

2018 Annual Report

*Developing healthy communities
through exceptional health and
medical research*



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Key Facts

Mission

The Menzies Health Institute Queensland (MHIQ) is a multidisciplinary health and medical research institute with a mission to improve the health and wellbeing of children, adolescents and adults through globally-significant research and community engagement.

Strengths

Research undertaken at our Institute spans cancer, infectious disease, chronic disease, childhood illness, musculoskeletal conditions, psychological health and ageing.

Facilities

MHIQ boasts state-of-the-art laboratories, and research and clinical facilities across five Griffith University campuses from Brisbane to Gold Coast, with headquarters on the Gold Coast.

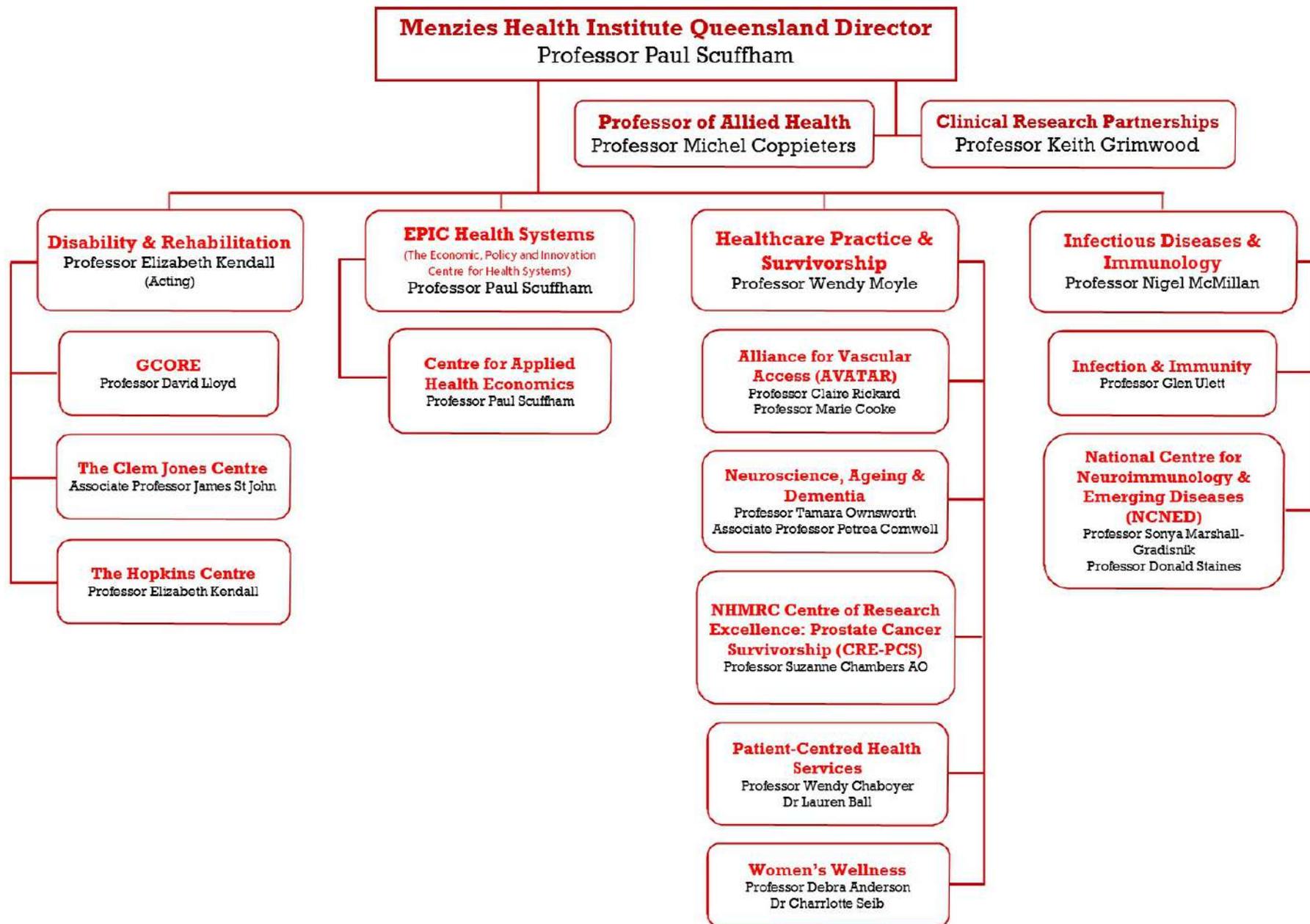
Income

2018 research income totalled \$16.2 million.

