

John James Foundation
Annual Report 2024

## **John James Memorial Foundation Ltd**

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## **OUR PATRON**

His Excellency General,

The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)

Governor General of Australia

#### **STAFF**

Mr Joe Roff, Chief Executive Officer

Mr Matt O'Brien, Chief Financial Officer

Mr Andrew Blencowe, Project and Asset Development Manager

Ms Nathalie Maconachie, Grants and Relationship Manager

## **ABOUT**

The John James Foundation is Canberra's leading medical philanthropic foundation.

The Foundation was established in 2006 and comprises 176 of Canberra's leading private medical specialists.

We remain committed to the Foundation's mission and the legacy of Dr John James.

Cover photo: Members Event at Government House

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

# Chairman's Message

It has been another outstanding year for the Foundation and on behalf of the Board it is my privilege to share that story in presenting the 2024 Annual Report.

## Achieving the balance of both giving and growing

We pride ourselves on being the largest medical philanthropic foundation in Canberra. To maintain this in an ongoing way we consistently balance financial sustainability and our philanthropic giving and I am pleased to say that we have been able to achieve significant steps forward in both this year.

Our \$4M commitment to building a respite facility in supporting palliative care has commenced. This will see a state-of-the-art home away from home opened in 2025, one that will provide a dignified end of life for those members of our community on that journey. In addition to almost \$2M distributed through grants, scholarships, and partnerships we have committed or distributed close to \$6M throughout the year.



While we gave \$6M to the community we also realised a \$7M surplus during the year. This sustains the organisation and shows us that the Foundation can support our community now and into perpetuity. This has been a long-term goal that is now enabling a positive spiral in meaningfully delivering our mission year on year. I am proud to say this will continue for the benefit of future generations.

With a growing corpus the Board and executive has worked hard to further strengthen the governance that guides the stewardship of the Foundation. There is an understanding that this is a significant responsibility and is one the Board takes seriously.

## Giving that translates into positive impact

This year we asked ourselves whether our giving is having the impact we believe it is. As W. Edwards Deming said, 'without data, you are just another person with an opinion' and so we undertook an economic and social impact evaluation of our first major infrastructure project, the John James Village. This evaluation was able to show a return of \$7 of benefit to our community for every \$1 we spent on the project, with \$6.6M savings to the health sector in Canberra; an extraordinary outcome for the benefit of our community. I was pleased to present the findings to our Patron and Governor General at an event earlier this year.

## Optimism for the year ahead

As we look to the year ahead, I am filled with optimism and confidence that we are well-positioned to build on this momentum.

I am proud of the Members of our Foundation who continue to be leaders in private medicine in Canberra. As a member-based organisation there are exciting opportunities to broaden our influence in the community through private medicine and our vocation. As we welcomed Mr Greg Sly to the Board this year, I also take the opportunity to farewell Dr Jeffrey Harmer AO who retired this year after 10 years of service. As a leading public servant at the highest levels throughout his career, Jeff brought a great amount of experience and integrity to the Board and will be missed. We wish him well.

With the talent, dedication, and resilience of our team, I am excited for what's to come and confident that this will be a year of great progress and achievement.

Sincerely

Professor Paul Smith AM

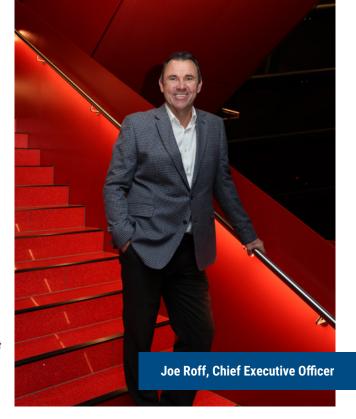


# CEO's Message

As highlighted by the Chair this has indeed been an outstanding year. As we approach its completion, I reflect on three key drivers of our success in 2024. These are our focus; our mission; and our people.

## Focusing on impact in our community

In a world in which we could do many good things beyond our borders, we are taking the advice commending us all to 'tend to our own gardens'. Concentrating our positive impact in Canberra has been our focus and this deep connection to our community partners is building our reputation, influence and trust in the Foundation.



Receiving a D.A. approval from the ACT Government to build a bespoke respite facility in support of palliative care was a highlight. The green light was most welcome and the hard work to bring that project to life now begins in a precinct where our other partners, the AEIOU Foundation and Leukaemia Foundation, continue to provide critical services to the community from our facilities.

