

~~UN~~BELIEVABLE



Our journey from unbelievable to believable

—

2021/22

NOW WE CAN START TO BELIEVE



Finding a cure for spinal cord injuries has always been an unbelievable dream, until now. We're at a tipping point in the history of medical science with advances in neurostimulation and other breakthrough interventions showing life-changing results.

We are funding neurostimulation trials right now in Australia with the aim of bringing this technology out of the lab and into lives as soon as possible.

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THE LIVES

WE CAN

CHANGE

20,800

20,800 Australians living
with a spinal cord injury

1

At least 1 new spinal injury happens
everyday in Australia

\$3.7b

Annual cost of spinal cord injuries
in 2020 is estimated at \$3.7b

\$75.4b

Total lifetime cost of spinal injuries
in 2020 is estimated at \$75.4b





CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The power of the human spirit is astonishing and what we can achieve if we put our minds to it is truly staggering. With the latest breakthroughs in technology the future for spinal cord injury research has never looked brighter.

In 2020, we established a powerful collaboration with Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) to research, develop and refine neurostimulation treatments.

This year has seen the establishment of Project Spark and the second globally important neurostimulation trial led by the team at NeuRA. It's great to see two other SCI based not-for-profits, CatWalk NZ and Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) join NeuRA and ourselves to make Project Spark possible.

From this point, we hope to see rapid progress towards our primary goal of developing a neurostimulation treatment package that will be accessible to people across the country.

In addition to this, we continue to see the globally significant and exciting developments in limiting the damage of new injuries by A/Prof Marc Ruitenberg and his team, who we have been helping to support for many years.

We are closer than ever to realising the full potential that science holds to cure spinal cord injury and it is a truly exciting place to be.

I extend my sincere gratitude to every partner, donor and supporter for helping us to arrive at this point.

Thank you also to SpinalCure's Ambassadors, our highly experienced and supportive board and our hardworking staff, led by our CEO and Executive Director.

We are all so excited to be at a point in our journey where the unbelievable can become believable.

Joanna Knott, OAM

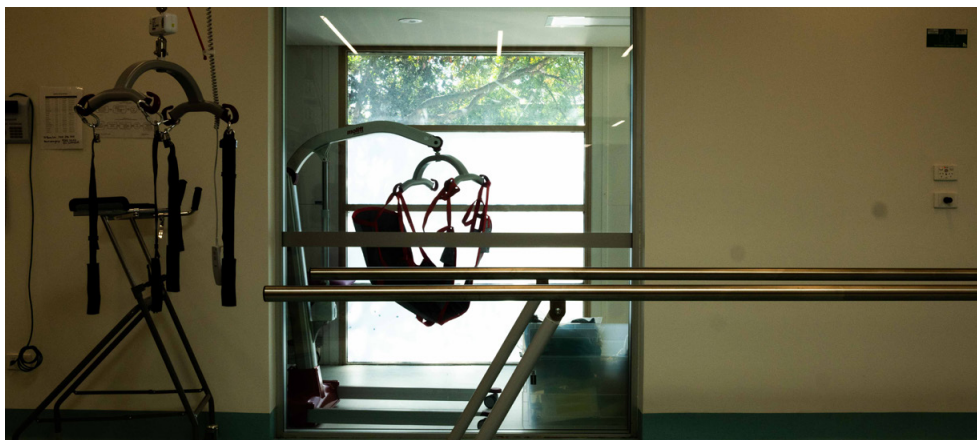


JOANNA

KNOTT

21/22

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



\$11m

Total funding secured for spinal cord injury research this year

\$15,000

Annual investment in professional development scholarship award in memory of the late David Prast

1st

Australia's first community based clinical trial given the green light

30,000

Signatures on our Project Spark Government petition

\$1.28m

Income directly raised this financial year

\$2.45m

Committed to funding Project Spark's first community-based neurostimulation trial

\$3.6m

Completed funding Australia's first neurostimulation trial treating paraplegics (eWALK)

\$10m

Secured from NSW Government for neurostimulation research for spinal cord injury



KATHRYN BORKOVIC



CEO'S MESSAGE

Looking back over the year, we were able to achieve some history-making milestones including lobbying the Federal Government resulting in the establishment of a \$10m neurostimulation research fund for spinal cord injury.