Membership

- 4 Research programs
- 549 Members
- 143 Full members
- 219 HDR students
- 75 Associate members
- 112 Adjunct members
- 3 Emeritus member

Organisational Structure



Pro Vice Chancellor (Health) Report

*"The Menzies Health Institute
Queensland is at the forefront of
revolutionary health and medical
research".*

*-Professor Sheena Reilly
Pro Vice Chancellor (Health)*

Pro Vice Chancellor's (Health) Report

The Menzies Health Institute Queensland (MHIQ) has once again reinforced its reputation as one of Australia's leading research institutes in 2018. Addressing some of the world's major health issues, our researchers are working together in search of more effective diagnostics, improved treatments and preventative programs. The Institute is dedicated to delivering practical solutions that have real and positive impacts on people's overall health and wellbeing.

Introduction

With more than 545 members spanning four research programs, the Menzies Health Institute Queensland (MHIQ) is well positioned to tackle some of the significant health issues we face in the 21st century. It is wonderful to see our remarkable strengths reflected through the many research projects, outcomes and highlights during 2018. It is with great pleasure that I highlight some of these achievements from our inspiring team of researchers and I encourage you to read the reports which follow.

MHIQ Director

This year, we welcomed Professor Paul Scuffham as Director of the Menzies Health Institute Queensland and bid farewell to the previous Director, Professor Suzanne Chambers AO. Professor Scuffham is responsible for building Griffith's already strong program of allied health research, developing partnerships and leading research aimed at improving health and health care. Paul has more than 20 years' experience as a researcher and advisor to healthcare organisation's in Australia and internationally.

PVC (Health) Research Excellence Awards

The Pro Vice Chancellor (Health) Research Excellence Awards celebrate the Group's research achievements and recognise individual researchers and research groups who have made outstanding contributions in their space.

Congratulations to the 2018 MHIQ recipients:

Research Team Excellence Award: Alliance for Vascular Access Teaching and Research. Team: Professor Claire Rickard, Professor Marie Cooke, Associate Professor Andrew Bulmer, Associate Professor Joshua Byrnes, Associate Professor Amanda Ullman, Dr Gillian Ray-Barruel, Dr Nicole Marsh, Jessica Schults and Tricia Kleidon.

Highly commended

Early-Career Researcher Award (Highly Commended): Dr David Saxby
Mid-Career Researcher Award (Highly Commended): Dr Michael Simmonds

Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards

All the recipients were automatically nominated in their respective categories for the Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards. Congratulations to the Alliance for Vascular Access Teaching and Research Group who received the Research Team Excellence Award.

Thank you!

2018 has proved to be another exceptional year for the Menzies Health Institute Queensland. I extend my sincere congratulations to the staff and researchers on their achievements. Their hard work, talent and commitment underpin the Institute's endeavours and enable realisation of its goals and look forward to another rewarding year in 2019.



Professor Sheena Reilly
Pro Vice Chancellor (Health)
Griffith University

Director's Report

"Our vision at the Menzies Health Institute Queensland is to improve health and wellbeing through globally-significant research and community engagement."

-Professor Paul Scuffham
Director, Menzies Health Institute Queensland



Director's Report

The Menzies Health Institute Queensland (MHIQ) undertakes research across the lifecycle to identify key factors that influence health. From this, we develop and test strategies to improve health and wellbeing for individuals, families and communities.

Four overarching programs—Disability and Rehabilitation, the Economic, Policy and Innovation Centre for Health Systems (EPIC Health Systems), Healthcare Practice and Survivorship, and Infectious Diseases and Immunology—encapsulate our research strengths and align with local and national health priorities. Underpinning the work of these programs is a focus on innovation, data science, research translation and meaningful clinical and community partnerships.

Introduction

It's my pleasure to share our 2018 Annual Report with you—my first since joining the Institute as its Director.

This year's report is a true testament of the world-class research produced by our Institute. It depicts a developing reputation for world-class research and translational health outcomes that make a sustainable impact on the health and wellbeing of our society.

