IMPACT REPORT

FY2024–25

Cure Brain Cancer Foundation's Impact Report provides information about our achievements for FY2024–25.
This report demonstrates our positive impact within both the scientific and wider community as well as amongst those impacted by brain cancer.
For further information on our activities, contribution and plans for the future please visit curebraincancer.org.au.

Cure Brain Cancer Foundation

OUR VISION

A cure for brain cancer.

OUR MISSION

Increase brain cancer survival and improve quality of life.

OUR PURPOSE

To make survival the expectation, not the exception.

OUR VALUES

» Accountability

We trust each other to communicate honestly, take ownership and show initiative in doing what is right for each other and our community.

» Integrity

We make every decision with our cause at the forefront, acting with honesty and transparency to serve the brain cancer community.

» Innovation

We believe the greatest brain cancer discoveries are yet to come and encourage curiosity, creativity and bold new ways to serve our mission.

» Respect

We build genuine relationships, treat each other with dignity and act with deep compassion for the realities of living with brain cancer.

Acknowledgement of Country

Cure Brain Cancer Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Thank you for your ongoing support. Your commitment enables researchers and clinicians to challenge existing approaches and push for better outcomes. We are seeing real momentum, from advances in precision medicine and immunotherapy to clinical trials bringing new treatment options closer to patients.

Thanks to your generosity, we have continued to invest in research, clinical trials and patient support. Expanding access to clinical trials in Australia remains a critical priority. Through our leadership of the GBM AGILE trial, patients are gaining access to emerging treatments sooner, helping bring global advancements closer to home.

These efforts are building a stronger pipeline from discovery through to treatment, ensuring that promising research can translate into real-world impact for patients. This is real progress, made possible by your continued support.

Progress is driven by a connected and determined community. This year, that community has once again shown what is possible. Through fundraising, advocacy and the sharing of lived experience, you continue to play a critical role in accelerating research and ensuring no one faces brain cancer alone.

Your support is making a meaningful difference. It enables us to accelerate research, expand support and increase awareness, while ensuring world-class researchers have the funding needed to pursue the breakthroughs that matter most.

While there is still significant work to be done, there is also a real reason for optimism. Thanks to you, we are moving closer to a future where surviving brain cancer becomes the expectation, not the exception.

Thank you for your continued support.

Andrew Giles
Chief Executive Officer

WHY WE EXIST

Brain cancer kills more children in Australia than any other disease and more people under 40 than any other cancer. Shockingly, the five-year survival rate for brain cancer has increased from just 20% to 24% over the past 40 years.

The lack of treatment options and insufficient investment in research mean that only one in four people diagnosed with brain cancer survives beyond five years.

We strive to change these statistics by persistently investing in innovative, groundbreaking research. Through your support, we believe we can accelerate progress to improve brain cancer survival and quality of life for people affected by the disease. This commitment is at the core of everything we do.

During FY2024–25, thanks to your support, we continued our efforts to improve access to cutting-edge treatments and global clinical trials in Australia, including GBM AGILE. We also worked with Australian researchers to address critical knowledge gaps, improve outcomes for people affected by brain cancer and support and retain talented minds in brain cancer research.

Our advocacy work and awareness campaigns also serve to bring brain cancer to the forefront of public attention, amplifying the voices of the community to drive change and help save lives.

YOUR IMPACT

HOW YOU SUPPORTED US THIS YEAR

$1,764,884
Raised by our community through fundraising events, including Walk4BrainCancer and sports fundraising.

$1,831,018
Raised through general donations and community fundraising, thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

OUR IMPACT

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT HAS ENABLED

Since our inception in 2001, we have persistently invested in innovative and groundbreaking research.

$17.2 million
Invested in adult cancer research.

$31.5 million
Total invested in Australian brain cancer research.

$14.3 million
Invested in paediatric brain cancer research.

6
GBM AGILE clinical trial sites now in operation in Australia.

91
Research investments have been awarded to innovative projects across the country.

83
Researchers' salaries have been supported, allowing them to dedicate their time to promising brain cancer projects.

HELPING THOSE IMPACTED TODAY

$67,461,717
Total funds released through the National Advocacy Service in FY2024–25.

