

The relief of poverty and distress caused by illness and disease



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MEDIA RELEASE

Local Community Helps Fund Important Research into Sepsis in Children and Motor Neurone Disease

Two cutting edge health research projects on the Gold Coast that could prolong and even save lives, wouldn't be possible without the generous support of the local community.

The Gold Coast Hospital Foundation secured \$100,000 in donations within just six weeks to fund the Rapid Research Project which aims to reduce diagnosis times for children with sepsis from two days to just a matter of hours.

"This is an exciting time for us on the Coast, with the Gold Coast University Hospital ideally located within the emerging Health and Knowledge Precinct," said Kim Sutton, CEO of the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation. This is just the start of our efforts to raise funds to support the Gold Coast Health's research program," she said.

The Foundation's major fundraiser, the Hospital Heroes Ball, on Saturday night, will focus on health research.

"Considering 50 children die each year from sepsis in Australia and New Zealand it is vitally important to reduce diagnosis times as every hour increases mortality by 6 per cent. Another research project will test a new treatment to slow the progression of motor neurone disease, which is known as the '1000-day disease' because the average patient is given a thousand days to live upon diagnosis; it also took the life of the world's most well-known physicist, Stephen Hawking earlier this year."

"You can't cure the disease, but doctors at Gold Coast University Hospital will test new ways to slow disease progression, and enhance life expectancy, by using new medicinal cannabis oil. It's not only researchers and clinicians that could have an impact worldwide with their research but local residents as well, as it is their decision to donate to the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation that supports this research to happen. Funding and delivering cutting-edge health research will help attract some of the best researchers and clinicians from around the country to come and live and work here."

To show your support you can make a donation at <http://gchfoundation.org.au/> or book a table at the Hospital Heroes Ball that takes place on Saturday August 4th at Southport Sharks Event Centre.

About Gold Coast Hospital Foundation

Not for profit Gold Coast Hospital Foundation raises funds to help deliver better health outcomes to patients and families receiving care at Gold Coast University Hospital, Robina Hospital and more than 40 health and medical facilities across the Gold Coast. The initiatives and projects delivered by the Foundation each year help more than 95,000 locals on the Gold Coast, and surrounds, overcome distress and medical hardship.

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Everyone can support our hospital heroes by booking their ticket today at <http://gchfoundation.org.au/heroesball> Anybody can donate to the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation by visiting www.gchfoundation.org.au/donate

For more information, please contact:

Oryana Angel
0400 602 202
oryana@inthemediapr.com.au

Janyne Moore
0450 686 693
janyne@inthemediapr.com.au