

Annual Report

2021-2022




OVARIAN
CANCER
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

**FUNDING INNOVATIVE OVARIAN
CANCER RESEARCH TO SAVE WOMEN'S
LIVES THROUGH EARLY DETECTION AND
PERSONALISED TREATMENT.**

Contents

Our Impact	4	Impact to date: OCRF Impact Timeline	14
2021/22 at a Glance	6	Research Funding and Progress	16
Message from the Chair and CEO	8	Disruptive Change	22
Who Is the OCRF?	9	Championing the ovarian cancer research sector	23
Vision, Mission and Objectives	10	Elevating the Consumer Voice	26
Our Challenges, Our Solutions	12	Our Supporters	29
Our Overall strategy	13	Financial Statements	30

Cover Image: Molly Carter, OCRF Community Ambassador.

Our Impact

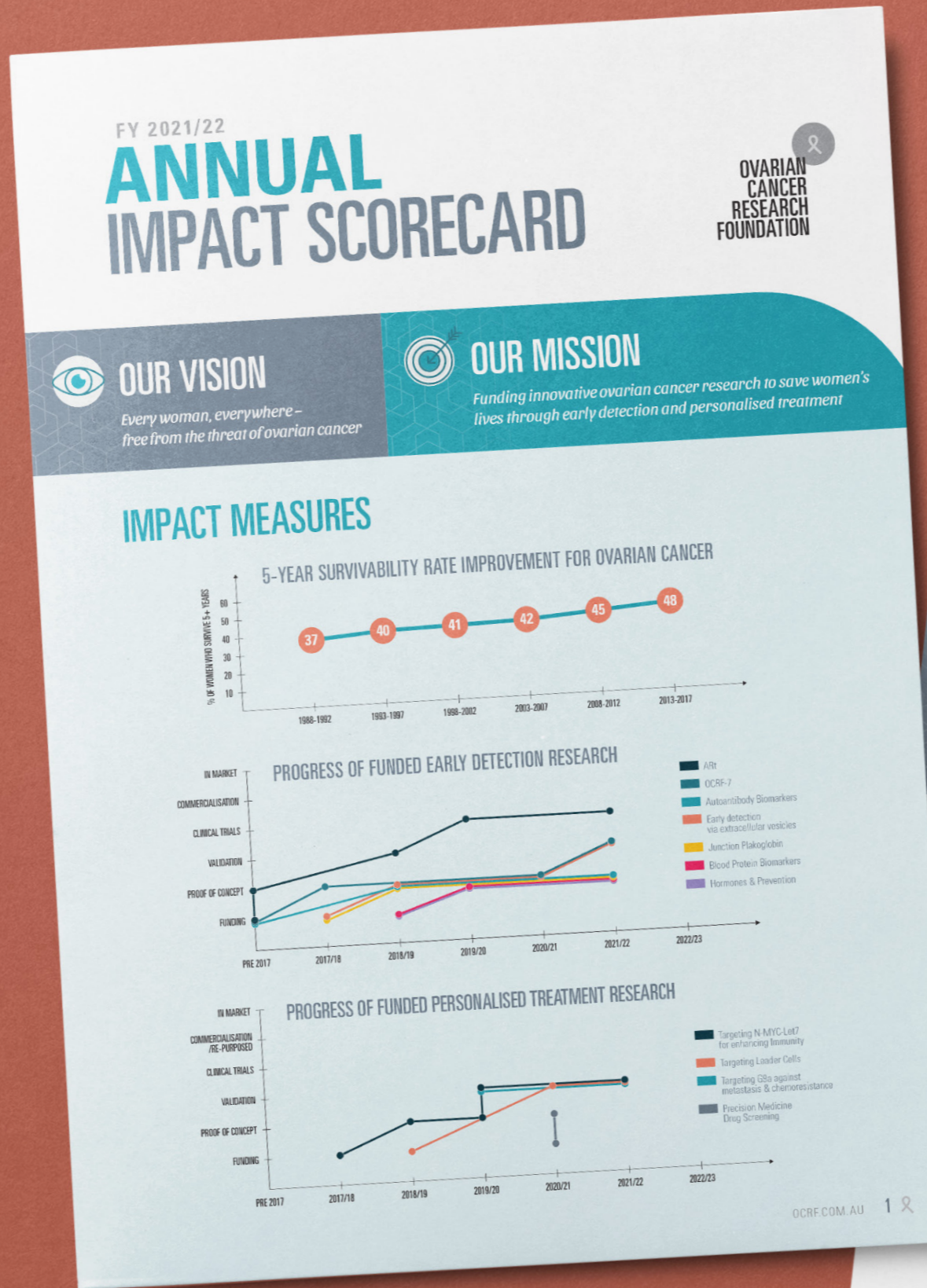
Introducing the OCRF Annual Impact Scorecard

To build our transparency in reporting our performance to stakeholders, we have developed an Annual Impact Scorecard. Rather than relying on yearly inputs and outputs, the scorecard provides a tiered approach to reporting.

We are confident that this shift to tiered reporting will provide a clearer line-of-sight between our vision, mission, our yearly activities, and capacity building and in turn, this will build a greater confidence in our approach to achieving our core vision and mission.

