

# IMPACT *of giving*

Thank you for supporting  
education and research  
at Flinders University



Kelly Lawton completed the final clinical placement of her nursing degree thanks to a Leahurst Nurses' Foundation Scholarship.

See page 17

# Thank you

**“To the donors of the Matthew Flinders Scholarship, thank you for your support and helping me in my pursuit of becoming an allied health professional.”** Arvind Appadoo

Arvind is now in the final year of his Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Occupational Therapy at Flinders University – a commitment of five years full-time study!

But he wouldn't be on the verge of completing his double degree if not for the Flinders staff, alumni and community members who have donated to the Matthew Flinders Scholarship.

“Not only did the scholarship help me financially, but it also increased my motivation to keep going with my studies because, at that point, I was having doubts on whether my finances would stretch enough to be able to continue,” says Arvind.

This year Arvind is looking forward to developing his occupational therapy skills ready for embarking on his career.

**Thank you for supporting our students in financial need through the Matthew Flinders Scholarship.**

[Flinders.edu.au/support](https://flinders.edu.au/support)



## Acknowledgement of Country

Flinders University acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which its campuses are located, these are the Traditional Lands of the Arrernte, Dagoman, First Nations of the South East, First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee region, Jawoyn, Kurna, Larrakia, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Warumungu, Wardaman and Yolngu people. We honour their Elders past, present and emerging.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT THROUGH COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**The importance of the community's support for our mission of changing lives and changing the world cannot be underestimated, and I deeply appreciate the generosity of our donors, who are making a real difference to students and researchers at Flinders University.**

Over 50 per cent of donations support our flagship Matthew Flinders Scholarship, which helps students in financial need meet essential costs of living so they can maintain their studies. We receive many stories from students saying it made all the difference to being able to continue their degree. Thank you.

Community support for our researchers embarking on their career is having far-reaching benefits. For example, Dr Ashley Hopkins' precision medicine research means those suffering from lung cancer will receive more effective treatment. His global data study was made possible by donations to the Impact Seed Funding for Early Career Researchers program.

Collaboration is an incredibly effective way to amplify the benefits of research for the community. A \$1.2 million donation from Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation and Little Heroes Foundation has enabled Flinders University to establish the Little Heroes Professor of Child and Adolescent Mental Health. This ground-breaking appointment will help to address the mental health crisis in our society.

We are looking forward to the many collaborative opportunities our new Health and Medical Research Building (HMRB) will present. Opening in 2024, this world-class biomedical research facility will strengthen important partnerships between researchers, healthcare professionals and industry, to translate critical research into improved health across the globe.

Through the HMRB, Flinders is charting an exciting future for health and medical research in Australia; I hope you will join us on this journey. I look forward to bringing you updates on the very real impacts this new facility will deliver.

On behalf of Flinders University, thank you for your generosity.



**Professor Colin J Stirling**  
President and Vice-Chancellor



### What you supported in 2022

55%	Matthew Flinders Scholarship
10%	Medical Research
7%	Arts Education & Research
5.5%	Other Scholarships
5%	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Scholarships
4.4%	Highest Priority Research & Education Projects
3.1%	Environmental Research
3%	Medical Education
2.8%	Early Career Research
2.1%	Rural & Remote Scholarships
2%	Other

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The Impact of Giving report is published by Alumni & Advancement, Flinders University.

Editor: Lynda Allen  
Writers: Lynda Allen & David Sly  
Design: Esther Johnson  
Photography: Brenton Edwards (unless indicated). Photos supplied p11, 16, 18, 19.

Printed in South Australia by Flinders Press using soy-based inks on environmentally responsible paper.

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# IMPROVING CANCER TREATMENT

## with precision

### IMPACT SEED FUNDING FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

**Flinders University's cancer research is advancing enormously thanks to the efforts of researchers such as Dr Ashley Hopkins, who is increasing the effectiveness of medicines used to treat cancer.**

A pharmacist by training, Dr Hopkins leads the University's Clinical Cancer Epidemiology Lab. His focus is on predicting the effects of multiple medicines when used together in cancer treatment.

"On average, patients with cancer use five non-cancer medicines alongside their cancer treatments. For example, many use anti-acid medicines for reflux," says Dr Hopkins.

"This introduces significant potential for drug interactions to impact the effectiveness of cancer treatments as well as increased risk of side effects.

"This is particularly concerning for new anti-cancer treatments, such as immunotherapies, where there is less clinical history on safety of use in combination with non-cancer medicines."

With the support of a \$10,000 Flinders University Impact Seed Funding for Early Career Researchers grant, Dr Hopkins gained access to vast medical data sets from global clinical trials. This data helped him evaluate the impact that antibiotics and Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) can have on patients undergoing immunotherapy treatment for metastatic lung cancer.

"With approximately 30 per cent of cancer patients using antibiotics and PPIs alongside immunotherapies, there is substantial opportunity for drug interactions," says Dr Hopkins.

**“There was an urgent need for evidence on the safety of using these medicines together.”**

Dr Hopkins' seed funded study discovered that antibiotics did not impact immunotherapy cancer treatment, but that PPIs were consistently associated with decreased effectiveness of immunotherapies.

The detailed results of the study will now inform the development of treatment guidelines on the appropriate use of antibiotics, PPIs, and immunotherapies for patients with lung cancer, helping to improve their outcomes.

It's a timely research study. Lung cancer represents nine per cent of the 150,000 new cancer cases in Australia each year, which alarmingly accounts for more than 22 per cent of national cancer deaths annually.

