2025-2026 IMPACT REPORT

Keeping healthcare closer to home

far north queensland
hospital
foundation

Message from the Chair & CEO

What an extraordinary year this has been.

Across Far North Queensland, our community came together with remarkable generosity, showing once again what can be achieved when people unite to support better healthcare.

This year, we celebrated the successful completion of the Donate for DaNi campaign, reaching the $4.3 million community fundraising target to deliver Cairns Hospital's first surgical robot. Our Annual Donor Dinner also marked a record-breaking year, with the community contributing $1.1 million in a single evening. This generosity enabled the Foundation to fully fund the $800,000 ECMO stabilisation service, providing critically ill patients with faster access to advanced life support when every minute matters.

These landmark achievements were only part of the story.

During 2025–2026, the Foundation invested more than $2.15 million into healthcare across Far North Queensland. This included modern equipment, improved facilities, research and education that will support better care for patients now and into the future.

Our Friends of the Foundation groups also continued to make a powerful difference in their local communities. Across 11 groups, volunteers raised $515,805 and invested almost $424,000 into projects identified by local hospitals and health services. Together with Foundation-led fundraising, more than $3.2 million was raised across the region during the year.

Every achievement in this report belongs to our community. It reflects the generosity of our donors, the dedication of almost 1,000 volunteers, the commitment of our healthcare partners, and the passion of our staff and supporters.

Our social enterprises also continue to play a vital role in the Foundation's work. Through our cafés, catering services, vending network and Cairns Hospital car park, we generate the income required to fund our operations. This means community donations can be directed towards improving healthcare, exactly as our donors intend.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on creating lasting impact. We will see the surgical robot installed, continue supporting delivery of the Cancer Care Hub, establish the ECMO stabilisation service and prepare to celebrate the Foundation's 30th anniversary in 2027.

Dr Ken Chapman
Chair

Gina Hogan
CEO

Thank you for believing in better healthcare for Far North Queensland. Every donation, every volunteer hour and every act of support is helping improve lives today while strengthening healthcare for generations to come.

Your Impact at a glance

$3.2 Million
raised across the region

$2.15 Million
invested in healthcare

1,000
volunteers

26,000+
volunteer hours

11 Regional
Friends of the Foundation groups

100%
of operating costs funded through social enterprise

$31 Million+
invested since 1997

$4.3 Million+
DaNi (surgical robot) campaign finalised after 19 months

Improving health outcomes across Far North Queensland through community support and funding.

Why it matters

"Our Foundation is built on family money, so for us it's about giving back in a way that genuinely helps people in our community.

Anne Mills
Major Donor, Mills Family Foundation

"The Foundation does so much for our community and health services. We do what we can to support them in return.

Dr Steve Sutcliffe
Clinician | Cardiac Challenge participant | Patient

"I didn't know that the equipment I helped fundraise for, would end up being used on me. I'm very grateful.

Cheryl Campbell
Patient | Donor | Volunteer

"We support the Hospital Foundation because they do so much to support us in the community.

Mary-ann McEachan
Volunteer | Major Donor

Your generosity
in action

Every gift creates a ripple effect across Far North Queensland.

You Give

Our donors and community choose to invest in better healthcare for Far North Queensland.

We Invest

100% of donations go directly to patient care, research and health improvements.

Heath Outcomes Improve

New equipment, research, programs and services are delivered across the region.

Lives Change

Better care, closer to home, for our patients and families.

Better health across
Far North Queensland

Your impact is felt in every community.

Cairns
Improvements across cardiology, general medicine, emergency, endoscopy, cancer care and children's services.

Atherton
Ultrasound, maternity defibrillator and dialysis equipment improved local care.

Cooktown
New podiatry trolley supporting safe, more efficient patient treatment.

Cow Bay
Diagnostic equipment strengthened emergency treatment and primary health services.

Croydon
Maintained community fundraising presence while planning future health improvements.

Gordonvale
Improved patient comfort and privacy through ward window covering upgrades.

Herberton
New blinds and awnings enhanced hospital comfort and facilities.

Innisfail
Ventilators, respiratory equipment and maternity resources strengthened patient care.

Mareeba
Serenity Garden and equipment upgrades improved comfort and care.

Mossman
Dementia clocks supported patient wellbeing and orientation within the hospital.

Tully
Monitors, pressure mattresses and retrieval trolley boosted emergency care.

Weipa
Progressed plans for community gathering space supporting local families.

What your generosity made possible

Better care, stronger services and a better experience for patients and families.

