's has seen many changes, the constant care people show for one another - patients, staff, doctors, volunteers, and the wider hospital community - remains unchanged.



"Many of our 'frequent flyers' whom I have cared for at various times throughout their life, some from when they were as young as just six weeks old, often still pop by to say hello. I've received invites to 21st birthday parties, engagements, weddings. It's really quite special to know you've played a role in their lives to the point where they think of you almost like a good friend or family member."

**Thank you, Carrie, for your dedication and embodying the St Vincent's Mission in all that you do.**



# Fond farewells after decades of service



## Janine Loader

Janine Loader, our Regional CEO, retired in December after an extraordinary 23 years with St Vincent's. Janine's dedication, her deep care for patients and clinicians, and her unwavering commitment to our Mission have left a lasting imprint across every state in which she has served. We are deeply grateful for her leadership and the legacy she leaves with us.

Janine's journey at St Vincent's has been nothing short of inspiring. Over more than two decades, she has contributed across multiple roles in every state in which we operate, always bringing dedication, compassion and professionalism to everything she does. Her impact has been felt not only in the teams she has led but across our entire organisation, where her humour and energy for improvement has always been keenly on display.

From Toowoomba to Victoria with the Mater in between, Janine's passion for patient care, the experience of clinicians and above else, our Mission is unmatched. Her leadership has helped us deliver exceptional care and uphold the values that define St Vincent's, even in times of challenge, whether that be COVID or complex new builds like our incredible Fitzroy tower. Her deep knowledge, commitment to excellence, and unwavering support for her peers have left a lasting legacy. We extend heartfelt gratitude to Janine for her remarkable service.



## Adal Ukotic

In February we bid a fond farewell to Adal Ukotic, our dedicated Food Services Supervisor at Fitzroy, who retired after 35 years with St Vincent's. With a cheery smile and can-do attitude, Adal has led her team in preparing and delivering delicious hot meals to every patient in addition to preparing food for many hospital staff events. Adal has many happy memories of her time at the hospital and is very proud of her team and their participation in Mission contributions over many years – Christmas, Mother's Day, Winter Coats and volunteering at The Wellington.

Adal has been a hospital VIP (Values in Action) recipient and a cherished friend to many staff members. She will be greatly missed by the Food Service team and the wider hospital community. We thank Adal for living the hospital Mission and values every single day.



## Julie Wain

In October we farewelled Julie Wain after an incredible 43 years of dedication. Julie's connection to St Vincent's runs deep through her family history, forming a truly beautiful legacy of care. She was born at East Melbourne (known as The Mercy Hospital at the time), where both her mother and aunt also trained as nurses. Following in their footsteps, Julie completed her own nurse training before working as a theatre nurse at East Melbourne. She then brought her expertise across to Fitzroy before transitioning to her beloved role as our Mission Leader for the last 12 years, a role where she has simply become the heart of our organisation.

Julie always ensured our Mission was visible and tangible, from organising important masses to fostering essential connections across our facilities. She brought that same wonderful energy and fun to her hospitality, arranging team gatherings (and yes, a few trivia nights!) that brought us closer. We certainly can't forget her greatest passion outside of work: as a one-eyed Collingwood supporter, she ran our football tipping for years!



## Alison Rose

In December we also bid farewell to Alison Rose. While we will miss her presence, we are also truly delighted for her as she enters a well-deserved retirement after 39 years of extraordinary service at St Vincent's Private Hospital.

Since commencing in 1986, Alison has held many roles, but is best known for her contributions in Fitzroy theatres, in both the Cardiac theatres and as the Sterilising Services Manager, and, of course, for her time in the current role in the Infection Prevention team. Alison's wealth of experience and knowledge in these specialty areas have been invaluable. She is a cherished colleague and friend to many, and we are incredibly grateful for her constant support, thoughtful encouragement, willingness to go the extra mile, and unwavering commitment to the safety and experience of our patients and staff.



## Our newest Australian citizen

The Kew team celebrated wonderful news about a valued member of their team, Jonathan Yeo, Nurse Unit Manager. In September, Jonathan officially became an Australian citizen at a ceremony with his local council. The team was thrilled to celebrate this huge milestone with Jonathan and couldn't be prouder of him, even sharing some classic Australian treats to mark the special occasion!