## A mission to improve medical and health outcomes

This year we provided 20 grants or scholarships totalling \$1.6M to varied organisations doing important work in our community. Our partnership with the Snow Foundation and Hands Across Canberra continues to strengthen and this was recognised in our nomination as a finalist at the Philanthropy Australia national awards through the year.

## **Engaging people through the Foundation**

Our volunteers continue to pursue their vocation through the Member Volunteer Grants program. Teams of volunteers travel and provide medical services to some of the poorest people in the world. This is a lens into the passion and commitment of our volunteers who genuinely pursue their vocation.

The Foundation also provides an opportunity for Members to connect with colleagues. Our Members are busy, discerning professionals and these opportunities have been a welcome respite from a serious vocation within private medicine. Our Board Members provide continued dedication, support, and leadership to the team. Thoughtful decision-making has been instrumental in driving our success, growth, and ensures that we remain on a path of sustained progress. I am grateful for the trust that is placed in management as we move forward together.

Finally I take the opportunity to thank the staff of the Foundation. We are a small team that is cohesive, passionate and enjoy the good humour and company of each other. We share the wins and wear the losses together, never wavering in a commitment to the work of the Foundation.

With the achievements of the past year and the exciting period ahead I feel privileged to be leading the organisation and look forward to all that 2025 brings.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Joe Roff





# **Farewell Director**

# **Dr Jeffrey Harmer AO**

In 2024 Dr Jeff Harmer drew a close on his time as a Director of the Foundation after a decade of service in furthering the organisations mission.

It is an understatement to say that Jeff was a wonderful member of the JJF board collective both as a colleague and a friend of the Foundation. Having enjoyed an illustrious career at the very highest levels of public service, Jeff's standing in the community, wisdom and foresight will be greatly missed.

The Foundation is moving forward to a new generation of Directors and Members and Jeff can look back on the past decade with great satisfaction on a job well done. A powerful legacy has been created and Jeff has been central to that journey and in guiding the Foundation to be in such a strong position of influence and positive impact in our community.

The Foundation was proud to make Jeff an Honorary Life Member on the announcement of his retirement and wishes he and Joan all the best in retirement and grandparenting life.

## **Foundations**



# **Evaluating the Impact** of the Foundation

In 2024 the Foundation launched the Health, Social and Economic Impact Report on the John James Village Accommodation facility. This award-winning facility was completed in 2016. Managed by the team at the Leukaemia Foundation the Village provides critical respite accommodation for patients and families living with blood cancers.

The study utilised data supplied by the Leukaemia Foundation, the John James Foundation's property management & CAPEX project information, ACT Government & National benchmark data for economic development and a range of qualitative inputs from associated service providers.

The Foundation is excited to confirm results of the study demonstrate significant social and economic benefits for the Foundation to continue its Community Infrastructure Program (CIP). For every dollar the Foundation allocates to a CIP, a social cost benefit of \$7 can be derived.

The National benchmark for similar projects is a social benefit of 1:5, so for the John James Village to achieve a benefit ratio of 1:7 is significant and strengthens the Foundation's impact across our community.

The outcomes illustrated in the following pages clearly show the value and positive impact of the John James Village in our community. More than this it shows the power of collaboration and what can be achieved through partnerships where all parties are committed to improving health outcomes together. This is truly a success story for Canberra.





The Impact Report launch was held at Government House and announced by the Patron of the Foundation, his Excellency General, The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor General of Australia.

Members of the Foundation, staff, and the senior executive of the Leukaemia Foundation were on hand at this special event.



# The John James Village: Delivering on the mission of the Foundation





Delivering Our mission

\$8.5M Capital gift

Strengthening health outcomes in Canberra and improving the patient and doctor experience



108,000 Bed nights

493
Additional years of life

\$6.6M
In health
sector savings

## **Collaborating Partners Impact Benefit** \$3.4M \$6.6M Land grant In health sector savings \$8.5M **Strengthening** Capital gift Health outcomes in Canberra 3,100 493 \$1 investment realising \$7 of benefit eukaemia oundation **Blood** cancer Additional years of life patients





We proudly distributed over \$1.6 million in 2024 to support improved health outcomes in our community through philanthropic grants, scholarships, supporting research and community development.

