

vitality

Spring 2020

Your COVID-19 update

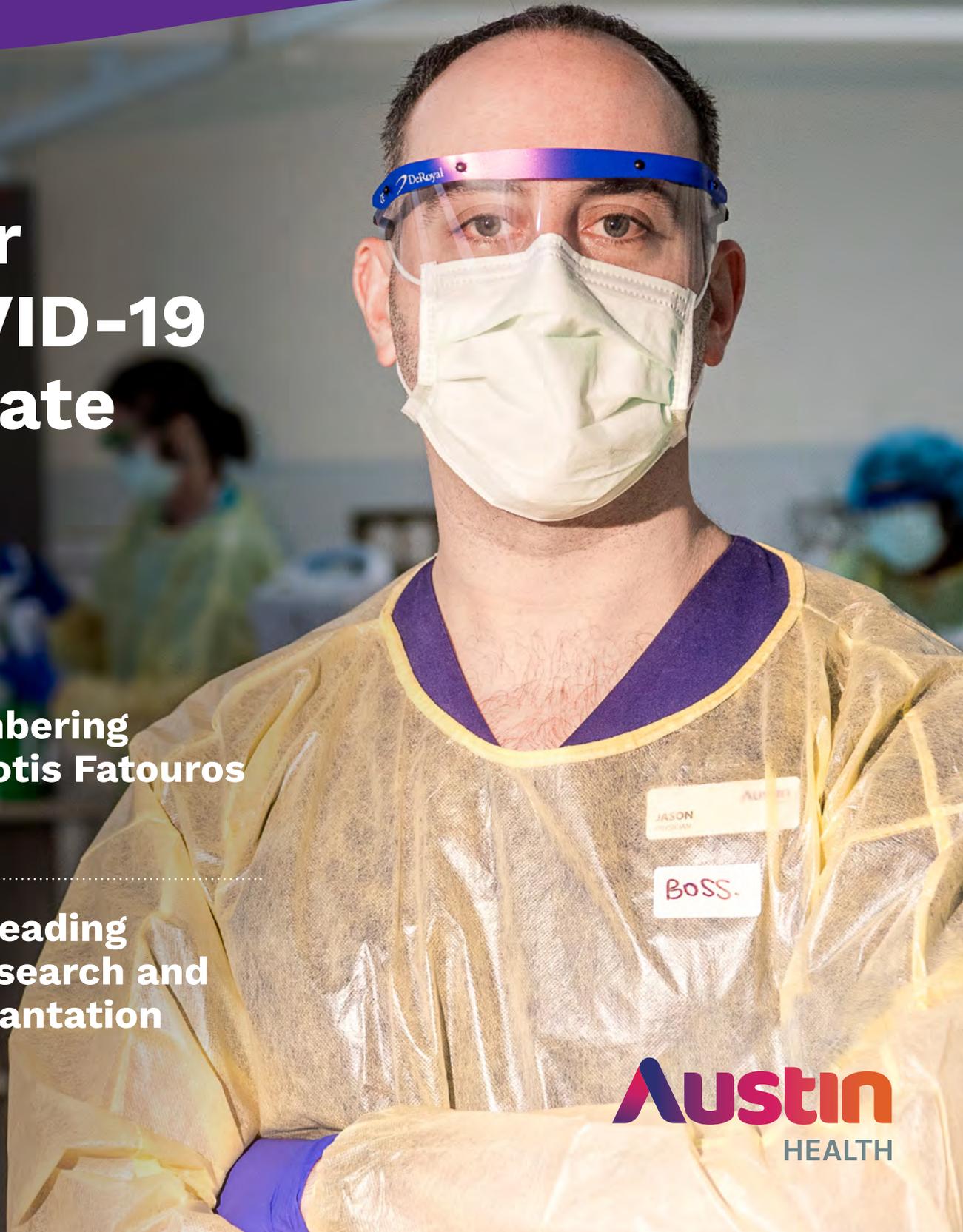
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Austin
HEALTH

Due to COVID-19 restrictions to keep us all safe, photos with our littlest patients couldn't be taken but we hope you enjoy our stand-in penguin!



Look what you made possible!

Last Christmas we asked for your help to make time in hospital more joyful for children.

Paediatric Nurse Unit Manager Jenny Spiller explained how an MRI entertainment system would reduce stress on children and bring more accurate test results. Thanks to an outpouring of support, the MRI entertainment system was purchased and installed last month!

