

The Link

Silverchain Foundation Newsletter

Shaping the future of care together

For more than a century, the kindness of our supporters has helped Silverchain deliver comprehensive care to millions of Australians in the comfort of home.

This legacy has supported our clinical and care teams to continue to provide world-class health and aged care services.

It was our donors who supported us to begin Silverchain's work in 1905 as a children's charity, with members known as Silver Links, before we expanded to support people of all ages.

Similarly, our heritage in South Australia, as the District Trained Nursing Society and then RDNS Silverchain, began in 1894 caring for vulnerable people.



Silverchain nurses at one of our first WA fundraising fetes in the early 1900s.

Today, your support means we can invest in new models of care, and improved technology to deliver the best care to every person, every time.

Silverchain Foundation supports our research and innovation team, and our clinical and care experts to deliver better home care. We work closely to understand where we can make a difference together.

This newsletter showcases the impact of your donations. It includes stories of hope, of better support, and greater

connection with community, that simply would not have been possible without your generosity.

To ensure we can continue to support the research and services that are most meaningful to you, we've enclosed a short survey.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on what is important to you and how we can invest to improve in-home care.

Together, we can create a better home care system for all Australians, and shape the future of health and aged care.



The District Trained Nursing Society began in South Australia in 1894.

In this issue...

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- Palliative care innovation



Thank you to
all our donors,
we couldn't
have done it
without you.

Supporting good mental health for older Australians

With more than one million Australians receiving in-home aged care, a lack of access to effective mental health treatments is a growing concern.

Depression and anxiety are not a normal part of ageing.

In Australia, traditional models of in-home care have not focused on mental health support, yet it is estimated that up to half of the older people who choose to age at home experience significant symptoms of depression.

Thanks to your support, Silverchain researchers have been able to explore new solutions to improve early

detection of depression and anxiety and provide evidence-based treatment.

The first of its kind in Australia, the innovative EMBED model – ‘enhanced management of home-based elders with depression’ – has now been put into practice.

Silverchain’s Executive Director of Data, Research and Innovation Dr Anna Barker said mobility issues, life losses, and social isolation increase the challenge for some people in seeking support.

“Receiving aged care services at home provides real choice for people who want to retain their

own agency and independence, but we must ensure we are looking after their whole wellbeing, not just physical needs,” Dr Barker said.

“There is a lack of access for our aged care clients to effective treatments for depression. Our research is evaluating the new EMBED model and is expected to reduce symptoms of depression, address stigma and enable older Australians to access evidence-based, tailored treatment at home.”

Your ongoing support helps Silverchain continue to invest in our clients’ wellbeing and use digital technology to provide the best possible care in the comfort of their own home, removing traditional barriers that limit access to mental health care.

To find out how your support can help improve the care our clients receive, please contact fundraising@silverchain.org.au or call **1300 650 803** to speak to a Silverchain Foundation team member.

Thank you for extending a helping hand

Do you remember Nita? Nita is a Silverchain employee and has been donating to our Helping Hand program to support some of our most vulnerable clients for over a decade. Nita wanted to say thank you for supporting our 2023 Christmas Appeal.

“From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Thank you for your compassionate support, and joining this important cause,” Nita said.

“It’s been incredible to hear that so many people chose to send a donation to help some of our most vulnerable clients

who are facing extreme financial hardship.

“I look forward to hearing and sharing more stories of impact that your donations have made possible.

“It’s truly been amazing to hear from colleagues about the difference that our Helping Hand program has made for our clients, and with your support, we can make a huge difference in the lives of people who need a bit of extra help.

“Thank you again for making a difference.”



Nita Freid

Proud Helping Hand supporter and Silverchain employee

Expanding access to specialist care at home

Thanks to your support, we have been able to trial new health technologies including smart glasses.

Smart glasses are a wearable device that can deliver a live video stream using wireless connectivity.

In practice, smart glasses allow our senior clinicians to see a live



feed of what our nurses on site are seeing and hearing.

Using this information, specialists can provide support on advanced methods of care directly from our service base.

It also means that our clinical specialists can support even more clients each day as they



are no longer restricted by the barriers of travel time and distance.

Your generous support has enabled Silverchain to integrate the use of smart glasses in the delivery of health and aged care services across Australia.

Innovation in palliative care at home

When Silverchain recognised a gap in care options for people with end-stage dementia wanting to remain at home, an innovative idea was born.

Our dedicated researchers and direct care teams trialled a model of care offering access to specialist care from both dementia experts and palliative care experts.

Now, thanks to your generous support, this program is a part of our Specialist Community Palliative Care Service.



“I don’t know if Mum knew she was at the end of her life, but she kept saying, ‘I love being here. I just love being at home,’ and that gave me a lot of comfort. I don’t know how I would have gotten through it without Silverchain.”

– Renee, daughter of a palliative care client.

You can make a difference today.
Three easy ways to donate:

Online

Scan the QR code to donate or visit silverchain.org.au/donate

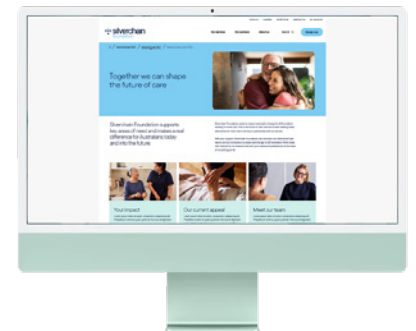


Mail

Send a cheque or money order to us at 6 Sundercombe Street, Osborne Park WA 6017 or using the Reply Paid envelope.

Phone

Call us on **1300 650 803** to donate over the phone.



Have you seen our new website?
silverchain.org.au/foundation

Silver Chain Group Limited

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Silverchain Foundation is part of Silver Chain Group Ltd including RDNS Silverchain

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