During 2025–2026, the Foundation invested $2.15 million in healthcare across Far North Queensland. From emergency and critical care to rehabilitation, diagnosis, cancer care and regional health services, your generosity helped clinicians provide safer, more effective and compassionate care.

$2.15 million invested in 2025–2026

Supporting equipment, facilities, patient and family support, research and professional education across Far North Queensland.

Every investment starts with a need. Your generosity helps turn that need into better care.

The Foundation's 2025–2026 investment included $1.88 million in equipment, facilities, and patient, family and staff support; $246,063 in research grants; and $30,444 in staff education.

When every minute matters
Emergency & critical care

Your generosity helped strengthen the equipment available to clinicians caring for seriously ill patients. Investments including an Airvo 3 bundle for the Emergency Department and a Mac-Lab Haemodynamic Recording System for Cardiology support rapid assessment, monitoring and treatment when time matters most.

Earlier answers. Better decisions
Diagnosis & treatment

Modern diagnostic technology can help clinicians assess patients, plan treatment and make informed decisions. This year, your support funded portable ultrasound, neurological monitoring and cardiac diagnostic technology, strengthening access to contemporary diagnostic services across several specialist areas.

Care that supports recovery
Rehabilitation & patient care

Recovery is about more than treatment. Equipment such as electric parallel bars and rehabilitation resources supports mobility, independence and confidence as patients work towards recovery. Investments in treatment and patient support also help create more comfortable, dignified experiences along the way.

Better care for children and families
Paediatrics & family support

Healthcare can be an anxious experience for children and their families. Your generosity helped create more welcoming and supportive environments, including SmileyScope virtual reality devices to reduce anxiety during paediatric procedures, specialised paediatric oncology resources, ward murals and a virtual tour of the Special Care Nursery.

A story of impact

When Cheryl Campbell bought tickets in a raffle, she never expected to end up using the equipment she contributed to.

While Mrs Campbell knew she had a heart condition for many years, the rare pulmonary arterial hypertension was discovered quite recently when her unexplained breathlessness was investigated.

"It's just so ironic sitting here in this lung function testing box bought through the Cardiac Challenge, because I bought raffle tickets in Dr Vincent's fundraising for the event," Mrs Campbell said.

"I was actually jokingly cranky with him that I didn't win the raffle, but I won the prize in the end because I get to use the equipment," she said.

"And now I just feel wonderful. It's important that we have the same health services here in Cairns so that we don't have to travel south and we can be here with our loved ones."

Building a stronger healthcare workforce

- 18 clinical-led research projects
- $30,444 in staff education
- $246,063 research investment

Why it matters

Supporting research, professional development and education helps build capability, innovation and specialist expertise in Far North Queensland.

During 2025–2026, the Foundation invested $276,507 in research and professional education, supporting 18 research projects and strengthening the capability of our healthcare workforce. Through this commitment to knowledge, innovation and professional development, we are helping improve patient care today and into the future.

Without that initial support from the Foundation, none of what followed would have been possible.

- Prof Andreas Kupz

Support for hospital staff impact

Beyond grants, the Foundation also sponsors and supports a range of events that celebrate and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of hospital staff. Events include the Nursing & Midwifery Awards, Research & Innovation Symposium, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards, Allied Health Excellence Awards, CHHHS Excellence Awards, Deck the Wards, and the Cairns Hospital Wellbeing Expo.

Your community
in action

Community Golf Days

Lunch with a Legend

Nu Nu Restaurant Melbourne Cup

Annual Donor Dinner

Community-led Events

BDO Arrow Experience

$263,765
Cardiac Challenge

$148,385
Rev Up for Health Raffle

$500,060
Trinity Advisory Christmas Lunch

$199,728
Nu Nu Restaurant Melbourne Cup

20 years of the challenge 30 years of impact

In 2026, the Australian Retirement Trust Cardiac Challenge reaches an extraordinary milestone, marking 20 years since a simple idea became one of Far North Queensland's most enduring fundraising events. The ride began after Pete McNally, a heart patient and cyclist, imagined a way to raise funds for cardiac services closer to home. From that idea grew a three-day ride from Cairns to Cooktown, which has now raised more than $6 million for cardiac and related services across the region.

As riders, volunteers and supporters prepare to take on the 319-kilometre journey for the 20th time, the milestone also is a reminder of what community support can achieve. The Cardiac Challenge has helped support a cardiac service that has grown from four patient beds and one permanent cardiologist into a much larger team providing care across Far North Queensland, including rural and remote communities.