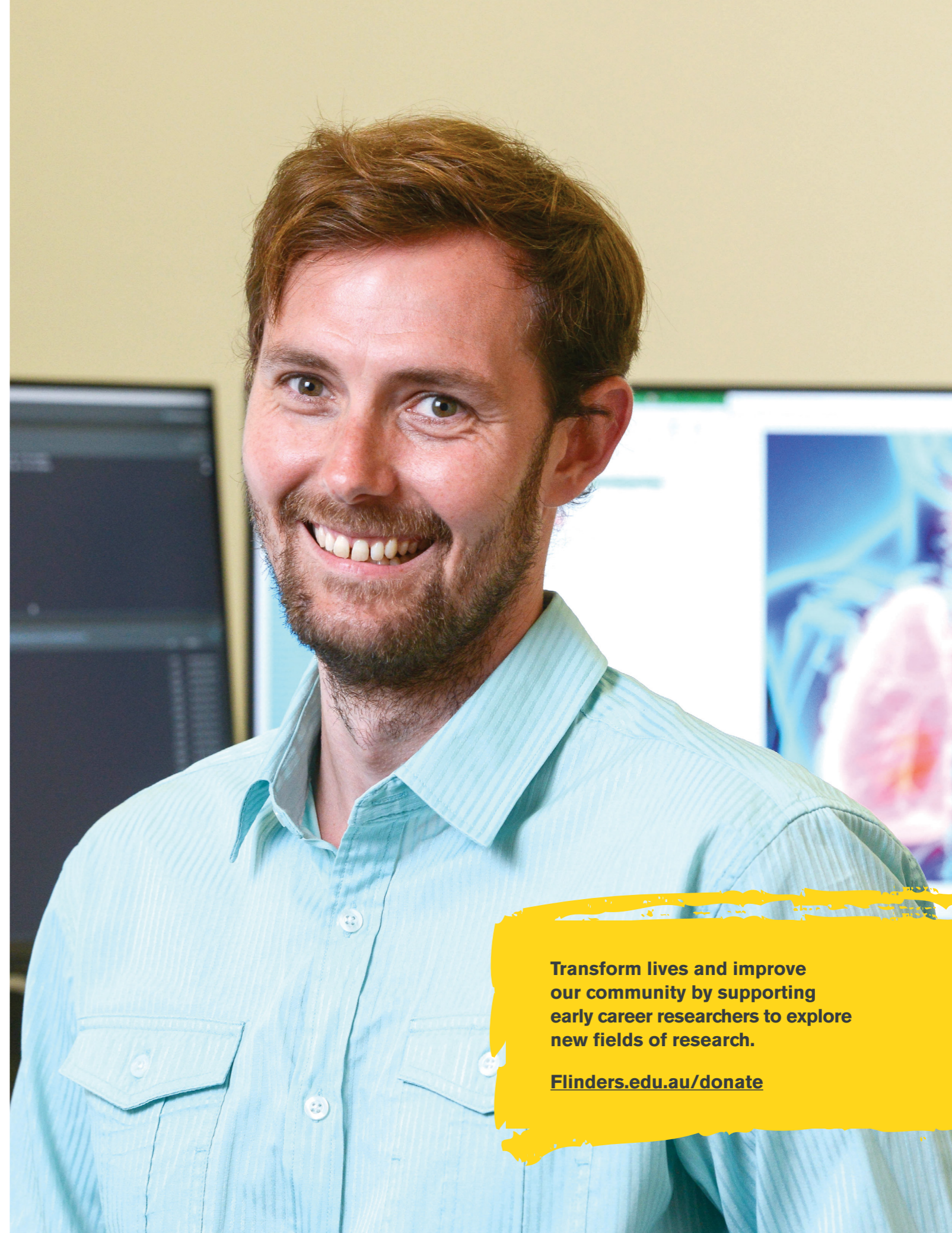
The results of the seed funded research project have now been published in the *Journal of Thoracic Oncology*, a leading international medical journal.

Dr Hopkins says, "This international recognition has helped me gain a five-year Investigator Grant from the NHMRC to expand this study to more medicines and other cancer types."

Dr Hopkins believes the critical first steps in his expanding precision medicine cancer research program was the University's Impact Seed Funding for Early Career Researchers program.

**“Without the initial seed funding, it would not have been possible to build a track record by demonstrating that patient outcomes could be improved through precision medicine.”**

He says, "Seed funding is very important for allowing early career researchers to kick-start their research. In my case, it enabled the completion of a project of significant international interest in treating lung cancer, which will now expand into breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer research."



**Transform lives and improve our community by supporting early career researchers to explore new fields of research.**

**[Flinders.edu.au/donate](https://flinders.edu.au/donate)**

# \$1.2M OF HEROIC HELP FOR youth mental health

## LITTLE HEROES PROFESSOR OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

**In collaboration with Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation and Little Heroes Foundation, Flinders University has announced the creation of the Little Heroes Professor of Child and Adolescent Mental Health at the Flinders University Institute for Mental Health and Wellbeing.**

Mental health issues affecting young people have increased more than 30 per cent in the past 15 years, according to the July 2022 Australian Bureau of Statistics' National Mental Health Survey.

Eighteen-year-old Taylor says it was the superficiality of social media that impacted her mental health and led her to suffer an eating disorder. Regularly comparing herself to models and influencers online, she began exercising more and eating less.