## Staff step up in state-wide nursing leadership

**St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne staff continue to demonstrate exceptional leadership and commitment to the broader perioperative community through their voluntary contributions to the Victorian Perioperative Nurses Group (VPNG).**

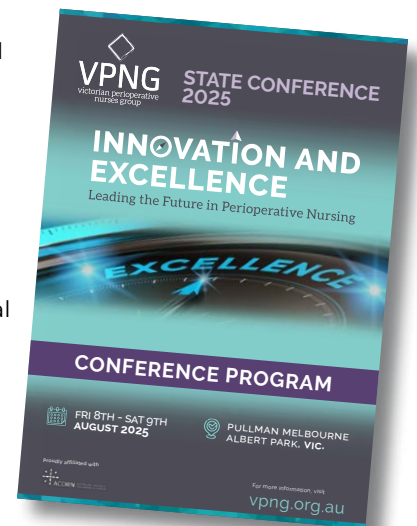
Three SVPHM staff members are actively serving on the VPNG Committee—representing around 25% of the entire governing group. They include Ranran Ding, Anaesthetic/PACU Educator; Tara Noonan, Operating Theatre Registered Nurse; and Karolin King, who is currently serving as President of VPNG (2023–2025).

In August this year, the team played a central role in organising and delivering the VPNG State Conference, a two-day event held at the Pullman Albert Park that welcomed 200 delegates from across Victoria.

The conference showcased clinical excellence and innovation, featuring several expert presenters from SVPHM.

The SVPHM's connection continued with three of the guest speakers also from our ranks: Mr Jarrad Stevens (Orthopaedic Surgeon) – Orthopaedic Trauma Surgery, Dr David Olive (Anaesthetist), and Chiara James (Quality & Risk Consultant) – Reducing PACU stay and number of external transfers in paediatric ENT patients.

Their contributions highlight the depth of expertise within SVPHM and the organisation's strong commitment to advancing perioperative nursing practice across the state.



## Order of Australia

Congratulations to Dr Wally Ahmar who received an Order of Australia medal. Dr Ahmar is a cardiologist with special interest in interventional cardiology using minimally invasive procedures to diagnose and treat heart disease thus avoiding more complex open-heart surgery.



## Giving hope to Masel

**We are honoured to share the story of Masel, a five-year-old boy from Vanuatu and the latest patient to benefit from our long-standing partnership with the Children First Foundation. Born with a missing lower left limb, Masel successfully underwent a stump revision under the expert care of Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon, Associate Professor Leo Donnan.**

For over two decades, our collaboration has provided life-changing surgeries for more than 100 children from economically developing countries, where advanced medical care is often unavailable. This work is a powerful testament to our hospital's commitment to helping those in need.

Kids Ward Nurse Unit Manager, Carrie Thomas says "There's always a special feeling on the ward when we have a Children First Foundation patient staying with us and Masel was no exception.

With a fondness for chicken and chips, he was a joy to care for and it's always a rewarding feeling for the Kids team – and all those in our larger hospital community, be it the team down in theatre, admissions, food and environmental services or peri-op – to know that they have made a real difference in the life of a young patient who otherwise may not have had this opportunity."

We are proud to have given Masel the chance to achieve his full potential and are filled with hope for all the great things he will accomplish. A very special thank-you to Associate Professor Leo Donnan and everyone at East Melbourne involved in Masel's care for continuing to deliver our hospital mission in this very real and tangible way.



*Masel and his mum, photo courtesy of Jack Powell, Children First Foundation*

# Werribee launches Medibank No Gaps program

Werribee was excited to play a key role in the Victorian launch of St Vincent’s Health Australia’s new Medibank No Gap – Hip, Knee, and ACL program.

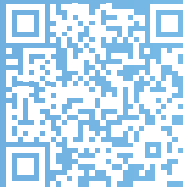
This program, which provides eligible Medibank members with zero out-of-pocket\* hospital costs for hip, knee, and ACL surgery, represents a significant achievement for our team and our commitment to accessible healthcare. Our sincere thanks to the nine orthopaedic surgeons who are participating in this program; Mr Arshad Barmare, Mr Shane Blackmore, A/Prof Siva Chandrasekaran, Mr William Pianta, Mr Raman Sethi, Mr Parminder J Singh, Prof Phong Tran, Mr Raghavan Unni and Mr Robert Wood.

This initiative reflects our ongoing dedication to providing exceptional and accessible, patient-centred care to our community.



