

Newsletter



LAUNCH OF THE NEW MOBILE SCREENING CLINIC

Initially, it was planned to hold the official launch at Government House. Unfortunately, due to other commitments at the venue, this did not work out. The official launch of the new screening unit took place at the premises of Truck Centre WA in Forrestfield on the 15th of April.

The new replacement mobile skin screening facility consists of a Volvo Cab & Chassis with a custom built fit out containing three screening rooms, an office, auto dropdown stairs for entry/exit and a lift for disabled patients.

The cab and chassis were supplied by Truck Centre WA and the aluminium clinic was constructed and fitted out by Omnibus. Funding has been provided from Lions Clubs in WA, Lions Clubs International Foundation and from donations generously provided by WA businesses.

DG Mary-Anne Wolf spoke as did Prof. Nina Tirnitz-Parker. from Curtin University. Also, our Chairman, Phil Chinnery, of the Lions Cancer

Institute provided information about the fundraising and relevant matters. Sadly, although the Media had been sent a News Release, there was no representation.

However, a video interview was recorded by the Truck Centre and that has been distributed to all the Volvo outlets nationally and internationally. A drone event was carried out along the way of the truck en route to Lancelin. An article together with a picture of our new truck was placed in 'Have a Go' with the content being to target the grain growers.

The Lions Cancer Institute (WA) Inc. is most appreciative of all those, including the Lions clubs of WA, who have contributed funding to the construction and ongoing operation of our new mobile clinic.

Special thanks are extended to the following organisations: Lions Clubs International Foundation, MLG Oz Limited, CBH, Omnibus, Great Southern Fuel Supplies and Recharge Petroleum.



Professor Nina Tirnitz-Parker (with Chairman Phil Chinnery in the background)



Lions District 201WA Governor Mary-Anne Wolf



Emeritus Professor George Yeoh in discussion with PDG Gary Irvine OAM



Celebration

RESEARCH

In this edition, we are featuring updates from one of our Karen and Joshua Chinnery Scholarship PhD students. This report was supplied by the Cancer Council WA.

RESEARCH REPORT

Cancer Council WA Research Program Lions Cancer Institute Karen & Joshua Chinnery PhD Top Up Scholarship Cancer Council WA PhD Top Up Scholarship (2022)

PROJECT TITLE

Supercharging Natural Killer Cells to Eliminate Leukaemia

LEAD RESEARCHER

Ms Samantha Barnes

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

While survival rates have vastly improved for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, some patients still have poor outcomes with a less than 50% chance of survival. Therapies which harness the patient's own immune system to fight cancer have shown success for some, however many patients are unable to have their own cells harvested. This means there is an urgent need for an alternative approach.

The team's solution is to use the cancer killing immune cell, the natural killer (NK) cell, which can be collected from healthy donors, prepared long before required and given to multiple patients. Importantly, they have observed that some NK cells are better at killing leukaemia than others. They will use cutting-edge genetic technologies to understand why these cells perform better and will use this information to further enhance and refine the cancer killing abilities of these cells.

Their goal is to create a readily available NK cell therapy to ensure all patients can receive this life-saving treatment.

PROJECT UPDATE

Due to their natural ability to eliminate cancer, natural killer (NK) cells hold great promise as a type of immunotherapy, known as cellular therapy, to treat leukaemia. However, it is now apparent that not all NK cells have an equal ability to do this. This project aims to identify novel factors that drive highly potent NK cell responses against leukaemia. Using a combined approach of next-generation laboratory techniques and computational analyses, the research team have and continue to investigate the genes and biological pathways that are involved in generating a stronger NK cell response against leukaemia. Using this knowledge, they will be able to develop innovative, enhanced NK cell therapies derived from healthy donors. Such therapies will shift the way clinicians treat leukaemia in the future, with access to these readily available "off-the-shelf" NK cell therapies drastically reducing both the cost and time associated with accessing treatment.