"Through the eyes of society, being healthy means to be thin, eat cleanly, and look a certain way. That is heightened and perpetuated through social media. And so, to me, being healthy meant eating only good food, exercising a lot, and ensuring that I wasn't overweight. Little did I know that being underweight was just as unhealthy," says Taylor.

Making strong inroads to address the mental health crisis, the research of the Flinders University Institute for Mental Health and Wellbeing has been supported by the Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation since the Foundation's inception in 2018.

Now, in collaboration with Little Heroes Foundation, the three entities have been strengthened by the creation of the Little Heroes Professor of Child and Adolescent Mental Health at Flinders University.

The new position will be funded for five years through a generous donation of \$1.2m from

Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation and Little Heroes Foundation.

The Little Heroes Professor of Child and Adolescent Mental Health will be responsible for leading a research program in child and youth mental health across prevention, early intervention and treatment; liaising with other child and adolescent mental health researchers; promoting research outcomes; and liaising with service providers in South Australia to build capacity in evidence-based practice.

CEO of Breakthrough, John Mannion says the decision to fund the new appointment underlines a more strategic approach to mental health support.

**“There is an urgent need to expand the research and rapidly translate findings into interventions and support systems.”**

**John Mannion**

"A dedicated professor will help achieve this by bringing a more strategic approach to mental health support for young people, and attracting more funding, investment and high-quality researchers," says John.

Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor Tracey Wade, Director of the Flinders University Institute for Mental Health and Wellbeing, says the new position will have a transformative effect on the treatment of mental health.

"It's a progressive move that underlines Flinders University's position as a leader in the research and treatment of young people's mental health issues," says Professor Wade.

"The mental wellbeing of adolescents aged 13 to 18 years worsened significantly during the pandemic, as social



John Mannion, Professor Tracey Wade and Chris McDermott

isolation, increased screen time and excessive social media use influenced greater deterioration. This equated to increases in mental illness – with the overall incidence of eating disorders increasing by 15.3 per cent in 2020."

**“We need new solutions in a rapidly changing world environment, and having the best minds dedicated to this issue means we can formulate breakthrough interventions.”** Professor Tracey Wade

Chris McDermott, Chair of Little Heroes Foundation, is proud to have expanded the charity's long history of paediatric health support to now include a stronger focus on mental health care for young people.

"This new venture takes the relationship that already exists between Little Heroes, Breakthrough and Flinders University to a new level, bringing all of these organisations' strengths together and amplifying their impact," says Chris.

"We understand that there is great need and demand for improvement in this area of mental health provision for young people, and we see this as a very long-term commitment that Little Heroes Foundation will be involved with."

After her diagnosis, Taylor began her challenging road to recovery.

"Sharing what I was going through made a huge difference and gave me a more positive mindset, plus meeting others who shared similar experiences also had an incredible effect on my recovery," says Taylor.

"I am incredibly thankful for the love from family and friends who supported me all the way through my recovery. Having that close support network gave me the motivation to overcome my difficulties."

With a new outlook on life, Taylor is about to embark on a Bachelor of Primary Education at Flinders University.

**Learn how Flinders University is progressing mental health and wellbeing research.**

**[Flinders.edu.au/institute-mental-health-wellbeing](https://flinders.edu.au/institute-mental-health-wellbeing)**

# STRONGER PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

COMMUNITY BRIDGING SERVICES (CBS) INC. SCHOLARSHIP

**Thanks to Community Bridging Services (CBS) Inc., Flinders University has created its first scholarship designed to support students with disability.**

Throughout their life 23-year-old Leilani Arens has struggled with the barriers that come from being a neurodivergent person in a neurotypical world. Being undiagnosed for many years was especially challenging.

**“Growing up neurodiverse can feel like you are in an orienteering race, but they forgot to give you the compass or the instructions.”** Leilani Arens

“Plus, you have your own personal raincloud that follows you everywhere. So, you squint through wet eyes and get to know the woods, read the signs in the sun and let your intuition lead you.

“That’s not very efficient when it’s a time-based race, but for my whole life I really thought that was what everyone did.”

Overcoming a range of barriers, Leilani is now studying a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Teaching (Primary R-7), and is one of the 1,605 students at Flinders University who identify as having a disability.

Leilani is grateful to be the inaugural recipient of the Community Bridging Services (CBS) Inc. Scholarship, the first scholarship at Flinders specifically designed to support a student with disability. The \$3,000 scholarship aims to remove barriers for students with disability and encourage a community-focused career.

The new scholarship builds on many years of collaboration between Flinders and CBS Inc., a not-for-profit organisation that provides employment, recreation and personal development support for people with disability.

CBS Inc. also helps Flinders students find graduate employment opportunities in their chosen field through the federal government funded University Specialist Employment Partnership.

Freddie Brincat, who founded CBS Inc. in 1996, says his organisation’s additional support through this scholarship provides valuable financial help, but also shines a light on difficulties students with disability face, and broadens discussions about how best to move forward so that they can achieve their potential.

“I am constantly amazed by the motivation of people with disability, but there can be many barriers ahead to achieve what they want,” says Freddie.

“This is where CBS Inc. provides help, and our partnership with Flinders University is a very important part of building their confidence to attend university and to succeed.”

Freddie believes the pathway through higher education for people with disability needs to be made more accessible, so they can realise their ambitions.

**“The new scholarship helps to highlight people with great talent who have a disability, and to show that when they have access to greater resources it creates a huge, positive difference in their lives.”**

Freddie Brincat

With the scholarship funds Leilani has been able to purchase equipment and resources to address organisational, sensory and emotional needs. This is helping them navigate daily life and feel better equipped to study.