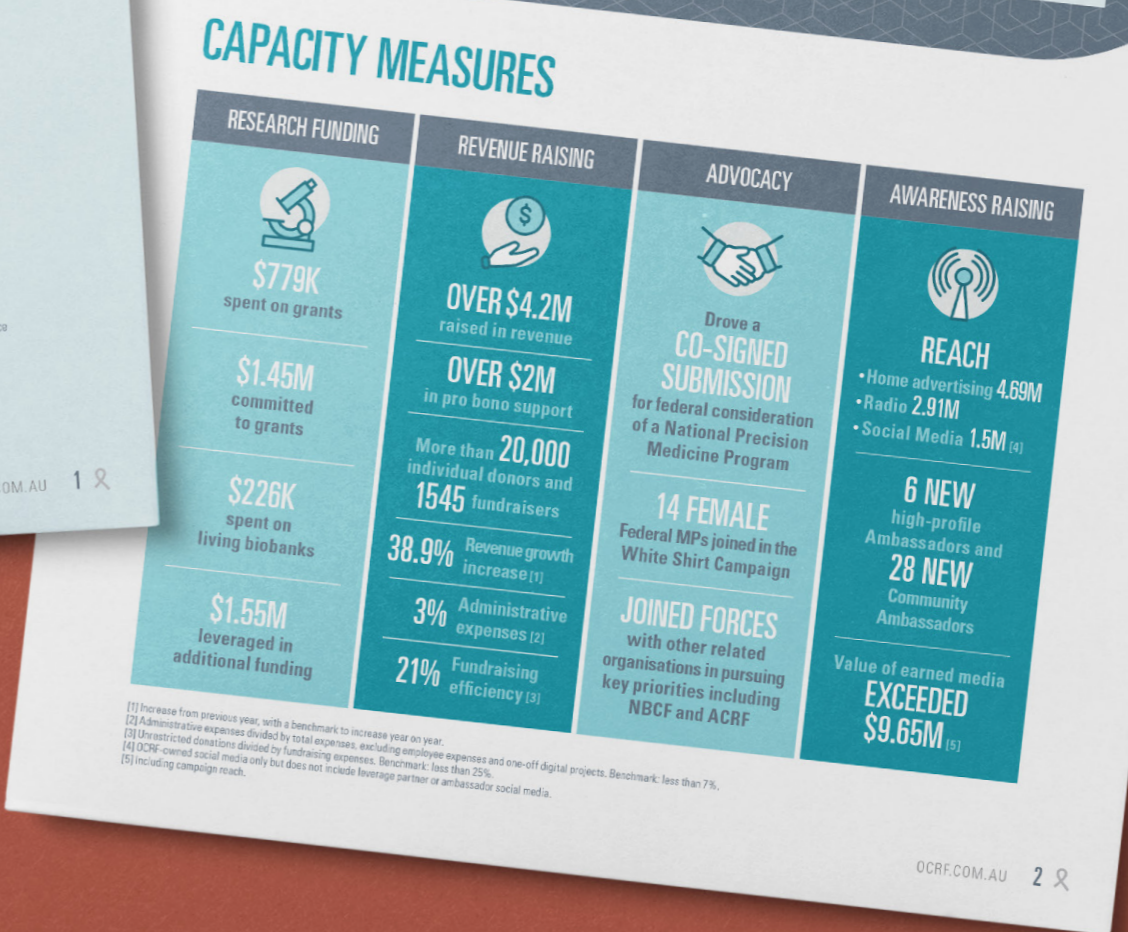
We want to ensure that our supporters know that together, we are really making a difference; that we are a strong social purpose organisation and importantly, we focus heavily on accountability, increased efficiency, and financial responsibility.

Next year, our Annual Impact Scorecard will reflect our progress against our new Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) framework. Again, further steps toward providing more confidence to our supporters and donors, that their socially conscious investments are going to the right place.



ACTIVITY MEASURES

GOALS (OCR Strategic Plan 2021-2024)	STRATEGIES (OCR Business Plan 2021-22)
Research Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grow expertise, diversity, and independence of the Scientific Advisory Committee Increase capability to produce hard hitting substantive research news pieces to highlight gaps and grow awareness
Disruptive Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a disruptive change strategy and action plan to shift away from incremental change Develop a targeted impact measurement strategy
Championing the Ovarian Cancer Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards sector consensus on key priorities and "asks" Provide researcher advocacy on a fit for purpose Government Funding Model
Elevating the Consumer Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a strong network in each State and Territory Provide the skills and collateral necessary to support Consumers
Future Proofing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grow national participation in activities and fundraising Continue strong investment to achieve digital scale in line with key priorities
Growing the Research Funding Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue strong collaborative partnerships that leverage additional funding for ovarian cancer research



[1] Increase from previous year, with a benchmark to increase year on year.
 [2] Administrative expenses divided by total expenses, excluding employee expenses and one-off digital projects. Benchmark: less than 7%.
 [3] Unrestricted donations divided by fundraising expenses. Benchmark: less than 25%.
 [4] OCRF owned social media only but does not include leverage partner or ambassador social media.
 [5] Including campaign reach.

2021/22 at a Glance

Research Funding Impact



OVER \$700K

committed to fund new research projects in FY22/23

OVER \$1.3M

in funding contributed to current projects and collaborative research grants

2 NEW PROJECTS
awarded funding

4 EXISTING PROJECTS
continued funding

3 PROJECTS CO-FUNDED
via collaborations

3 COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS
entered into with research institutes to leverage several million dollars of additional MRFF funding

Raising the Profile of Ovarian Cancer

People reached via out of home and radio partnerships



7.6M

Direct social media reach



1.55M

Value of earned media



\$9.65M

Advocacy and Collaboration



We led the development of a **National Precision Medicine Program Bid**

In collaboration with ANZGOG, the OCRF advocated to government for the establishment and funding of a nationally consistent, research-oriented approach to improve the treatment pathway for ovarian cancer patients

Mobilising the Community



OVER \$4.2M RAISED

from donors & community activities (a 35% increase)

OVER \$1M RAISED

through Frocktober, and a new record in participants

\$120,000 RAISED

through inaugural Walk With Women event

15,000+ DONORS & 1,500+ FUNDRAISERS

helped support research

NEW COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS FROM WA AND TASMANIA JOIN THE CAUSE

WELCOMED NEW CORPORATE PARTNER, AIA VITALITY

Message from the Chair and CEO



Julie Toop, Chair

It is my privilege to once again present the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation (OCRF) Annual Report for 2021-2022. It is 22 years since the ORCF was established, and despite a huge amount of work having been done by many people over these years, there is much work still to be done if we are to see a real shift in the survivability rates of ovarian cancer patients.

Our CEO, Lucinda Nolan, has once again done an outstanding job of leading the organisation, and raising the profile of ovarian cancer. Lucinda and her small, very talented team, continue to produce an astonishingly large body of work, driven by their passion to one day see the development of an ovarian cancer early detection test.