I am proud of the dedication and commitment shown by our exceptional team of researchers. For that, I encourage you to read the reports following mine, which highlight the many achievements, initiatives, research outcomes and 2018 activities of note.

MHIQ Realignment

In early 2018, MHIQ underwent a process of enhanced strategic planning and development. The realignment more accurately reflects the current breadth and depth of research activities, and enhances our commitment to local, national and international health priorities.

The Institute now comprises of four overarching research programs, including Disability and Rehabilitation, EPIC Health Systems, Healthcare Practice and Survivorship, and Infectious Diseases and Immunology. These are led by Professors Elizabeth Kendall, Paul Scuffham, Wendy Moyle and Nigel McMillan respectively.

Princess Dina Cocktail Reception

Menzies Health Institute Queensland hosted HRH Princess Dina Mired of Jordan, President of the Union for International Cancer Control on Wednesday 24 October 2018 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre to promote ways to advance cancer survivorship research.

NCNED Grant

In November 2018, Professor Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik and Professor Don Staines from the National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases (NCNED) received a \$1.9m Research Fellowship Grant from the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation. The funding will help the researchers develop a diagnostic blood test for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Professor Suzanne Chambers AO Award

In June, former MHIQ Director, Professor Suzanne Chambers AO was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours. Professor Chambers is a multi-award-winning researcher, recognised for her remarkable service to medical research, particularly in the area of psycho-oncology, and to community health through patient care strategies to assist men with prostate cancer.

Australian Government 2018 Endeavour Fellowship

Dr Adi Idris was awarded an Australian Government 2018 Endeavour Fellowship to undertake work at the Princess Margaret Hospital and University of Toronto, Canada on a MHIQ cervical cancer project.

Young Scholar Exchange and Research Collaboration

Dr Kathryn Modecki has been awarded US\$15,000 for a Young Scholar Exchange and Research Collaboration grant from the Society for Research in Child Development. Dr Modecki will lead a diverse team of scholars from Oxford University, University of Central Florida and University of California to design a new parenting measure.

2018 Fresh Science Award

MHIQ's Dr Claudio Pizzolato has won the 2018 Fresh Science competition in Queensland. Held in July, the nationwide program provides early-career researchers with media training to improve their research communication skills.

Appointment of MHIQ Leadership Team Member

In April 2018, the Institute welcomed Professor Elizabeth Kendall to the MHIQ Leadership Team. As Acting Program Director of the Disability and Rehabilitation program, Professor Kendall brings a highly valuable and unique perspective to the leadership conversation. Professor Kendall has dedicated her career to improving outcomes for people affected by debilitating illnesses and injuries. Her most recent work has been recognised in her success in launching The Hopkins Centre for Rehabilitation and Resilience.

Appointment of MHIQ Board Member

The Institute has also welcomed Anna Andriolo to the MHIQ Board. With more than 30 years' experience in banking, financial planning and client management, Anna Andriolo's long-term employment at the National Australia Bank (NAB) equips her with an unrivalled skillset. She brings an abundance of knowledge and experience to the Board and will be a valuable addition to the MHIQ.

Thank you!

I would like to extend my gratitude to our community for your steadfast support, which has enabled MHIQ to reach even higher in striving towards life-saving discoveries. Without your long-term support, our research wouldn't be possible.

I also wish to thank our team of outstanding researchers, HDR candidates and support staff who make MHIQ a dynamic, focused and outcome-driven research institute. Our success is due to their passionate and unwavering pursuit of scientific discovery. I hope you enjoy reading about our outstanding achievements in 2018.



Professor Paul Scuffham
Menzies Health Institute Queensland Director

Research Programs

- Disability and Rehabilitation
- The Economic, Policy and Innovation Centre for Health Systems (EPIC Health Systems)
- Healthcare Practice and Survivorship
- Infectious Diseases and Immunology



Disability and Rehabilitation Research Alliance

Professor Elizabeth Kendall
Program Director

Overview

All Australians living with the long-term consequences of injury, chronic illnesses and disability should have access to cutting-edge interventions and opportunities that can improve their lives.

Our researchers focus on rapid translation of bold and innovative solutions that can revolutionise disability services and rehabilitation. We design and develop personalised and person-centred methods that integrate knowledge from multiple sources and disciplines resulting in precision interventions.

