

# ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2020

Strengthening health  
outcomes in our community

A photograph of three people smiling: a young woman on the left, a woman in the center wearing a blue and white patterned vest over a yellow shirt, and a man on the right wearing a white polo shirt and a white cap with the John James Foundation logo. They are outdoors in a grassy area with parked cars in the background.

Foundation Members  
Dr Carolyn Cho and  
Associate Professor  
David Hardman with  
their daughter Catherine  
fundraising for  
the Foundation.

# Info

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## OUR PATRON

His Excellency General,  
The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)

## STAFF

Mr Joe Roff, CEO  
Mrs Stephanie Burgess, Finance Manager  
Mr Andrew Blencowe, Project and Asset Development Manager  
Ms Helen Carter, Program Manager

# Vision

The John James Foundation is Canberra's leading medical charity.

Our vision is to strengthen health outcomes in our community, striving to improve the patient and doctor experience in Canberra.

We achieve our mission by providing:

1

**Education and vocation opportunities**

2

**Infrastructure for charitable use, and**

3

**Support for community organisations in the health sector**

The Foundation was established in 2006 and comprises 165 of Canberra's leading private medical specialists. We remain committed to the work of the Foundation and proudly maintain the legacy of Dr John James.

# Message from the Chair

## Chairman's Message

On behalf of the Board of the John James Foundation, I am pleased to present our 2020 Annual Report.

## The world we now live in

Our community faced challenges beyond the control of any one individual and any one organisation this year. Our collective lens has been framed through the impact of natural disasters and global pandemics, the effects of which will be felt for many years to come.

The Foundation has displayed admirable resilience during a period in which the medical and community sectors have come under immense pressure. As Canberra's largest medical charity, we have met our challenges head on, and continue pursuing a positive impact as we all work toward a 'new normal'.

## Responding to crisis in the community

You never want to let a good crisis go to waste, and in response to the Covid-19 pandemic the Foundation pursued new collaborations in implementing a Rapid Response Grant round. Many important community organisations were unable to continue providing their services in traditional ways, leaving staff and volunteers disconnected from the most vulnerable sections of our community. We were able to provide immediate financial support so these organisations could pivot and move quickly to establish new ways to stay connected and provide critical community services.

*"Our Members are Canberra's leading medical specialists, and they have been standing tall during the crises of 2020."*

At the same time, we are increasing our commitment to medical education and progressing our signature project to build an education centre for children aged 2-6 years with severe autism. This will be the first of its kind outside Queensland and is the fruition of two years of discussion and planning. We are excited to know that it will benefit more than 40 families in Canberra when the Centre opens in 2021.

Our Members are Canberra's leading medical specialists, and they have been standing tall during the crises of 2020. Whether in a professional capacity, or on a personal level, we are thankful to our people who are working at the front line and leading Canberra's response to Covid-19.



## Weathering the storm

Internally our Finance Committee undertook an enormous amount of work to ensure the Foundation was safeguarded from the market crashes and financial cliff many other organisations have faced. Realising only a 1.6% deficit to our balance sheet is relatively pleasing, and a testament to what became daily vigilance by the Finance Committee. I thank those people for their work through the year.

I would like to acknowledge the exceptional service of Mr Brian Acworth AM, who celebrates 20 years in governance roles with the John James Foundation in its current and previous form through the Calvary John James Hospital. Brian is the Chair of the Finance Committee and has steered the Foundation into an enviable financial position in the current climate through his dedication, expertise and experience.

The safety and wellbeing of our staff is paramount and I was pleased with their flexible approach to changing work modes, office closures, workplace health and safety protocols, and a new world of zoom meetings. The Foundation is fortunate to have a steady management team that is capable and committed to our mission.

Our community has rallied together in 2020, and I retain a firm belief that together we will continue to strengthen as we move forward into the future.