As part of our lobbying efforts we issued an online petition which secured over 30,000 signatures showing strong community support for neurostimulation and Project Spark. This has been a real turbocharger to the mission, catapulting our agenda onto the national stage.

We completed our \$3.6m funding commitment to the eWALK trial — Australia's first neurostimulation trial treating paraplegics, and the world's only rigorous, double-blinded, multi-centre clinical trial testing neurostimulation. Building on this foundation, Project Spark, our \$46m 5-year project to explore the full potential of neurostimulation, in combination with other leading experimental therapies to develop treatments for people with SCI, is well underway.

We have committed to funding Project Spark's first trial taking place in the community which aims to help

quadriplegics. Pleasingly we have secured pledges for over 50% of our \$2.45m commitment so far.

Our progress has been made possible because we have the unwavering support of strong SCI partners including CatWalk NZ, SCIA and Forward Ability Support as well as the scientific team at NeuRA led by Profs Simon Gandevia and Jane Butler.

Something that never ceases to amaze me is the wonderful community of volunteers we have at SpinalCure — a big thank you to Patron Sandra Sully, Ambassadors Kerri-Anne Kennerley, Sam Bloom, Ed Cummings and Rodger Corser, and our team of Community Ambassadors Dean, Emma, Tom and Alex.

I would also like to thank Senator Linda Reynolds who was instrumental in helping SpinalCure convince Federal Government that it was finally time to channel strategic funding into cure focussed SCI research.

There is an enormous amount of work still to be done for the new financial year and our main priority will be to engage the new government to ensure neurostimulation remains high on the federal funding agenda.*

Kathryn Borkovic, CEO



THE IMPACT OF

30,000 VOICES

LEFT TO RIGHT SENATOR ANDREW BRAGG , PROF PETER SCHOFIELD, PROF SIMON GANDEVIA,
SENATOR LINDA REYNOLDS , KATHRYN BORKOVIC, DUNCAN WALLACE

A MAJOR BREAK-THROUGH IN GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY

Government support is crucial if we are to succeed in transforming lives. Here you can see Minister Greg Hunt accepting our 30,000-strong petition calling on the Federal Government to support Project Spark.

As a result of this and several years of advocacy, with the support of Senator Linda Reynolds and Kerri-Anne Kennerley, the Federal Government created a \$10m competitive grants program specifically for neurostimulation to improve outcomes for people with spinal cord injury.

This is groundbreaking funding that will change lives.



"...the Federal Government created a **\$10m** competitive grants program specifically for neurostimulation..."

TOP MINISTER GREG HUNT ACCEPTING OUR 30,000-STRONG PETITION
LEFT OUR CEO, KATHRYN BORKOVIC AND KERRI-ANNE KENNERLEY ON CHANNEL 7 CALLING FOR ACTION

PROJECT SPARK

CAN CHANGE LIVES

RIGHT NOW



LIFE CHANGING MOVEMENT IS NOW ~~UN~~BELIEVABLE

FUNDED BY SPINALCURE

Along with dreams of walking, you ask anyone with a spinal injury what they want most and they'll talk about the little-big things. Like being able to use their fingers to hold and put on their lipstick, to move their arm to pick up food or to pick up a toothbrush and clean their teeth.

This is the objective of Project Spark. Life changing movement via the groundbreaking science of neurostimulation.

Project Spark is a 5-year medical research program led by SpinalCure in collaboration with three other not-for-profits: Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA), The Catwalk SCI Research Trust NZ (CatWalk) and Spinal Cord Injuries Australia's (SCIA) NeuroMoves division.