“The scholarship has been an extraordinary support for me and has left me with a feeling of professional capability,” says Leilani.

“I want to express my gratitude to CBS Inc. for their innovative decision to fund a scholarship for students with disability at Flinders.”

Leilani is also excited that as a result of the support they now have the capacity and confidence to join the Flinders Neurodiversity Study Support and Advocacy group.

Freddie is impressed by the positive impact the scholarship has already had on Leilani’s life, but knows there is an even bigger picture and long-term benefits to removing barriers for students with disability.

“I’m proud that a small not-for-profit organisation such as CBS Inc. has taken the lead with this important initiative, but I would now like to see larger corporations join with us,” says Freddie.

**“As more people with disability obtain access to university, we will see them become future leaders of this country.”**

Freddie Brincat



# ENCOURAGING STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS

## RACHAEL KIRKHAM SPEECH PATHOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP

**A generous bequest will honour the life of a speech pathology graduate and support a country student to achieve their degree in speech pathology.**

Salt of the earth couple Reverend Eric Kirkham and Joan Kirkham have enjoyed a diverse life, from shearing sheep and managing a cluster of farms on the Eyre Peninsula while raising three daughters (Janeen, Lynda and Rachael), to both studying at Flinders University – Eric a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Theology (Honours), and Joan a Bachelor of Nursing.

“I came to Flinders in 1978 as a mature age student, so it was a complete change of life,” says Eric. “My later

study in theology equipped me to pursue my calling as a minister in the Uniting Church.”

But Eric says there was more than just study to enjoy at Flinders, he also created many new friendships. “Study gave me the confidence to mix with others who were working toward other professions, some very different from the path that I was on.”

The couple also lived in England for five years where Eric served in the Methodist Church, and Joan worked as a nurse and community health professional. They returned to Adelaide in 1995 when Eric took up an appointment with the Woodville Uniting Church, where he served for the next 10 years and has remained connected ever since.

Years later, in 2007, their youngest daughter Rachael followed in her parents’ footsteps and studied a Bachelor of Speech Pathology at Flinders University, after completing studies in the performing arts.

After graduating, she accepted a position as a speech pathologist in a rural town and for a decade enjoyed working with country families.

“Though Rachael spent many years in the city, her heart was always in the country and in country living,” says Joan.

“With her background in the performing arts she was particularly good at engaging with children who found it hard to communicate.”

However, in 2019 the Kirkham family were devastated when, after a short but severe illness, Rachael’s time on earth ended before she was able to achieve all that she wanted to in life.

**“It was as we tried to make some sense of our loss that we as a family decided to make a bequest to Flinders University in Rachael’s name.”** Reverend Eric Kirkham

Included in their Will, Eric and Joan’s bequest will fund the annual Rachael Kirkham Speech Pathology Scholarship at Flinders University.

“As a family we are hoping this bequest will help a student from a remote or isolated region who is studying speech pathology or an allied science,” says Joan.

“The scholarship may help with the cost of living, study costs or accommodation – wherever the greatest need lies – in order to allow the country student the opportunity to pursue their education and their potential!”

Eric and Joan hope the scholarship will allow Rachael to posthumously make a difference in an area of study and work that she was so passionate about, while also supporting a country student.

**“Flinders has always been open to encouraging students from different backgrounds and this will be a small way to help a country student who might otherwise not be able to pursue an academic career.”** Reverend Eric Kirkham

Now retired, Eric and Joan are still busy serving in the church in a voluntary capacity, while working on their bountiful backyard full of fruit, vegetables and chooks.

Contemplating his accomplishments in life, Eric notes, “Life has many seasons but for me it is the people who I have met and helped, along with those who have helped me, that is our greatest achievement.”



Rachael Kirkham on her graduation day

**Leave a lasting legacy – include a bequest in your Will to support students or research at Flinders University.**

**Contact Mark Goldsmith  
0401 123 866  
[mark.goldsmith@flinders.edu.au](mailto:mark.goldsmith@flinders.edu.au)**

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Jeanne Young

Thank you to our many donors who wish to remain anonymous and to those who have made a bequest in their Will.

\*The Donor Honour Roll recognises those who donated to Flinders University between 1 Jan and 31 Dec 2022. <sup>^</sup>Donor has since passed away.

# ADDRESSING DISCRIMINATION, INEQUALITY & INJUSTICE

## STELLA AND PETER BRAUND STEM SCHOLARSHIP

**With the motto of ‘start where you are, use what you have, do what you can’ Stella and Peter Braund have created a new scholarship at Flinders University to address discrimination, inequality and injustice.**

Inspired by their own life experiences, Stella and Peter have provided a donation to establish the annual Stella and Peter Braund STEM Scholarship to support students in financial hardship – with preference given to a female Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student studying STEM.

Annually, the endowed funding will provide a recipient with \$5,000 for every year of their undergraduate studies, giving them the critical financial support and motivation to continue their studies and achieve their degree.

Stella and Peter strongly believe education is an essential foundation to maximise an individual’s opportunities for future success.

Stella says, “The benefits of education are many, not only in terms of the personal benefits individuals receive – including career progression, skill development and employment opportunities – but the longer-term benefits to society and the community are invaluable.”

As a child from a non-English speaking background, having overcome family violence and sexual discrimination, Stella has gone on to achieve great success in her 25-year career as a mental health practitioner. She now provides expert advice to SA Health on mental health policy and planning.