# **Community Grants**

In 2024, we continued our long history of philanthropic giving to community organisations that deliver health and disability services awarding over \$1.6 million of funds across three streams:

Regular giving \$436,000 (Canberra Foundations Collaborative)

**Major grants** \$1,043,000

Scholarships, research, and community development \$148,000

The Canberra Foundations Collaborative delivered it's third annual grant round in 2024 and together with our partners The Snow Foundation and Hands Across Canberra we supported 63 new projects across 60 organisations totalling \$1.5 million of funds going to the Canberra community.





#### **Canberra Foundations Collaborative**

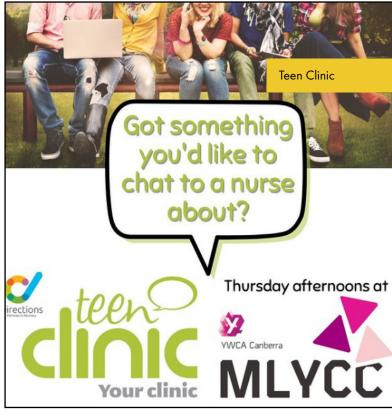
The Canberra Foundations Collaborative remains committed to fostering a resilient, inclusive, and vibrant Canberra, ensuring that community-led initiatives have the support they need to thrive. While working together, each Foundation maintains a focus on their individual strategic area. We are proud to have directly funded \$463,000 to 20 of these projects focused on improving health outcomes. Funded projects included a program to link local pharmacies with refugee and asylum seeker communities living with respiratory conditions, establishing a free pregnancy support service for women in crisis or who are experiencing difficult circumstances, strengthening outcomes for breast cancer patients, developing perinatal wellbeing antenatal workshops at hospitals, and establishing a mobile health initiative for people with hepatitis who can't access standard health services.





In 2022 and 2023, we provided seed funding to Directions Health through the annual grant round to deliver and evaluate the pilot 'Teen Clinic' program in Lanyon and demonstrate proof of concept to the ACT Government. The Teen Clinic is a free health and wellbeing walk-in service provided by nurses in a safe and confidential space designed to remove barriers faced by young people needing clinical support for sexual health, drug and alcohol issues, and any other concerns.

As a direct result of the grant provided and the exceptional results during the pilot phase, the ACT Government committed \$800,000 per annum for five years to fund an additional four Teen Clinics around Canberra with an enhanced multi-disciplinary team at each. This is an outstanding result demonstrating the power of private practitioners supporting community organisations through our small grants. Our seed funding enabled the program to be established and presented to government resulting in direct improvements to health services in the ACT.







## Make-A-Wish partnership

2024 marks our second year in partnership with Make-A-Wish to expand the Canberra wish program and give children with life-limiting illness something bright and positive to focus on. Over the past 18 months we have proudly supported 15 Canberra children with a wide range of illnesses such as leukaemia, lung sarcoma, and congenital heart disease to make their dreams come true. Our most recent wish was for 10-year-old Audrey following open heart surgery for her complex cardiac disease to build a custom pink Lego house and have a Lego miniature figure of herself.

# Scholarships, research, and community development

In a new partnership with ANU and The Snow Foundation, we have committed to funding the first directed scholarship on homelessness to be offered at the ANU School of Medicine and Psychology, developed with the support of Dr Charles Mosse. Applications closed at the end of 2024, with the scholarship awarding \$42,000 per annum to the recipient over 3.5 years.

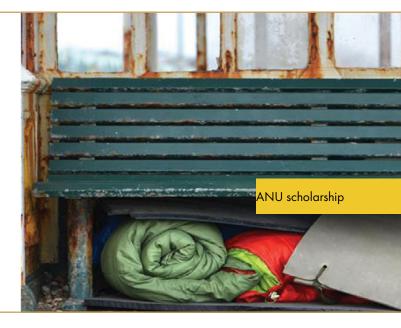
# Health and Homelessness PhD Scholarship

Learn more about the program and scholarship for study in 2024.



Australian National University

ANU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PSYCHOLOGY HEALTH.ANU.EDU.AU



Homelessness in the ACT and its negative long-term impact on health is a hidden problem. The project will work with a coalition of peak bodies and relevant health services including Youth Coalition of the ACT, Families ACT, Multicultural Youth Services, Directions ACT, Women's Health Matters, Companion House Refugee Medical Service, Junction Youth Health service and other who have disproportionately high populations of homeless people. We look forward to sharing the outcomes of this exciting new scholarship.