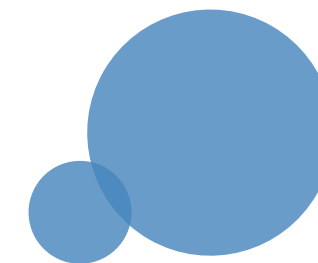
Yours sincerely

Professor Paul Smith AM  
Chair





# Message from the CEO



## CEO's message

This year we lived in an environment of external change and disruption. This occurred in financial markets, across the Not for Profit sector, in the lives of our Members, and most importantly in our communities.

In pursuing our purpose, the Foundation focused on adapting to crisis throughout the year. We held an outward focus on rapid response to crisis in the community, and an internal focus on business continuity through changing working environments.

## Supporting the community

The Foundation responded immediately in support of organisations working with vulnerable sections of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing more than \$500,000 in grant funding.

Amongst others, these included:

- Down Syndrome ACT and maintaining connection in the disability community throughout social isolation periods;
- Palliative Care ACT and supporting those facing travel and visitation restrictions prohibiting end of life care for family and friends; and
- Oz Harvest in the provision of food to isolated people.

We progressed our major building project and are pleased to report that building on the \$4.5M education facility has commenced. We thank the Territory Government for the provision of the land, and look forward to working in partnership with the AEIOU Foundation to welcome the first children into the Centre in the middle of 2021.

## The unavoidable impacts

We are not alone in having dealt with challenges and making difficult decisions throughout the year.

These included suspending:

- The Volunteer Specialist Program. In the face of travel restrictions, our dedicated member volunteers were unable to complete trips to support the Solomon Islands and Northern Territory medical missions.
- Member engagement initiatives. Whilst members were engaging more with the activities of the Foundation, we were forced to shut these down in 2020. Similar to the many organisations who have cancelled major events, we look forward to the return of our member-focused activities.

*"The Foundation responded immediately in support of community organisations working with vulnerable sections of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing more than \$500,000 in grant funding"*

## The people driving the Foundation

I would like to thank our Board for their ongoing commitment to the work of the Foundation. Despite busy professional lives, they give their time on a volunteer basis. We are well positioned for the years ahead because of the passion and experience they bring in governing and setting the direction for the Foundation.

I also give thanks to our fantastic management staff. It is a small team, who have adapted quickly to forced office closures and new ways of working, always staying connected and caring for the wellbeing of each other during a unique period. Ultimately, we are grateful to be in a steady and rewarding working environment that continues to have a positive impact in Canberra, and our thoughts go out to those less fortunate.

Crisis always occurs at the curve of change, and we look forward to supporting people and organisations in the transition from 'survive' to 'thrive' in 2021. We look forward to working with you now and into the future.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Roff  
Chief Executive Officer



# Highlights



**\$4.5M**

Building an education facility for children aged 2-6 with autism



**\$500,000**

Grants supporting community capacity building



**3**

Volunteer Specialist missions to remote areas



**19**

Community organisations who are grant beneficiaries



**8**

Medical scholarships/prizes/observerships



## Our People

**165** Members

**9** Board Directors

**4** Staff Members

# Member Engagement

Members were engaging more than ever through fundraising efforts and activities before the world turned upside down in 2020.

A highlight was the establishment of the inaugural JJF Cycle Team. Members and the CEO completed the Hartley Cycle Challenge, riding 450km from Canberra to Kosciusko over three days, raising \$24,000 for Hartley Health Care who provide critical support for people in the community with severe disability.

Newsletter readership increased by 10% as Members sought more information about getting involved with the work of the Foundation. As a vote of thanks to Members who have been on the front line of the Canberra Covid-19 response, the Foundation distributed a Foundation merchandise pack to Members. These have been welcomed, and spotted around Canberra, through the colder days of winter.

Prior to restrictions on gathering, the Foundation enjoyed one Member Speakers Dinners and the Annual Dinner at the Boat House. Both events were sold out. The Foundation looks forward to reigniting these popular events.

We look forward to rebuilding our momentum through engaging activities for the benefit of our Members in 2021.



