



The Royal  
Children's  
Hospital  
Foundation



150  
YEARS  
IN 2020  
The Royal  
Children's  
Hospital  
Melbourne



Oliver and Alisa Camplin-Warner with RCH patient Joshua Chalmers and parents Sharon and David.

# Finnan's Gift

2020/2021 FUNDRAISING GOAL

## WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

**We need your support to fund life-saving equipment for vulnerable patients with heart conditions at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH).**

By supporting Finnan's Gift, you're helping to fundraise for new surgical heater-cooler technology, a vital component in the highly specialised cardiac surgery undertaken at the RCH.

When a child undergoes heart surgery at the RCH, their life is in expert hands of the Cardiac Surgery Unit. As the national paediatric cardiac centre, the highly trained team of surgeons, nurses, anaesthetists and perfusionsists perform around 950 cardiac procedures each year, providing essential support for children with heart conditions, from new-born babies to teenagers.



When Joshua underwent cardiac surgery in 2019, heater-coolers were vital to his care

## MEET JOSHUA

**Joshua Chalmers was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, undergoing surgery on his tiny heart at just 17 hours old and again at 14 weeks.**

Joshua will need one more open heart surgery before the age of four in order to survive. Each surgery the team undertakes is high risk and requires extremely precise procedures. To operate on the heart, it needs to be slowed or stopped and the only way this can be done successfully is with a heart-lung machine. The machine takes over the function of these key organs and maintains blood and oxygen flow around the body. Having the best equipment and technology in the operating theatre is crucial in ensuring the team can continue providing the best care to critically-ill patients like Joshua.



Joshua's final hug with mum Sharon before his surgery

## LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT

**Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Finnan's Gift community, patients with heart conditions will have access to new life-saving equipment.**

The Cardiac Surgery team require two new heater-cooler units, which are key components of heart-lung machines. The heater-cooler units provide accurate control of both a patient's blood temperature and the temperature of their heart. Any incremental change in a patient's temperature during surgery could have disastrous impact on their little body.

Without a heater-cooler unit, surgeons would not be able to safely operate and risk causing life-threatening damage to the heart and other vital organs.

Associate Professor Steve Horton, Director of Perfusion at the RCH, operates the heart-lung machine during cardiac surgeries.

**"Our heater-cooler units are 20-years-old and have reached the end of their operational life. We need new heater-cooler units which feature the latest technology so we can work more precisely with the ability to adjust a patient's blood or heart temperature to a tenth of a degree,"** said Steve.

With your help, the cardiac surgery team can deliver the best care and save the lives of some of the sickest children in the country.