Even more, this MRI entertainment system can also be used with people of all ages undergoing an MRI, significantly enhancing comfort for everyone.

“
The COVID-19 pandemic is a challenging time, especially for our paediatric patients. The MRI entertainment system is such an added benefit now and for years to come. To everyone that donated, stay safe and again, thank you.
”

– Emma Hornsey, MRI Supervisor

YOU also made Clown Doctors possible. Because of restrictions in place to keep us all safe, our Clown Doctors will visit once it's safe to do so again.

Stay tuned in the coming months for more photos of the happiness made possible, thanks to YOU.

Cover photo: A/Prof Jason Trubiano, COVID-19 Unit Director

A message from Adam Horsburgh, Chief Executive Officer

For those of you I have not met, let me express what a privilege it is to join Austin Health as the Chief Executive Officer. Starting as a CEO of a major Victorian health service in the middle of a pandemic has meant a busier than normal start.

It's been inspiring to learn how our frontline staff and all those that support them continue to step up to meet the growing needs of our patients and community. This dedication is one of the many reasons I'm proud to join Austin Health.

I know you have heard it from us before but I want to assure you we are here for you, every step of the way.

Your support makes a difference each and every day.

A few months ago, A/Prof Jason Trubiano, Head of Austin Health's COVID-19 Unit and Infectious Disease Physician first asked you to join the frontline and support our emergency COVID-19 Appeal.

Thanks to the community's overwhelming response, we've been able to do even more for our patients during this unprecedented time. Read more on page 10.

The Austin Health Foundation

I'm pleased to announce first to you, our loyal donors, that our fundraising department will now be known as the Austin Health Foundation, its new name aligning with other health services. I'm confident that together we'll raise even more vital funds for our local hospital.

World leading liver transplantation and research

Did you know that Austin Health's Victorian Liver Transplant Unit provides all adult liver transplant services for Victoria and Tasmania? We're also the sole provider of intestinal transplant services in Australia. Learn more on page 6.

I encourage you to share Vitality with your family and friends. On behalf of our frontline staff and all those that support them, thank you for your support. Please stay safe.

With gratitude,



Adam Horsburgh
Chief Executive Officer



Remembering Panagiotis Fatouros

Family patriarch Panagiotis Fatouros of Northcote came to Australia in 1959, emigrating from Greece after serving in the Navy at the young age of twenty-nine. Within a few years Panagiotis married Maria and they grew their family to include three sons, who each also went on to have three children of their own.

His youngest son Bill smiled when describing his Dad's charisma and ability to never sit idle.

“

Dad was always one to get the family out of the house on an adventure. In the summers Mum and Dad would load us all up in the car and we'd explore every corner of Victoria for four or five weeks.

”



Maria and Panagiotis at his family home in Evgiros, Lefkada, Greece.



At the age of 65 after retiring from a career as a carpenter and spending his days in his beloved backyard veggie patch, Panagiotis suffered multiple strokes, received a vascular dementia diagnosis and was cared for at Austin Health for a better part of twenty years.

“
Dad was happier at Austin than any other healthcare environment. He always said, ‘don’t take me anywhere else’ and that Austin Hospital always took good care of him.”

- Bill

During Panagiotis’ final days, right when the COVID-19 pandemic came about, his wife Maria remembers how well Austin staff supported her, going the extra step of bringing her coffee and checking in to make sure she was also supported.

The family was so grateful for the care and compassion Panagiotis received that upon his passing they directed gifts in his memory to support Austin Health.

Funds received in memory of Panagiotis and many more grateful patients fund vital research, equipment and life changing programs for the Austin community. On behalf of everyone at Austin Health, thank you to the Fatouros family for remembering Panagiotis in such a beautiful way.

For more information about how you can honour a loved one’s memory, contact Veronica Gargano, Head of Donor Relations at veronica.gargano@austin.org.au or 03 9496 6342.



Maria and Panagiotis were married for more than 50 years and enjoyed going back to Panagiotis’ village, with views from his family home as pictured.



World Leading Liver Research and Transplantation

Austin Health's Victorian Liver Transplant Unit provides all adult liver transplant services for Victoria, Tasmania and parts of Southern New South Wales. The Austin is also the sole provider of Intestinal Transplant services in Australia.

Adam, Daniel and Tess in the Liver Transplant Unit's research lab.



Much of the vital research and lifesaving patient care is led by our dedicated liver transplant physicians including Associate Professor Adam Testro. A/Prof Testro started at Austin Hospital in 2004, the day the Liver Transplant team performed their 395th liver transplant.

