BOLD RESEARCH.
CHANGING LIVES.

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

PERRY CROSS SPINAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

This year marks a truly momentous occasion, a moment I've long anticipated, and one that fills me with a profound mix of excitement and deep gratitude.

Funded by the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation and other partners and led by Griffith University, the world-first clinical trial has formally commenced.

This journey has been nothing short of extraordinary. There were moments, many of them, when the path felt insurmountable. Living with the daily challenges of being reliant on life support was immensely taxing. Beyond that, the constant pain, the battles with secondary complications and the sheer effort required for even the simplest tasks often made the journey feel overwhelming.

Facing an uncertain future and pushing through exhaustion, I truly felt the weight of it all. There were voices that doubted, and times when it felt like all was lost. Yet, I pressed on. Every single day, I pushed myself to get out of bed, into my wheelchair, and kept driving towards this vision to find a treatment for spinal cord injury.

And now, as our work moves towards fruition, we are on the cusp of something truly special. This achievement isn't just about scientific breakthroughs. It's about offering a tangible hope for a different future. It's about providing a chance for healing, recovery, and a life reimagined for those who have been told it wasn't possible.

None of this would have been possible without you. Your belief in my mission, your unwavering encouragement and your many generous contributions have been the lifeblood of this journey. You stood by me through every challenge, every setback and every triumph. This is as much your victory as it is mine. It has been a huge team effort, and I am profoundly grateful to you for making this possible.

Thank you for being an integral part of this groundbreaking work. Together, we are building a future where spinal cord injury no longer means a life defined by limitations, but one filled with possibility. This is just the beginning of Griffith University's human clinical trials in pursuit of a treatment and the best is yet to come!

Everything is Possible!

Perry Cross AM
Founder & Executive President

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

On behalf of Perry and the Foundation's Board of Directors, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations on an extraordinary year.

It was a year for the record books – not just for our fundraising success, but for the most important milestone of all: the commencement of the Nerve Bridge Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial in partnership with Griffith University.

Thanks to your overwhelming support and generosity, we raised the millions required to fund this world-first trial. We couldn't have done it without our dedicated community, partners and philanthropists.

It has been an outstanding year of achievements. Highlights include:

- The start of the Nerve Bridge Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial.
- $3,257,845 million in operating profit raised before our investment in research.
- A truly extraordinary bequest of $1,134,288 from the late Patricia Helen Sayer, generously facilitated by her niece, Judy Trollope. We are deeply honoured by this significant gift.

I want to acknowledge the immense thought, strategy, and commitment of the entire Foundation team, led by Perry, Melissa, Jen and Clare. Your hard work made this year's achievements possible.

Thank you to my fellow directors, our members, the scientific committee led by Dr. Brent McMonagle, our dozens of volunteers, generous donors, patrons, and ambassadors for your dedicated support. A special thank you to our valued Company Secretary, Letitia Maxwell, and to our Cure Crusader Speaking Ambassadors who volunteer their time and share their inspiring stories.

Finally, a massive congratulations to you, Perry Cross, on another extraordinary year. Your vision has truly taken flight – and all in the year you turned 50, another marvellous milestone!

Tom Ray
Chairman

OUR PURPOSE

At the heart of everything we do are people living with a spinal cord injury. We're on a mission to bring hope and progress to their lives by facilitating, collaborating on and pioneering the groundbreaking research needed to find a cure for paralysis.

This journey began with Perry Cross. In 1994, a rugby accident left him a C2 ventilated quadriplegic, paralysed from the chin down and requiring round-the-clock care. Yet, instead of letting his circumstances define him, Perry dedicated his life to a powerful purpose: finding a cure for paralysis for all. His unwavering spirit is the Foundation's driving force.

Our Vision & Mission

Our vision is simple yet profound: To cure paralysis for all.

Our mission is the roadmap to that vision. We are a dedicated team committed to facilitating and funding world-class research aimed at curing paralysis caused by spinal cord injury. We also strive to support better outcomes for those living with paralysis today, ensuring a brighter future for everyone affected.

See the Impact

Want to learn more about the hope we're building and the progress we're making?

Watch our latest video here:

The path to a treatment for paralysis requires the brightest minds working together. Over the next three years, we need to recruit, develop, and retain ten elite scientific professionals to optimise our human clinical trial. Your support is crucial. It will help us build the world's best spinal cord research team, accelerating our progress toward delivering a life-changing treatment to people living with a spinal cord injury worldwide.

WHAT ARE THE STATS?

Every day, one Australian suffers a spinal cord injury. **That is ONE TOO MANY.**

The Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation has one main goal: to find a cure for paralysis for all, by funding world class spinal injury research.

Spinal cord injuries cost the Australian economy more than **$10M per day.**

Over 20,800

Australians are living with SCI.

40%

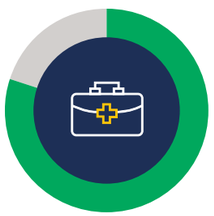
of people with SCI are likely to suffer PTSD.

30%

of people with SCI are at risk of depression.

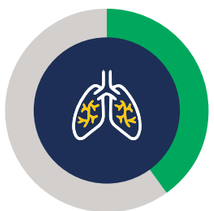
70%

of people with SCI suffer from **chronic pain** for more than 6 months.



80%

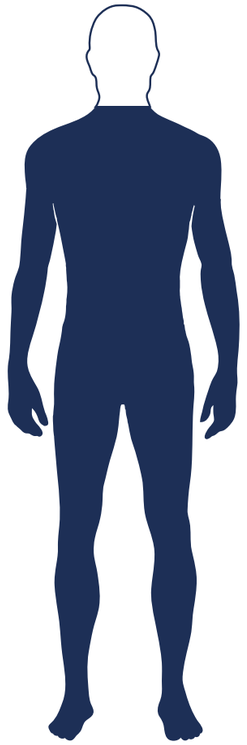
of people with SCI suffer are affected by a lack of **bladder/bowel control.**



40%

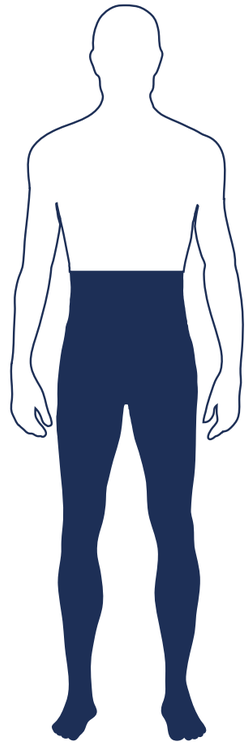
of hospitalised people with SCIs have **respiratory failure.**

Paralysis is the loss or impairment of voluntary movement and the loss of function and feeling.