# **Philanthropic Giving**

## Regular Giving - Canberra Foundations Collaborative Grant Round

Organisation	Project	Funding
ACT Deafness Resource Centre	Hearing Aiders Project	\$44,296
ACT Eden Monaro Cancer	Release tracheostomy patients from hospital earlier	\$40,000
Asthma Australia	Linking pharmacies with refugees with respiratory conditions	\$10,400
Australian National University	PhD on Health and Homelessness	\$25,000
Bosom Buddies ACT	Strengthening health outcomes for breast cancer patients	\$20,000
Cancer Patients Foundation	Look Good Feel Better	\$10,000
Cerebral Palsy Alliance	Enhancing health and wellbeing outcomes for people with disability	\$24,240
Emerge Australia	Clinical education about ME/CFS and Long Covid for ACT health professionals	\$25,000
Fearless Women	Mentor and Education program for girls	\$25,000
First Steps Pregnancy Support	Establishment of First Steps Pregnancy Support	\$60,000
Hepatitis ACT	Mobile health access initiative	\$40,000
HOME in Queanbeyan	Cool air, warm hearts: enhancing mental health outcomes at HOME	\$35,000
Lung Foundation Australia	Lungs in Action expansion: Gungahlin	\$23,325
Miracle Babies Foundation	Supporting families of sick and premature babies	\$21,601
Nextsense (RIDBC)	Peer support to reduce the risk of dementia	\$32,650
Perinatal Wellbeing Centre	Wellbeing Centre Perinatal wellbeing antenatal workshops at hospitals	
Roundabout Canberra	Healthy Canberra Youth project	\$10,413
Special Olympics ACT	Sport awareness and growth	\$3,000
The Humour Foundation	The Clown Doctors program at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children	\$20,000
Zonta Club of Canberra Breakfast	Zonta Home Starter Packs	\$6,000
Total		\$463,125

## **Major grants**

Organisation	Project	Funding
AEIOU Foundation	Operations of AEIOU early intervention centre for children with autism	\$450,000
Leukaemia Foundation	Operations of John James Village delivering respite to regional cancer patients	\$468,000
Muder Ignacia Hospital	Maternity Unit Equipment	\$124,879
Total		\$1,042,879

## Scholarships, research, and community development

Scholarships	Indigenous scholarships x 3, Humanitarian scholarship,	\$103,444
·	and Oncology scholarship	
Travelling Fellowships	Oncology observerships	\$2,950
Community Development	Seminars and community development events	\$26,500
Research	Tony Ayers Award	\$15,000
Total		\$147,894



## **Medical Education**

Funded through a Foundation scholarship commencing in 2020, we are delighted that Dr Andrew Soma completed a Master of Cancer Sciences through the University of Melbourne.





With the dedicated support of Professor Desmond Yip through observerships and mentoring, Andrew overcame many challenges to complete his Masters and become recognised as the first oncology specialist in the Solomon Islands. Supporting this educational scholarship has further added to the capacity and capability building of the National Referral Hospital Oncology Unit we have provided from past funding of in-country missions and travelling observerships.

In 2024, we maintained our strong partnership with ANU School of Medicine and Psychology supporting three Indigenous Medical Scholarships and one Humanitarian Medical Scholarships. Each scholarship is valued at \$100,000 providing the student with \$25,000 for each year of their study.

## **Tony Ayers Award**

Congratulations to Dr Lou Farrer, the recipient of the 2023 Tony Ayers Award for her applied research in using technology to improve access to mental health care. With 4 out of 10 Australians experiencing mental health problems at some time in their lives, Dr Farrer is leading the way in developing and evaluating digital interventions to provide support for people (often adolescents) who experience barriers to accessing traditional mental health care.

Chair, Professor Paul Smith, presented the prestigious award that celebrates research with translational application that can impact the lives of everyday people.

We are proud to sponsor the award in memory of Tony Ayers and his significant contribution to the legacy of the Foundation.





# **Capacity building seminars**

In addition to delivering a join annual grant round of over \$1.5 million, the Canberra Foundations Collaborative uses its collective network and expertise to connect the community sector with like minded organisations and other funding bodies.

This year, we hosted a local communities live crowd-funding event bringing together generous individuals and small philanthropic foundations to hear from three social change charities and have then opportunity to pledge financial support for their vital work.