For more information scan the QR code >

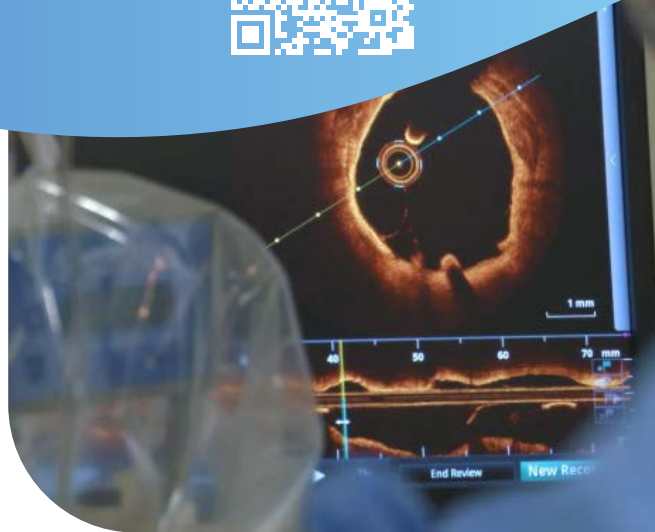
*\*An excess or co-payment may apply. Available with participating surgeons. Patient eligibility criteria apply.*



## Optical Coherence Tomography

We can now get up close and personal with your arteries like never before, thanks to Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) and a very generous donation from Pam Lamaro.

OCT is a high-resolution imaging procedure increasingly used in cardiology to capture detailed images of blood vessels. Typically performed alongside a coronary angiogram, OCT uses a specialised infrared light to diagnose and guide treatment for various heart conditions, including coronary artery disease – a condition caused by plaque build-up in the coronary arteries. The result is a high-quality virtual tour of the arteries, providing valuable insights for optimal heart stent placement, monitoring existing conditions, and assessing abnormalities.



Cardiologist Professor Peter Barlis leads the use of OCT at St Vincent’s Private Hospital Fitzroy and views it as a ground-breaking tool for advancing cardiology care. One key focus of his work is examining the viscosity of blood flow through arteries to identify areas where the flow slows, potentially signalling a higher risk of blockages.

“This technology may help us predict where patients could develop future problems and intervene early with medication or new therapies to prevent further deterioration and complications,” he explains.

The use of OCT at St Vincent’s Private Hospital Fitzroy marks an exciting step forward in delivering cutting-edge cardiology care and we’re excited to share more on how this technology is revolutionising heart health.



## Reusable gown trial

**In a move toward greater sustainability and efficiency, St Vincent's Private Fitzroy's Level 7 is trialing reusable linen gowns.**

These non-sterile, reusable gowns are made of a durable, fluid-impervious polyester blend. Designed for patient care, they protect healthcare workers and patients from exposure to blood, bodily fluids, and microorganisms.

They are also suitable for use when a patient is under contact precautions. They are one-size, comfortable, and up to seven times stronger than disposable gowns, with the ability to be washed and reused over 100 times.

This trial represents a significant step in the hospital's efforts to reduce waste and cut costs associated with disposable products.

## Hosting students from South Korea

**In August, Werribee hosted six physiotherapy students from Daegu Catholic University in South Korea for a two-day observational placement.**

The students spent time with our allied health team, including physiotherapists and occupational therapists, on both the acute and rehabilitation wards. This provided them with valuable insights into patient care within an Australian healthcare setting.

The students expressed their great appreciation for the opportunity to learn from our dedicated staff and patients, finding the experience both enjoyable and enlightening.

This visit was also a wonderful cultural exchange for our team, who valued the chance to engage with the students and share knowledge.

Experiences like this show just how great our community is and our strong commitment to helping others learn and grow.





## Loop X-assisted surgery

**Our surgical team successfully completed the very first Loop X-assisted surgery. This isn't just a new piece of equipment: it's a game-changer.**

The Loop X system delivers advanced 2D and 3D intraoperative imaging, giving our surgeons exceptional precision in spinal, cranial and functional neurosurgery. Its innovative design allows patients to be scanned before, during and after surgery. This enables accuracy and helps us deliver optimal outcomes at every single stage of care. This remarkable achievement underscores our commitment to innovation and world-class care. The Loop X is an exciting and powerful addition to our surgical technology suite, ensuring we continue to lead the way in providing the best possible treatment for our patients. Congratulations to Dr Yi Yuen Wang and our incredible theatre team for leading the way in innovation and excellence in neurosurgery. This is a proud moment for all of us and a testament to the excellence we strive for every day.