We started with Australia's first neurostimulation clinical trial which aims

to help paraplegics walk again. Following this is a broad series of clinical trials targeting the functional returns that people with SCIs care most about.

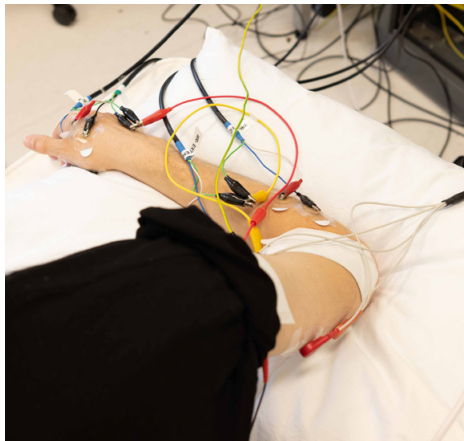
SpinalCure, NeuRA, SCIA and our New Zealand counterparts CatWalk, have come together to make the first of Project Spark's community-based clinical trials possible. Directed by Professors Simon Gandevia and Jane Butler at NeuRA, up to 96 volunteers will be treated by the therapists at SCIA's NeuroMoves exercise centres in three states.

Starting early 2023, this trial aims to improve or restore arm, hand and respiratory function for people living with quadriplegia.



“Before I heard about Project Spark, I believed that my condition was incurable and permanent, but now I have hope. The work that SpinalCure is doing on Project Spark is really important to me and the SCI community. Neurostimulation has already shown positive results overseas and I can't wait to see what the future holds now.”

ALEX RICHTER



ALEX

RICHTER



PIONEER AND VISIONARY

FUNDED BY SPINALCURE

Our objective is to invest in proof-based research that is delivering the most impressive, tangible results. To find and fund the thinkers that are going to change our world.

One such person is Associate Professor Marc Ruitenberg at the University of Queensland's School of Biomedical Sciences. His team have been working on two strategies which could change the landscape of SCI treatment:

#01

Groundbreaking point of injury treatment

Together with clinical collaborators, Professor Ruitenberg's team recently completed a trial giving innovative anti-inflammatory therapy to 20 people within hours of spinal trauma to reduce secondary inflammatory damage.

This anti-inflammatory therapy could mean many newly injured people will leave hospital in much better shape than previously thought possible. Trial results are due to be published shortly.

The next step will be a much larger Phase 2/3 clinical trial at hospitals across Australia. We have set a fundraising target of \$10million to help expand this trial across trauma centres nationally.

#02

If we can predict it, we can treat it

The inability to accurately predict outcomes is a major problem in the field of SCI research.

In January 2021, Associate Professor Ruitenberg and his colleagues released a ground-breaking new paper detailing how changes in levels of certain cells or molecules in the blood (called biomarkers) can be used to predict the degree of recovery a patient can expect.

This enables clinicians and researchers to better diagnose the extent of injury and thus gauge treatment effectiveness.

In 2021, SpinalCure committed to three years of continuing support for further research into examining the inflammatory response and predicting outcomes of new spinal cord injuries.



“The spinal-cord doesn’t want to reveal its secrets just willy-nilly... you have to prize them open to get further knowledge. It is like building a massive building – you get one area of knowledge and a picture begins to emerge.”