450km  
\$24,000 Raised



# Community Health

During unprecedented times in 2020, the Foundation Board determined that a phased response more reflective of the new emerging environment was required. An immediate focus was on providing 2019 funding recipients with flexibility to reallocate grant funding towards critical resources and keeping those charities functional as the COVID-19 crisis unfolded.

In April, the Foundation joined two other major Canberra community foundations to grant more than \$570,000 to 63 projects in immediate support of local community organisations dealing with the pandemic. The Chief Minister’s Charitable Fund in partnership with Hands Across Canberra, The Snow Foundation, and John James Foundation worked together to support local organisations adapting their service delivery to vulnerable people in Canberra.

At the time, Program Manager Ms Helen Carter said "The stories of our local organisations rising to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in Canberra and the nearby region under such stressful conditions and with little resources are inspiring, and we hope this funding provides much needed relief."

The John James Foundation has independently distributed over \$390,000 in grants to 19 charities and Not for Profit organisations since the start of 2020. This was an extraordinary start to the year, with the 2020 Community Health Grants round and an additional funding pool of up to \$500,000 released in August.



### Staying Connected Project

"We would like to thank the John James Foundation for funding our online mental health program for people with intellectual disabilities. Through the funding we received, we have been able to facilitate online activities (via zoom) to help promote good mental health for people with intellectual disabilities in this time of social isolation."

**Shannon Kolak, Business Manager, ACT Down Syndrome Association**

### A first for the Foundation

This year the Foundation awarded International Education Grants for the first time. A total of five grants totalling \$225,000 were committed to Australian organisations in direct support of education activities focused on capacity building within the Pacific, and South East Asia. These grants expand the Foundations reach in the provision of medical education and development opportunities in those regions.

# Community Health Grants Committed

| CHP - COVID 19 Rapid Relief Grant Round              |                                                           |           |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Organisation                                         | Project                                                   | Funding   |
| Australian Breastfeeding Association ACTS/NSW Region | Breast pump hire                                          | \$4,300   |
| Bosom Buddies ACT Inc                                | Lymphoedema sleeves                                       | \$10,000  |
| Cerebral Palsy Alliance                              | Supporting disability Telepractice                        | \$24,000  |
| Cystic Fibrosis Association ACT INC                  | Essential Safety Items Deliver                            | \$8,300   |
| GIVIT Listed Ltd                                     | Purchase essential material goods for disadvantage people | \$22,000  |
| OzHarvest                                            | Delivering vital food relief                              | \$25,000  |
| Palliative Care ACT                                  | Last Goodbyes virtual program                             | \$10,300  |
| Total                                                |                                                           | \$103,900 |

| CHP - Out of Cycle             |                                  |          |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Organisation                   | Project                          | Funding  |
| ACT Down Syndrome Association  | Staying Connected online program | \$10,000 |
| AIDS Action Council            | AIDS Garden of Reflection        | \$10,000 |
| ACT & Southern NSW Rugby Union | Autism Sensory Suite             | \$15,000 |
| Cerebral Palsy Alliance ACT    | Krazy Kosci Klimb                | \$11,000 |
| FOCUS ACT inc                  | FOCUS Oneplus Ball               | \$1,000  |
| Hartley Lifecare               | Supporting disability            | \$24,000 |
| Total                          |                                  | \$71,000 |

| CHP - International Development                |                                                               |           |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Organisation                                   | Project                                                       | Funding   |
| Australian Society of Anaesthetics/ODEC        | Pacific Island attendance at the World Anaesthesia Conference | \$12,000  |
| Australian Volunteers International (AVI)      | Training handbook printing in Solomon Islands                 | \$4,500   |
| Family Planning NSW                            | Cervical treatment in the Solomon Islands                     | \$34,000  |
| Orthopaedic Outreach                           | Orthopaedic hand surgical teams to Solomon Islands            | \$25,000  |
| Melbourne Children's Research Institute (MCRI) | Fiji Trained Anaesthetic clinical placements                  | \$150,000 |
| National Referral Hospital, Solomon Islands    | Scholarship, Master of Cancer Sciences                        | \$26,000  |
| Total                                          |                                                               | \$251,500 |

# Education & Vocation

## Education and Vocation

The John James Foundation ANU Indigenous Medical Student Scholarship is valued at \$100,000, supporting the successful student for their four year medical degree with a \$25,000 per year award.