Quadriplegia

42% of injuries



Paraplegia

58% of injuries

Men account for 70% of SCI's

The main cause of injuries

- **42%** falls
- **40%** vehicle accidents
- **11%** sporting injuries
- **7%** other

Since 2010, the **Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation** has helped to raise over **$42 million dollars** for groundbreaking Australian research.

THE POWER OF PERSEVERANCE

In June 2024, Johnny's life changed in an instant. A fall while surfing resulted in a spinal cord injury and paralysis from the waist down.

"It was my worst nightmare," he said.

Today, Johnny and his fiancée Charlie hold onto a simple but powerful dream: to one day dance together in their kitchen.

As Johnny puts it, "Your support makes life-changing discoveries possible and has the potential to give me back my life."

With the generous help of our community and Johnny's inspiring story, our tax appeal raised $112,953.

See Johnny's full story here;

AN EXTRAORDINARY INVESTMENT

Together, we've achieved something remarkable.

Thanks to your generous support, the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation has helped to raise over $42.5 million to fund vital research. Your commitment is driving progress and bringing us closer to a treatment.

2012
BOND UNIVERSITY
$69k
Axonal Regeneration

2013
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$150k
Growth Factor Project

2015
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$50k
Olfactory Glia Project

2015
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$75M
Grant from Catwalk Trust

2015
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$20k
Nasal Biopsy Research

2015
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$86k
Nerve Bridge Project

2016
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$232k
Spinal Injury Project

2017
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$5.1M
Spinal Injury Project

2018
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
$433k
Spinal Cord Repair Project

2019
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$430k
Cleaning up the injury site, Spinal Injury Project

2019
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$28k
Olfactory Glia Project

2020
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$5.7M
Spinal Injury Project

2020
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$450k
Rehabilitation Trial 1, Spinal Injury Project

2020
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$420k
Rehabilitation Trial 2, Spinal Injury Project

2020
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$88k
Contract Research Organisation Scoping for human trial, Spinal Injury Project

2023
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$5.4M
QLD government funding, Spinal Injury ProjectProject

2023
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$149k
Dr Mo Chen Fellowship, Spinal Injury Project

2023
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$300k
MRFF Nerve Bridge Project, Spinal Injury Project

2023
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$1.2M
MRFF Nerve Bridge Project, Spinal Injury Project

2023
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$400k
LiveCyte Microscope, Spinal Injury Project

2024
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$6.8M
MRFF Human Trial (additional 15 people), Spinal Injury Project

2024
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$5M
Human Trial, Spinal Injury Project

2024
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$3.1M
Human Trial, Spinal Injury Project

2024
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$2.4M
Human Trial, Spinal Injury Project

2025
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
$1.7M
Research Fellowship, Spinal Injury Project

Learn more about the world-class research that your generosity makes possible here;

- Indirect
- Direct

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH SUMMARY

PERRY CROSS SPINAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FUNDED PROJECTS

The Olfactory Nerve Bridge Transplantation and Rehabilitation Phase I clinical trial

March 2016 – ongoing

Chief Investigator: Prof James St John

Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, Griffith University

Total Investment from PCSRF $5,400,000

The human clinical trial to test the olfactory nerve bridge transplantation therapy officially commenced in August 2025.

After nine years of preclinical research and planning for the Phase I clinical trial, the Spinal Injury Project team at Griffith University has officially started the trial. Expressions of interest to participate in the trial were opened in August and within three weeks over 500 people had applied to be on the trial. The high number of people applying clearly shows demand for a treatment. With the expression of interest remaining open at least for the first year or so of the trial, it is expected that the number of people applying will continue to rise.

The therapy uses specialised cells called olfactory ensheathing cells (OECs) which have numerous different ways to aid repair of the spinal cord. While the use of OECs for treating spinal cord injury has been tested previously by other groups, results from the previous trials have been limited, largely due to poor survival of the transplanted cells. To improve the therapeutic use of OECs, the Spinal Injury Project team at Griffith University has invented a method to produce three-dimensional cellular nerve bridges using the OECs. The nerve bridges allow the cells to form stable connections with each other before transplantation, which leads to better survival once they are implanted into the injured spinal cord.

The Spinal Injury Project team has over 40 translational biomedical researchers who come from 19 different countries. In addition to the lab members, the team also works with many external specialist researchers, clinicians and allied health professionals, and of course people with injuries to ensure the therapy meets the expectations and needs of the community.

Yet the journey to clinical trial is complex and requires considerable administrative procedures including ethics approval, appointment of service providers, detailed budgeting approvals, insurance and contracts with all parties, and then finally Research Governance Office approval which gives the permission to commence the trial. Of particular note is the outstanding contributions of the contract research organisation, Accelagen, and the clinical trials unit of the Gold Coast University Hospital who provided expert advice to improve the design of the trial. Of course, with so many suggestions from different people involved in the planning, there were delays in getting the final approval, but after what seemed an endless wait the trial has now commenced.

Highlights: In August, the media release of the commencement of the trial received Australia-wide media attention. Prof St John and Perry Cross had numerous interviews including live TV interviews to discuss and celebrate this major milestone in the clinical trial.

Next steps: Applicants will be shortlisted to identify those that best meet the clinical requirements for the trial after which the selected participants will be progressively enrolled into the trial, with about one to two people every few months. As safety is the primary outcome of the trial, it is necessary to start the trial slowly, however as the trial proceeds the plan is to increase enrolments so that we can get through the trial as quickly as possible.