I'd like to thank and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our Committee of Management members, together with all our sub-committee members. Their willingness to volunteer their time and employ their talents adds greatly to the effectiveness of the OCRF's work.

We are incredibly fortunate to continue to be supported in our work by our loyal and ever growing band of corporate sponsors, ambassadors, volunteers, partners, and donors. We would not be able to achieve what we have without them.

The OCRF receives the most selfless support of all from women living with ovarian cancer. These women give up their time for advocacy and fundraising work with the OCRF, often when they themselves are very unwell. Their altruistic acts make the grim survivability rates 'real' for those of us listening to their stories, and highlights the urgent need to fund more research far more effectively than words on paper.

[With your help we can change the story for these and future women.](#)

Lucinda Nolan, CEO

Ovarian cancer is the most lethal reproductive cancer in Australia; over this past year alone, 1,720 Australian women were diagnosed with ovarian cancer; only 826 of them (48%) will be alive five years from now. This is not a new problem.

In the last 30 years, there has been a growing disparity of research funding among reproductive cancers in Australia, which as a result, has directly impacted the survivability rates.

Breast and prostate cancer are incredible success stories for they demonstrate clearly how significant funding promotes improvement in survival rates. Both cancers now have early detection methods, which have increased five-year survival rates well into the 90th percentile, while five-year survivability for ovarian cancer sits relatively stagnant at just 48%. It is time ovarian cancer research also became a priority.

Our focus throughout this year has been on how we can best disrupt the status quo. The unceasing lethality of ovarian cancer rates in 2022 irrefutably demonstrates why the story needs to change. Here, we have clear evidence that [the more we fund, the more we all survive.](#)

With your ongoing support, we can accelerate the development and implementation of an early detection program to ensure that everyone, everywhere is free from the threat of ovarian cancer. Together, we need to be the driving force of change that we seek, because if we don't, who will?

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

- Barack Obama

Who is the OCRF?

Who We Are

The OCRF is the largest non-government funder of ovarian cancer research in Australia. We fund innovative research that will save lives.

Why We Exist

Ovarian cancer is the most lethal reproductive cancer in Australia, taking more than 1,000 lives each year. It is also a highly complex disease, made up of more than 30 known subtypes with unique characteristics and behaviours. Rather than one homogeneous disease, it is many.

The causes of ovarian cancer are still largely unknown, with only 10-15% of diagnoses linked to genetic predisposition.

Those diagnosed with ovarian cancer face a staggeringly low chance of surviving five years from their diagnosis, with only 48% reaching this milestone. For those diagnosed in the advanced stages, which is most cases, the chance is just 29%.

Due to a historical lack of funding and focus, developments in the diagnosis, treatment and management of ovarian cancers trail far behind that of other reproductive cancers such as breast, cervical and prostate cancers. Improvements in the survival rates for these cancers grew from public advocacy to sustained research funding from philanthropists, corporates and governments. The results include the development of early detection tests and an array of personalised treatment options which save and extend lives.

To realise a significant shift in survival for ovarian cancer patients, the same dedication and sustained efforts must now be focussed on ovarian cancer research.

What We Do

The OCRF fills a critical funding gap to ensure that innovative research across Australia and New Zealand can receive initial funding and develop enough evidence to attract funding from government bodies that may otherwise overlook these projects.

In funding research across treatment, management of recurrence, early detection, prevention and cure, the OCRF is determined to improve survival for those facing ovarian cancer now, as well as saving the lives of future generations.

- We know that the development of an early detection test could lift survival rates from 48% to 90% and above.
- We know that developing more targeted, personalised treatments will improve quality of life and reduce the burden of disease for patients.
- We know that real change is possible when communities, governments and philanthropists come together to support a common goal.

Ovarian cancer kills people with ovaries in the prime of their lives – mothers, daughters, colleagues, friends, mentors. It is so lethal, that many of the stories of those lost never get a chance to be shared.

Our collective challenge is to move the fight beyond researchers in the lab, to directly and positively impact the households of every Australian who will be affected by ovarian cancer.

Without adequate research funding, we will not see significant improvement in survival rates for ovarian cancer in our lifetime.

This is why we exist, to see these statistics and facts change for the better.

Vision, Mission & Objectives

Vision

Every woman, everywhere — free from the threat of ovarian cancer.

Mission

Funding innovative ovarian cancer research to save women’s lives through early detection and personalised treatment.

Objectives

Improve Early Detection

Develop and implement an early detection program for ovarian cancer that is non-invasive, highly accurate and widely available.

Improve Mortality Rate

Improve the mortality rate, management, and long-term survival of women with ovarian cancer.

Research Innovation

Attract and fund the most innovative and skilled researchers.

Our Overall Strategy

This year, the OCRF commenced the implementation of the new Strategic Plan 2021-2024. The plan identifies six Strategic Ambitions that guide the OCRF’s decision making and prioritise investment in our activities. Achieving the Strategic Ambitions will make the greatest difference to OCRF’s effectiveness in generating funds and in improving the survivability of ovarian cancer.

<h3>Research Expertise</h3> <p>To be known as the leading voice in ovarian cancer research</p> 	<h3>Disruptive Change</h3> <p>To challenge the status quo</p> 
<h3>Championing the Ovarian Cancer Research Sector</h3> <p>To propose solutions through collective thought leadership in research</p> 	<h3>Elevating the Consumer Voice</h3> <p>To reflect the voices of ovarian cancer patients via strong national representation</p> 
<h3>Future Proofing</h3> <p>To ensure organisational resilience</p> 	<h3>Growing the Research Funding Pool</h3> <p>To exceed the demand for funding from the research community</p> 

Our Challenges

In an effort to drive dramatic improvements to ovarian cancer survivability, we need to identify and take control of key levers that are reducing our ability to create real disruptive change. We make the following evidence-based claims about the current status of ovarian cancer:

Killer Facts:

Ovarian cancer is the most lethal reproductive cancer

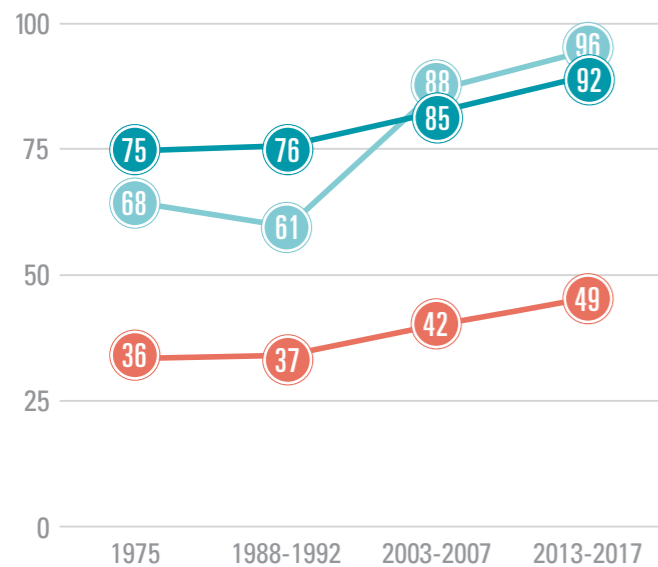
There is disproportionate funding across reproductive cancers

There is a clear link between funding and survivability

Ovarian cancer is misunderstood, hidden from conversation and lacking an army

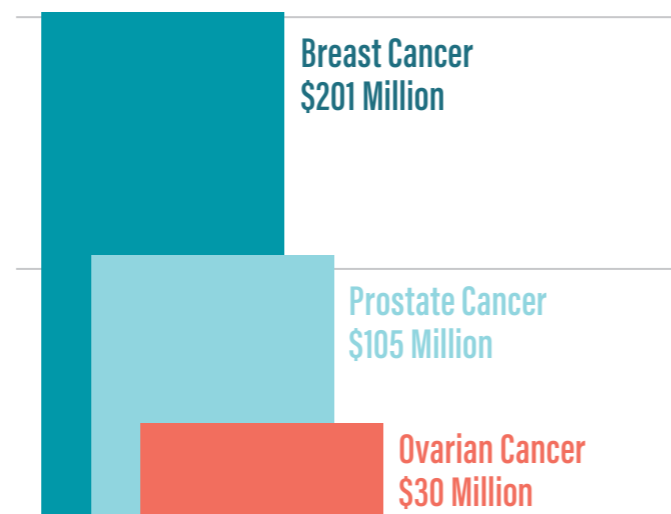
People of influence can create real change to ovarian cancer survivability

5 Year Relative Survival (%):



● Breast Cancer ● Prostate Cancer ● Ovarian Cancer

Funding to type-specific cancer research in Australia between 2006 and 2011:



Our Solutions

In response to findings in the independent State of the Nation report conducted in 2020, we have set out a clear path to achieve our vision of every woman, everywhere – free from the threat of ovarian cancer. We propose a step-change of improvements in survival outcomes, this will be in line with the rate and requirements of progressive and innovative research.

Improve survival rates to 50% for women today

By rapidly implementing recent advances in knowledge in clinical practice nationally.

↑50%

Improve 5 year survivability rates beyond 50% for next generation – by 2025

Through development, testing and increased access to new and innovative personalised treatments.




↑50%

5-year survivability rates towards 90% - by 2030

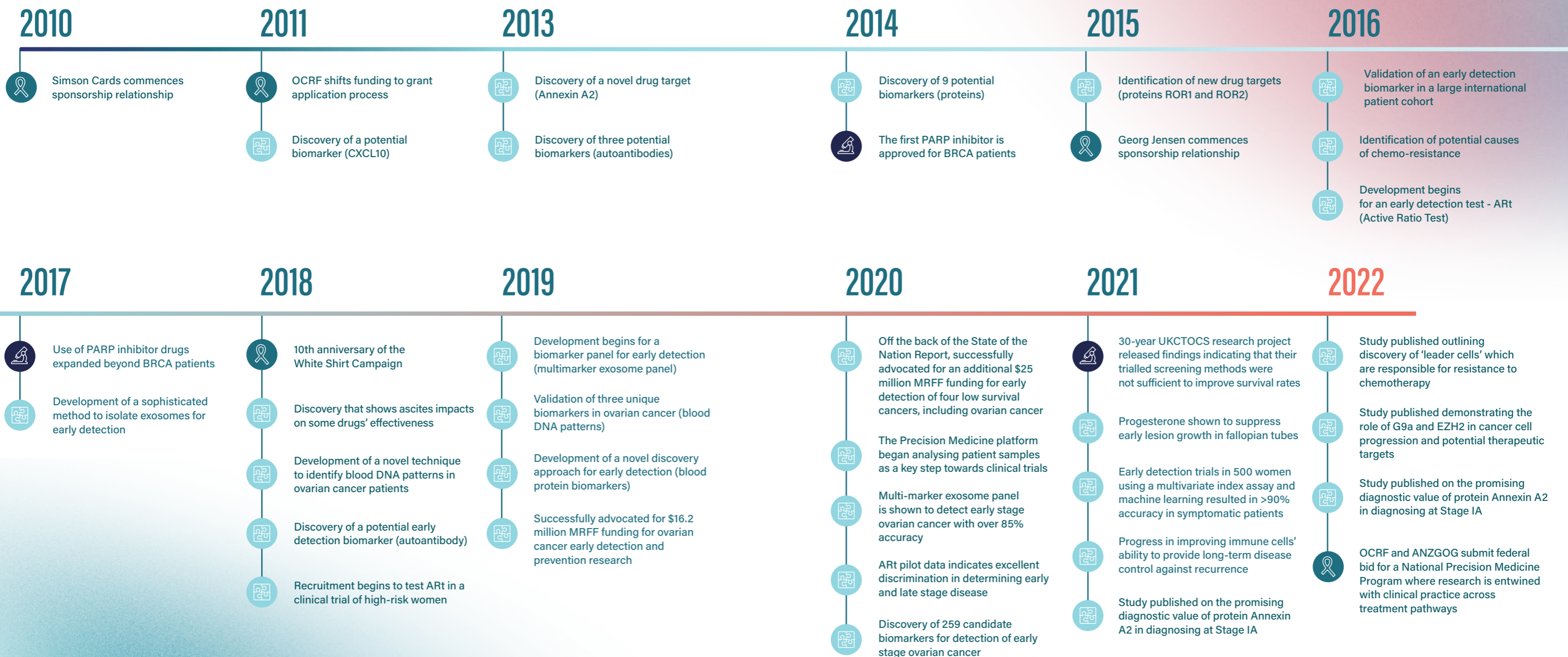
Through the development of new methods for early detection and diagnosis.