260
New NDIS applications approved in FY2024–25.

827 new patients
Referred to the National Advocacy Service across Australia in FY2024–25.

RESEARCH

Research drives everything we do.

Through sustained investment and strong partnerships, we are accelerating progress in brain cancer research, supporting the discoveries, clinical trials and collaborations needed to improve outcomes for patients.

Thanks to your support, we have continued to back leading and emerging researchers across Australia while strengthening the pathway from early discovery through to clinical application. Our focus remains clear: to ensure promising research continues to move forward and that new treatments reach patients as quickly as possible.

DRIVING PROGRESS THROUGH RESEARCH

In FY2024–25, Cure Brain Cancer Foundation continued to invest across the research pipeline, from discovery science and translational research through to clinical trials, while remaining aligned with national and international priorities in neuro-oncology.

Engagement with leading research forums, including the European Association of Neuro-Oncology Congress, the COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting and the Australian Comprehensive Brain Cancer Centre Conference 2025, helped strengthen our understanding of the evolving neuro-oncology landscape. Insights from these meetings informed strategic direction and helped ensure research priorities remained aligned with current global developments and community needs.

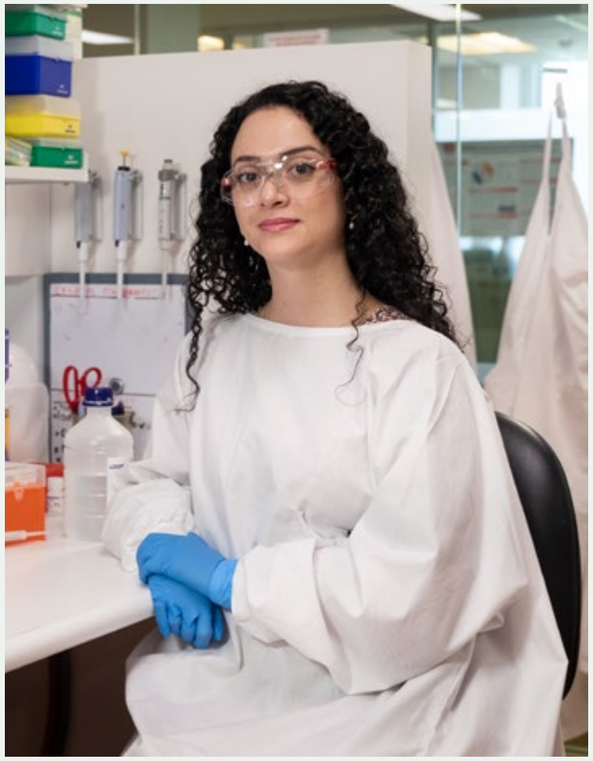
Clinical trial activity remained central to this work. The GBM AGILE study progressed to full operational status across six Australian sites, with all sites actively screening and enrolling patients. This progression reflects Australia's growing contribution to global adaptive platform trials and increasing access to innovative clinical trial options for patients. During the year, the trial expanded through a partnership with AstraZeneca, introducing AZD1390 as a new treatment arm.

Following the loss of pharmaceutical support for the PNOC019 clinical trial in 2022, the future of the study was uncertain. With support from Cure Brain Cancer Foundation, made possible through our community, the trial was able to remain active in Australia and continue enrolling patients with limited treatment options. PNOC019 highlights the importance of international trial networks in rare and aggressive brain cancers, where sustained funding and collaboration are essential to keeping studies active and generating the evidence needed to improve outcomes.

Your support is also helping invest in the future of brain cancer research by backing innovative projects and emerging researchers, including Dr. Andrew Garvie. Dr. Garvie's work focuses on developing new treatments for aggressive brain cancers driven by specific genetic changes. Supported through our $345,000 Early Career Fellowship, his research is exploring a novel drug, PMR-116, designed to cross the blood-brain barrier and target a key process cancer cells rely on for growth. These aggressive childhood brain tumours often have very limited treatment options and poor survival outcomes. Early findings suggest cancers with these mutations may be particularly sensitive to this approach, offering a promising path toward more effective and targeted therapies.

By strengthening the pathway at every stage, from early discovery through to clinical trials, we are helping ensure the next generation of breakthroughs can continue to move forward.