Key research areas:

- Systems, human rights and policy
- Community-based citizen-led solutions
- Enriched environments for better outcomes
- Engineering and technology in rehabilitation
- Individual treatments and therapies
- Biomedical and pharmaceutical interventions
- Personalised medical devices and diagnostics

2018 highlights

The Hopkins Centre: Research for Rehabilitation and Resilience

Improved outcomes for adults and children with long-term consequences of acquired or developmental disability and chronic conditions through interdisciplinary consumer-driven ideas:

- 234 members and 65 HDR students
- Key funding achievements with ARC Discovery, Motor Accident Insurance Commission, Spinal Life Australia, Synapse and Qld Health

Gold Coast Orthopaedic, Engineering and Education Alliance (GCORE)

Improving the management of orthopaedic, neurological and cardiovascular conditions through disruptive biomechanical engineering and technologies:

- 42 members and 32 HDR students
- Key funding achievements with ARC Training Centre of Medical Implants Technologies, MTP Connect BioMedTech Horizons and Innovation Connections

The Clem Jones Centre for Neurobiology and Stem Cell Research

Improving recovery of function following damage or degeneration of the central or peripheral nervous system through cellular and drug therapies:

- 22 members and 4 HDR students
- Key funding achievements with Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation and Clem Jones Foundation



The Economic, Policy and Innovation Centre for Health Systems

Professor Paul Scuffham
Program Director

Overview

From generating significant savings in the Australian healthcare budget to implementing cost-efficient solutions to better treat and prevent serious disease, our research continues to drive effective change, both nationally and internationally.

Our multidisciplinary Program focuses on translating research findings into better healthcare policy, practice and decision making.

Key research area:

- Centre for Applied Health Economics (CAHE)

Overview

Research outputs for 2018 include:

- 119 peer reviewed publications
- 22 conference presentations
- 8 current PhD enrolments

2018 highlights

Academic awards

We are delighted to congratulate two Centre of Applied Health Economics (CAHE) staff members on awarded Fellowships in 2018.

Professor Paul Scuffham :

Period: 2018-2022

Award: NHMRC Senior Research Fellowship

Associate Professor Emily Callander:

Period: 2019-2022 (awarded 2018)

Award: NHRMC Career Development Fellowship

Other awards

Best Research Paper (ERC)

Dr Haitham Tuffaha was awarded the 2018 Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand (HSRAANZ) Best Health Services and Policy Research Paper by an early career researcher (ECR) for his paper titled '*Cost-effectiveness analysis of germ-line BRCA testing in women with breast cancer and cascade testing in family members of mutation carriers*'.

Funding achievements

As a result of CAHE's established reputation in health economics, in 2018 our researchers led or were named, including existing agreements, on:

- 1 ARC Discovery grant
- 2 EMF grants
- 3 NHMRC CRE grants
- 2 NHMRC Fellowships
- 1 NHMRC Program grant
- 3 NHMRC Partnership grants
- 3 NHMRC Project grants.

Healthcare Practice and Survivorship

Professor Wendy Moyle
Program Director



Associate Professor Amanda Ullman

Overview

We focus on globally-significant research to improve quality of life, survivorship and care of patients and their carers in the Australian and international community. Our researchers work with a range of health and research communities across the globe to translate evidence-based research into clinical practice.

Our research spans cancer, ageing and neuroscience disorders such as dementia and brain trauma, patient safety of people in acute and community care, women's health and lifestyle disorders such as obesity, and evaluation of current practices including vascular access.

Key research areas:

- Alliance for Vascular Access Teaching and Research
- Neuroscience, Ageing and Dementia
- NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence: Prostate Cancer Survivorship
- Patient-Centred Health Services
- Women's Wellness

2018 highlights

Dr Lisa Jefferies and colleagues from Simon Fraser University (Canada) Adjunct Professor Vincent Di Lollo and Professor Grace Iarocci were awarded \$131,610 from ARC Discovery for the project '*A honking horn can blind you: how sudden distractions redirect attention*'. The funding will investigate distractions when driving.

Associate Professor Amanda Ullman, Associate Professor Andrew Bulmer and Dr Rachel Walker were awarded \$706,582 from NHMRC Project Grants for the project '*Peripherally inserted central catheter Innovation to reduce Infections and Clots: the PICNIC trial*'. The funding aims to reduce the complications of peripheral catheters.