↑90%

Impact to date: OCRF Impact Timeline

-  Major events in OCRF history
-  Major events in OvCa research
-  OCRF research outcomes

As our research continues, project successes and failures all contribute to building a better understanding of the disease and how best to tackle it. Key progress and milestones over the past decade are depicted in the timeline below.



Research Funding and Progress

During this financial year, the OCRF's national grant process saw nine projects funded from around Australia.

These projects covered the research priority areas of:

- Prevention
- Treatment
- Early Detection
- Resistance
- Managing Recurrence

OCRF Research Institute

Research Priority	Name	Institute	Research Title	Project Length	Current Year	Cost per year
●	Prof Tanwar	Uni of Newcastle	Defining the roles of hormones in the pathogenesis of ovarian cancer.	3	3	\$188,759
●	Dr Maree Bilandzic	Hudson Institute	Therapeutic Targeting of the Leader Cell Population in Ovarian Cancer.	3	3	\$254,718
●	A/Prof Stacey Edwards	QIMR Berghofer	Leveraging genomics to overcome drug resistance in ovarian cancer.	3	1	\$137,189
●	A/Prof Tanwar	Uni of Newcastle	Discovery and validation of a blood-based protein biomarker for the early detection of ovarian cancer.	3	1	\$198,365

Collaborations

Research Priority	Collab Partner	Name	Institute	Research Title	Project Length	Current Year	Cost per year
●	ACRF	Prof. Andrew Roberts	WEHI	Australian Cancer Research Foundation Program for Resolving Cancer Complexity and Therapeutic Resistance.	3	3	\$116,500
●	NBCF	Prof. Kum Kum Khanna	QIMR Berghofer	Development of a novel combination therapy to target triple - negative breast and high-grade serous ovarian cancers.	3	2	\$96,518
●	CCV	Dr Holly Barker	WEHI	Identifying new treatment options for the rare and aggressive ovarian carcinosarcoma.	3	2	\$50,000

New Research Grants

Finding the chinks in ovarian cancer's armour is complex: it's deadly, difficult to diagnose and heartbreakingly resistant to existing treatment. Exposing its weaknesses to create effective new therapies depends on a deep understanding of what makes it tick, which means researchers need to ask a wide range of questions to find the answers they need. The OCRF has awarded significant new grants to two Melbourne-based research institutes that are pushing the boundaries to uncover what drives malignancy. What they learn will help target existing treatments as well as contribute to exciting new therapies to tackle ovarian cancer.



Professor Ron Firestein Hudson Institute of Medical Research

Functional Genomic Approaches for identifying new ovarian cancer therapeutic targets

Professor Ron Firestein and his team from the Hudson Institute of Medical Research are deploying state-of-the-art genomic technology to develop a greater understanding of ovarian cancer biology, specifically the protein called PAX8. The OCRF has awarded Professor Firestein and his colleagues \$238,527 over the next two years.

"I've always been drawn to questions in research that can produce a clinical impact for patients, but at the same time, projects that advance our fundamental knowledge of biology and how cellular processes work," says Professor Firestein.

"There's a real urgency to identify and validate new drug targets, but at the same time, to understand the biology of ovarian cancer at a deeper level. And this project really deals with both of those questions."

2 YEARS **\$238,527**



Professor Matthias Ernst Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute (ONJCRI)

Targeting the tumour microenvironment of high grade serous ovarian carcinoma to improve response to therapy

Professor Matthias Ernst, director of the ONJCRI and his team, are hoping their research into yet another protein that contributes to malignancy will help create more effective targeted therapies to fight ovarian cancer. Of every four women diagnosed, three will die from the disease, due to responding poorly to existing drugs, or not responding at all.

"We want to translate our discoveries from the laboratory bench into the clinic and have patient impact," says Professor Ernst.

The ONJCRI team has been awarded \$299,286 over two years to continue its already significant work in unravelling the way cancer development and growth appears to have a connection to a protein called Hematopoietic Cell Kinase, or HCK.

2 YEARS **\$299,286**

Introducing Our New Scientific Advisory Committee Members

Our Scientific Advisory Committee plays a crucial role in ensuring that the OCRF funds the most promising research projects. Simply put, they help us pick winners. Each year they volunteer their time and significant expertise to assess and discuss applications. In addition to our current members, in 2022 we were thrilled to welcome five new members to our team of international experts.



Associate Professor Anirban Mitra, Indiana University School of Medicine

"To me, research is like an interesting adventure where you identify a problem and seek out ways to solve it."



Associate Professor Daniela Dinulescu, Harvard Medical School, Division of Women's & Perinatal Pathology

"I lost someone very close to me to ovarian cancer, she was diagnosed with late-stage cancer... the ultimate goal of ovarian cancer prevention has become my personal mission and lifetime commitment."



Associate Professor Honami Naora, Molecular & Cellular Oncology, University of Texas MD Anderson, Cancer Center

"'Re-search', a process by which we repeatedly search for possibilities and progressively eliminate possibilities to find the answer. Not for the faint-hearted."



Associate Professor John Liao, Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Washington School of Medicine

"As a cancer researcher and an oncologist treating patients with ovarian cancer, I recognize the critical need for new therapies for this disease to improve the lives of patients. I am very pleased to support the OCRF through the SAC to achieve these goals."



Professor Samuel Mok, Department of Gynecologic, Oncology & Reproductive Medicine, University of Texas

"Being a member of the advisory committee will allow me to share my knowledge and insights about ovarian cancer with other members and the new generation of researchers."

