



MARK HUGHES
FOUNDATION
CENTRE FOR
BRAIN CANCER
RESEARCH



MARK HUGHES
FOUNDATION



the brain
cancer centre
MANY MINDS. ONE FOCUS.

Founded by
Carrie's Beanies
4 Brain Cancer

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$1m Mark Hughes Foundation investment to accelerate race to brain cancer cure

The Mark Hughes Foundation (MHF) has today announced a \$1m investment to bring two of Australia's leading brain cancer research centres together in their mission to accelerate progress towards a cure.

The [MHF Centre for Brain Cancer Research at the University of Newcastle](#) and [The Brain Cancer Centre](#) based in Melbourne have formed a partnership to help find solutions sooner.

With brain cancer the leading cause of cancer death in children, and in adults aged under 40 in Australia, this powerful partnership will pool resources and combine research efforts to pursue better outcomes for brain cancer patients.

Established by Mark and Kirralee Hughes, after the former Newcastle NRL player was diagnosed with a high-grade brain cancer in 2013, the MHF is this year highly focused on collaboration.

Chair and Director of the MHF Centre for Brain Cancer Research at the University of Newcastle, Professor Mike Fay, said more than 50 brain cancer researchers had engaged through the MHF Centre over the past 18 months, working together to find a solution.

"But we know we can't do this alone and in 2024 we are focusing on expanding and deepening our research partnerships to fast track a solution for brain cancer," Professor Fay said.

Due to the enormous success of the 2024 Beanie for Brain Cancer campaign, and in particular the support of the NRL through the Beanie Round, today's \$1m MHF announcement includes the establishment of a National Collaboration Seed Fund to support a series of shared projects aimed at addressing immediate collaborative research needs.

Mark Hughes said bringing together brilliant leaders, experts and innovators was key to solving the brain cancer puzzle.

"By embracing a 'one team' mentality where competition gives way to collaboration, we will make progress in the fight against brain cancer," Mark said.

The Brain Cancer Centre CEO, Sam McGuane, said its centre connects the best and brightest medical research minds with a single focus on brain cancer.

"The Brain Cancer Centre unites phenomenal talent from leading hospitals, research institutes and universities from around the country," he said.

"Yet, we understand that no single institute, laboratory or hospital will solve this. We need to work together, bring our multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional expertise together to make progress on behalf of our brain cancer community. Many minds, one focus," Sam said.

"The MHF Centre has proven to be doing great work in the brain cancer research space. We're excited to have the incredible team from the MHF Centre join our team of brilliant, passionate, committed researchers determined to build a brighter future for brain cancer patients.

The Collaboration Seed Fund's first project will support the MHF Centre to become an official collaborative partner of The Brain Cancer Centre's Brain Tumour Registry Australia INnovation and Translation Registry (BRAIN Registry).



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Professor Fay said the new collaboration, focused on the BRAIN Registry, would provide the opportunity to collect real world data and use it to improve approaches to brain cancer.

“We are extremely excited about our partnership with The Brain Cancer Centre and the opportunity, through the BRAIN Registry, to accelerate progress in our quest to find new solutions,” he said.

“We know that brain cancer outcomes have improved only slightly in the past three decades. Sadly, around 1,600 Australians are diagnosed with brain cancer each year and around 1,200 die from the disease.

“By working as one team with others, across the nation and the globe, such as The Brain Cancer Centre, we will deliver better outcomes for brain cancer patients.”

Established with the intent of supporting a broad range of collaborative research projects and to link datasets and research endeavours, the BRAIN Registry is the first large clinical cancer registry dedicated to brain tumour patients in Australia and New Zealand. It captures clinical data on patients diagnosed with brain tumours, from diagnosis and throughout their brain cancer journey.

“Our partnership with The Brain Cancer Centre is an invaluable opportunity made possible by the strong, ongoing support of Mark and Kirralee Hughes of the Mark Hughes Foundation,” Professor Fay said.

Sam McGuane said The Brain Cancer Centre was extremely grateful to Mark and Kirralee Hughes for their incredible contribution and continued advocacy towards better outcomes for patients and their families.

“Together we can make a difference. We’re excited to have the MHF Centre for Brain Cancer Research on board as a collaborative partner with The Brain Cancer Centre to build on our momentum and help to translate discoveries into new treatments and trials,” Sam said.

The MHF Centre for Brain Cancer Research is one example of the University’s commitment to helping people live better, healthier lives.

[ENDS]

Available for interview:

Professor Mike Fay, Chair and Director of the MHF Centre for Brain Cancer Research at the University of Newcastle.

Sam McGuane, The Brain Cancer Centre CEO.

- **University of Newcastle:** Media and Communications Specialist Carmen Swadling
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- **The Brain Cancer Centre:** Communications and Marketing Manager Lee George
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Mark Hughes Foundation Centre for Brain Cancer Research at the University of Newcastle

Established in 2021, the Mark Hughes Foundation (MHF) Centre for Brain Cancer Research at the University of Newcastle is committed to finding a cure and improving the lives of those affected by brain cancer.

The MHF Centre for Brain Cancer Research is a unique integration of multi-disciplinary research and clinical experts and consumers/patient groups and builds on the existing capacity of the University of Newcastle.

Through collaboration and partnership with our community and like-minded national and international organisations, we are continuing our world-leading research programs to improve the lives of people with brain cancer today and increase survival rates in the future. Our transformative research brings together experts working at the forefront of their fields. We aim to advance brain cancer research and achieve the greatest impact for brain cancer patients and their families.



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The Brain Cancer Centre

The Brain Cancer Centre, founded by Carrie's Beansies 4 Brain Cancer Foundation and established in partnership with WEHI and with support from the Victorian Government is bringing together the brightest medical research minds with a single focus: that one day no lives are lost to brain cancer.

The Centre brings together phenomenal talent, infrastructure and experience from leading hospitals, medical research institutes and universities through our 16 collaborators from across Australia: The Florey, Mark Hughes Foundation Centre for Brain Cancer Research, Menzies Institute, Monash University, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Hobart Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, The Royal Children's Hospital, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Telethon Kids Institute, The University of Adelaide, The University of Melbourne, The University of Queensland, Victorian Government, VCCC Alliance and WEHI.