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS



This year, we welcomed Dr. Susannah Hallal as our Guardian Trust Early Career Research Fellow, marking the first time Cure Brain Cancer Foundation has awarded a five-year fellowship.

Based at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, Dr. Hallal's work focuses on improving how brain cancer is detected and monitored. She is developing a simple, non-invasive blood or urine test that could help track tumours such as glioblastoma over time.

This approach has the potential to support earlier detection of changes in a patient's condition and enable more timely treatment decisions.

> ***"This fellowship is a tremendous honour and privilege for me and has come at a very pivotal time in my research career. It is an immense milestone, providing me with the time, support and funding I need to generate research that will positively impact patients."***

Dr. Susannah Hallal
Guardian Trust Early Career Research Fellow

STRENGTHENING RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

To further strengthen our research leadership, we rebuilt our Scientific Advisory Committee, welcoming seven new members with expertise spanning neuro-oncology, drug discovery, clinical trials and brain tumour biology.

The Scientific Advisory Committee plays a central role in guiding how research funding is prioritised and allocated. Bringing together leading experts from Australia and around the world, the Committee helps ensure funding decisions are evidence-based and aligned with emerging scientific developments and areas of unmet need.

The addition of new members has expanded the depth, diversity and international perspective of the Committee, supporting informed decision-making and helping ensure research investments continue to deliver the greatest possible impact for people affected by brain cancer.

AWARENESS

Improving outcomes for people affected by brain cancer requires more than research alone. It also requires awareness and advocacy to ensure emerging treatment advances are understood and the needs of people living with brain cancer remain visible.

DRIVING AWARENESS OF LOW-GRADE GLIOMAS AND EMERGING TREATMENTS

This year, Cure Brain Cancer Foundation worked alongside clinicians, researchers, advocates and our partners in the Australian Brain Tumour Collaborative to help raise awareness of the challenges faced by people living with low-grade gliomas.

Although these tumours are incurable, they have historically received less attention than more aggressive forms of brain cancer. Often diagnosed in younger adults, they can have a significant impact on a person's ability to work, study, drive and participate fully in everyday life. Many people live with these tumours for years, navigating ongoing monitoring, treatment and the uncertainty that comes with a brain cancer diagnosis.

Throughout the year, efforts across the brain cancer community continued to draw attention to the often-overlooked burden of these tumours and the need for greater recognition, research investment and access to emerging treatment options. These challenges were subsequently explored in the *Invisible Brain Cancers* report, published in August 2025, which highlighted the experiences of people living with low-grade gliomas and the need for greater awareness of this often-overlooked patient community.

One of the most significant developments in this space has been vorasidenib, a targeted therapy for certain low-grade gliomas with IDH mutations. Clinical trial results have demonstrated its potential to delay tumour progression and extend the time before additional treatments such as radiation therapy or chemotherapy are required.

For those affected by these tumours, delaying treatment may help postpone some of the long-term side effects associated with radiation and chemotherapy while preserving quality of life. The emergence of therapies such as vorasidenib also highlights the growing potential of precision medicine approaches that target the specific biological characteristics of a tumour.

While challenges remain, advances such as vorasidenib represent meaningful progress for a patient community that has historically had few treatment breakthroughs. They also reinforce the importance of continued advocacy and investment in research to ensure people affected by brain cancer can benefit from emerging innovations.

SUPPORT

A brain cancer diagnosis brings immediate practical, financial and emotional challenges. The National Advocacy Service, delivered by Peace of Mind Foundation in partnership with Cure Brain Cancer Foundation, provides one-on-one support to help people navigate complex systems and access the care they need. Thanks to your generosity, this service continues to provide vital guidance to people and families at every stage of their journey.

WHEN SUPPORT MATTERS MOST

When Sam's son Jett was diagnosed with a brain tumour at just 13, everything changed overnight. Within days, he underwent multiple surgeries and lost his vision. "I don't think you can put it into words," Sam said. "Everything constantly changes and you don't really know what's going on." Suddenly, Sam was navigating an unfamiliar and overwhelming system while caring for a critically ill child, unsure where to start. That changed when she connected with the National Advocacy Service. Client Support Manager, Fiona, stepped in to help guide Sam through the NDIS process, bringing together the information needed to access support.