Since then Adam has cared for over 1,000 liver transplant recipients and has dedicated his career to improving the longer-term outcomes for these patients who, without transplantation, would otherwise die from liver disease.

“

Being able to give someone a second chance at life is a gift our team doesn't take lightly. Facing a prognosis of only a few months to live in 2011, 31-year-old Isaac received a liver transplant but his journey didn't stop there. We'll care for liver transplant recipients for the rest of their lives. It was so gratifying to learn Isaac even named his firstborn son 'Austin' after the hospital.”

Adam also mentors PhD students at Austin Health, with research aimed at ensuring a patient's liver transplant has the most successful outcome. At present, Adam, along with PhD students Dr Daniel Cox and Dr Tess McClure, are investigating liquid biopsies – immune function blood tests that help predict the risk of organ rejection and post-transplant infection.

When asked what's next for liver research and transplantation at Austin Health, Adam shared his vision of purchasing the QIACube Connect device. This piece of robotic equipment performs DNA analysis automatically whereas at present this analysis takes many hours of manual work and doesn't provide the precision that automation gives. Moreover, the QIACube Connect would revolutionise the Liver Transplant Unit's research and translate into better outcomes for our patients both here and around the world.

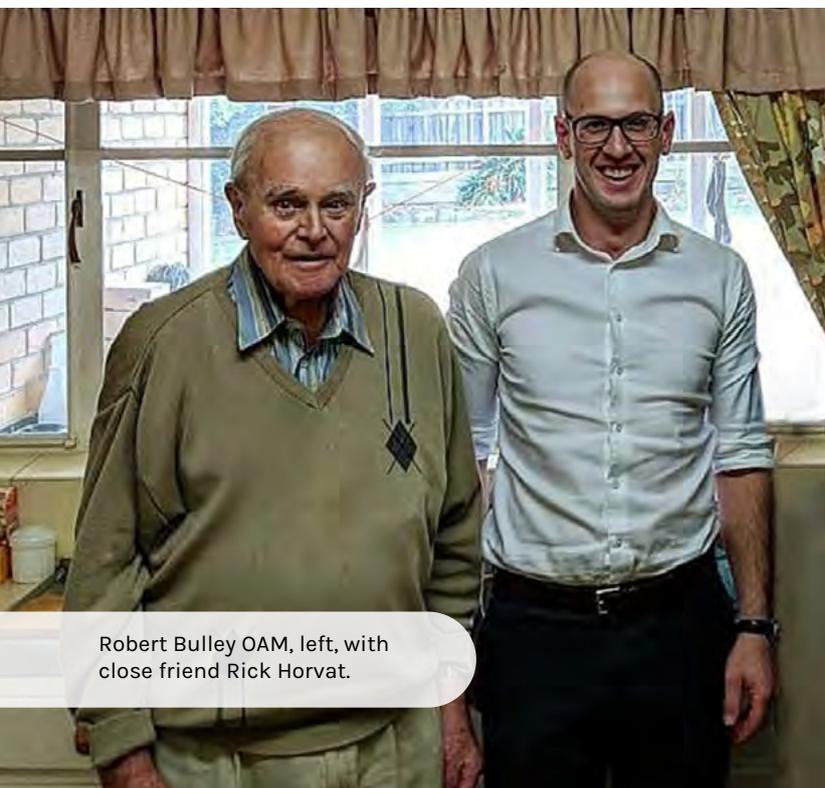
“

No hospital in Australia has the QIACube Connect. Combined with our world leading research, this equipment would translate into even better outcomes for our patients. Instead of enduring invasive biopsies, with the QIACube Connect, we'd usually only need a simple blood test and nearly eliminate the need for additional hospitalisation.”

– A/Prof Testro

Stay tuned in the coming months for an exciting opportunity to support the lifesaving work of Austin's Liver Transplant Unit.

Robert's Legacy



Robert Bulley OAM, left, with close friend Rick Horvat.

The late Robert C Bulley (13.10.1924–29.09.2019) was an incredible supporter of Austin Health, with his first gift in 1993. This year he was posthumously awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to the community.

Robert's commitment funded research, equipment, patient care and capital builds at Austin, which continues today through the support of the Robert C Bulley Charitable Fund.

Most recently the Fund partnered with Austin's Liver Transplant Unit to support matching funding for the QIACube Connect device. Details about this lifesaving partnership will be shared first with you in the coming months.

