

HLTTV Annual Report 2024

Celebrating 30 Years of Hope and Transformation

2024 marks a significant milestone for the Heart and Lung Transplant Trust (Victoria) (HLTTV) as we celebrate our 30th anniversary. Founded in 1994, just five years after the first heart and lung transplant at The Alfred, HLTTV has been dedicated to supporting transplant recipients and their families for three decades. Despite being a comparatively small organisation with no paid staff, HLTTV has consistently made a difference in the lives of heart and lung transplant families. Our volunteers and supporters are the heart of our mission, driving our efforts to provide essential services and care.

The Second Chance Accommodation Program (SCAP)

Our cornerstone initiative is the Second Chance Accommodation Program (SCAP), which provides crucial accommodation support for transplant recipients who live more than 100 kilometres from The Alfred. Since its inception in 2012, SCAP has been a lifeline for many heart and lung transplant families. Last year, we transitioned to a new provider, Rockmans Apartments, and the feedback from the transplant community has been overwhelmingly positive. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Robert Rockman and his team for their exceptional care and support.

Overcoming Funding Challenges

Securing funding for SCAP and our other HLTTV programs has been an ongoing challenge, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when our fundraising activities were severely impacted. However, we are proud to report that in 2022-2023, we managed to break even, thanks to a generous \$40,000 grant from the Collier Trust through the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation. In 2023-2024, we received philanthropic funding from the Betty Radford Trust of \$5,000 as well as from the Caretta Mason Trust, which has pledged \$5,000 annually for the next three years. We also celebrate the incredible efforts of individual fundraisers like Jen Pope, who raised nearly \$5,000 by participating in a half marathon to support her aunt Tracy King, a double lung transplant recipient. Similarly, Alannah Rogalsky raised over \$5,000 in honour of her father Shaun, a heart transplant recipient. We are deeply grateful to all our donors, for their generosity. We are currently in the middle of a fundraising campaign at HLTTV with our planned 3km walk to be held at the same time as our end of year BBQ, November 24. With a week and a half to go we've already raised over \$7,000. Please consider joining the walk, either sponsoring a walker, or walking yourself and getting your friends and family to support you.

Heart-to-Heart Respite House in Barmah

We are excited to share developments regarding the Heart-to-Heart (H2H) respite house in Barmah. After many years of service, The Nathalia Rotary Club has ended the day-to-day management for the H2H House. The H2H House will remain an independent entity with its own ABN and ACNC, but it will be closely linked to the HLTTV. The new committee, led by Trudi Jones as president, Tracy King as treasurer, James Ure as secretary, and Martina McArdle, Loula Oliver, and Tessa Keegel as ordinary members, is committed making the H2H House cost neutral. To support this we will be altering the current H2H House constitution to make the house available to all transplant recipients. We look forward to

continuing the close relationship between the HLTTV and the H2H House and enjoying relaxing times in Barmah.

Membership Update

We currently have about 160 members in the HLTTV. Our thanks to James Ure and Wanda Moyle for all the work they have done in maintaining and updating the membership database. In July 2024, we made the decision to slightly increase our annual membership fees from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per year. These funds are vital for financing our programs, including SCAP, the printing and distribution of *The Circulator* magazine, and for social events like our Easter and end-of-year BBQs. In 2024 we have introduced a regular newsletter, which is emailed to all our membership. This newsletter provides timely updates on events, as well as important information for the transplant community. Our thanks to James Ure for his outstanding work in creating and distributing the HLTTV newsletter.

Honouring organ donors, their families and members of our community

As always, we honour the generosity of all our organ donors as well as the selflessness of their families. They donated their organs so that we might have a second chance at life. These donor heroes continue to inspire our work, and the efforts of the HLTTV are a tribute to their legacy. We also remember and honour the members of our transplant community who have passed away in 2024.

Acknowledging Our Dedicated Team

Special thanks to the HLTTV Committee, especially Vice-president Martina McArdle, Secretary James Ure, Treasurer Sue Laksassi, Membership Officer Wanda Moyle, and committee members Sam Ira, Petra Brosch, Claude Turco, Trudi Jones, Gaylynn Pinniger and Graeme Klemm for all his work on our amazing publication *The Circulator*. We are excited to welcome two new committee members for 2025, Sam Osborne and Tracy King. We encourage anyone else interested in joining the HLTTV committee to contact us at president@hlttv.org.au.

Looking Forward to 2025

We have exciting plans for 2025, including fresh fundraising strategies for SCAP, new social events, as well as a campaign to celebrate our wonderful carers. Our vision at HLTTV is for a bright and active future for all those involved with or in need of a heart or lung transplant. In 2024, we have made leaps and bounds towards this goal. Thank you all for being a part of our journey. I look forward to seeing you at the 2024 end of year walk and BBQ on Sunday November 24th at 11.00 in Fawkner Park.

Here's to 30 more years of making a difference together at the HLTTV.

Tessa Keegel

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