## The Funding Network event







An impressive \$126,000 was pledged from the audience to support Fearless Women expand their mentor program for young girls, Tender Funerals to provide subsidised culturally appropriate and personally directed funerals, and The Women's Justice Network to roll out a new program supporting women in the Alexander Maconochie Centre to connect with mentors and form a community in preparation for their release from prison.

This innovative event allowed us, as a major funder in the ACT, to invite other small local funders to hear firsthand about these excellent projects – a great way to grow the philanthropic funding pool and network in our local community.



# Philanthropy Australia Awards

We were delighted to be a finalist in the 2024 Philanthropy Australia Awards for our role as a founding partner of the Canberra Foundations Collaborative initiative alongside The Snow Foundation and Hands Across Canberra. With over 40 nominations in the Collaboration category, we proudly accepted third place for our sector-leading initiative at the Awards Showcase in Sydney.



# **Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards**

We were proud to support the Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards for a second year in 2023. The event is an important acknowledgement and celebration of the outstanding achievements of people with disability who are leaders in the community as well as the businesses, organisations, and individuals who have demonstrated their capacity to encourage, welcome, and support people with disability in their workplace, business, and community.





# **Supporting Member Volunteering**

We are proud to support our Members who give their time and expertise freely to volunteer and bring hope and healing to those who have limited access to advanced medical services through our Member Volunteer Grant (MVG) Program. In 2024, the MVG Program provided small grants to ten Members supporting them to deliver clinical and educational support to communities in need.



Dr David Croaker, Dr Celine Hamid, Dr James French and Dr Sarah Latham participated in two paediatric surgical missions to the National Referral Hospital, Honiara, Solomon Islands. During these visits the volunteer team consulted with over 100 individuals and performed over 50 life changing and lifesaving surgeries for local children.



Dr Elizabeth Gallagher, Dr Nicola Meares, Dr Valerie Quah, and Dr Gregory Robertson participated in a gynaecology and ultrasound teaching mission to the National Referral Hospital, Honiara Solomon Islands in June 2024. The team successfully delivered two days of clinical assessments, performed 30 life changing surgeries over five days, while building local capacity and teaching vaginal surgical skills and urogynaecology to local practitioners.

In August 2024, Dr John Tharion joined Pangea Global Health Education along with 27 other volunteers to conduct biomedical engineering training programs in Lilongwe and Blantyre, Malawi. During the trip over 360 local health professionals attended training delivered through a series of theoretical lectures, clinical application discussions and practical sessions, including a 'train the trainer' model integrating local professionals as part of the training team.





In October 2023, Professor Desmond Yip travelled with four oncology colleagues from Canberra to deliver Phase 3 of a multidisciplinary project supporting the development of the National Referral Hospital Oncology Unit in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Professor Yip has played a significant role in the development of the oncology unit since 2016 and continues to support its development with a further trip in late 2024 to train and educate staff in the areas of palliative care and survivorship among other things.

We are extremely proud of our volunteering Members and the compassion and positive impact made possible by their commitment to providing pro-bono medical care to communities in need.



## **Events and Activities**

During the year we offer and range of events and activities to enable our Members to network in a social and collegiate setting. We hosted four functions providing the opportunity to update and engage Members in key Foundation projects. Events included a dinner at Parliament House where guests heard a panel discussion on social and personal impact of intensive early intervention programs for children with autism, and a cocktail function at Government House hosted by the Governor General and Mrs Hurley to launch the Impact report of the John James Village in Garran.









Our annual dinner was held at the National Portrait Gallery with members and guests celebrating the growing influence and impact of the Foundation in Canberra over the last year. We were delighted to acknowledge and thank two longstanding Directors who have gone above and beyond in their dedication to the Foundation, Dr Linda weber and Mr Brian Acworth.



## Member weekend in Bowral

Over 30 members and partners joined us for a weekend of socialising and connecting with colleagues in the stunning Southern Highlands town of Bowral over the Canberra Day Long weekend in 2024. Enjoying a variety of leisure activities including cycling, hiking and golf afforded the opportunity to connect in a relaxed environment away from the pressures of daily practice.







Members joined an afternoon workshop to discuss the priorities of the Foundation and provide insight to support the Board and staff in delivering against the Strategic Plan with guidance from the membership.

Over the weekend we collected \$3,400 in donations to nominated charity Fearless Women.