Funding partners: The total cost of the clinical trial is over $15 million. Other partners for the trial include the Medical Research Future Fund, Clem Jones Foundation, Brazil Family Foundation, numerous other donors and Griffith University.

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH SUMMARY

PERRY CROSS SPINAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FUNDED PROJECTS

A Biological Nerve Bridge Device for Repairing Spinal Cord Injury in Humans

Medical Research Future Fund - Early to Mid-Career Researchers Grant - Stream 3.

January 2023 – January 2027

Chief investigators: Dr Mo Chen, Dr Ronak Reshamwala, Dr Mariyam Murtaza, Dr Yu-Ting Tseng.

Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, Griffith University

Total Investment from PCSRF $300,000

This project is expanding the use of the nerve bridges by improving how they are manufactured and by testing different methods for implantation.

Whilst the current nerve bridges used for the trial are very good, the Spinal Injury Project team always has the goal of enhancing their use. From a commercial and clinical viewpoint, manufacturing time and costs should be reduced and the transplantation surgery should be minimally invasive.

To achieve this, the team of early and mid-career researchers are testing how micro nerve bridges can be applied for treating spinal cord injury. Micro nerve bridges have several advantages in that they can be implanted using a minimally invasive, imaging-guided deposition. Having the micro nerve bridge option opens up the possibility of having repeat, top-up transplantation of OECs. For example, the initial surgery may transplant the large nerve bridges, and then several months later micro nerve bridges could be implanted to help further stimulate repair. To drive this option forward, the team is first exploring how the manufacturing of the large nerve bridges can be modified to create the micro nerve bridges, and whether the micro nerve bridges retain their therapeutic efficacy.

The team is then determining the best timing for when the micro nerve bridges should be implanted. And finally the team is testing various implantation methods and devices to see what best suits the clinical requirements.

Highlights: The team has created a new method for producing micro nerve bridges which makes manufacturing easier and more consistent. The OECs within the micro nerve bridges retain their therapeutic characteristics which means that they should act in the same way as the cells within the large nerve bridges.

Next steps: Dr Mo Chen has decided to change career paths and has left the Spinal Injury Project team. The project is now led by Drs Ronak Reshamwala, Mariyam Murtaza and Tammy Tseng. The micro nerve bridge project offers clinical options and flexibility that will increase the use of OECs for treating spinal cord injury. While the micro nerve bridges will not be used in the current clinical trial, the team is planning to incorporate the micro nerve bridges into the future clinical trial pipeline.

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH SUMMARY

PERRY CROSS SPINAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FUNDED PROJECTS

Rehabilitation Trial 2 – Intensive Long-Term Rehabilitation Trial: Testing the Prehab Stage

June 2021 – July 2024

Chief investigators: Prof James St John, Dr Marie-Laure Vial, Dr Andrew Rayfield, Dr Michael Todorovic, Dr Matthew Barton, A/Prof Jenny Ekberg, Ms Emma Warner, Prof Dianne Shanley.

Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, Griffith University

Total Investment From PCSRF $420,804

Physical rehabilitation activities are essential for stimulating repair of the spinal cord, particularly after transplantation of OECs.

The reason is that nerve cells tend to sprout new connections, but many of them go to the wrong targets. Rehabilitation is needed to help the new connections find their correct targets and to reinforce those connections so that the signalling gets above the minimum threshold level. Without rehabilitation, the benefit of OEC transplantation may not be achieved. For this reason, rehabilitation is an essential part of the OEC transplantation clinical trial, with intensive rehabilitation both before and after the cell transplantation.

While rehabilitation is available in Australia, it is rare for someone to do long-term daily rehabilitation because of accessibility issues and the high cost. For the clinical trial planning, it was therefore critical that we tested whether providing a long-term rehabilitation program was safe and feasible and whether participants enjoyed the program. The Griffith team had previously tested the post-transplantation rehab program in the first rehab clinical trial in 2021-2022. That first rehab trial had a mix of both on-site rehabilitation at Making Strides, a provider of specialist spinal cord injury rehabilitation, and at-home rehabilitation.

The outcomes of the trial showed that participants preferred the on-site program and did not think an at-home program was suitable. The second trial – testing the prehab stage – used a cohort of participants who had little previous experience with rehabilitation and used only the on-site program at Making Strides.

Highlights: The second trial was successfully completed and demonstrated that participants enjoyed the program and that it was safe and feasible. Of particular note was that even though participants had little prior experience with rehabilitation, they continued on the program and indeed at the end of the trial they wanted to keep on doing rehabilitation. This demonstrates that people living with spinal cord injury want to have access to rehabilitation. The research team has used the outcomes of both the first and second rehabilitation trials to design the rehabilitation program for the full OEC transplantation and rehabilitation trial. Numerous aspects of the rehabilitation programs of the two trials were modified thanks to feedback from the providers and participants. By improving the design of the rehabilitation program, the Griffith University researchers hope that the participants in the full trial will have an enhanced experience with better outcomes.

Next steps: The outcomes of the two trials will be published in scientific journals and shared with the community via social media.

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH SUMMARY

PERRY CROSS SPINAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FUNDED PROJECTS

Cleaning Up the Injury Site is Key to Spinal Cord Regeneration
January 2018 – ongoing
Chief investigator: Prof James St John
Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, Griffith University
Total Investment from PCSRF $450,000

One of the powerful functions of OECs is that they can remove debris from dead cells.

OECs do this as part of their normal role with the olfactory nerve for the sense of smell, and they retain this ability when they are transplanted into the spinal cord.

After an injury, dead cells disintegrate and release many chemicals that inhibit regeneration and stop nerve cells from growing. While immune cells within the spinal cord can invade the injury site and remove some of the debris, often the immune reaction causes inflammation which makes the injury worse. This is where OECs have an advantage as OECs can remove the dead cells but do not lead to inflammation.

This means that by transplanting OECs into the injury site, they can first help by removing the dead cells to clean up the injury site without causing inflammation, and then the OECs can start their other functions of stimulating the nerve cells to regenerate. This project is exploring how the activity of OECs can be further improved to enhance their ability to clean up the injury site.