STEWART YESNER FOUNDER OF SPINALCURE AUSTRALIA.
1955-2022



STEWART

YESNER



CAMILA QUEL
DE OLIVEIRA

PIONEERING ROBOT REHABILITATION

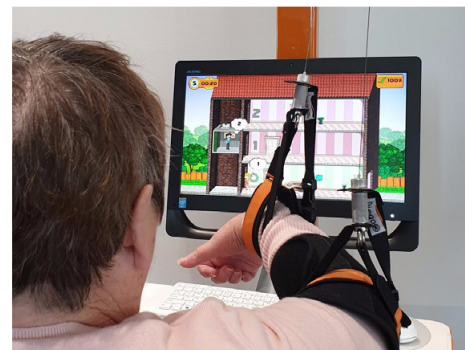
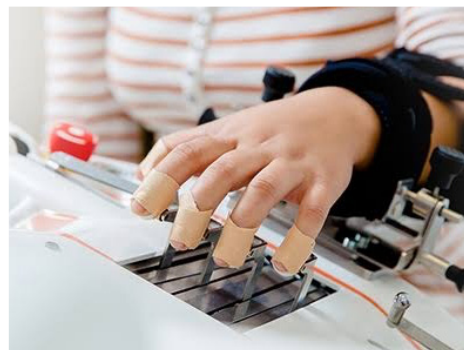
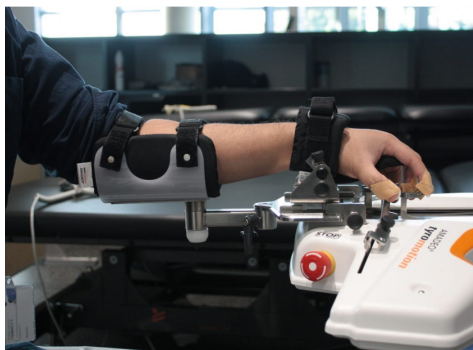
FUNDED BY SPINALCURE

Dr Camila Quel de Oliveira is breaking new ground in the use of robotics to improve arm and hand rehabilitation for people with SCIs. After winning the Spinal Research Institute's Spinal Cord Injury Research Writing Prize in 2021 she asked "Can robots be the new therapists in rehabilitation of the arm and hand after SCI?"

Duncan Wallace, Executive Director of SpinalCure, said "Dr Quel de Oliveira is the lead researcher on the study testing the feasibility of robotics-assisted game-based arm and hand rehabilitation for people with spinal cord injury (SCI).

SpinalCure funded the study due to its potential to greatly improve rehabilitation outcomes, and also to help improve outcomes when combined with other interventions such as neurostimulation."

Led by Dr Camila Quel De Oliveira, this cutting-edge research was delayed due to the pandemic, but is now back up and running treating volunteers."