### Mr Frank Lyle Bobongie

Frank is an Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander from the Kokomini Tribe in Laura, Queensland. Frank is proud of his heritage, ties to Country and blood groupings with the Torres Strait Islander clan of the Sabatino peoples.



2020 John James Foundation ANU Indigenous Medical Scholar - Mr Frank Lyle Bobongie (image reproduced with permission)

### Ms Stephanie Pollard

Stephanie Pollard, a Wailwan woman and scholarship recipient, is due to complete her four-year degree in 2020. An opportunity to return to her home town of Brewarrina and provide direct medical support in her home community through an elective placement was a highlight.



Scholarship holder Ms Stephanie Pollard - Getting back to 'where my mob are from'. (image reproduced with permission)

### Tony Ayers Prize, ANU

The Tony Ayers Prize is awarded for Excellence in Research in Translational Medicine in the ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment. The award is named in honour of long-term John James Foundation Board member Mr Tony Ayers AC. The John James Foundation was pleased to renew a 5-year commitment of \$25,000 for the prestigious prize this year.



Left to Right: Dugald Gourlay, Holly King, and Zachary Lovelady

### James Cook University Specialist Elective Program (Clinical Placement)

Congratulations to our 2019 and final James Cook University Specialist Elective Program (Clinical Placement) students who graduated on 18th December 2019 in Townsville, Queensland.

The Foundation is strengthening our commitment to Medical Education in Canberra, and thanks James Cook University for a successful partnership spanning 12 years supporting more than 40 medical students.

# Volunteer Specialist Program

Foundation Member Dr Christiane Lawin-Bruessel completed two Northern Territory Ophthalmology outreach missions in 2019. At the Annual Members Dinner in 2019, the Foundation took the opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of Christiane following 10 years of continuous volunteering missions to NT.

In June 2020, the Foundation awarded a \$26,000 Medical Scholarship, Medical Oncology, to Dr Andrew Soma from National Referral Hospital (NRH) Oncology Unit, Honiara, in the Solomon Islands. Dr Andrew Soma will undertake a Master of Cancer Sciences at The University of Melbourne commencing 2021. On completion, Dr Soma will become the Nation's first qualified Oncologist. Dr Soma's application was supported by Foundation Member and long-time mentor, Professor Desmond Yip, who continues his work in the Solomon Islands.

Led by Prof David Croaker, the Foundation completed one Solomon Islands Paediatric Surgical trip in October 2019. Due to the escalating events of COVID-19, further scheduled trips to the Northern Territory and Solomon Islands were cancelled.



Members volunteering in the Solomon Islands (left to right)  
Dr Celine Hamid, Ms Lisa Hazell, Professor David Croaker, Dr Elaine Lee, and Ms Elizabeth Hearn.

# Facilities and Infrastructure

## John James Village-AEIOU Autism Centre

The John James Foundation remains committed to strengthening health outcomes in our community through the provision of facilities and infrastructure.

The Foundation is funding the development of a \$4.5million, purpose-built early education facility in Garran, ACT. We are collaborating with the AEIOU Foundation, a reputable autism education provider who will support Canberra children aged between 2-6 years and their families affected by autism.

AEIOU currently operates more than 10 leading autism centres across Queensland. The new facility will have capacity to support up to 40 children and their families from Canberra and surrounding regions.

Early intervention is life-changing for children and their families, and the delivery of evidence-based early intervention has an estimated \$2.1 million cost benefit to society over the lifetime of each child. Each child undertaking the AEIOU Program will develop essential life skills, with a customised support plan taking their unique needs and strengths into consideration.