That spirit of community will continue into 2027, when the Foundation marks its 30th anniversary in March. To celebrate three decades of local giving, generosity and impact, a special gala is planned for March 2027. The event will honour the people, partnerships and fundraising efforts that have helped improve health services for patients and families across the Far North, while looking ahead to the next chapter of support for local health care. It will be a celebration not only of what has been achieved, but of the community that continues to make it possible.

The people
behind the impact

Our volunteers make a difference in ways big and small.

11 Regional
Friends of the Foundation groups

Nearly1,000
registered volunteers

26,000+
volunteer hours

The volunteers have always been the heart of the Foundation, embodying its spirit of dedication and support. Our team of almost 1,000 volunteers plays a crucial role in improving the hospital experience for patients, their families and health service staff across Far North Queensland. In addition, many play an active role in our numerous fundraising activities and events.

What makes us different? We're local through and through. Our volunteers serve across more than 60 public hospitals and health centres, making a direct impact in their own communities by giving their time and supporting fundraising activities.

Social enterprise
powered by purpose

Our businesses help make every donation go further.

100% of community donations go towards healthcare.

Proceeds from our social enterprises cover our operating costs, allowing us to maximise the impact of charitable donations.

This means every donation received can go even further in supporting critical health services and initiatives, from advanced medical equipment to patient care programs.

Our impact
guided by our strategy

Engagement
Develop meaningful engagement with stakeholders.

Social Enterprise
Maximise surplus from social enterprises to ensure charity sustainability and growth.

Impact
Deliver meaningful, relevant and sustainable projects that positively impact the health of our community.

Philanthropy & Fundraising
Enhance sustainable philanthropy and fundraising programs.

Region & Community Focus
Deliver empowering, place-based volunteer programs throughout the CHHHS and TCHHS footprint.

Culture & Accountability
Foster an organisational culture that embraces innovation, values accountability and enables our team to deliver exceptional outcomes while maintaining the highest standards of governance.

$4.3M goal realised

Better outcomes. Closer to home. The DaNi Campaign

The DaNi robotic surgery system will mean less pain, quicker recovery and shorter hospital stays for public patients – right here in Far North Queensland.

Our largest fundraising campaign to date, which we concluded in just 19 months, raising an incredible $4.3m.

Strong Governance
Trusted Leadership
Better Health Outcomes

The Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation is governed by an experienced volunteer Board committed to ensuring we deliver lasting benefits for communities across Far North Queensland. Appointed by the Governor in Council under the Hospital Foundations Act 2018, our Board provides strategic direction, oversees financial stewardship, and ensures the Foundation operates with integrity, accountability and transparency.

Board members bring expertise from healthcare, business, finance, governance, philanthropy and community leadership, helping guide our work to improve health outcomes across the region. Their leadership enables us to invest confidently in life-changing equipment, education, research and patient care while ensuring every decision aligns with our purpose of putting the pieces together for a healthier North.

Dr Ken Chapman
Chair

Lisa Whitton
Deputy Chair

Lesley Ray
Board Member

Dr Edward Strivens
Board Member

Joanne Parisi
Board Member

Jodi Peters
Board Member

Danae Jones
Board Member

Leena Singh
Board Member

$1.1M
raised in one evening

With gratitude

To everyone who has helped make a difference to healthcare across Far North Queensland.

Major Donors

Kenfrost Homes
Toni Bresnahan
Ellis and Denise Richardson
Joan Whyte
Trinity Advisory Pty Ltd
Conny and Evert van den Brand
Fowler's Group
EMS Exports Pty Ltd
Nu Nu Restaurant
Bryant Building Contractors
The Yelaska Family

Corporate Partners

Australian Retirement Trust
7 Cairns
CityLife Magazine
Lotsa Print and Signage
Mobil Trinity Petroleum
ARN - Star 102.7
DKS Vending
BDO NTH QLD
Ergon Energy
Avis
Perie's IGA
J & R Refrigeration

Trusts, Foundations and Grants

Northern Frontier Foundation
The Chapman Foundation
Mills Family Foundation
Catalano Family Foundation
CommBank Staff Foundation
Bendigo Community Bank Babinda
NAB Foundation
Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF)

Putting the pieces together for a healthier north.

far north queensland hospital foundation

(07) 4226 8993
fundraising@fnqhf.org.au
www.fnqhf.org.au
facebook.com/fnqhf youtube.com/@fnqhf