## Celebrating 30 years of private maternity services

The Calvary John James Hospital Maternity Unit was founded in 1994 with September this year marking 30-years of private maternity services at the hospital. We were delighted to support the celebration of this milestone with a gathering of paediatricians, obstetrician & gynaecologists, midwives, nurses and hospital staff. Since opening, over 31,000 babies have been born in the unit, with the first baby delivered by Foundation Member Dr Grahame Bates. In addition to celebrating the anniversary of the maternity unit, the staff of CJJH took the opportunity to farewell Dr Tim McDonald acknowledging his significant contribution to the unit over it's 30 years of operation.







# **Supporting Palliative Care**

The Foundation's third Community Infrastructure Project is underway to build the Palliative Care ACT respite facility known as Leo's Place, which will complete the John James Village Healthcare Precinct in Garran.

After some careful navigation of speed humps in the form of bushfire management issues and changes to ACT planning legislation, the Foundation is excited to be working with Palliative Care ACT to deliver Leo's Place, providing much needed respite accommodation support for our community members, their families and carers living the palliation journey.

The Foundation has engaged the award-winning design services of Daryl Jackson Alistair Swayne (DJAS) Architecture and building services of Design & Build Group, both well known through previous partnerships with the Foundation.

The John James Foundation's Project & Asset Development Manager, Andrew Blencowe is excited to team up with Palliative Care ACT President, Dr Louise Mayo and work through the project supply chain seeking contribution, value and ongoing support for Leo's Place.

Projects undertaken by the Foundation deliver far more value to the community than simply the bricks and mortar of healthcare facilities. Support groups and experience sharing of end users build resilience, collaboration and increases the impact of services available to our community.

This exciting project is expected to be completed and in operation by November 2025.

# How John James Village has helped this year

Operated by the Leukaemia Foundation since 2016, John James Village continues to provide respite accommodation, counselling and support services for our community living with haematological cancers.

Between 1 July 2022 and 20 September 2024, the John James Village accommodated 44 patients and their families needing to relocate from parts of the ACT, regional NSW, and beyond to access lifesaving treatment close to Canberra Hospital.

Over this period, these patients and their families collectively stayed 3,678 nights, with the average stay being 84 nights.

The ongoing partnership between the John James Foundation and the Leukaemia Foundation is going from strength to strength. The John James Foundation was recently included as a Visionary Lifetime Giver in the 2023 Leukaemia Foundation's annual Philanthropy Impact Report, demonstrating the highest level of commitment and loyalty to its community of donors.

The John James Foundation is extremely proud to support the Leukaemia Foundation to improve health outcomes for our community living with blood cancers.

# Infrastructure



## **AEIOU Autism Centre**

The AEIOU Foundation continues to thrive in its new purpose designed centre in Garran where families and community stakeholders enjoy access to nation leading early intervention services supporting children aged 2-6 years old and living with autism. In May this year the Foundation hosted a Members Speaker Series event at Parliament House featuring the work and services provided by the AEIOU Foundation for our community.

The evening was well attended by Members to understand how the AEIOU program and its services impact the lives of families engaging at the AEIOU Canberra Centre in Garran.

The presentation included personal accounts from one of the families who had their lives transformed by the AEIOU program. The family were able to share in detail some very personal challenges and significant successes achieved from the program.

#### **AEIOU Members dinner**







The Foundation's ongoing commitment to capacity building and delivering on its mission to improve health outcomes in our community remains at the heart of what we do.

## **Foundations**



## The Foundation in Numbers

In 2023/24 the Foundation continued to provide strong investment in programs, with almost \$2m provided which was marginally behind the record level of investment set in 2022/23. In addition to this investment, the Foundation completed the design and development application process for the final element of the John James Village Precinct – the new and permanent location for Palliative Care ACT's 'Leo's House'. This represents a further investment of approximately **\$0.4m** in preparation for the commencement of construction later this calendar year.

These significant levels of investment in programs and infrastructure that support the Foundation's purpose are made possible by the Foundation's continued, strong financial performance. In 2023/24, alongside the significant levels of investment in the Foundation's purpose, the Foundation delivered a Net Surplus of approximately **\$7.3m**, pushing equity levels towards **\$145m**.

This surplus helps underwrite the long term commitment of the Foundation to its purpose and ensures we are able to deliver on commitments made to our ongoing giving and engagement programs and important community projects like Leo's House which will open its doors in 2025.