The Foundation has appointed Project Coordination Australia, (Builder of John James Village) to undertake construction of the facility. Working closely with the Foundation's Project & Asset Development Manager, Mr Andrew Blencowe, Project Coordination is excited to be working with the Foundation to deliver the autism centre for the benefit of the Canberra community.



**The 1200m<sup>2</sup> Autism Centre will support up to 40 children. The Facility will be purpose built to meet the unique needs of young children with autism, Features include:**



4 Therapy Rooms



Customised Safety Features



Dedicated Motorskills Development Space



Breakout Spaces



4 Activity Rooms



Indoor & Outdoor Play Areas

# Signature Projects

## AEIOU Sod Turning Event

In February 2020, the Foundation was delighted to unveil the AEIOU Autism project. Foundation Chair, Professor Paul Smith AM and AEIOU Chair, Susan Rix AM, addressed attendees comprising of media, project stakeholders and families affected by autism. The Canberra facility is expected to open in July 2021.

AEIOU CEO, Mr Alan Smith praised the John James Foundation's work and stated that "none of this would have been possible without this support" and continued to highlight "we have an outstanding collaborative partnership with John James Foundation. They are supporting the Canberra community and are absolutely committed to bringing these essential services to Canberra. The AEIOU facilities are being developed, funded and retained by the John James Foundation. AEIOU will operate and manage the service."

John James Foundation CEO, Mr Joe Roff says "the opportunity to support children and families affected by autism in Canberra was overwhelmingly supported by the Foundation's Board and members".



From left to right:  
AEIOU Foundation CEO Alan Smith, JJF CEO Joe Roff, Minister for Disability Ms Suzanne Orr, JJF Chair Prof Paul Smith, and AEIOU Chair Ms Susan Rix.

## John James Village - Respite Accommodation Facility

The John James Village respite accommodation facility operated by JJF Partner, Leukaemia Foundation Australia (LFA), continues to provide quality accommodation for patients and their families undergoing treatment for Blood Cancers at the Canberra Hospital.

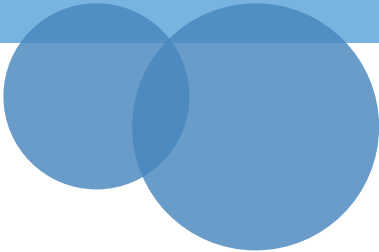
The Leukaemia Foundation reports greater than 80% utilisation of the facility in the past financial year. 1726 bed nights provided direct accommodation cost savings for the 119 patients of approximately \$431,000 per annum. The Foundation is proud to be able to alleviate a financial burden and provide a safe haven for patients going through difficult treatment.

John James Foundation Board at the 2020 Strategic Planning Retreat



From left to right

DR NICK GEMMELL-SMITH  
PROFESSOR PAUL SMITH AM  
DR LINDA WEBER  
DR TIM MAKEHAM  
MR MARK SULLIVAN  
DR LIZ GALLAGHER  
DR JEFFREY HARMER  
MR JOE ROFF  
ABSENT : DR VIDA VILIUNAS OAM and MR BRIAN ACWORTH AM



# Financial Summary

## Financial Summary–Annual Report 2020

For the year ended 30/6/20:

The Foundation closed the Financial Year with net assets totalling \$121.04M (2019: \$122.56 M).

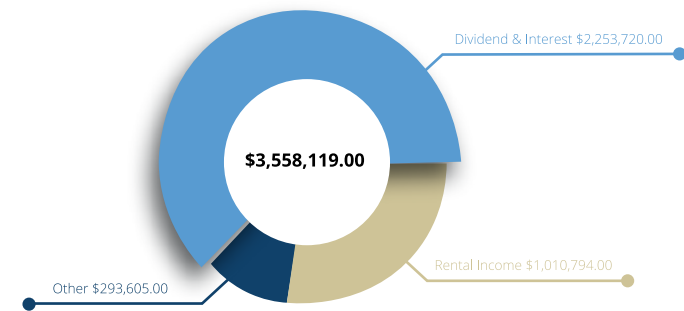
Total assets were \$140.86M (2019: \$122.65M) and total liabilities were \$19.82M (2019: \$0.09M).