FOR THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH

FUNDED BY SPINALCURE

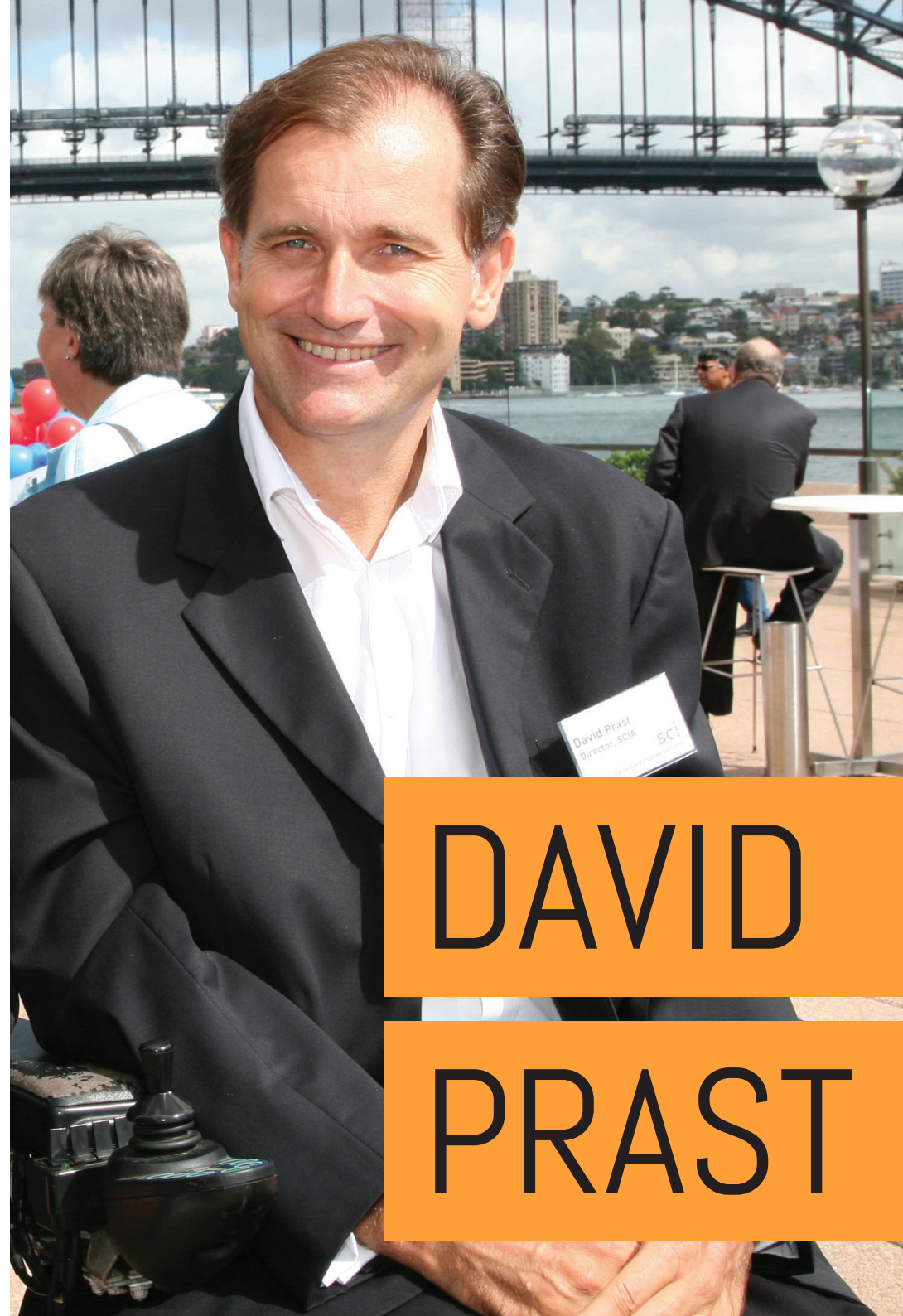
The David Prast Achievement award

SpinalCure partnered with SCIA to establish and fund an annual \$15,000 professional development scholarship for an outstanding and highly dedicated NeuroMoves therapist.

This award is in memory of the very remarkable Mr David Prast who was a Board member of both organisations and whose tireless advocacy saw the opening of the first NeuroMoves in 2008.

NeuroMoves is an innovative, holistic, evidence-based exercise and therapy service for people living with a neurological condition or physical disability. There are now 17 NeuroMoves clinics across six states and these facilities will be integral to our planned neurostimulation community studies.

“...an innovative, holistic, evidence-based exercise and therapy service for people living with a neurological condition or physical disability.”



DAVID

PRAST

SUPPORTERS

OUR WORK IS SUPPORTED BY A
NETWORK OF PASSIONATE AND
FORWARD-THINKING SUPPORTERS.

THEY ARE ORGANISATIONS WHO SHARE
OUR MISSION TO CREATE REAL IMPACT
AND CHANGE LIVES BY FINDING A CURE
FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY.



“We want to assist well managed organisations that do work that can meaningfully change lives. These can sometimes be less well-known organisations that are striving to achieve extraordinary things. We also hope others will understand the significance and worth of SpinalCure Australia's ambitions and contribute to their funding needs.”

KERR NEILSON

A BIG THANKYOU TO THE NEILSON FOUNDATION

SpinalCure is proud and honoured to have received continued support from the Neilson Foundation who generously donated \$500,000 this year.