A bequest could be the most rewarding gift you ever make. If you too would like to transform lives for future generations, contact Cheyne Brudenell, Head of Philanthropy at cheyne.brudenell@austin.org.au or 03 9496 2147.



Optos, our new technology pictured here, will benefit more than 500 Austin patients a year.



Angelo Rando, Head of Orthoptics and Danielle Thorburn, Orthoptist, in front of our new Optos technology.

A lifetime of medical care and research

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of Melbourne-based bookmaker the late Henry Thomas Pamphilon, the H.T. Pamphilon Fund was established to support medical research and treatment at Austin Health.

Through the support of the fund, we purchased ultra-wide field imaging technology that will benefit more than 500 patients who receive treatment for chronic and degenerative eye conditions each year.

The new camera provides high resolution imaging across the entire retina, producing a 200-degree single-capture image in half a second. This technology will help prevent vision loss and support the early diagnosis and management of conditions such as diabetic eye disease, macular degeneration and glaucoma.

This year marks 10 years of support from the Fund, which has contributed more than \$925,000 to support patient care. Other equipment purchased includes a state-of-the-art HemoSphere Clinical Platform, Cardiac Pacing Boxes, Nerve Monitoring System, Physiotherapy department Plinths and a Fibroscan Machine.

On behalf of Austin's Ophthalmology Department and all those in our care, we thank the H.T. Pamphilon Fund for their ongoing partnership.



Behind the frontline

Your COVID-19 update

In March A/Prof and COVID-19 Unit Director Jason Trubiano first asked for your help in the fight over coronavirus.



COVID-19 Screening Clinic staff have tested more than 28,000 people for coronavirus since March.



To date, 3,633 of your fellow Australians donated to Austin Health's COVID-19 Appeal, making so much possible including:

Wellness

- Increased support for Aboriginal patients and families through the Ngarra Jarra team's culturally sensitive care model.
- iPads helping patients stay socially connected to their loved ones whilst visitor restrictions are in place to keep us all safe throughout the pandemic.
- Virtual Trauma Sensitive Yoga sessions for survivors of sexual assault.
- Art therapy kits for our cancer patients to continue wellness programming remotely.
- New on-site staff respite lounge to aid the frontline's wellbeing.