Highlights: Dr Francesca Oeini recently completed her PhD in the team and is now working as a Research Fellow on this project. She has discovered that there are different subtypes of OECs, with some OECs being highly active for cleaning up, while others seem to be better at promoting regeneration.

Next steps: Dr Francesca Oeini is now exploring how OECs can be stimulated into the different subtypes and whether they can be used for treating different stages of injury. For example, the subtype of OEC that is better at cleaning up the injury site could be used to treat acute injuries while the subtype of OEC that is better at promoting regeneration could be used for treating chronic injuries. When combined with the micro nerve bridges that are being separately developed, the team is hoping that a tailored approach of using different types of OECs with repeat transplantation can lead to a combinatorial therapy that improves functional outcomes.

THE BEST SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH TEAM IN THE WORLD

PCSRF Research Fellows and PhD scholars

March 2025 – ongoing

Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, Griffith University

Total Investment From PCSRF $1.7 million

PCSRF recognises that researchers are the powerhouse of discovery and translation and to continue creating and improving treatments, we will have the best chance of success of implementing a therapy into the clinic. PCSRF is therefore supporting ten researchers within the Spinal Injury Project team at Griffith University.

Senior Research Fellow: Production of human cells for transplantation

This senior position is required for the integration of all research activities into the human cell production pipeline for the current and future versions of the therapy. Dr Mariyam Murtaza has been appointed to this fellowship and has extensive experience in the production and manufacturing of olfactory cell nerve bridges for human transplantation. As new discoveries and products arise within the Spinal Injury Project team, Mariyam will incorporate them into the clinical manufacturing pipeline in accordance with appropriate regulations. This integrated approach to discovery and translation of research outcomes will speed up delivery of therapeutics to clinical trial and ultimately into the clinic.

International Research Fellow: Cell banking of olfactory cells for transplantation

The cell and nerve bridge manufacturing process involves three major steps: (1) purification and expansion of cells from the nasal biopsy to obtain sufficient numbers of high purity cells, (2) storage of cells by freezing in liquid nitrogen and then (3) thawing of cells and preparation into nerve bridges for transplantation. The process of storing cells in liquid nitrogen is called “cell banking”. Cell banking is a routine process in cell biology, however it needs considerable optimisation for different cell types particularly when those cells are activated into different states. Therefore, as the research team create new production or activation methods, the cell banking process needs to be continually verified and optimised. An experienced Research Fellow who has previously worked with olfactory cells and cell banking will drive this project. An international search is underway, and this position is likely to be filled by the end of 2025.

Junior Research Fellow: Altering environmental production conditions to enhance cell activity

Recent research advances in the Spinal Injury Project team have identified that current standard optimal conditions for growing cells in the lab do not reflect what happens within the human body. To overcome the limitations, Mahbub Rahman, a member of the Spinal Injury Project team, has tested various new methods for growing cells and found several that are likely to enhance cell health and function, and thereby make them more suitable for transplantation in humans. What is now needed is to translate the lab results into the human cell production pipeline and confirm those outcomes in preclinical research. Mahbub Rahman has recently completed his PhD thesis in the team and has been appointed to this Research Fellow position.

> The Foundation is focused on recruiting, developing and retaining the world’s best researchers to ensure we stay at the forefront of innovation. To do this the Foundation is committed to raising funds to support two Senior Research Fellows, two Junior Research Fellows and six PhD students and we need your philanthropic support.
>
> We invite you to reach out and join us on this journey of discovery to recovery.

Junior Research Fellow: Cleaning up the injury site

OECs are experts in removing dead cells from an injury site. This project has been supported by PCSRF for several years, and recent research by Dr Francesca Oieni has identified that a companion cell, called fibroblasts, regulates how the OECs respond to dead cells. She has also identified that a subtype of OECs is responsible for cleaning up the cell debris, with the fibroblasts contributing to how the subtypes respond. In addition, the research team has identified that specialised proteins called growth factors can dramatically improve survival and activity of OECs. This project aims to combine the cells with growth factors and to determine the optimal timing of application in preclinical research and ultimately to translate it to human cells for introduction in the therapy pipeline. Thanks to her discoveries, Dr Francesca Oieni has been appointed to the Research Fellow position.

2 x PCSRF PhD scholarships

PhD students undertake three years of full-time research on new areas that are likely to lead to therapeutics. To attract the very best candidates to the team, PCSRF in conjunction with Griffith University is providing two prestigious full PhD scholarships. These scholarships have been advertised and two candidates have been selected. They are due to start in early 2026.

4 x PCSRF PhD top-up scholarships

To attract the very best candidates, a top-up scholarship helps with the cost of living pressures. This is particularly important for international students who do not have local family support. After an international search, the following students have been awarded the top-up scholarships:

Mr Shah Hussain, country of origin Pakistan. Shah is working on identifying biomarkers that can help predict which type of spinal cord injury is likely to respond to the OEC transplantation therapy and will also determine the best time window for transplantation.

Ms Molly Sullivan, country of origin England. Molly is working on determining differences in how females versus males respond to spinal cord injury, and how cell transplantation may differentially affect females and males.

Mr Subhrajyoti Banerjee, country of origin India. Subhra is working on how subcellular products that are released by OECs can be used to augment the OEC therapy. OECs release a range of different products and by harvesting and purifying them, they can be used to supplement the OEC transplantation therapy.

Ms Cara O’Dwyer, country of origin Ireland. Cara’s project is to improve the production and use of micro nerve bridges and to develop a minimally invasive implantation technique. The micro nerve bridges will enable repeat top-up transplantations to be applied which will help drive ongoing repair of the injured spinal cord.

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

LAB TOURS

Throughout the year, we were honoured to welcome over 200 valued supporters and donors for a behind-the-scenes look at the lab.

They had the unique opportunity to see the cutting-edge research in action and meet the dedicated team of scientists making it all happen.

A special thank you to our Cure Crusader Ambassador, Lindsay Nott, for generously assisting with the hosting of these inspiring tours.

Want to see the research in action?

