

NEURONEWS

NEUROSURGICAL RESEARCH

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Every Piece Matters: You're Helping Solve the Brain Cancer Puzzle

Brain cancer remains one of the toughest challenges in medicine—but thanks to your support, researchers are making progress from every angle. Each project you help fund adds a vital piece to the puzzle, moving us closer to better treatments and, one day, a cure.

Because of you, real breakthroughs are happening:

- **Tissue donation is driving discovery**

Biobanks store tumour samples from patients, giving researchers the living material they need to test new therapies.

- **Lab-grown tumours are changing the game**

Pre-clinical models like organoids and cell lines are helping scientists see how brain tumours behave—and how we can fight them more effectively.

- **New strategies are breaking barriers**

Researchers are finding smarter ways to deliver treatments past the blood-brain barrier—a major obstacle in treating brain cancer.

- **We're tackling resistance and tailoring care**

Studies are exploring why tumours stop responding to treatment and how to personalise therapies for each patient using their own cells.

- **Immunotherapy is gaining momentum**

Teams are advancing immune-based approaches to help the body target brain tumours more precisely.

Thanks to you, each of these pieces is falling into place!

Donate today and be part of the solution.



2024 Grey May Impact today!

Thanks to your help we doubled our record in 2024.

\$107k

Raised for Brain Tumour Research May 2024

Every dollar you gave last year went directly to funding vital brain tumour research, driving better treatments and the search for a cure.

\$1.1+M

In 2024 NRF allocated \$1.1M to Brain Tumour:

- 01 Clinical Trials
- 02 New & improved treatments
- 03 Research Equipment
- 04 Brain Tumour Banks
- 05 Research Staff and Grants
- 06 Undergraduate Scholarship's
- 07 SA's First Brain Cancer Support Nurse
- 08 Patient Support

How Can YOU Go Grey for Brain Tumour Research?

Turn to Page 2 to see all the ways you can get involved and help drive research.

HOW ARE YOU GOING GREY IN MAY?

Make a difference this May by donating, bidding in our auction, entering the raffle, purchasing Grey May merch, honouring a loved one, or starting your own fundraiser. **Every action supports vital brain tumour research.**



Brain Socks - \$20



Brain Cancer Beanies - \$28



Fundraise



Grey Ribbon Badge - \$10



Online Auction



Star of Hope

BREAKING NEWS:

A Breakthrough for Childhood Brain Tumours

Because of your generosity, Dr. Yannan Yang and his team have been awarded a prestigious \$840,000 MRFF grant to advance treatment for DIPG—an aggressive and inoperable childhood brain tumour with limited treatment options.

While current CAR-T immunotherapy has potential, it struggles with the complexity and variability of these tumours. Now, thanks to your support, researchers are developing a groundbreaking vaccine-based nanotherapy designed to enhance treatment effectiveness and offer real hope to children and families.

This milestone wouldn't have been possible without you. Your donations provided the vital seed funding that launched this research and united experts across multiple fields. Your continued support is helping move this work from the lab toward life-saving solutions.



Andrew's Bold Move for Mum! Shaving to Fund Research

This Grey May, Andrew is shaving his head for his mum, turning love into action and raising funds for brain tumour research!

Since her diagnosis in 2015, Andrew's mum has faced surgery, regular MRIs, and seizures. Through it all, Andrew has been by her side. "Andrew pops in as often as he can and always checks how I am going. He loves his mum," she shares.

Now, he's taking it a step further to help fund research that could lead to better treatments—and one day, a cure.

Andrew works at **Foodland Munno Para**, who are proudly standing with him and supporting Grey May!



► **Show your support** for Andrew and his mum. Donate today.



JOIN US - FREE PUBLIC EVENT

Brain Tumour Research in Action: Update & Lab Tour

Gain exclusive insights into the latest brain tumour research and see the impact of your support firsthand.

Hear from leading researchers, tour the lab, and connect with experts and supporters.