The Foundation held \$8.02M in cash equivalents and \$47.32M in tradable securities. The John James Village was valued independently at \$7.8M and the Foundation acquired an investment property in North Ryde, which was valued at \$41.17M at the end of the financial year. Construction also commenced on the AEIOU Signature Project during the year.

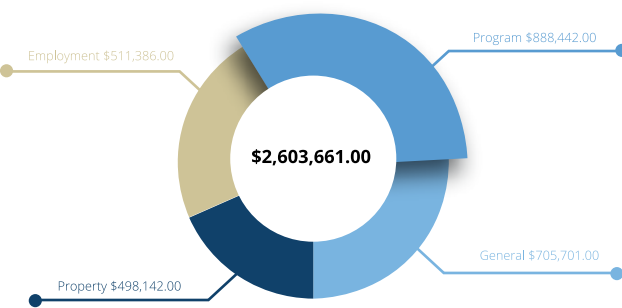
The result from operations was a loss of \$1.61M, as a direct result of the adverse economic conditions created by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Total income during the period was \$3.56M, whilst operating expenses (including impairment of \$2.41M of tradable investments) were \$5.17M.

Employee benefits reduced to \$511K (2019: \$525). Program expenses totalled \$888K (2019: \$808K), following the Foundation's COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant round in May.

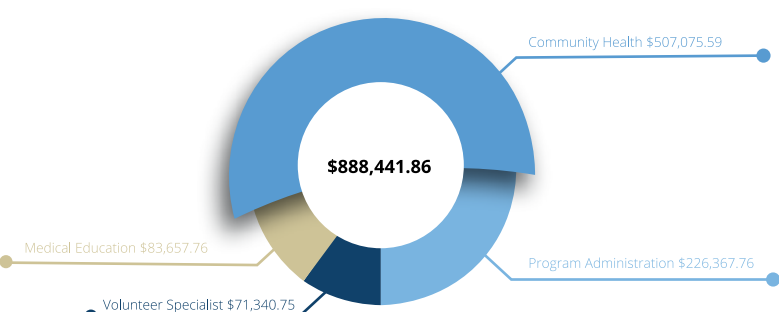
## Income



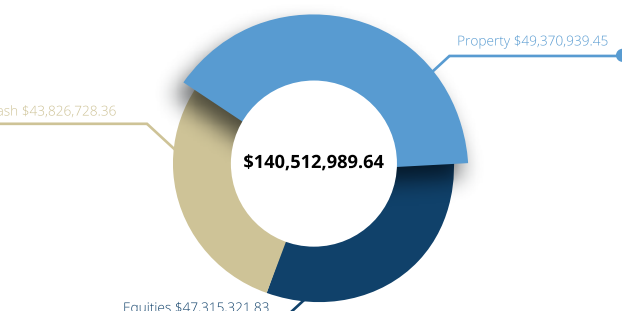
## Operating Expenses

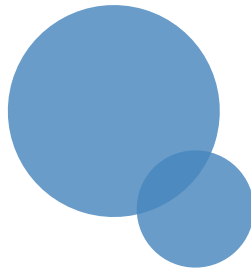
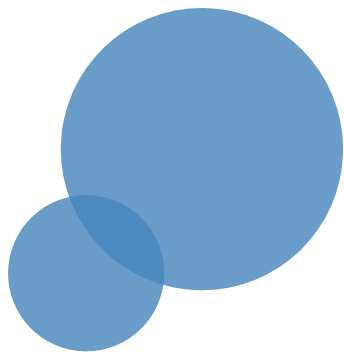


## Charitable Programs



## Investment Portfolio





**John James Foundation**