"Within weeks, things started to fall into place," Sam said. Through the service, Jett was able to access therapies, equipment and care to help him adjust to life after treatment.

"I didn't feel alone anymore," Sam said. "[Fiona] didn't try to fix it. She just understood." Today, Jett is back at school and continuing his recovery. Early access to the right support has made a meaningful difference following his brain cancer diagnosis.

SUPPORT AT A GLANCE

› Around half of the people supported by NAS each year are impacted by glioblastoma, the most aggressive type of brain cancer.

› From NDIS applications to financial assistance and care coordination, the service helps ensure people do not have to navigate this journey alone.

› As at 1 July 2025, NAS has released $133.7 million in total funds since inception.

WALK4BRAINCANCER

Walk4BrainCancer is one of the most powerful ways our community comes together and takes action. Across Australia, people take part to honour loved ones and support brain cancer research.

Many participants return year after year, building lasting connections around shared experiences and continuing to raise awareness and funds in memory of those they have lost, alongside people currently living with brain cancer and those whose lives have been impacted by the disease.

WALK AT A GLANCE

5,730
Participants

$1.3 million
Raised

18 Events
Across Australia

TURNING COMMUNITY INTO IMPACT

Across the country, Walk4BrainCancer brings communities together with purpose. From major cities to regional towns, people unite to raise funds, share stories and strengthen awareness for those affected by brain cancer. Many participants walk as part of dedicated teams, honouring the people they walk for through tribute shirts and sharing personal stories. Across each event, team names, signs and shirts become visible expressions of love, loss and solidarity.

For many, taking part is a way to feel connected and to take action during an incredibly difficult time. Thanks to this collective effort, vital funds are raised to support research, clinical trials and patient support.

Long-time supporter Kate has been organising the Wollongong walk since 2015, raising more than $490,000 in memory of her dad while building a strong local community around the event.

Penny is now in her eighth year of walking and continues to honour her late husband, Michael. Alongside her team, she has raised around $50,000 for brain cancer research.

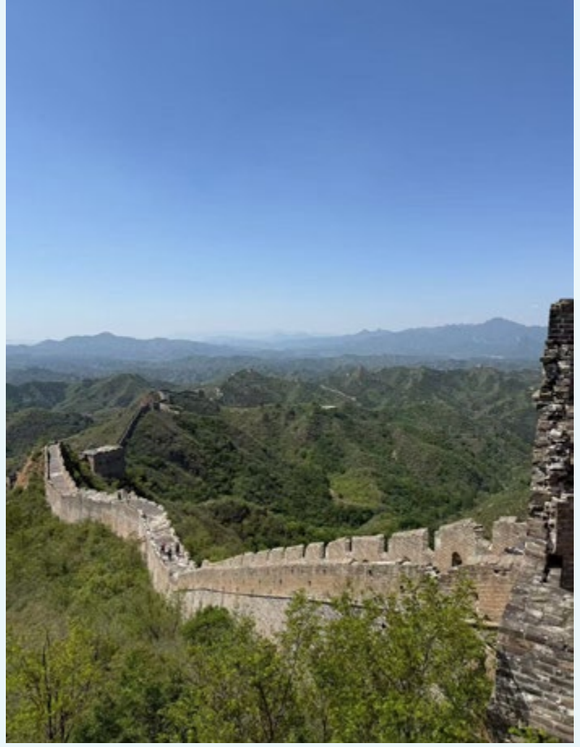
> ***Participating in Walk4BrainCancer was my way of feeling like I was doing something when I felt completely helpless.***
>
> **Penny Bell**

TREK4BRAINCANCER

In May, Trek4BrainCancer brought supporters together to take on a once-in-a-lifetime challenge while raising vital funds for brain cancer research.

Participants completed a nine-day, 40km trek along the Great Wall of China, united by deeply personal motivations. Participants included Andy, who continues to push his limits while living with brain cancer, and Natalie, who trekked in honour of her late partner, Travis.

Together, the team raised $57,000 for brain cancer research, demonstrating the power of resilience, connection and collective action.



5KM A DAY IN MARCH CHALLENGE

In March, supporters across Australia committed to moving 5km every day while raising funds for brain cancer research.