Morning tea and lunch included. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the progress!

- Saturday 24th May 2025
- 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- **Centre for Cancer Biology | Bradley Building**
UniSA Building North Terrace SA 5000

Book online | nrf.com.au/events



Prof. Stuart Pitson

NRF Chair of Brain Tumour Research and Director of BTRSA
Overview of Brain Tumour Research in SA and how collaboration here drives better research outcomes.



Dr Helen Palethorpe

Reprogramming tumour cells to stop growth without killing them - potentially a better and safer treatment.



Assoc/Prof Lisa Ebert

New therapies for brain tumours based on supercharging the immune system.



Ginta Orchard

NRF Executive Officer
Patient support services update what is available in SA.

Munno Para Foodland Goes Grey for Brain Tumour Research

This Grey May, Munno Para Foodland is proudly supporting brain tumour research and helping fund better treatments.

Here's how you can get involved:

- Donate at checkout and add your name to the donor wall.
- Purchase a token in honour of someone special.
- Enter the Grey May Raffle for a chance to win while supporting vital research.

Every donation fuels breakthroughs and brings hope!



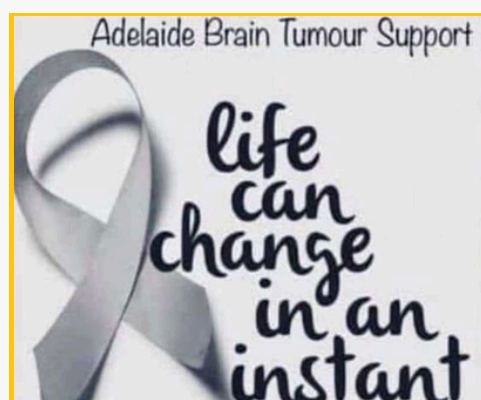
Resources for Brain Injury and Brain Tumour Survivors

Meet Hayley: Providing Support When It Matters Most

Thanks to your generous support, South Australia's first Brain Cancer Nurse Consultant Hayley Henley is now providing invaluable assistance to brain cancer patients. Her role is dedicated to guiding patients and their families through the complexities of brain cancer diagnosis and treatment, ensuring they receive comprehensive care and support both in and out of hospital.

Hayley shared, *"I think my biggest advice is allow yourself to process the diagnosis and let those feelings in however you may feel. Just let yourself have some time...Know that there's support out there."*

Having lost her Nana to a Glioblastoma just 12 weeks after diagnosis, Hayley brings a deep understanding of the challenges families face during this time. Hayley supports patients and their families in a variety of ways, including coordinating medical appointments, liaising with the treating team, providing emotional support, and connecting patients with essential services. **Support is available.** Speak to your doctor or contact the NRF to access resources and assistance.



Join the Adelaide Brain Tumour Support Group:



The **Adelaide Brain Tumour Support Group** offers a safe space for patients, carers, and loved ones to connect and share experiences. Join our Facebook community for online support.

Meet in person at our monthly coffee catch-ups:

- Odd months (Jan, Mar, etc.) – 10 AM at Thrive: Fit + Social, Norwood.
- Even months – Various Adelaide locations.

No Facebook? Call Ginta Orchard (NRF) at 0419 844 511 for details.



Understanding Brain Injury and Brain Tumour Recovery: What Survivors Want You to Know

Living with a brain injury or recovering from brain surgery comes with challenges that aren't always visible. Many survivors struggle to communicate the daily realities of their condition.

If you know someone affected, these insights can help you offer meaningful support:

- **Fatigue is real.** Thinking, processing, and organizing take much more effort. Brain fatigue is not laziness—it's exhausting.
- **Patience matters.** Give time to find words and follow thoughts without interrupting. It helps rebuild language and confidence.
- **Hope is not denial.** The brain's ability to heal is still being discovered. Hope is essential to navigating life after injury or surgery.

Access resources, guidance, and services from leading Australian organisations. **Scan the QR code to learn more.**