As an advocate for people living with mental ill-health and disability, Stella has dedicated her personal and professional life to educating, supporting and campaigning for vulnerable populations. Her incredible work in this area saw her receive the 2023 South Australian Citizen of the Year Award.

“My goal has always been to create environments that set children and adults up for success,” she says.

Stella clearly recalls the intense challenges of sustaining full-time tertiary studies while under financial hardship and understands what a huge difference a little assistance can make to the lives of students.

“We hope the scholarship will enable students to successfully complete their course by reducing one source of stress that can be very draining and challenging for a person struggling to get by.

**“Longer term we hope that it can be a contributing factor that enables them to realise their dreams and achieve their full potential.” Stella Braund**

Stella and Peter are especially concerned that women experience inequality in many areas of their lives and as a result don’t achieve their full potential.

“At work, many women face a gender pay gap and barriers to leadership roles, and often encounter sexual discrimination in male-dominated STEM industries,” says Stella.

While women comprise 47 per cent of employees in Australia, on average they take home \$251.20 less than men each week (based on full-time adult ordinary earnings). This is a national gender pay gap of 15.3 per cent, which has not improved over the past two decades.

Peter laments an absence of female voices throughout his global career in IT consultancy – which saw him deploy new systems to companies that would have otherwise failed as a result of the Y2K bug in 2000. He has since held key roles in the development and deployment of emerging technologies that enable organisations to realise their strategic objectives.



Stella and Peter Braund with scholarship recipient Corrin Paepke

**“I’ve been very fortunate to work with some exceptional women at different times in my career and note that their more collaborative workstyle provides significant value.” Peter Braund**

“Without their valuable contribution society is much poorer.”

Stella and Peter’s personal experience and focus for the scholarship mean the inaugural recipient of the Stella and Peter Braund STEM Scholarship, Corrin Paepke, will now be supported to overcome financial obstacles throughout her studies at Flinders University.

Twenty-two-year-old Corrin is a Pitjantjatjara woman living on Kurna land.

Passionate about both science and social justice, Corrin wants to help those in the criminal justice system and is studying a combined degree of Forensic and Analytical Science with Criminology.

Growing up on Karta Pintingka/Kangaroo Island, Corrin not only faced relocation costs to study in Adelaide, but ongoing living and study costs that require her to work part time.

“The funds have helped to cover my rent, parking and food, plus textbooks and a laptop for uni,” says Corrin.

**“I feel very grateful to receive this opportunity. Because of Stella and Peter, I can move forward with my dream of making a difference for other Indigenous Australians – in the prison system or other disadvantaged setting.” Corrin Paepke**

Acknowledging the long term benefits of supporting education, Stella says, “When students find themselves in challenging situations not of their own making and are provided with even the smallest amount of support, they grab it with both hands and make the absolute most of it to improve their situation, as well as their community.”

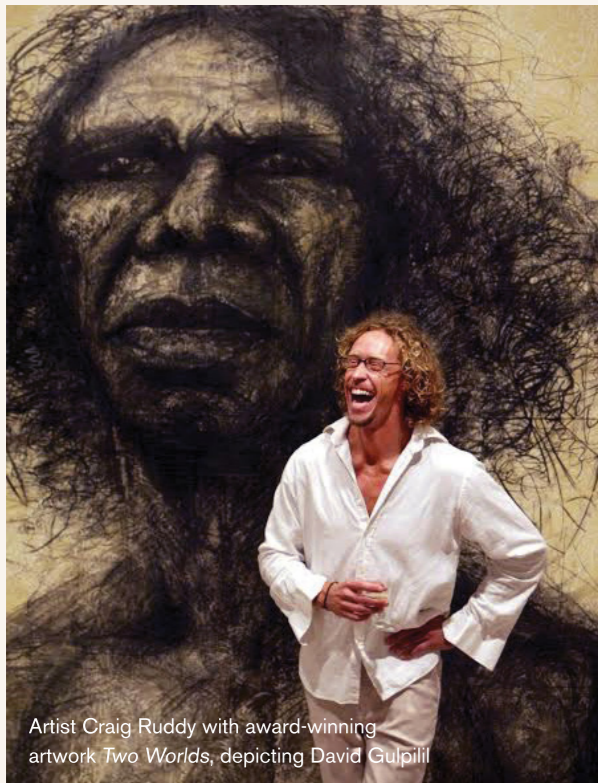
**Change a student’s life by creating a named scholarship at Flinders University.**

**Contact Mark Goldsmith  
0401 123 866  
[mark.goldsmith@flinders.edu.au](mailto:mark.goldsmith@flinders.edu.au)**



# GULPILIL ARTWORK CREATES OPPORTUNITIES

CRAIG RUDDY SCHOLARSHIP



Artist Craig Ruddy with award-winning artwork *Two Worlds*, depicting David Gulpilil

**Highlighting the life of an award-winning artist, the Craig Ruddy Scholarship is providing much-needed support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students in the NT.**

Growing up with a life-threatening illness, art became Craig Ruddy's outlet and source of inspiration. In 2004 he won the coveted Archibald Prize for his portrait *Two Worlds*, depicting world-renowned Yolngu actor David Gulpilil.

The portrait, with its message of recognition and reconciliation, is considered a crucial piece of art for the nation, and saw Craig become one of the most talked about winners in the Archibald's history.

In appreciation of the honour of painting the iconic actor – and influenced by his own early-life medical issues – Craig wanted part proceeds from the sale of the artwork to go towards a project that would significantly contribute to improving health and education for First Nations Australians in the Northern Territory.