Research

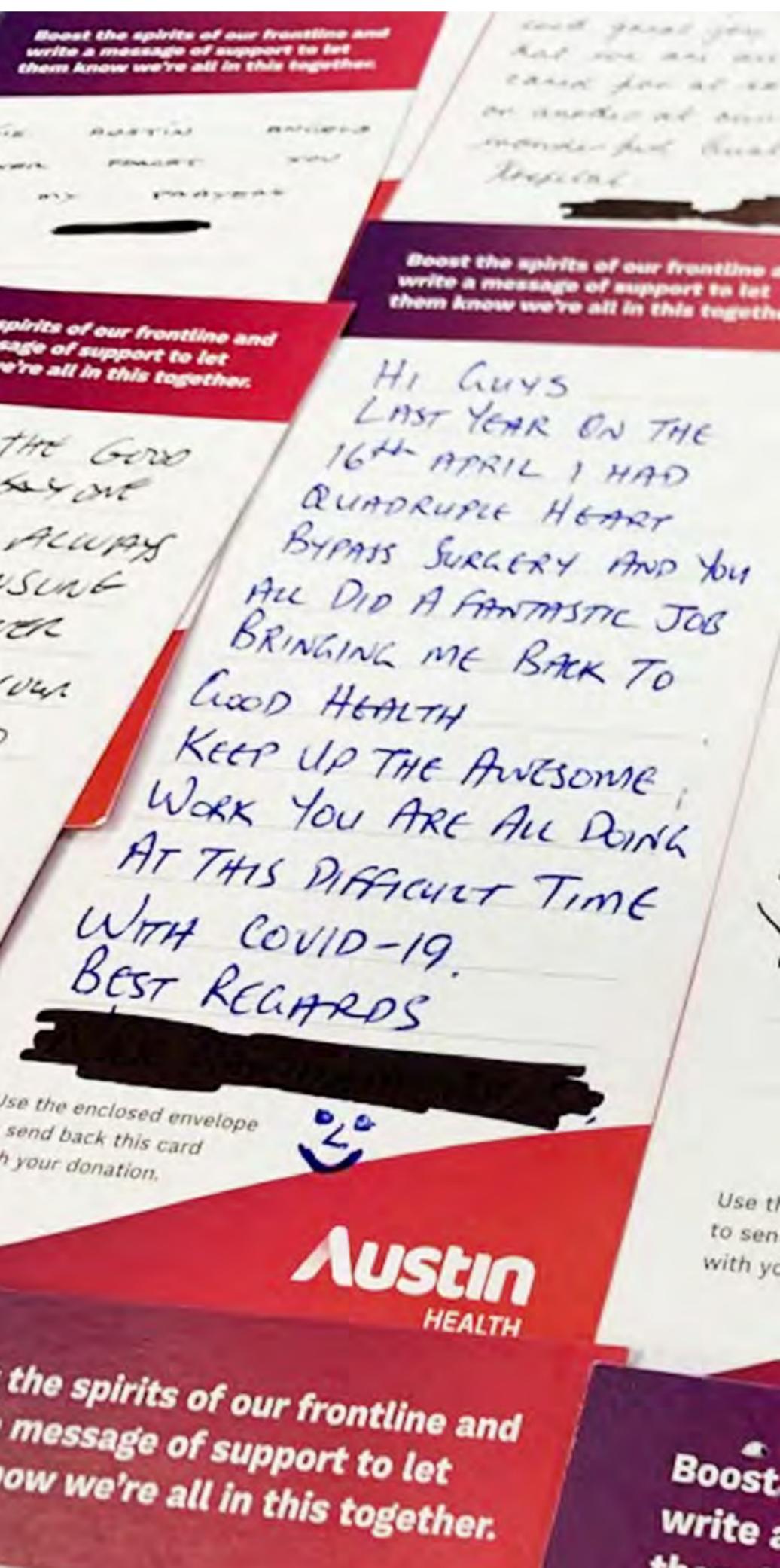
- COVID-19 Immune testing kits - allows immediate analysis of immune markers of a coronavirus patient to predict in real time which treatment offers the best chance of recovery.
- World first research & clinical trials - Infectious Diseases and ICU teams are researching to learn more about the virus, our reactions and best treatments. Support makes possible additional equipment and research fellows.

Equipment

- Oxygen saturation monitors - provides remote monitoring for respiratory patients, allowing them to stay in the comfort of their own home.
- Point of care mobile ultrasound equipment - providing quick and non-invasive diagnosis of heart issues.
- Simulation equipment - equipment to help staff learn and refine real life monitoring and treatment, particularly for those with coronavirus respiratory challenges.
- COVID-19 research equipment - including specialised freezers to store highly contagious coronavirus data samples.

Thank you!

Messages of support from the community help boost the spirits of our frontline. Thank you to the thousands of people who included messages with their donation and on our Facebook page. Don't forget to include a message on your donation coupon enclosed!



Yes, I'll join the frontline at Austin Health.

Title Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms (please circle)

Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

I'll become an Austin Ambassador with my
monthly gift of: \$ _____

OR

Enclosed is my
one-time donation of: \$ _____

Payment details

My cheque and/or cash gift is enclosed.

VISA Mastercard AMEX

Card number _____

Name on card _____

Expiry date ____ / ____ CVV _____

Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

I would like to find out more about

Leaving a gift in my Will to Austin Health **or**

I have already included Austin Health in my Will



Locked Bag 25, Heidelberg VIC 3084
03 9496 5753 | fundraising@austin.org.au

Austin Health values your privacy. We collect your personal information so we can contact you regarding your donations to Austin Health and our other programs that you may be interested in. To review our Privacy Policy visit austin.org.au/privacy-statement. If you prefer not to receive mail from Austin Health, please let us know by returning this coupon to the address above.



Austin Ambassadors

Making a difference

Austin Ambassadors are a special group of dedicated supporters who commit to giving \$10 or more each month.

Three reasons why you should donate monthly

- 1** Receive Austin Ambassador membership, offering behind the scenes updates and an exclusive invitation for you and a guest to an annual recognition event.
- 2** Make a difference year round, funding vital research, equipment and life changing programs for your hospital.
- 3** Easy to setup, safe, secure and can be changed at any time. No long term commitments.

“
Austin Health saved my life in the early 90s and brought my husband Bill back home to our family. As retirees we're intentional with our money and giving monthly was our way of saying thank you.
”

Joan - Wife, Grandma, Mum and proud Austin Ambassador

Joan and Bill celebrating Bill's 80th birthday.