Introducing Our New Consumer Representative Panel Members

Our Consumer Representative Panel is comprised of members who have been affected by ovarian cancer. They bring valuable insights to the table when assessing grant applications by evaluating the design of research, the extent of consumer involvement and the projects' translational impact. This year we were thrilled to welcome two new members to the committee.



Jemima Leydon

Jemima was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2006 at the age of five. This diagnosis came completely by fluke after her mother felt a lump on her stomach following days of complaints about a stomach-ache.

On the same day she was diagnosed, Jemima underwent emergency surgery to remove the tumour and her right ovary before having four rounds of chemotherapy over the next four months. Jemima feels fortunate to have been ovarian cancer free for almost 16 years and began working with the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation in 2018.

She is grateful for the connections she has formed and is passionate about using her experience to support the OCRF in their quest to develop an early detection test and effective treatments for ovarian cancer.



Sirin Steele

Sirin Steele was diagnosed in 2016 with ovarian cancer after thinking she might be pregnant again. What was supposed to be a visit to the GP during a work lunch break for a pregnancy test resulted in a diagnosis that would change her life.

She found herself having surgery within a week of diagnosis and underwent five months of chemotherapy. In the months that followed her treatment, Sirin had to navigate her way to a "new normal" as the treatment and surgeries she endured became apparent.

The disheartening fact that there is no early detection test or accurate screening method spurred Sirin to use her skills to raise awareness for ovarian cancer research. To give back to her incredible community, Sirin founded AusLitTeal, the official national campaign that lights up major landmarks and skylines to mark World Ovarian Cancer Day on May 8th each year.

How an insider's unique view is driving exciting breakthroughs in ovarian cancer research

Research Feature, Michelle Finke

As a student, Professor Martin Oehler was curious: he explored biology and medicine, research and genetics – the more he knew, the more he wanted to know.

"When you're young, you want to understand the world and the more knowledge you acquire, the more fascinating it becomes," he reflects. "And at some point, you want to change things..."

Professor Oehler wants to impact the future for women with ovarian cancer, and he has the diverse skillset to achieve that. Director of Gynaecological Oncology at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Adelaide, Oehler is both a clinician and surgeon.

But he's also a seasoned researcher. His varied OCRF-funded research projects have contributed to our deeper understanding of ovarian cancer and revealed new possibilities for early detection and treatment.

Professor Oehler's "two worlds" overlap, giving him unique insight into the lives of patients and how he can help them. In turn, his patients contribute to the potential of an ovarian cancer-free future by consenting to provide the biospecimens essential to his team's research.

"Seeing patients with cancer affects you," he says. "With my clinical experience and scientific knowledge, I knew this was an area I wanted to work in because I saw both sides - the damage the disease causes and how it affects patients. And I could see that my work in the laboratory could contribute to improving outcomes."

Professor Oehler was born in Germany and completed obstetrics and gynaecology training close to home, but his post-grad studies took him all over the world, from Houston to Oxford and finally Australia. Most students became clinicians or researchers, he says, but rarely both.

"I do the surgery, am involved with chemotherapy, include patients in clinical trials and do research. I see the whole picture because I'm working in all these areas.

A recent world-first project supported by the OCRF illustrates the power of Professor Oehler's diverse skillset. With the aim of developing an accurate blood test for early detection of ovarian cancer, the "holy grail" for researchers, he took blood samples directly from cancerous ovaries.

Standard blood samples, taken via the arm, might contain specific proteins indicating the presence of ovarian cancer, but they are trickier to detect when diluted in five to six litres of blood from all over the body. Oehler and his team have identified several proteins produced in response to cancerous ovarian tissue. Focusing on these proteins, the team compared the blood from the tumour with a standard sample from the arm. They found these proteins in higher concentration in the tumour samples, denoting possible markers of the patients' immune response to cancer.

"To do this, you need to have somebody who does the surgery and that's my advantage. I'm a researcher and a clinician so I did the surgery, took the blood and sent it to the lab."

Professor Oehler's connection to the OCRF spans nearly two decades: from a young research fellow to a scientific adviser, board member and a leading researcher.

"Without the OCRF we wouldn't have been able to start projects," he says. "The problem with new research is that you don't have much preliminary data to support grant applications, which is difficult especially when you want to be more creative in the approach."

If there's a downside to life as a clinician/researcher says Professor Oehler, it would be the hours. "I work around the clock because it's not something you can easily switch off. It's a total commitment."

Disruptive Change

Accelerating improved survivability for ovarian cancer patients is reliant on accelerating research into ovarian cancer. Accelerating ovarian cancer research is reliant on accelerating research investment.

Increasing research investment is heavily reliant on Australia's wealthiest and most influential people stepping in, investing significant funds, and lending their voice to support ovarian cancer research, such that others follow. More than any other group, these people have the means to disrupt the current trajectory of ovarian cancer survivability, re-setting it on an accelerated path.

We need only look to other cancers, which celebrate a five-year survivability in the 90th percentile to demonstrate this.

In the mid-1970s, breast cancer five-year survivability sat at 75%, prostate cancer at 68% and ovarian cancer at 36%. Little changed over the subsequent 15-20 years with early 1990s figures showing breast cancer survivability shifted to 76%, prostate cancer survivability tracked backwards to 61% and ovarian cancer survivability hardly improved at 37%. Fast forward to now, and current survival rates are 92% for breast cancer and 96% for prostate cancer – more than a nine out of 10 chance to live beyond five years. Ovarian cancer survivability languishes well behind at just 48%: less than half a chance of living five years post-diagnosis.

What sits behind these significant uplifts in breast and prostate cancer survivability is research investment – investment from philanthropists, high net worth individuals and people of influence. Combined with support from the community and government, this investment led to early detection breakthroughs, continued refinement of detection methodologies and improved treatment options. Since 2000, this influential group has injected \$319 million into breast cancer research in Australia and \$207 million into prostate cancer research. Ovarian cancer research has received just \$79 million.

These two cancers – breast and prostate, prove the value of sizeable investment and considerable influence, two key factors which have been largely absent in the previous 25-years of ovarian cancer research in Australia.