Established by Kerr Neilson in 2007, the Foundation exists to support arts and charities that work towards improving social inclusion and cohesion.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT PROF PETER R SCHOFIELD, SPINALCURE AMBASSADOR SAM BLOOM, PROF SIMON GANDEVIA, SPINALCURE EXEC DIRECTOR DUNCAN WALLACE, PARIS NEILSON



BACK ROW (L-R): ROSS MACKENZIE (GROCERY TRUST CHARITY BALL TRUSTEE), DON GRAHAM (GROCERY CHARITY BALL TRUST CHAIR), LEANNE MURPHY (GROCERY TRUST CHARITY BALL TRUSTEE), DAVE PRETORIUS (CATWALK CHAIR), SCOTT MACKAY (GROCERY TRUST CHARITY BALL TRUSTEE)
FRONT ROW: JAMIE ASTWOOD (CATWALK AMBASSADOR), GRANT SHARMAN MNZM (CATWALK DEPUTY CHAIR)



SPINALCURE COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR DEAN MARTELOZZO SPEAKS AT THE LLOYDS AUSTRALIA GOLF DAY

TOGETHER WE'RE STRONGER

In 2021 our counterpart in NZ, the CatWalk Spinal Research Trust NZ, partnered with us to co-fund the eWALK trial's \$3.6m budget.

This year we have continued our trans-Tasman partnership and have committed to co-fund the first of Project Spark's community based clinical trials.

CatWalk shares our common goal of a world where people no longer need to live a life suffering a spinal cord injury.

SpinalCure enjoys a strong partnership with insurance leader Lloyd's Australia. Their annual SpinalCure golf day in November raised \$18,525.03.

In February, the Kiama Lions Club presented SpinalCure with a \$10,000 donation.*

Important Foundation supporters included:

- The Peter Howorth Foundation
- The Farrell Family Foundation
- The James N. Kirby Foundation
- The Roger Allen and Maggie Gray Foundation
- The Howland-Rose Foundation
- The Swiss Re Foundation

COMMUNITY

OUR COMMUNITY IS BOTH THE REASON
THAT WE EXIST, AND A MAJOR SOURCE
OF SUPPORT IN THE WORK THAT WE DO.

THEY ARE INCREDIBLY PASSIONATE ABOUT
SUPPORTING THE QUEST FOR A CURE,
DRIVEN BY HOPE AND DETERMINATION TO
CHANGE OTHERS LIVES FOR THE BETTER.
WE WOULDN'T BE WHERE WE ARE TODAY
WITHOUT THEM.

Sandra is one of Australia's best-known and most well respected news presenters. She became involved with SpinalCure Australia in 2001 and has been a force of strength and guidance in supporting our mission to cure spinal cord injury.



SANDRA SULLY

PATRON



SAM BLOOM

AMBASSADOR

Sam Bloom is a bestselling author, global keynote speaker, 2 x World Para Surfing champion and inspiration behind global hit movie Penguin Bloom.

Rodger Corser is a much loved Australian actor best known for his roles in Underbelly, Rush and Doctor Doctor.



RODGER CORSER

AMBASSADOR

One of Australia's best known horse trainers.

"If you love horse racing like I do, or if you know someone affected by spinal cord injury in some way, I invite you to get involved today and support this great cause in any way that you can".



ED CUMMINGS

AMBASSADOR



KERRI-ANNE KENNERLEY

AMBASSADOR

Kerri-Anne's deep personal experience of watching the love of her life struggle with paralysis has made her passionate about the work of SpinalCure and she recently became an official ambassador. She wants to make spinal cord injury a national health priority and tirelessly advocates for ground-breaking spinal cord research.



SUPPORT WITHIN THE RACING INDUSTRY GROWS



MATT HYLAND

The Victorian Jockeys' Association (VJA) backed research for a cure for spinal cord injury with a generous donation to SpinalCure this year.

"Spinal cord injuries can happen to anyone at any age and they can be devastating both for the person injured and their families. We've also seen spinal cord injuries within our jockey cohort, some of which have sadly been career ending."

Matt Hyland, CEO, VJA.