Together, participants covered more than 10,000km and raised over $59,000, turning small daily actions into meaningful impact. Many took part for deeply personal reasons, including 13-year-old Oakley, who raised over $6,500 in support of his Aunty Amy.

From individual efforts to shared goals, the challenge brought people together to raise awareness, honour loved ones and help drive progress.

SPORTS FUNDRAISING

More than 700 people stepped up this year, raising over $462,000 through sports fundraising events across Australia.

From first strides to finish lines, supporters took on some of the country's most recognised events, turning personal challenges into meaningful progress for brain cancer research. Across fun runs, marathons, triathlons and cycling events, people of all abilities came together with a shared goal: to make every step count.

We are incredibly grateful to every individual, team and supporter whose energy, commitment and generosity are helping drive impact for those affected by brain cancer.

Garmin Noosa Triathlon

In November, 48 participants took on the Garmin Noosa Triathlon, raising over $102,000. Among them was long-time supporter Jess, marking 10 years of fundraising through the event. What began in honour of her mum has grown into Team Jenny, a community of passionate triathletes raising awareness and funds for brain cancer research. Together, their commitment and teamwork demonstrate how sport can bring communities together to support brain cancer research.

City2Surf

In August, supporters took part in City2Surf, one of Australia's most iconic fun runs. Together, 236 fundraisers across 13 teams raised over $86,000, exceeding the event target by more than 30%. Among them was Leanne Galler, whose team, Just Beat It!, became the event's highest fundraiser. Following her brain cancer diagnosis in 2023, Leanne took on the 14km challenge while undergoing treatment, raising vital funds and awareness for brain cancer research. Her determination inspired supporters across the community and reflected the resilience and commitment that continue to drive the event.

HBF Run for a Reason

In May, supporters took part in HBF Run for a Reason, raising over $58,000 for brain cancer research and support services. Among them was Lucy, who turned her experience into action after her father's glioblastoma diagnosis. With the support of her community, she raised more than $11,500. Across the event, participants ran in honour of loved ones, in support of family members and as a way to take action against the challenges brain cancer brings.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

An incredible $512,327 was raised through community fundraising initiatives this year.

Across the country, individuals, families and communities came together to turn personal experiences into meaningful action. From small, local efforts to large-scale events, each fundraiser reflects the strength, creativity and determination of people committed to making a difference. Community-led fundraising plays a vital role in raising awareness and critical funds for brain cancer research. We are deeply grateful to everyone who chose to support Cure Brain Cancer Foundation in these personal and powerful ways, and we're proud to share a few of the stories that made an impact this year.

EVERY ACTION MATTERS

Across the country, supporters continued to find meaningful and creative ways to make a difference.

In Perth, the Ballin' For Baby team hosted a 3v3 basketball tournament in honour of Luke "Baby" Cannell, raising more than $23,000 for brain cancer research.

In New South Wales, Catreena and the Oxley Vale community brought people together once again for the Terry Smith Memorial Bowls Day, a much-loved annual event held in memory of her dad, raising over $2,000 this year.

In regional Crookwell, Norma Jamieson and Karen McCarthy turned a simple garage sale into an incredible $3,800 fundraiser, showing the power of local communities coming together.

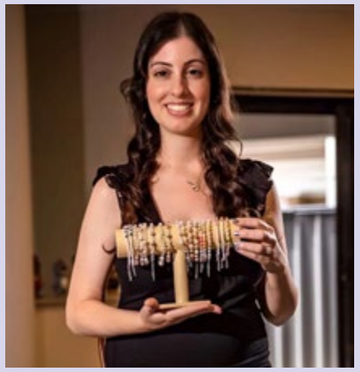
And sometimes, it's the unexpected ideas that capture attention, like James from Just Digital People, who took on a body wax challenge and raised more than $5,000 in memory of his mum.

Doing it for Carl

In May, Kelli Lowe took on the Great Wall of China Trek just four months after losing her husband Carl to brain cancer. What followed was a deeply personal journey of strength, resilience and connection. Walking alongside others who had experienced similar loss, Kelli formed a lasting friendship grounded in shared understanding. Through grief, they found support and a way to keep moving forward together. Kelli went on to raise over $20,000 for brain cancer research, honouring Carl's memory and ensuring his story, and the stories of others, continue to be heard.