Book a tour online today:

AN EXTRAORDINARY GIFT

Patricia Helen Sayer

We are deeply honoured to share a truly extraordinary gift we received in 2025: a bequest of $1,134,288 from the late Patricia Helen Sayer. This significant donation was made possible through her Will and was generously facilitated by her niece, Judy Trollope.

This remarkable gift is especially meaningful to the Trollope family and will have a profound impact on the Foundation's work. We are grateful to Patricia and the entire Trollope family for their phenomenal and continued generosity.

The Trollope family understands the devastating effects of a spinal cord injury all too well. Judy and Mark's son, Daniel, sustained a spinal cord injury years ago and has been a dedicated member of our Foundation since 2013. Daniel and his wife, Holly, along with her extended family, the Harrisons, have been wonderful supporters for many years. Daniel was also our first-ever Spinal Injury Project (SIP) Week Champion 11 years ago, and his spirit of dedication continues to inspire us.

(L to R) Perry Cross, Judith Trollope, Daniel Trollope

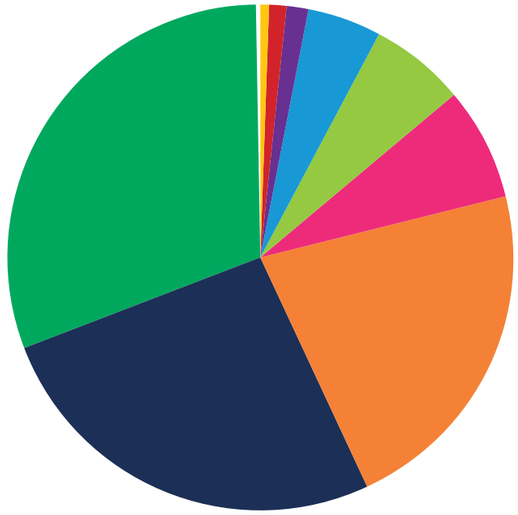
THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE SUPPORT:

A BRIEF FINANCIAL SUMMARY

We extend our deepest gratitude to our fundraising community for your unwavering support. Together, we are building a future where no one is limited by a spinal cord injury.

The Foundation runs various fundraising events and campaigns throughout the year and seeks the support of our generous donors to fund critical spinal injury research.

View our full, audited financial statements here;



Donation Income Breakdown

Major Gift Income	30.65%
Government Funding	26.11%
Function Income	21.92%
Interest Income	7.26%
Community Events	6.18%
Campaign Income	4.69%
Regular Donations	1.43%
Grants	0.91%
Donations (other)	0.78%
Other Revenue	0.02%

FOUNDATION EVENTS

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Everything is Possible Gala Dinner, March 2025

On the 29th March, 800 stylish guests came together for the “Everything is Possible” Gala Dinner presented by Prestige Automotive Group.

Thank you to everyone that attended and donated on the night – we are overwhelmed and so grateful for your support of a cure for paralysis! It was a very special evening as Perry also celebrated his 50th birthday.

This night of hope wouldn’t have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of our partners and supporters.

- A monumental thank you to our Presenting Partner, Damien and Amanda Holley and the team at Prestige Automotive Group. Your partnership was the foundation of our success.
- To our Gold Sponsors – Admiralty Capital Group, CareMatch, Hickey Lawyers, CorpSure and Molmike Medical – your belief in a cure is the fuel that powers our research.
- Our deep gratitude to Chad Lemming from Nova Press for creating the beautiful programs.
- We’re also sincerely thankful for our Cure Crusader Sponsors – GIG, Village Roadshow Theme Parks, Leina & Fleur, All Care QLD, Ditto Press, Griffith University, Bespoke Longevity, Drew Group, Express Boat Transport and Penguin Concrete – for your unwavering support.
- To our remarkable Event Partners, The Star Gold Coast and Dreamweavers, you helped us create an unforgettable evening.
- A special thank you to our Auctioneer, Andrew Bell OAM, and all of the kind donors who contributed to our Live and Silent Auctions and Raffle.

And to our heart and soul – the 40 incredible volunteers who gave up their Saturday night to serve our cause – thank you. You are the engine that makes this possible. We especially want to recognise Kaye Hastie for her tireless dedication and passion.

Because of the love and generosity that filled the room, we raised an astounding $400,000! This isn’t just a number; it’s a giant leap toward a human clinical trial and a future where a cure for paralysis is a reality. Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, we are changing lives.








Brisbane Legends Lunch, October 2024

The Brisbane Legends Lunch celebrated its sixth year in style at a stunning new location: the newly opened The Star Brisbane, Queen's Wharf. Over 160 guests gathered at Black Hide Steak & Seafood by Gambaro for an unforgettable afternoon dedicated to finding a cure for paralysis.

We are deeply grateful to our dedicated event committee – Rob Douglas, Sarah O'Kane, and Kaye Hastie – for their tireless efforts in making this event a reality. A huge thank you to our wonderful Event Sponsor Morgans, and to the Morgans Foundation for their generous donation of $30,000.

Our emcees, the fantastic Tim Horan and Ben Dobbin, entertained the crowd and shared powerful stories, with a special mention to Ben for his courage in sharing his personal experience with a recent spinal injury. The heart of the event was the presence of our Legends—Ella Sabljak, Matt McShane, Abby Craswell, Tim Horan, Nathan Sharpe, David Campese, Jai Opetaio, Kai Colless, and Robbie Farrah—who shared inspiring moments and personal stories.

We also want to thank our Cure Crusader Sponsors, Griffith University and BDO, our amazing volunteers, and the many community members who donated the prizes for our auctions and raffles. A special thank you to John Gambaro and his team for their exceptional hospitality, and to Moët & Chandon for providing champagne for every table.

Because of the wonderful generosity of everyone in the room – from bidding on auction items and buying raffle tickets to purchasing a bone – we raised over $113,000! Every dollar brings us closer to our goal. Thank you to each person who joined us and helped make this event a huge success.

Annual Thank You Celebration, November 2024

On a beautiful night, our community came together at HOTA, Home of the Arts, for our annual "Everything Is Possible" thank you celebration. It was a chance to raise a glass to the fantastic people who make our mission possible: our donors, volunteers, suppliers, partners, ambassadors and stakeholders. We gathered not just to celebrate the end of the year, but to honour a truly remarkable year of fundraising and the start of the human clinical trial.