## World first Transpsoas surgery

**St Vincent's Private is a leading centre for prone transpsoas surgery, a minimally invasive technique for spinal fusion. The procedure offers benefits like faster recovery, reduced anaesthesia time and minimal bone loss.**

In 2025, the hospital successfully performed the world's first awake prone transpsoas surgery - delivering lumbar spinal fusion while the patient was lying on their stomach (prone) and completely awake!

Not all patients who experience spinal ailments can have a general anaesthetic, meaning they are unable to safely access spinal surgery, and instead live in pain. SVPHM Neurosurgeon Mr Yi Yuen 'Ian' Wang and Anaesthetist Dr Jeremy Wong sought to make spinal surgery accessible to these patients, who are commonly older, frail or experiencing other comorbidities.



You can watch the full news coverage here: **World first awake spinal surgery a success at St Vincent's Private Hospital Fitzroy**

WATCH NOW





## Lunch with the CEO

Thank you to staff who participated in our “Lunch with the CEO” program this year. We held six lunches across our four facilities and had wonderful, meaningful conversations with a variety of amazing people in different roles throughout our hospitals. These sessions have become a great way to hear directly from our teams and get fresh ideas.



## Pathology automation upgrade

St Vincent’s Pathology has introduced a 99-metre automated track system that uses motorised carriers (CARs) to transport samples through robotic stations and refrigerated storage.

Processing around 3,000 samples daily from St Vincent’s Melbourne public and private hospitals, as well as external clinics, the new system reduces manual tasks and frees up staff to focus on urgent diagnostics. Built for future expansion, it will support more analysers and broader testing capabilities.

## Allied Health symposium

In September we were delighted to host our very first Allied Health symposium at the Marriott Docklands. With over 50 physiotherapists and osteopaths in attendance, it was an engaging and educational day with presentations from seven of our leading orthopaedic surgeons discussing all things shoulder, hip, knee, foot and ankle. The event provided a great networking opportunity for both allied health professionals and speakers with their peers and members of our hospital community.





# Innovation collaboration

**In August we partnered with La Trobe University for a two-day Innovation Sprint, focused on reimagining staff orientation at St Vincent’s Private Hospitals Victoria. The challenge: leverage technology to create a more meaningful, connected, and effective onboarding experience, that sets new starters up for success.**

Multidisciplinary student teams from diverse fields, including digital health, biomedicine, and software engineering, used a Design Thinking methodology. This experience reinforced the importance of being more agile in our program delivery and problem-solving. The human-centred approach allowed teams to rapidly understand staff needs, prototype creative solutions, and develop impactful ideas.

The energy was electric as they pitched their game-changing solutions to our hospital executive leaders and senior La Trobe University academics. A huge congratulations to Team VPulse for winning top honours with their bold, practical vision for transforming staff orientation!

We’re excited to explore their innovative concept further and continue this collaborative partnership with La Trobe University.

# Bringing Care home

**SVHA launched Bringing Care Home in November. A plan that builds on St Vincent’s track record of innovation and compassion and extends our care further into homes and communities.**

Together we will build Australia’s largest virtual and home care system, delivering 50 percent of our care through digital platforms, by 2030.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## Birth suite water immersion therapy

**At St Vincent's Private Hospital, we're committed to supporting women in choosing the birthing options that feel right for them. Our new Fitzroy birth suite boasts warm water immersion baths as a pain management option during labour.**


Water immersion during labour can provide comfort, relaxation, and natural pain relief.

The warm water helps ease muscle tension and gives women the freedom to move more easily - creating a calm and supportive environment.

While this therapy is for labour only (not birth) and best suited for low-risk pregnancies, it's a wonderful addition to our new facility. Patients are advised to chat to their obstetrician to determine if use of the water immersion bath is a suitable adjunct pain relief therapy for their pregnancy.