Future generations deserve better, which is why the OCRF is striving for disruptive change that will accelerate a shift in survivability for those diagnosed with ovarian cancer – ultimately saving hundreds of thousands of lives in Australia and millions more worldwide. With the support of agency Decade of Action, the OCRF team has been working on a strategy to engage major philanthropists and influential Australians to ensure ovarian cancer is the next success story in cancer survival.

64% of women surveyed by the University of Melbourne incorrectly believed a pap smear detected ovarian cancer.

Championing the ovarian cancer research sector

The National Ovarian Cancer Precision Medicine Research Program

Prior to the Federal election, the OCRF joined forces with Australia New Zealand Gynaecological Oncology Group (ANZGOG) to develop and submit a pre-budget bid for a National Ovarian Cancer Precision Medicine Research Program. The proposal outlined a research-led action plan designed to increase five-year survivability rates beyond 50% by 2027, where research is entwined with clinical practice across the treatment pathway. While not successful as a pre-budget bid, OCRF and ANZGOG are continuing to advocate for these significant changes to ensure a better future for those diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

The bid advocated for funding specifically as follows:

- **\$91.5 million** for molecular profiling of every woman diagnosed to identify their specific form of ovarian cancer.
- **1.5 million** to develop next generation precision medicine and identify which drug (or combination) provides the best defence against specific types of ovarian cancer.
- **\$80 million** to fuel a competitive funding opportunity, through the Government's Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), to boost the number of clinical trials available.

What's wrong with the current treatment pathway?

Treatment for ovarian cancer has not significantly advanced in over three decades and currently is a "one size fits all" treatment approach, neglecting the cancer's complexity and the myriad of subtypes. In lieu of a national approach, a patchwork of smaller precision treatment programs has emerged. However, these programs are inaccessible to most women and multiple eligibility tests cause delays for women who don't have time on their side.

The Ovarian Cancer Program mirrors the **Zero Childhood Cancer Model**. Childhood cancer is similar to ovarian cancer in that it is complex; high risk; and made up of a myriad of cancer subtypes. However, it is not as prevalent nor as lethal as ovarian cancer. An influx of funding to Childhood Cancers has driven remarkable results. To date, 30% of children have had their tumour either shrink or regress completely and 40% have had their tumours stabilise.

How the Zero Childhood Cancer Model works

- Every child has a sample of their cancer analysed at molecular level.
- Using advanced technology, researchers identify which drugs are most likely to be effective against their particular cancer type.
- They test how the drugs perform in laboratory models of the disease.
- The results of all this testing and analysis are then examined by an expert team of clinicians and scientists who develop a treatment plan tailored specifically for that child.

The Precision Medicine Research Program Benefits

Despite the \$173 million price tag, the Program's benefits far outweigh the costs in every respect, by delivering better health outcomes including:

Increased five-year survival rate above 50%

Increased equity of access to health services

Via a national approach, with 1500 additional women each year able to access precision medicine and 600-750 women enrolled in clinical trials throughout the program.

50-110% improvement on progression-free survival

Achieved through targeted use of next generation PARP inhibitor therapies, increasing the time after treatment before the disease requires further treatment.

Efficient use of currently wasted tissue

Currently, tissue taken during a biopsy for diagnosis is wasted. Instead, tissues would undergo molecular profiling and drug screening.

Economic savings of the Program are anticipated to stretch scarce healthcare dollars further through:

Molecular testing cost efficiencies due to economies of scale in testing

\$3.9 million

Improved patient selection leading to efficient use of high-cost medicines

\$40-81.4 million

Driving down costs of clinical trials and recruitment due to a pre-screened pool of patients

\$1 million

Leveraged private-sector investment prompted by clinical trials

\$8.4-\$11.2 million



SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH WOULD HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT FOR WOMEN OF THIS DECADE AND THE NEXT.

Elevating the Consumer Voice

As one of the OCRF's key measures of success, it is important that there is a continued and strong national focus on representing the consumers from within the OCRF community through our governance, management, operations and various communication channels. This has been achieved by strengthening and further developing our governance bodies, communication strategy, onboarding more formal community representatives and reflecting consumers in key campaign moments.

Why do we focus on elevating our consumers?

A strong representation of our community helps forge connections, it changes how we see others and ourselves, and it encourages us to care and empathise, whether it be philanthropists, government or fellow community members.

Sharing Personal Stories

We have developed an ongoing content strategy across all communication touch points to our community through our website, emails and social accounts. The strategy has four key content pillars that sit at its core: personal stories or features, OCRF impact, ovarian cancer facts and statistics and finally, research news.

Sharing personal stories of those affected, such as stories of diagnosis, treatment and recovery to reflections of loved ones lost to ovarian cancer continue to connect people through shared experiences and further drive our core mission and purpose as an organisation.



Community Ambassadors

It is incredibly valuable that the OCRF has Community Ambassadors who can relate their own experiences of ovarian cancer – direct or indirect – to work with us in actively advocating for better outcomes. We aim to reflect the voices of those impacted by ovarian cancer in our communication with the broader community, government, and philanthropists.

Increasing our representation across Australia, we have onboarded over 20 new Community Ambassadors over the last 12 months.

representing nearly all states
(except ACT and Northern Territory)

Frocktober 2021

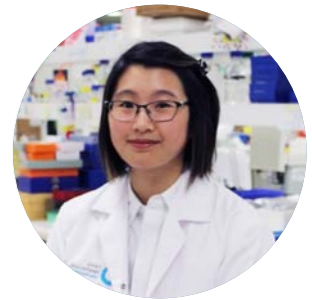
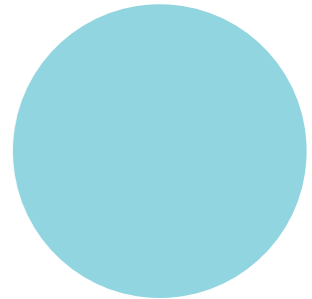
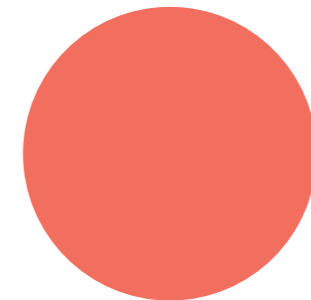
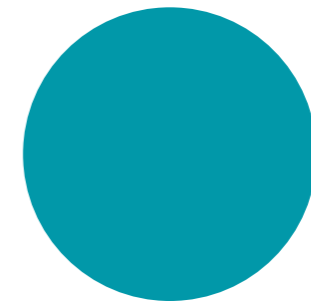
Ensuring the month-long campaign of Frocktober maintains its momentum and inspires the many participants involved is achieved by creating a supportive, engaged community through reflecting the Frockers across OCRF organic social media accounts Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and via email.