The highlight of the evening was our special guest speaker, acclaimed Australian big wave surfer Mark Mathews. A three-time Oakley Big Wave award winner, Mark shared an emotional and honest presentation on building resilience and conquering fear. The crowd was captivated by his story, and we are so grateful for his willingness to share his personal journey with us.

Thank you to all of our speakers, including PCSRF Chairman Tom Ray, Professor James St John from Griffith University, and our very own Perry Cross.

We're also incredibly grateful to our Platinum Sponsors: Tori and Tash Buatava and the CareMatch team, Martin Hogan and the Molmike Medical team, Ryan Holsheimer and the Admiralty Capital Group team, and Dan Marino and the Hickey Lawyers team.

Research Open Day, June 2025

On Wednesday, June 24th, we were thrilled to co-host the Griffith University Research Open Day at the Gold Coast Campus. The energy in the room was palpable, with 80 guests joining us to hear firsthand about the latest progress on our human clinical trial.

Everyone was captivated as Professor James St John shared an update on the human clinical trial and Perry shared his insights into the future ahead. Afterward, guests had a unique, behind-the-scenes opportunity to tour the lab and witness the groundbreaking work happening every day.

It was so rewarding to see a room full of both familiar and new faces. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for this truly inspiring evening. Your support and enthusiasm are what make everything we do possible!

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

AFL Tasmania Charity Round, August 2024

In August, we saw the power of community in action at the second annual Cure Paralysis Round (AFL). This outreach fundraiser was hosted by our very own Cure Crusader Speaking Ambassador, Ryan Wiggins, and brought together over 400 players from two major Tasmanian leagues, AFL Tasmania and SFL Tasmania.

The event was a huge success, raising both awareness and vital funds for paralysis research. Because of this amazing community effort, the event raised over $3,000! A massive thank you to Ryan for his tireless work and to everyone who came out to support the cause. Together, we are truly making a difference.

Steps to a Cure Long Lunch, October 2024

Friend of the Foundation, April Coulson, hosted an incredible “Steps to a Cure Long Lunch” that raised a phenomenal $156,000! The event, held on October 19th at Cloudland in Brisbane, brought together over 350 generous guests for an unforgettable afternoon.

Filled with delicious food, great drinks, live entertainment and a vibrant live auction and raffle, the event was a powerful expression of community support. April, her family and friends came together with a shared goal of moving our human clinical trial forward.

The highlight of the afternoon was April’s own story. She bravely and beautifully shared her journey of living with a spinal cord injury, inspiring every person in the room with her honesty and hope. It’s because of selfless acts of generosity and courage like this that we can continue our important work. Thank you, April, and to everyone who helped make this special event a reality.

Run 60 For Spines, November 2024

A massive thank you to Harriet Roberts for creating and hosting the inspiring “Run 60 For Spines” fundraiser! This energetic event was held to support those with a spinal cord injury, with a special focus on Harriet’s friend, Emily Warnes.

Participants pushed their limits, running 5km every hour for 12 hours—a total of 60km! They joined in person on the Sunshine Coast or participated virtually with their own teams, all united by a single mission.

Because of this fantastic effort, Harriet and her community raised an impressive $6,500 for paralysis research. Thank you to everyone who ran, supported, and donated. Your passion and determination are what make our work possible.

The Hunt 1000, December 2024

We’re in awe of Matt Churches and Cam Taylor, who completed a gruelling 1,000km mountain bike ride from Canberra to Melbourne. This amazing feat was part of the annual Hunt 1000 challenge, inspired by a close friend’s spinal cord injury in 2023.

The journey was both brutal and beautiful. After nine days, 1,000 kilometres, and a staggering 20,000 metres of elevation, they completed the ride and raised over $20,000 for the Foundation! We are so grateful for the outstanding effort of Matt, Cam, and their community of supporters. Their dedication is a powerful reminder of how far we can go when we ride for a purpose.

Alstonville Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce Market Day, April 2025

A huge, heartfelt thank you to our long-time supporter and monthly donor, Trina Farren-Price who gathered her wonderful friends and family to host an amazing fundraiser at the Alstonville Showgrounds market.

The sun was shining and spirits were high on April 19th, as Trina’s team greeted market-goers with a brilliant display showcasing the Foundation’s work and a selection of fantastic raffle prizes. Their passion and hard work paid off in a big way, raising $1,500!

Get Silly for 24 hours, May 2025

A massive thank you to Fletcher Crowley and Jody Mielke for their spectacular Get Silly for 24 Hours fundraiser!

For 24 straight hours they rode and wheeled around Narrabeen Lagoon to raise vital funds for spinal injury research.

Fletcher, who became a paraplegic after a devastating accident in 2023, is the face of courage and positivity. His “Get Silly” movement inspires everyone to live fully, no matter what. With his friend Jody, a former Australian mountain biking representative, by his side, they were a force for good.

Thank you to every person who supported this event. Your generosity brings us closer to a cure. All funds raised go directly to world-first research that has the power to change lives.

Sydney Half Marathon, May 2025

A huge congratulations to Emily Little, who didn't just run her first half marathon, but did so with a purpose! On May 4, 2025, at the Runaway Sydney Half, she ran for her father, who sustained a spinal cord injury eight years ago. Emily knows firsthand the life-changing impact of such an injury, and she channelled that emotion and strength into every single step.

We couldn't be more grateful for her incredible effort. Her determination paid off in a big way, raising over $2,000 for the Foundation!

Gold Coast Fundraising Ball and Golf Day, June 2025

We were truly honoured to be one of the beneficiaries of the recent 2025 Gold Coast Fundraising Golf Day and Ball, held at RACV Royal Pines Resort. The two-day event was a massive success, bringing together a community dedicated to making a difference.

A huge thank you to Beric and Tina Lynton for their continued, unwavering support of the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation. And a special congratulations to Kyla and her incredible team who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to deliver such a memorable event.