# 2025 Clinical education highlights



**306**  
UNDERGRADUATE AND  
DIPLOMA NURSING STUDENTS

>200%  
increase in  
3 years



**53**  
GRADUATE NURSES  
COMMENCED



**18**  
POST GRADUATES

125%  
increase in  
3 years



**81** Deteriorating patient study day participants

**68** Supervision (basic- preceptor training) participants

Introduced practical orientation day, enhancing graduate preparedness and satisfaction

Launched an internal Education hub for central access to clinical education



We trained:

- 632** staff in Basic Life Support
- 194** in Advanced Life Support
- 82** in Paediatric Advanced Life Support

Partnered with SVHA to send **10** of our staff to *Leading at St V's+* program  
**32** to *Emerging Leaders* programs  
**4** to commence in the *SVPHM/SVHM Peri-operative and A/PACU PSP* in 2026

Finalised new SVHA Private Division (VIC) Student placement agreement

Comprehensive needs analysis with HR, to inform future workforce, education and training needs



**26** applications to the SVPHM Foundation Scholarship



**4** Cardiac and **1** Neuroscience twilight education sessions



Celebrated **82** staff members who successfully completed our programs between 2023 -25 at our Graduation Ceremony in March



# Fitzroy healthcare precinct collaboration

**St Vincent's is transforming its Fitzroy precinct, taking a campus-wide approach to expand our delivery of world-class healthcare, research, and education.**

As a key partner with the Royal Eye and Ear Hospital, the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD), Australian Catholic University, and the University of Melbourne, we are reimagining our campus to provide highly specialised services and innovative care models, breaking down traditional silos and fostering a culture of cross-disciplinary collaboration.

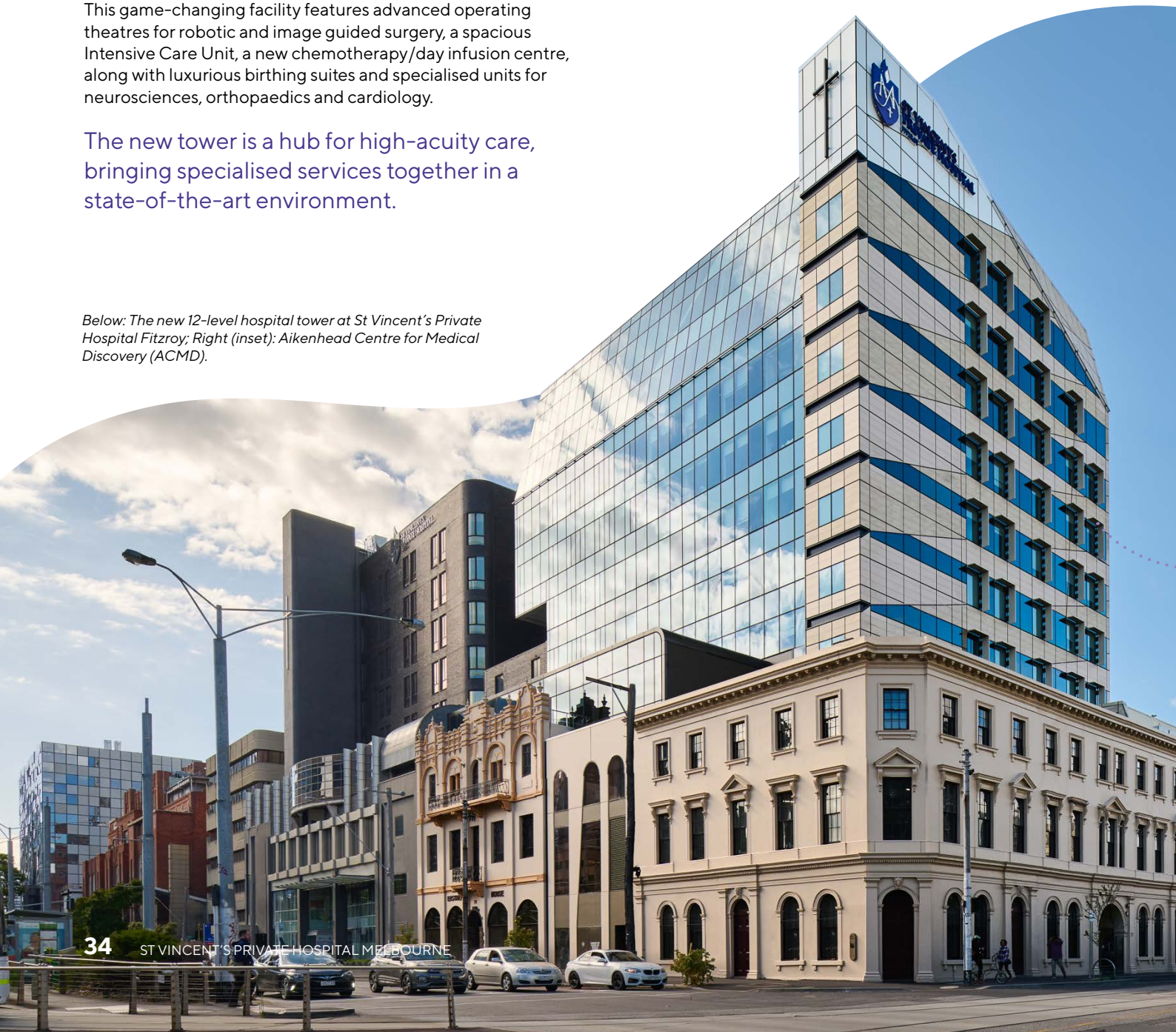
Progress is already being made with two major projects completed this past year – including the opening of our new 12-level hospital tower at St Vincent's Private Hospital Fitzroy. This game-changing facility features advanced operating theatres for robotic and image guided surgery, a spacious Intensive Care Unit, a new chemotherapy/day infusion centre, along with luxurious birthing suites and specialised units for neurosciences, orthopaedics and cardiology.