In January 2022, Craig sadly passed away. Amidst his grief, Craig's partner Roberto Carlos Meza Mont enacted the artist's wishes by establishing the Craig Ruddy Scholarship at Flinders University.

The annual \$5,000 scholarship, for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students in the Flinders NT Medical Program, will help fund study equipment and resources, mentoring or tutoring, or any other tangible need as students work towards their study and graduation success.

"The practical financial support of a scholarship is pivotal in assisting the academic success, retention and graduation of our students so that they can become health professionals supporting their community," says James Smith, Deputy Dean of Rural and Remote Health at Flinders University.

The inaugural Craig Ruddy Scholarship was awarded to Flinders NT medical students Karlie James and Sarita Lawler.

**“When I graduate, I want to become a General Practitioner in remote areas in the NT.”** Karlie James

"My hope is to provide a culturally safe and appropriate medical service to areas that may have limited services, and create continuity of care – all important elements to help improve health standards in our vulnerable remote populations," says Karlie.

**In line with Craig's wishes, the scholarship is open for public contributions. With your support we can continue to reduce financial barriers for First Nations medical students in the NT. [Flinders.edu.au/giving-craigruddy](https://flinders.edu.au/giving-craigruddy)**

## \$28K SUPPORT FOR NURSING & MIDWIFERY PLACEMENTS

LEAHURST NURSES' FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



**Helping to support our students during their final clinical placement, the Leahurst Nurses' Foundation has provided \$28,000 to fund 12 nursing scholarships and two midwifery scholarships.**

Born with a cleft palate, as a child Kelly Lawton was in and out of hospital for surgery and care. She still recalls the kindness and support of the nurses during this time, which inspired her to follow a career in nursing.

"I saw how a nurse showing kindness and understanding to patients and their families can really change a person's day," says Kelly.

Kelly began her nursing degree at Flinders University in 2020 and due to the pandemic had to adapt to the challenges of online learning for much of her studies.

When it came time for her final clinical placement at Victor Harbor Hospital, Kelly was bursting to get onto the wards to expand her practical knowledge and skills.

But she worried about how she would pay her bills while on the two-month, full-time placement – without the income of her casual job.

She says it was thanks to the support of a \$2,000 Leahurst Nurses' Foundation Scholarship that she was able to complete her practical placement without financial stress.

"The financial pressure was a burden," says Kelly. "But this funding helped me in more ways than one,

from actually allowing me to pay my car repayments that were overdue, to enabling me to travel to the placement, plus buying food."

**“It also helped me mentally and emotionally. I realised I didn't need to stress, so my mental health improved, I became more focused and happier.”**

Kelly Lawton

Established in 2020, the Leahurst Foundation Inc. chaired by Dr Anita De Bellis has a mission to strengthen the nursing and midwifery professions in South Australia.

"The scholarships were created to provide support to students experiencing financial hardship as a result of their final clinical placement in their undergraduate nursing or midwifery degree," says Dr De Bellis.

"We hope that this support will help the students focus on the fantastic, hands-on learning opportunity a placement can provide, rather than worrying about how they will pay their bills during this period."

Kelly is now looking forward to moving to Kangaroo Island to begin her career as a nurse, and is excited about creating a better future for others.

She says, "I want to work my way up to be a nurse practitioner or take on a role where I'm able to implement positive change in the healthcare system."

# UNCOVERING SUBMERGED NEOLITHIC SITES IN ISRAEL

ALLEN BOLAFFI FUTURE FUND

**Considered to have one of the top maritime archaeology programs in the world, Flinders University has launched a collaborative, international maritime investigation – thanks to the Allen Bolaffi Future Fund.**

Off the Carmel Coast of Israel, 17 submerged prehistoric settlements have been discovered, creating a rich source of information about our past and making Israel a world-class location to test and trial new research methods.

The Neolithic sites, dating some 12,000 to 5,000 years ago, demonstrate some of the world's most well-preserved examples of human life, including human burials and the preservation of fragile organic materials, such as woven baskets and the remains of plants used by these past societies.

Facilitated by the UNESCO UNITWIN Network for Underwater Archaeology and in partnership with the University of Haifa in Israel, the Allen Bolaffi Future Fund is supporting Flinders University early career researcher Dr Chelsea Wiseman to travel to Israel to undertake a high-profile research project at the submerged settlements.

"Using the Israel sites as a case study, we will study changes to coastal settlement patterns in prehistory," says Dr Wiseman.

"The study will analyse the human response to climate change according to the archaeological record and evaluate changes in the use of coastal landscapes over the course of habitation of these prehistoric settlements."

Using cutting-edge 3D visual technology to record the submerged Neolithic sites, Dr Wiseman hopes to understand the influence of environmental change and unlock the significance of these ancient underwater cultural sites.

"The project will contribute to the technological development of ancient sea-level studies, human adaptation to climate change, and exploration in the marine environment through underwater archaeological, geophysical and machine learning techniques," says Dr Wiseman.

The research, directed by Flinders University's Professor Jonathan Benjamin and Discovery Early Career Researchers Award Fellow Dr John McCarthy, is hosted and supported in Israel by Professor Assaf Yasur-Landau from the University of Haifa.

"This research hopes to provide insights into the history of human interaction with the sea, at a period of time where sea-level rise had significant impacts on coastal habitation," says Professor Benjamin.

Pictured: Dr Chelsea Wiseman at the archaeological site in Israel



The international project was made possible with the support of the Allen Bolaffi Future Fund at Flinders University, which has funded Dr Wiseman's salary and costs to undertake the research, as well as fieldwork expenses for the archaeological excavations in Israel.