Five local charities – the Gold Coast Community Fund, Men of Business (MOB), Gold Coast Hospital Foundation, Animal Welfare League Queensland (AWLQ), and Guide Dogs – shared in the success, which raised an astounding total of $187,979.01!

We are so grateful to have received $25,271.27 to support our mission to cure paralysis. Thank you to everyone who participated.

THANK YOU

TO OUR PLATINUM PARTNERS

We are grateful to the like-minded organisations that have joined forces with us to support those affected by spinal cord injury. Your commitment and partnership are vital to our mission.

ADMIRALTY
CAPITAL GROUP

Thank you to Ryan Holsheimer, a valued board member since 2014 and the founder of Admiralty Capital Group. Ryan's deep personal connection to our cause gives him a unique and powerful understanding of the challenges faced by those living with spinal cord injuries. His unwavering support and dedication have been instrumental in raising both awareness and crucial funds for our research.

Admiralty Capital Group invests in innovative companies with global ambitions, supporting their growth through its invested and intellectual capital. Their commitment to innovation aligns perfectly with the PCSRF's mission to drive research and find a cure for paralysis.

We'd like to extend our deepest gratitude to Dan Marino, a valued PCSRF board member and partner at Hickey Lawyers. Dan has been a dedicated supporter of our mission since our inception in 2010, working tirelessly to raise funds and awareness for spinal cord injury research over many years.

Established on the Gold Coast in 1993, Hickey Lawyers has built a reputation as one of Queensland's pre-eminent commercial law firms. We are so appreciative of the entire team—including partners Simon Chan, Mark Lacy, and Joe Welch—for their steadfast support.

A huge thank you to Vitori Buatava, founder of CareMatch, and his entire team for being such long-time friends and generous supporters of our mission.

CareMatch offers tailored care, specialising in spinal cord injury support. Their genuine and enthusiastic carers are dedicated to helping people achieve their goals, push boundaries, and stay connected. This commitment to care for people in their community makes their partnership with our research even more meaningful.

Our sincere thanks go to Martin Hogan, Director of Molmike Medical, and his team, for being such generous and consistent supporters of the Foundation. For many years, they have been a key sponsor of our SIP Week campaigns and annual Gala Dinners.

Molmiké Medical is a provider of high-quality, specialised medical consumables. They have access to over 8000 products and have recently launched a revolutionary new tool to help consumers and their healthcare teams manage their ongoing consumable requirements. From quoting through to ordering – ConsumAble by Molmike™ has streamlined the process, making it quicker and easier to access the products you need.

THANKS FOR BEING PART OF THE 2024

SIP SQUAD!

SIP Week challenges everyone to drink all their beverages through a straw, just like those with a high-level spinal cord injury, to help raise funds to find a cure for paralysis.

183 Sippers

762 donations

Total donations
$88,259

Thank you to every single person who sipped, donated, shared and supported SIP Week 2024 from the 2nd-8th of September.

A huge congratulations to our grand prize winners:

- Maddie O'Leary, who won an amazing stay at Sargood on Collaroy.
- Andrea Stolarchuk, the winner of the Sea World Resort Gold Coast Stay.

We also want to celebrate our top fundraisers:

- The highest individual fundraiser: Tony Pinot.
- The highest fundraising team: Cricks VW.

A special thank you to our awesome Platinum Sponsors: Making Strides, Molmike Medical, Admiralty Capital Group, CareMatch Australia, and Hickey Lawyers.

We're also grateful to our SIP Week 'sip'porters: Village Roadshow Theme Parks, Sargood on Collaroy, HiSmile, CocoCoast, ByGreen, and Worklocker.

Finally, we'd like to thank Kaye and Des Hastie for their support in preparing the SIP Registration packs, Mathew Malt and the team at Gold Coast University Hospital for hosting a SIP Week event, and the Molmike Medical team for launching SIP Week with a morning tea event at Dover Drop.

THE DAY EVERYTHING CHANGED

On February 24, 2013, a backyard accident changed Rodney's life forever.

A six-metre fall left him with a spinal cord injury and paralysis from the waist down. After five months of intensive care, Rodney returned home, facing his new reality with incredible courage.

Supported by his family, he not only adapted to life in a wheelchair but also returned to his job at Hastings Deering. Rodney's journey is a testament to the power of human resilience.

Today, he remains optimistic that a treatment for spinal cord injuries is on the horizon. His story is a beacon of hope for everyone affected by paralysis.

See Rodney's full story here;

OUR UNSTOPPABLE VOLUNTEERS

Our mission is powered by the passion of our community.

We are enormously grateful to our dedicated volunteers, who generously donate their time and energy to helping us find a cure for paralysis. Their support is a vital force behind every breakthrough, and we are stronger because of their commitment.

54 amazing volunteers contributed approximately

1,593 hours of service this year to the Foundation amounting to an estimated value of

$39,825!

THE POWER OF PERSONAL STORIES

We believe in the power of personal stories to inspire and educate.

Our Cure Crusader Ambassadors are individuals with spinal cord injuries who courageously share their journeys to build awareness of our groundbreaking work.

This program gives a voice to those with an injury, empowering them to make a difference while educating communities about spinal cord injury. Our inspiring Ambassadors are not just speakers, they are storytellers who share powerful messages of resilience and perseverance.

This year, they delivered keynote addresses, hosted lab tours, and shared their stories to help raise both awareness and funds for our research.

Would you like to have a Cure Crusader Ambassador speak at your next event? You can read their inspiring stories and learn more about the program here:

Meet our Cure Crusader Ambassadors

Ryan Boyd

Joanna Fowler

Mick Chisholm

Ryan Wiggins

Kurt Drysdale

Lindsay Nott

Nick Dempsey

FASHION WITH PURPOSE

Last year, we launched our merchandise store with a huge thank you to the Worklocker team.

Every item purchased is a statement of support, with all profits going directly to spinal cord injury research. This is more than just merchandise; it's a way for you to contribute to our mission.

We extend our sincere thanks to Nick Dempsey and the team at Worklocker for their generosity in establishing and managing the store. Their commitment allows us to channel more resources into our vital work.

Check out the range here;

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A cure for paralysis would not be possible without the generous support of our community.