The new tower is a hub for high-acuity care, bringing specialised services together in a state-of-the-art environment.

In addition, the ACMD is poised to be Australia's premier biomedical engineering research accelerator. This 11-storey centre brings together leading experts from diverse fields to fast-track research translation, from the lab bench to the patient bedside.

The ACMD includes state-of-the-art infrastructure, specialised labs, and advanced equipment like the Halifax Radio stereometric analysis (RSA) X-ray system – a highly precise technique that measures the micro-motion of orthopaedic implants by using multiple X-ray images with marker beads to reconstruct the implant's position in 3D space – and a Human Kinetics lab to deliver ground-breaking medical solutions.

*Below: The new 12-level hospital tower at St Vincent's Private Hospital Fitzroy; Right (inset): Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD).*



By connecting these vital hubs and supporting virtual and at-home care, our clinically led, campus-wide approach is delivering better patient outcomes and addressing the most pressing challenges in healthcare on a national and global scale.

This new chapter is a testament to our enduring mission of providing the highest quality healthcare, now and for generations to come.



Farewell to colleagues who have helped shape our journey over a combined 140 years

## Celebrating our retiring doctors

In October, we had the privilege of extending our heartfelt gratitude to several esteemed members of the St Vincent's Private Hospitals Victoria community for their outstanding service. Their commitment, skill, and dedication have profoundly impacted our hospital and the patients we serve. We proudly celebrated these exceptional individuals (pictured left to right):



- **Dr James Elder**, Specialist Ophthalmologist, celebrating an incredible tenure of over 30 years with SVPH East Melbourne.
- **Dr Ian Balson**, Specialist Anaesthetist, who retired last year after a distinguished career.
- **Dr Anthony Berger**, Specialist Orthopaedic Surgeon (hand surgeon), who retired from his private list in November but will continue his important public work.
- **Dr Mal Tyers**, Specialist Anaesthetist and a long-term, invaluable member of our Credentials Committee.
- **Dr John O'Donnell**, Specialist Orthopaedic Surgeon, who retired in December after a career at our East Melbourne hospital spanning 37 years.

We also took a moment to acknowledge other valued colleagues who had recently retired but could not attend the event. We send our warmest wishes and deep thanks to **Dr Rod Woods**, **Dr Peter Dwyer**, **Dr David O'Neal**, and **Dr Maury Scharf**. Their combined years of professionalism and care have left an indelible mark on St Vincent's.

We thank them all for their tireless efforts and wish them the very best in their next chapters!

# Vale John Salmon

**Mr John Salmon, one of our much-loved surgeons, passed away in August after a long illness.**

John had retired in recent years after serving a long and distinguished career as an orthopaedic surgeon specialising in shoulder surgery.

Staff and doctors across our four hospitals mourned John's passing and remember him as a man of deep goodness, professional integrity, and great fun. He was a proud Vimy man, a Mercy man, and later devoted to St Vincent's, where he served on the Medical Advisory Committee and as Chair of the Orthopaedic Craft Group. He also gave generously of his time through service with the Australian Orthopaedic Association.