Allen Bolaffi was a well-known and highly respected businessman and a leading figure in the Jewish community, serving as President of the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce (SA) for 20 years.

After Allen's untimely death in 2014, the Allen Bolaffi Future Fund was created with a generous donation from then Vice-Chancellor Michael Barber. The fund quickly grew from an outpouring of generous support from Allen's associates, friends and family.

The fund honours Allen's life by supporting a cause he was passionate about – partnerships between Australia and Israel. The Bolaffi family are pleased that Allen's legacy is supporting this cutting-edge, international maritime archaeology project.

Dr Wiseman says she is profoundly grateful for the support.

**“This funding has made a tremendous difference to me, both personally and professionally. As an early career researcher, it has created a unique opportunity for me to lead internationally collaborative research, in a location of abundant archaeological material.”**

Dr Chelsea Wiseman

"It's important to support this kind of research so we can better understand the history of human adaptation to climate change, especially in these now-submerged sites that faced the impacts of rapid sea-level rise."

By uncovering and understanding the submerged Neolithic sites in Israel, Dr Wiseman believes it will add to our knowledge and actions in response to the impending changes to our climate.

"These archaeological sites are an incredible resource for us to understand the resilience of past human societies and how we might adapt to climate change in the future."

**Extend this ground-breaking international research and donate today in memory of Allen Bolaffi.**

[Flinders.edu.au/giving-bolaffi](https://flinders.edu.au/giving-bolaffi)

# VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY DRIVEN by fossil fascination

**A fascination with fossils and a close-knit, supportive community are the driving forces of Flinders University Palaeontology Society (FUPS) volunteer activity.**

FUPS outgoing President Phoebe McInerney says the student-run society is for anyone interested in fossils, evolution and extinct Australian fauna.

Along with regular social and educational activities centred on palaeontology, the volunteer group gives members the opportunity to get involved with hands-on field work, research and workshops, plus fossil preparation in the Flinders Palaeontology lab for palaeontology students.

FUPS also releases a regular journal *Beer 'n' Bones* containing palaeontology inspired news, updates and event information to keep the group connected.

**“It’s volunteering with a purpose and it’s really appreciated and valued within South Australia’s palaeontology community.”** Phoebe McInerney

Supporting its community members is also an important aspect of the group. When well-known FUPS member and Flinders palaeontology researcher James Moore (BSc '12) passed away after a tragic accident in 2014, the James Moore Memorial Prize was established at the University with the support of his family.

Each year the prize funds two high school students (one regional and one metropolitan) to join a Flinders palaeontology field trip and learn from the University's world-leading palaeontology academics.

The prize also acknowledges that James first became hooked on fossils as a high school student in Whyalla, when he participated in Flinders palaeontology expeditions to collect the bones of ancient megafauna at regional South Australian digs.

At last year’s Wells Lecture in Palaeontology, FUPS volunteers took the opportunity of this large gathering of the palaeontology community, including staff, students and alumni, to raise funds for the James Moore Memorial Prize.

“The fundraising by our FUPS volunteers not only provided a boost to the James Moore Memorial Prize, but also reminds us why it’s important to be involved in a close-knit supportive group like FUPS,” says Phoebe.

“It helps students and the community to get involved in the science and research work that they love, and reminds us all of the passion that drives us.”



Flinders University Palaeontology Society committee

**Do you have a fossil fascination?  
Get involved with Flinders University Palaeontology Society  
[Flinderspalaeosoc.org](http://Flinderspalaeosoc.org)**



Impact of Giving Afternoon Tea



Impact of Giving Afternoon Tea



Wells Lecture in Palaeontology



Wells Lecture in Palaeontology



Triple 0 Charity Ball



Triple 0 Charity Ball



Triple 0 Charity Ball



Triple 0 Charity Ball

# CHANGE LIVES & CHANGE THE WORLD

Every donation, large or small, makes a difference to our students, researchers and the wider community.

Here are some great ways you can help to change lives and change the world.

## DONATE TO OUR ANNUAL APPEALS

Our appeals at tax and Christmas time highlight our areas of greatest need at the University. These include supporting students in financial need through the Matthew Flinders Scholarship, and providing vital seed funding for early career researchers.

## SUPPORT A RESEARCH STUDY

Support our researchers to find solutions to society's challenges. Donate to a medical, environmental or mental health study that will change lives in our community.

## GIVE IN MEMORY OR CELEBRATION

Giving in memory is a wonderful way to honour your loved one. Identify an area of education or research important to them and ask guests to donate in lieu of flowers. You can also highlight an area of support important to you at a celebratory event such as a wedding, where guests can donate instead of giving gifts.

## WORKPLACE GIVING

If you are a Flinders staff member, sign up for regular pre-tax, salary sacrifice donations. If the company you work for is registered with Good2Give they can facilitate regular salary sacrifice payments to the Flinders fund of your choice. Through Good2Give, some organisations will match your donation – doubling your impact.

## HELP US FUNDRAISE

Create a fundraising activity, challenge or event using our fee-free Shout for Good crowdfunding platform. Then ask friends, family or workmates to support you to reach your fundraising goal.