Battle of the Bush

In regional Queensland, the Biloela community came together for the 'Battle of the Bush' charity auction, raising more than $32,000 for brain cancer research. Organised by Chelsea Howard in memory of her mum, Vicki, the event brought together families, local businesses and the wider community. It stands as a powerful example of what can be achieved when communities unite with a shared purpose.



Pearl Meets Crystal

After losing her partner Jake to brain cancer at just 27, Danielle Paparone turned her grief into purpose, founding Pearl Meets Crystal. Through her jewellery business, Danielle donates 20% of proceeds to Cure Brain Cancer Foundation, raising over $18,000. What began as a personal way to navigate loss has become an ongoing contribution to research, showing how purpose-driven initiatives can create lasting impact.

Ride Around Australia

Bruce Baldwin set out on an extraordinary 19,000km journey around Australia, cycling for more than six months to raise funds for brain cancer research. Undertaken in memory of his late wife, Natalie, and in support of others facing the disease, Bruce's journey spanned 126 towns and brought together communities across the country. Along the way, he raised over $11,000, exceeding his initial goal. His journey demonstrates the powerful impact one person can have in raising awareness and support for brain cancer research.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

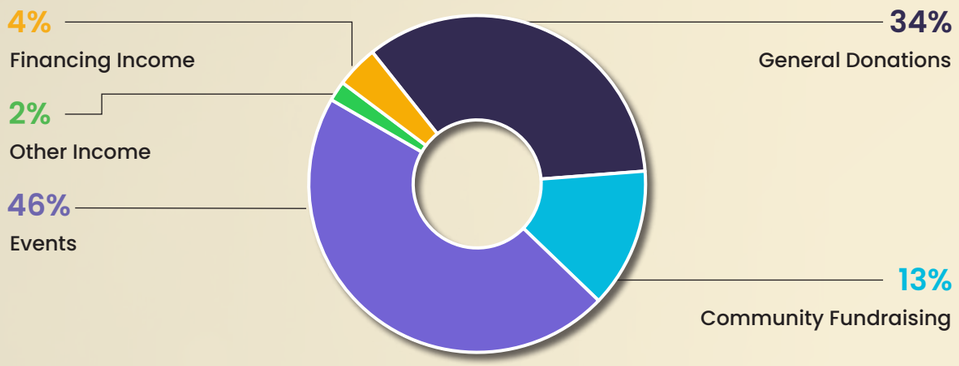
We are deeply grateful to our generous community of supporters, whose continued commitment drives everything we do.

Through the generosity of our community, we are able to invest in world-class research and initiatives that improve outcomes for people affected by brain cancer. From advancing new treatments to strengthening support services, this work is only possible because of your commitment.

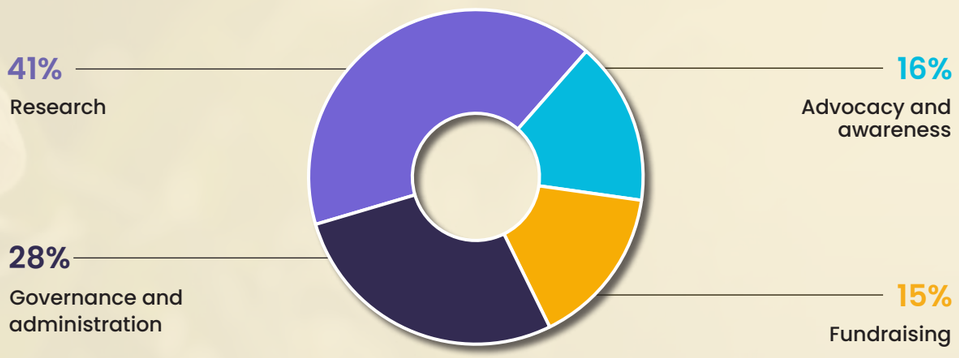
None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our donors, partners and advocates.