Professor Brigid Gillespie, Dr Rachel Walker, Professor Wendy Chaboyer and Professor Marie Cooke were awarded \$1,834,110 from NHMRC Project Grants for the project '*Efficacy and Effectiveness of Prophylactic foam dressings in the prevention of sacral pressure injuries in at-risk hospitalised patients: The EEPOC Trial*'. The funding aims to improve pressure injury prevention.

Professor Tamara Ownsworth, Professor Suzanne Chambers AO, Professor David Shum and Associate Professor Elizabeth Conlon were awarded \$376,857 for an NHMRC partnership grant to 'Evaluate a tele-health intervention for delivering psychosocial support to people with brain tumour and their families'.

Dr Charrlotte Seib, Dr Emma Harbeck, Professor Debra Anderson and Professor Suzanne Chambers AO received \$173,089 from Cancer Australia for their study 'Screening for Distress in Women with Gynaecological Cancer: Validation of the Distress Thermometer in Gynaecological Cancer Populations'.

Infectious Diseases and Immunology

Professor Nigel McMillan
Program Director

Overview

Each year, more than one million people around the globe die from infectious diseases. Our researchers investigate innovative strategies and therapies to help prevent, manage and eradicate a number of serious immune disorders and infectious diseases worldwide.

We focus on both fundamental biology and clinical translation that will lead to new tools for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome management, probiotics in health and sports performance, clinical trials, as well as developing novel treatments for viral cancers.

Key research areas:

- Infection and Immunity
- National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases (NCNED)

2018 highlights

Professors Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik and Don Staines from the National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases (NCNED) received a \$1.9m Research Fellowship Grant from the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation. The funding will help the researchers develop a diagnostic blood test for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Professor Keith Grimwood from the Infection and Immunity research group received a \$2.78m NHMRC Project Grant as part of a team looking at preventing recurrent respiratory-related hospitalisations in young Indigenous children. This will fund a clinical trial testing the regular use of an antibiotic.

Professor Grimwood was also awarded \$2.375 in funding from the Medical Research Future Fund to study rare diseases in children.

Professor Ming Wei has patented a novel cancer therapy technology based on using bacteria to kill tumours and this is currently undergoing clinical trial in China.



HDR Candidates

Our remarkable research opportunities open doors to greater innovation and discovery. Research candidates benefit from globally-connected supervisors and become an essential part of a collaborative, informed and influential research community.



HDR Candidates

- Allied Health Sciences
- Applied Psychology
- Dentistry and Oral Health
- Human Services and Social Work
- Medical Science
- Medicine
- Nursing and Midwifery
- Pharmacy and Pharmacology

400 HDR enrolments in 2018

28 completions in 2018

89 2018 scholarship recipients

Research Income and Publications

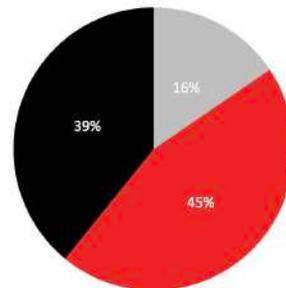


Our exceptional research quality and high impact outputs position Menzies Health Institute Queensland as a world leader in health and medical research.

Research Income and Publications

\$16.2m 2018
Research
Income

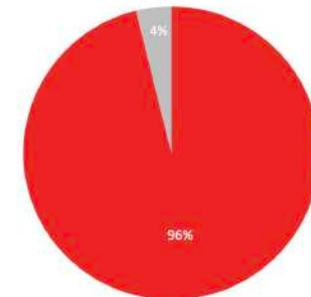
Percentage breakdown



■ Australian Competitive Grants ■ Other Public Sector Income ■ Industry and other funding

792 2018
Publication
Points

Percentage breakdown



■ Journal Articles ■ Book Chapters

Support our Research

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Your support is truly appreciated for the ongoing vital research, achieving new discoveries and making a lasting contribution to the health and quality of life for generations to come.

Donations add up to significant support—funding specific research projects as well as providing scholarships or fellowships, purchasing specialised equipment and supporting infrastructure. All gifts made to Menzies Health Institute Queensland through the Griffith University Fund are eligible for tax deduction.

Leaving an endowment or bequest in your will is an extremely positive way to show your support for Griffith Health research.

To speak to someone who can offer assistance, please contact David Hoskot on **+61 (0) 466 486 393** or d.hoskot@griffith.edu.au.

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For **international donations**, visit our website.

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