## ATTEND OUR EVENTS

The Triple 0 Charity Ball in November each year is a major event on Adelaide's social calendar. Part proceeds support our paramedicine students through the Stafford Wulff Opportunity Scholarship in Paramedic Science. We also encourage you to attend Flinders' public lectures and events for networking opportunities and lifelong learning. [Flinders.edu.au/events](https://flinders.edu.au/events)

## GIVE A CULTURAL GIFT

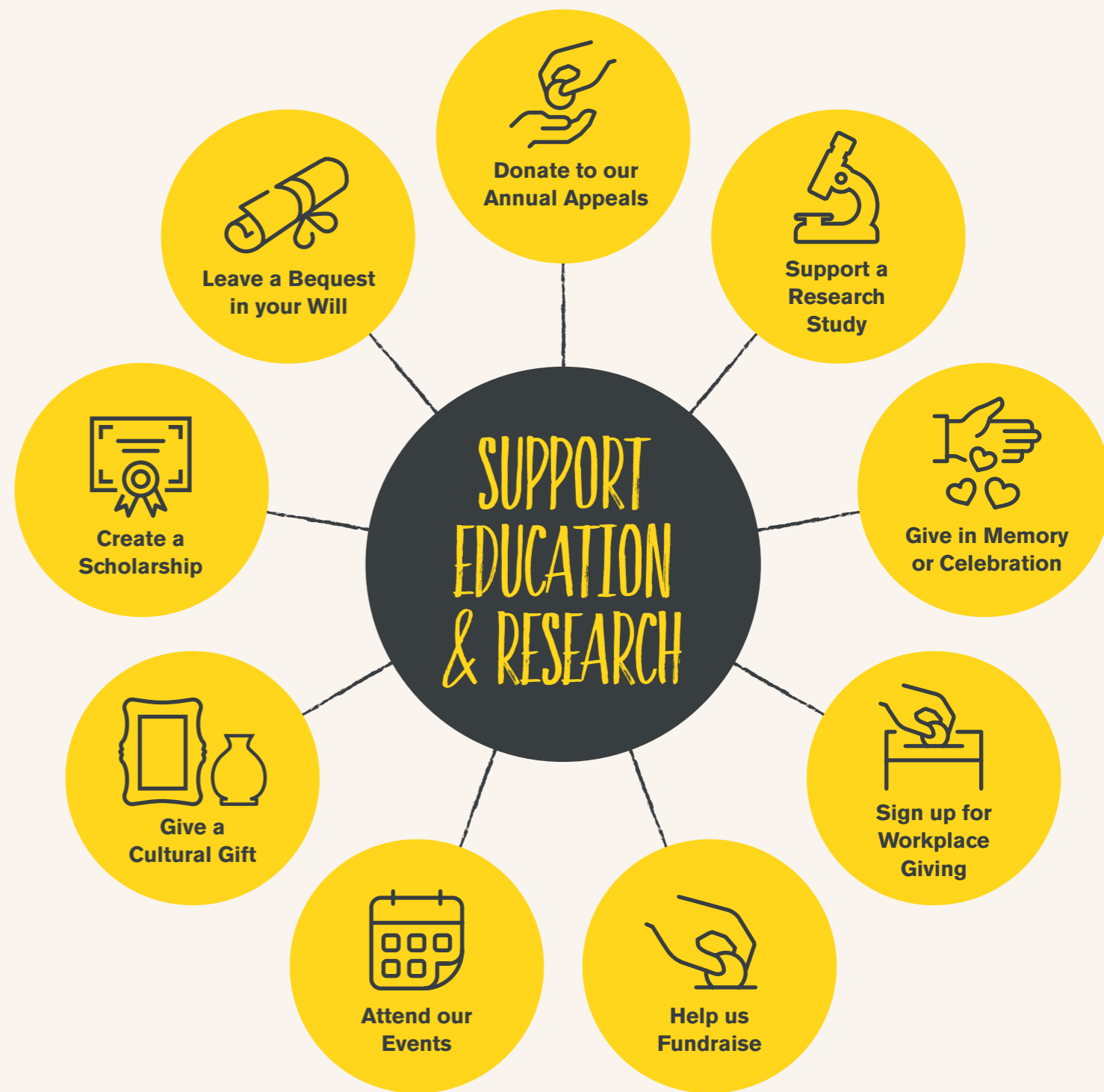
Do you have an artwork or cultural item of significance? Flinders University Museum of Art is grateful for pieces that align with its collections. [Flinders.edu.au/FUMA](https://flinders.edu.au/FUMA)

## CREATE A SCHOLARSHIP

Named scholarships are a great way to create a legacy or pay tribute to someone important to you. The scholarship can be for a specific field of study or a demographic that may need additional support.

## LEAVE A BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL

Making your Will is an opportunity to consider how you and your family can have a lasting impact on generations to come. Work with us to learn how to include a bequest to education or research in your Will.



*we would love to hear from you!*

**Advancement, Flinders University**  
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# The future of **HEALTH & MEDICAL RESEARCH** is at Flinders University

“Every institute in the world wants co-location partnerships. The Health and Medical Research Building will make that happen on a transformative level.

Being co-located means I can talk daily with clinicians about problems they're facing in the clinic or operating theatre – which then informs my research.

It will be incredibly productive.”

**Dr Claire Jessup**  
Immunology Researcher  
Flinders University



**Flinders University is distinguished by its people and their shared sense of purpose.**

Opening in 2024, the Health and Medical Research Building has been designed to create powerful partnerships between researchers, clinicians and practitioners, with a focus on research that is guided by patient need.

From clinical advances, to outstanding delivery of care and prevention, our integrated and holistic efforts will help solve the most challenging health problems of today and tomorrow.

**[Flinders.edu.au/hmrb](https://flinders.edu.au/hmrb)**