Annual Income: $3,824,543

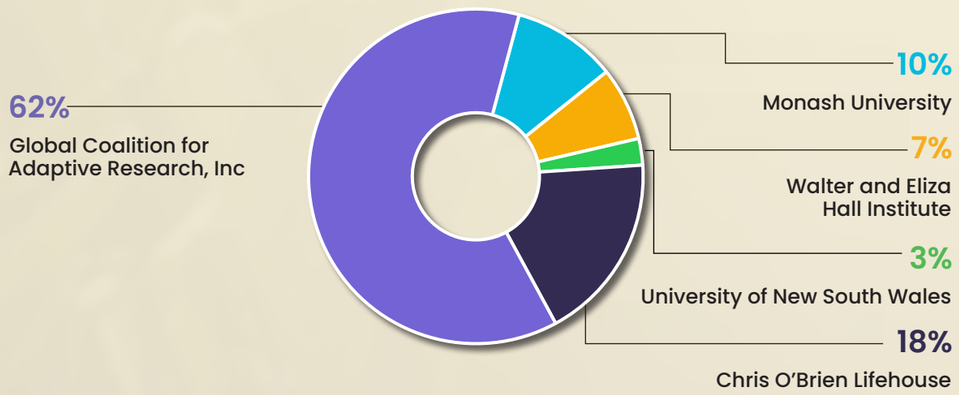
Total Revenue and Other Income



Investment in Key Impact Areas



Commitments with Partners



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

DRIVEN THROUGH COLLABORATION

Progress in brain cancer is not achieved in isolation. It is driven by a connected, ambitious community working toward a shared goal. We are privileged to work alongside outstanding partners.

Over the past year, we have continued to work closely with our collaborative partners to strengthen a shared approach to improving outcomes. Our unique part of this equation centres around how we bring together philanthropy, advocacy and voice to help fuel the vital research that our partners do so well.

WORKING AS PART OF AN ECOSYSTEM

We are a part of a broader, high-performing ecosystem of organisations committed to advancing research, improving access to care and strengthening support for patients and families.

Our role is to help connect, amplify and accelerate these efforts, ensuring that investment, expertise and innovation are aligned for maximum impact.

Through our partnerships, we help to:

- Advance collaborative, high-impact research and clinical trials
- Strengthen national and global coordination across the sector
- Improve access to patient support, navigation and advocacy services
- Invest in the next generation of researchers and clinical leaders

BUILDING MOMENTUM TOGETHER

Our partnerships bring together world-class research institutions, advocacy organisations and global collaborations, each contributing distinct expertise to a more effective response to brain cancer. These relationships extend the reach of every contribution. By aligning investment, knowledge and advocacy, this collective effort is accelerating research, strengthening support systems and moving us closer to better outcomes for people affected by brain cancer and their families.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Peace of Mind Foundation

Cure Brain Cancer Foundation is a collaborative partner in the National Advocacy Service, delivered with Peace of Mind Foundation, to provide direct, practical support to people affected by brain cancer. This service helps patients and families navigate complex systems by offering one-on-one guidance to access critical supports such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Centrelink and other government and community services. By ensuring individuals have a dedicated point of contact and personalised support throughout their journey, the service addresses a key gap between diagnosis and access to care. This partnership reflects our commitment to improving not only research outcomes, but also the day-to-day support available to patients and their families.

Australian Brain Tumour Collaborative (ABTC)

Cure Brain Cancer Foundation is a member of the Australian Brain Tumour Collaborative to help drive a more coordinated, national approach to brain tumour care, research and advocacy. The Collaborative brings together leading organisations across the sector to present a unified voice to government and stakeholders, ensuring key challenges faced by patients, families and carers are clearly defined and addressed. Through this partnership, we contribute to identifying gaps in services, strengthening collaboration across research and clinical care and advocating for improved access to clinical trials, treatments and long-term support. This collective approach is critical to accelerating progress and improving outcomes for people affected by brain tumours in Australia.

DIPG/DMG Collaborative

Cure Brain Cancer Foundation has been a member of the DIPG/DMG Collaborative for over a decade. The Collaborative is a global partnership of foundations working together to fund and accelerate research into some of the most aggressive childhood brain cancers. By pooling resources and coordinating efforts with over 25 international partners, the Collaborative supports large-scale, high-impact research while reducing duplication and increasing transparency. This model enables funding of clinical and translational studies, supports shared initiatives such as international data registries and strengthens global collaboration. Through this partnership, Cure Brain Cancer Foundation contributes to a coordinated international approach aimed at improving outcomes for children with DIPG and related tumours.

Cure Brain Cancer Foundation

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