During the 2021 Frocktober campaign period, we highlighted some of the standout Frockers across socials, through our Frocktober of the Year nominations. The community of Frockers was asked to nominate their favourite participant of 2021, with the top nominated Frockers being announced and awarded in a social post on the last day of October.

Walk With Women

The annual Walk With Women event started in 2013 by OCRF Ambassador Helen Powell, who sadly passed away from ovarian cancer in 2020. In 2022, the OCRF took on the full responsibility of organising and hosting the physical event along the Mornington Peninsula.

Despite its expansion and participation growth, it was important that the OCRF continued Helen Powell's legacy as the walk's founder, by acknowledging Helen and sharing her personal story across all Walk With Women communications – email, social and website.



Case study: The FRAC

Pivotal to ensuring the OCRF invests efficiently and effectively across ovarian cancer research as well as spending appropriately across its operational requirements is its Finance Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC).

An increasingly diverse range of revenue streams, including community fundraising, corporate support and philanthropic gifts, comes with a growing community of individuals and organisations expecting their money to be invested prudently, and rightly so. It is for this reason that members of FRAC are carefully selected not only for their expertise, but more importantly, the majority of FRAC members have a direct connection to ovarian cancer and therefore a deep understanding of the cause.

Chaired by OCRF Treasurer, Philip Herbert, and supported by OCRF Chair, Julie Toop, FRAC comprises of a further four experts with qualifications in the fields of accounting, economics and legal, and with experience across governance, strategy, financial management, change management, risk management and audit.

Through a dual lens of professional expertise and reflecting the consumer voice, the committee provides input into the OCRF's annual budgeting process and monitors financial performance closely across the year. It also lends its expertise and experience to support the OCRF management team keep operational expenditure in check, maximise income through its variety of revenue streams, and ultimately direct as much funding as possible to research grants for projects, approved and recommended by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC).

In addition to its focus on guiding the financial performance of the OCRF, this important subcommittee of the Committee of Management also provides invaluable support in the evaluation and mitigation of operational and reputational risks to the business, as well as to the annual audit process.



Our Supporters

We are incredibly grateful for the valued relationships, sponsors, and corporate supporters we have continued with or newly acquired over the last year - they have helped us not only survive but thrive as an organisation.

Principal Partners

WITCHERY GEORG JENSEN

Supporters

Jeep

Bendigo Bank

MSC signs

coles

DIGGA

wahoo

AIA Vitality

skip

SIMSON
GREETING CARDS

little party dress

Media & Print

smoothfm

nova

Pacific magazines

GRITTY pretty

Lunik.

oh!

frankie

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2022

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Income	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Corporate Sponsorship	846,183	685,052	609,528
Individual & Community Donations	2,312,009	1,812,321	1,623,396
Philanthropic Giving	1,075,025	331,111	758,782
Other Income	27,988	46,152	111,555
Government Subsidies (Covid-19)	-	193,700	\$80,000
Total Income for the year	4,261,205	3,068,336	3,183,261

Expenditure	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Administration	147,488	167,834	217,513
Research Report	-	174,308	100,750
Technology Upgrade Expense	133,342	104,867	171,086
Employee Expenses	972,515	841,331	818,408
Awareness & Fundraising Campaigns	977,764	746,927	747,047
Total Expenditure	2,231,109	2,035,267	2,054,804
Surplus before grant payments	2,030,096	1,033,069	1,128,457

Grant Payments	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Grants paid during the year	1,343,070	1,897,283	2,108,864
Total Grants Payments	1,343,070	1,897,283	2,108,864
Total Comprehensive Income (Loss)	687,026	(864,214)	(980,407)

Pro Bono Support	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Pro-bono products & services (received at zero cost)	2,010,078	3,281,015	4,666,115

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Current Assets	5,877,726	5,320,714	6,180,323
Non-Current Assets	1,482	1,705	15,407
Total Assets	5,879,209	5,322,420	6,195,730
Liabilities	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Current Liabilities	244,608	393,763	420,858
Non-Current Liabilities	44,850	25,933	7,934
Total Liabilities	289,458	419,696	428,792
Net Assets	5,589,750	4,902,724	5,766,938

Statement of Cash Flows

Cash Flow From Operating Activities	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Receipts from Corporate Sponsorship	846,963	684,226	574,410
Receipts from Donations & Fundraising Activities	3,386,775	2,161,231	2,450,121
Receipts from Government (Covid-19)	-	193,700	80,000
Interest Received	27,988	46,152	111,555
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	(2,547,910)	(1,961,308)	(1,144,190)
Payments of Research Grants	(1,343,070)	(2,076,729)	(1,929,417)
Total Cash (used in)/provided by Operating Activities	370,746	(952,728)	142,479

Cash Flow From Investing Activities	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Transfer of cash from/(to) term deposit	(329,511)	1,023,143	(197,214)
Payments for plant and equipment	(4,964)	(3,318)	(4,005)
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	1,811	-	-
Total Cash provided by /(used in) Investing Activities	(332,664)	1,019,825	(201,219)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	38,082	67,097	(58,740)
Cash Balance at the Beginning of the Year	602,663	535,566	594,306
Cash Balance at the End of the Year	640,745	602,663	535,566

WHEN FUNDING INTO OVARIAN
CANCER RESEARCH IS NEGLECTED,
WOMEN DIE. THE NEXT GENERATION
OF WOMEN DESERVES BETTER.

Cover Image: Molly Carter, OCRF Community Ambassador.