The support of the Australian Jockeys Association, with special thanks to Kevin Ring, the Victorian Jockeys Association led by Matt Hyland, the NSW Jockeys Association led by Tony Crisafi, and our ambassador Edward Cummings means there is a real groundswell of support from the racing industry for our potentially life-changing research. We're looking forward to continuing to work together to help progress towards a cure.

Former jockey and President of the Tasmanian Jockeys' Association. Today, Kevin is National Health and Safety Officer at the Australian Jockeys' Association.

"It's the most dangerous land occupation in the world. If we can help support research to find a cure for spinal cord injury or that results in some sort of improved quality of life, and work forward on it, then great. And not just for jockeys, but for everyone."

Kevin Ring.



KEVIN RING



COMMUNITY

AMBASSADORS

A big thank you to our wonderful community ambassadors Tom Elphick, Dean Martellozzo, Emma Mickle and Alex Richter, as well as WA supporter Jaimen Hudson for his advocacy this year.

BACK ROW, FROM LEFT CEO KATHRYN BORKOVIC, TOM ELPHICK AND EMMA MICKLE.
FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT DEAN MARTELOZZO, EXEC DIRECTOR DUNCAN WALLACE AND ALEX RICHTER

OUR COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS



Our community has been fantastic at fundraising for SpinalCure and spreading the word to their networks about the life-changing research SpinalCure is driving.

Community fundraisers this year have included bake sales, Facebook birthday fundraisers, a school raffle, selling plants at a local market stall, a two-day desert race from Alice Springs to Finkle, a personal triathlon and an Ironman event.

DONORS

All our donors are essential to our work.
These donors have made outstanding contributions
to the research over this year.

Donor Honour Board

Suzette Gately

Helen Kirby

Marianne Bajkasz

Keith Evans

Simon Koric

Carolyn Tutungi

Kim Russell

& Frank Costanzo

Gillian Meecham

Cindy & Terry Lissiman

Alfred Liong

Kevin Chapley

Anne Strange

Shufen Wang

Gerard Payne

David Bennie

Jo-Anne & Nicholas Wormald

Tania Knight

Joel Glover

Ann Morgan

Christine Penklis

Peter Tudman

Ludvig & Margaret Kerec

Francesca Portelli

Thomas Wormald

Sue Mackinnon

Rebecca Ratcliffe

FINANCIAL

STATEMENT

SNAPSHOT

\$114,311

Donations

\$7,856

Bequests

\$1,056,298

Trusts & Foundations

\$71,127

Fundraising events

\$622,655

Research investment

—

Directly by SpinalCure into cutting-edge medical research programs

\$11m

TOTAL SECURED FOR
SPINAL CORD INJURY
RESEARCH

\$1,286,596

Total revenue

\$37,004

Other income

\$575,316

Operational investment

—

Invested into our operational costs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Joanna Knott
MBA BA(Hons) MPRIA, OAM

—
Co-Founder & Chair



Professor Perry Bartlett
AO FAA

—
Co-founder and Scientific Chair.
Foundation Professor of Molecular
Neuroscience, Queensland Brain Institute



Gabriel McDowell
BA

—
Executive Chairman,
Res Publica PR



Dr Sachin Shetty
MBBS, MD(PMR), FAFRM(RACP),
FFPM(ANZCA)

—
Director of Spinal Medicine,
The Prince of Wales Hospital



Duncan Adams BFA

—
Company Secretary
Director, Astra
Apartments Canberra



Gary Allsop

—
Advocate and lobbyist (Victoria)



Dr Lionel King PHD

—
Adjunct Professor, UNSW Graduate
School of Biomedical Engineering.
Principal, Claritivity (Regulatory Affairs
and Quality Management Consultant)



Duncan Wallace BSc(Hons)

—
Executive Director

VISION STATEMENT

WE WANT TO LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE NO ONE
NEEDS TO LIVE WITH A SPINAL CORD INJURY



UNBELIEVABLE



We're at a turning point in history, please join us on our journey.

spinalcure.org.au