We would like to make special mention of the individuals, organisations and businesses who have generously gifted the Foundation a donation over $10,000 this financial year (please note this includes donations made at the Gala Dinner over $10,000).

The estate of Patricia Helen Sayer	$1,050,000
Queensland Health	$1,000,000 of $2,000,000 commitment
Ryan and Bec Holsheimer	$22,580
Terry & Jodie Jackman	$25,000
Morgans Foundation	$30,000
Fleur Richardson, By Fleur Collective	$18,000
Penguin Concrete Construction	$15,500
Maureen Louise Stevenson	$15,000
Marcus and Eva Dore	$12,500
Anonymous	$12,500
Brett & Rebecca Frizelle	$12,500
The Norman Hotel	$12,000
NPD Developments, Michael and Tracy Ferraro	$10,000
Paul Cronin	$10,000
Kee Ong	$10,000
Champion Family Foundation	$10,000
Anonymous	$10,000
Stand Up For Spinal Limited, Jay Stevens	$10,000

Our work would not be possible without the support of the business community.

Special thanks to our 2024/2025 Foundation Platinum Sponsors

ADMIRALTY CAPITAL GROUP

HICKEY LAWYERS

CareMatch Australia

molmikè medical

Special thanks to our 2024/2025 Research Partners

MAKING STRIDES

Griffith UNIVERSITY Queensland, Australia

Special thanks to our 2024/2025 Event Partners

pag PRESTIGE AUTOMOTIVE GROUP GOLD COAST

JAGUAR LAND ROVER BYD

morgans

morgans Foundation

Special thanks to our 2024/2025 In Kind Supporters

bt. MARKETING

nova PRESS PRINT & MAIL

DITTO PRESS

KPMG cutting through complexity

Verg

Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2025 Gold Sponsors

Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2025 Cure Crusaders

Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2025 Event Partners

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Finding a cure of this magnitude takes universal force and collective power. Every time someone links arms with us, our global movement strengthens, our voice gets louder, our presence more visible and a cure becomes a reality.

There are many ways to get involved and contribute to our life-changing research.

DONATE

Your financial contribution, no matter the size, directly supports critical research. Whether you make a one-time donation, become a regular giver, or leave a gift in your will, you're helping us get closer to a treatment. Visit pcsrf.org.au or email us at team@pcsrf.org.au to learn more.

SIP FOR A CURE

Ready for a unique challenge? Join the SIP Week challenge and raise funds to cure paralysis. It's simple: for one week, just drink all your beverages through a straw. You don't have to run a marathon or break a sweat to make a difference. Find out more at sipweek.com.

HOST AN EVENT AND FUNDRAISE FOR US

Do you have a great idea to raise funds to help us find the cure for paralysis? Why not mobilise your network and host an event on our behalf? You could have a garage sale, host a morning tea or a golf day. We'll provide you with all the support and marketing tools you will need. Sign up at pcsrf.org.au

PARTNER WITH US

Make a lasting impact through a corporate partnership. Your company can support the Foundation through sponsorship, prize donations, volunteering time, or workplace giving. To explore partnership opportunities, visit pcsrf.org.au or email team@pcsrf.org.au.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Our volunteers are the heart of the Foundation. They are the crusaders who join us at events, in the office and support our fundraisers. They are the visionaries that put thought into action. You can join our amazing team by enquiring at team@pcsrf.org.au

SPREAD THE WORD

Follow us on our socials and stay up to date with our pursuit of a cure for paralysis.

pcsrf.org.au

@perryxfndn

@pcsrf

@perrycrossspinalresearchfoundation

OUR PEOPLE

Check out our diverse and experienced team bios here;

Patrons and Ambassadors

L-R: **THE HONOURABLE DAME QUENTIN BRYCE AD CVO,** Patron, **JOHN EALES AM,** Ambassador, **ADAM GILCHRIST AM,** Ambassador, **NATHAN GREY,** Ambassador, **BEN IKIN,** Ambassador, **NATHAN SHARPE,** Ambassador

Executive Team

L-R: **PERRY CROSS, AM,** Executive President and Founder, **MELISSA BROWN,** Foundation Manager, **JEN HUTCHINGS,** Philanthropy Manager, **CLARE WITALIK,** Admin and Events Officer

Board of Directors

L-R: **PERRY CROSS, AM** (Executive President and Founder), **TOM RAY** (Chairman), **MARCUS DORE**, **RYAN HOLSHEIMER**, **MELANIE LEIS**, **DAN MARINO**, **DR BRENT MCMONAGLE**, **GEORGE MOSKOS**, **BRETT WALKER**

Scientific Committee

L-R: **DR BRENT MCMONAGLE** (Scientific Director), **PROFESSOR RANDY BINDRA**, **MARTIN CODYRE**, **DR WAYNE NG**, **DR DINESH PALIPANA**, **DR ELLISON STEPHENSON**, **LINDA WATERS**

Company Members

L-R: **ADAM BENNETT-SMITH**, **ROBERT DOUGLAS**, **LYNNE GILLOGLY**, **DAMON HARRIS**, **KAYE HASTIE**, **BLAKE HEDGER**, **HEATH HILL**, **JODIE JACKMAN**,

Company Members continued...

L-R: **BERIC LYNTON, LETITIA MAXWELL** (Company Secretary / Member), **ANDREW MCLAUCHLAN, WADE MCMONAGLE, BEN MCNEIL, BEN MICHAEL, LINDSAY NOTT, GREG PINK, TRACEY ROBERTS, MICHAEL RUDD, KRISTEE SHEPHERD, PAUL STEER, JENS TAMPE, DAN TROLLOPE, ADAM TWEMLOW, TOM WALSH**

We want to extend a massive thank you to Chad Lemming and the team at Nova Press for their outstanding partnership.

By donating our printing needs – including this annual report, event programs, and branded stationery – they've provided support valued at more than $25,000 annually. This generous contribution allows us to direct more funds toward life-changing research. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to helping us find a cure for paralysis.

nova PRESS PRINT & MAIL

ABN 82 142 046 124

www.pcsrf.org.au