Moreover, their enhanced NK cell therapy will significantly increase the number of patients who can receive this life-saving treatment, thus improving survival rates, longevity, and quality of life for people with leukaemia. The team are very enthusiastic about the results they have generated so far and believe it will lead to significant advancements in cellular therapies for a range of cancer types.

Ms Barnes also made the following comments: "I am incredibly grateful to the Cancer Council Western Australia and Lions Cancer Institute for supporting my research. I am looking forward to the opportunity to continue working on my project and to share my findings with experts in the field at upcoming national and international conferences. I am also excited to continue sparking

interest in science through future outreach programs and community engagement."

In addition to the Karen and Joshua Chinnery Scholarship, the Lions Cancer Institute (WA) also has a number of students carrying out research with assistance from our other scholarships, namely the Lions Lotus PhD Scholarship (liver cancer) and the Colin & Sue Beauchamp PhD Scholarship in Melanoma Research. Both of these scholarships are based at the Curtin Medical Research Institute (previously known as Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute).



JUL TO NOV 2025 SCREENING ITINERARY

Contact details will be listed on the Lions Cancer Institute (WA) Inc. website as they become available. Please note that bookings can be made online. Check the website for details.

Onslow	5 July 2025
Panawonica	6 July 2025
Karratha	12 - 13 July 2025
Wickham	26 July 2025
Roebourne	27 July 2025
Port Hedland	2 - 3 August 2025
Broome	16 - 17 August 2025
Derby	23 - 24 August 2025
Kununurra	6 - 7 September 2025
Wyndham	9 September 2025
Tom Price	27 September 2025
Paraburdoo	28 September 2025
Newman	4 - 5 October 2025
Kulin	25 October 2025
Hyden	26 October 2025
Gingin	1 November 2025
Toodyay	2 November 2025

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW FACILITY AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

A formal event was held at 11.00am on the 14th of May 2025 in the parking area at the front entrance to Parliament House.

This event was attended by the Governor His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson, AM, APM and Mrs Dawson.

The Governor addressed the crowd gathered for the event, thanking all those involved with bringing the new facility to fruition and praised the work being carried out by the Lions Cancer Institute (WA) Inc.

The Governor and Mrs Dawson are co patrons of the Institute along with Emeritus Professor George Yeoh, who attended this event. Lions Past International Director Tim Irvine who represents Lions Clubs International Foundation, in this part of the Lions Constitutional Area was also present.

Lions District 201WA Governor Mary-Anne Wolfe thanked the Governor for his words and provided some information on the history of Lions in WA.



Screening Manager John Osborne explains the operation



Governor Chris Dawson in discussion with Emeritus Professor George Yeoh.



PDG Garry Irvine OAM with the Governor



PID Tim Irvine, DG Mary-Anne Wolf, Governor Chris Dawson



Northampton Set-Up



Carnarvon Set-Up

NORTHWARD BOUND

A familiarisation day for drivers and screening staff was organised and run by Screening Manager Lion John Osborne at the Mandurah Club on April 23rd. The new screening unit commenced the journey north following the Parliament House introduction.

MAY TO JUNE 2025 SCREENING RESULTS

Results from 8 screening days over 5 locations at Dongara, Northampton, Kalbarri, Carnarvon, and Exmouth.

Males	255
Females	319
Total	574
Met Criteria	269
Referred	113
Life Threatening Lesions	45
% Referred	20%
Last Screened within 6 months	23
Last Screened 6 -12 months	65
Last Screened over 12 months	355
Never Screened	131
Hours Driving	19
Hours Screening	256
Kilometres Travelled	1453



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We welcome your Donation

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or by EFT (see the Admin person).

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or visit our website
lionscancerinstitute.org.au



We are a Registered Charity and all donations are Tax Deductible.
Funds raised will assist with the on-going cost of providing
FREE SKIN CANCER SCREENINGS throughout Western Australia.