We remember John as a gentle, thoughtful man with a wonderfully wry sense of humour. Working alongside him in theatre or on the wards was always a pleasure. There was a strong sense of teamwork—quiet, hard work interspersed with shared stories, footy talk (especially about Richmond), fond family anecdotes, and a genuine interest in the lives of those around him. Working with John always resulted in a good day.

We share love of the Salmon family, John's wife Kathy who has steered the ship for many years – running John's practice and raising the children. The life of a successful surgeon is a busy one and we know it cannot be achieved alone. To Kathy, we thank you for sharing John with us for 30 plus years.

John's four children all have strong hospital connections. James worked at Kew as a theatre orderly. Currently Alex works in our Nutrition Department, Maddy in the Executive Office at Fitzroy and Annabelle in Oncology at Fitzroy.

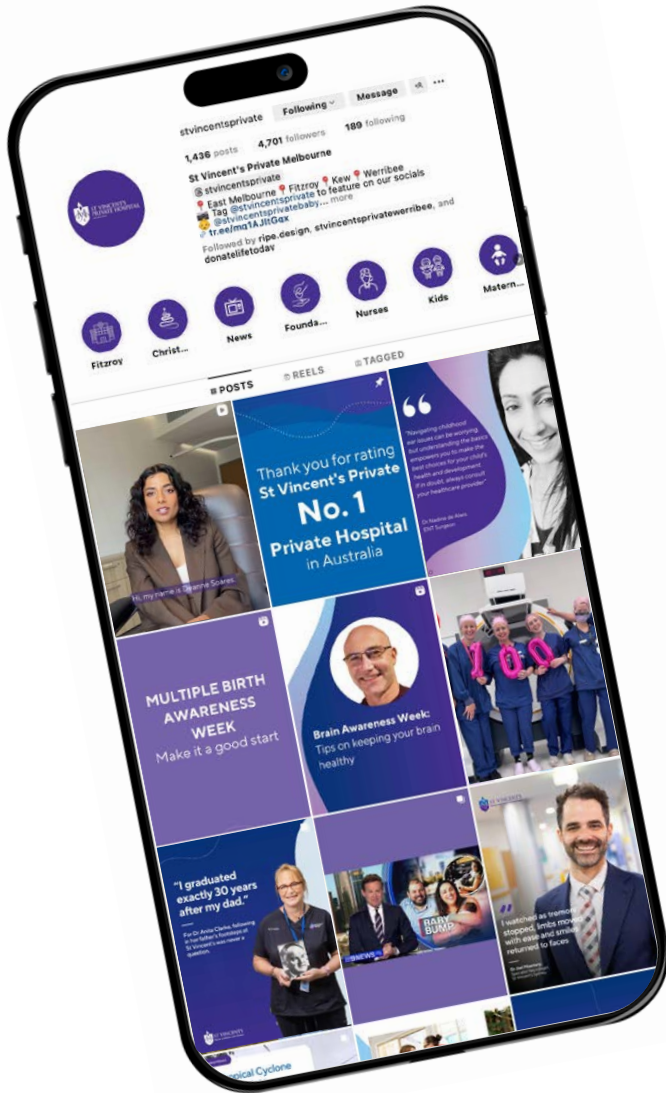
When Alex, James, Maddy and Annabelle speak about their dad, working at the same hospital as him, they always note how much love and respect everyone has for him. His praises have been sung on many occasions to each of them – about him as a doctor, as a great person and about how he treated everyone with respect and authenticity. He was cool, calm and collected and highly skilled in his field. To Kathy, Alex, James, Maddy and Annabelle we offer our love and deepest sympathy to you, and to Bobbie, John's adored grand-daughter.

For John's friends, colleagues and hospital friends we offer sympathy as we all adjust to life without John. We have been privileged to travel on this earth with a man of goodness, a man of compassion and a man of integrity, for that we are richer.

May his soul rest in peace.



# Keeping in touch on social media



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:  
**@stvincentsprivate**  
**@stvincentsprivatebaby**  
**@stvincentsprivaterribee**

If you are sharing pictures with us use  
**#stvincentsprivate** or **#stvincentsprivatebaby** or  
**#stvincentskids**

Find us on YouTube:  
**St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne**

Find us on LinkedIn:  
**[www.linkedin.com/company/  
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