



# Impact Report 2023/24

aspenmedical  
foundation

1 July 2024





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# CEO Point of View

**I am thrilled to present our Annual Report for 2023/24 — a year of remarkable achievements and impactful initiatives. Our commitment to education, healthcare, and community empowerment has never been stronger.**

Craig Fitzgerald  
Aspen Medical Foundation CEO



We proudly awarded 15 scholarships, a 200% increase from the previous year. This growth reflects our unwavering dedication to enabling greater health workforce capacity amongst First Nations people.

Our diverse scholarship recipients embody our commitment to improving health outcomes for First Nations people. Education knows no boundaries, and we believe that it is a key indicator to assisting in closing the gap in healthcare for First Nations people. Many of our scholars have achieved remarkable milestones. We've witnessed graduations, job placements, and community contributions. Their journeys inspire us daily.

This year, our new collaboration with the Alcoa Foundation has provided prosthetics and critical training to Ukraine's war-affected population due to the surge in amputations — over 35,000 since 2022.

In June 2024, we partnered with the CAGES Foundation to provide support to the Rural Aboriginal Health Corps Program in the Northern Territory to build the health workforce capacity in additional remote Indigenous communities.

We remain committed to collaborating with the Snow Foundation, John James Foundation, and Hands Across Canberra to make a meaningful impact in our founding community of Canberra. These partnerships are invaluable in driving significant positive change.

2023/24 has also seen some changes to the Aspen Foundation Board. Our inaugural Chair Amelda Keys has stood down after more than 15 years in the role. Amelda will remain on the Board as a Director with Glenn. I would like to congratulate Sian Keys who was appointed the new Chair of the Aspen Medical Foundation. We also welcomed Paul Bird (Director), Dayle Mathews and Samantha Pearce continue as board observers. I would also like to acknowledge our Social Impact Manger, Melissa Broers whose enthusiasm and passion is the driving force behind growing our scholarships and telling our story to the wider Aspen Medical Group.

My deepest gratitude to our team, volunteers, donors, and partners. In 2009 the owners of Aspen Medical (Glenn and Amelda Keys) had a vision to establish a Foundation that would make a difference. This vision remains our focus.

# 2008

**Foundation  
established**

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# 57

**Programs funded**

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# 31

**Health scholarships  
for First Nations  
students**

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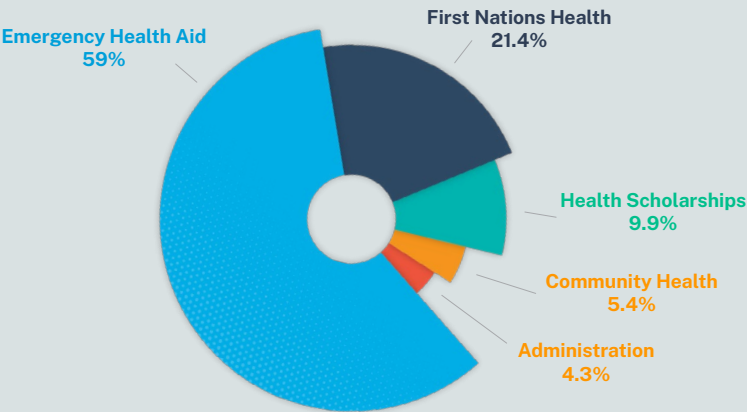
# \$1.7 million

**Total giving**

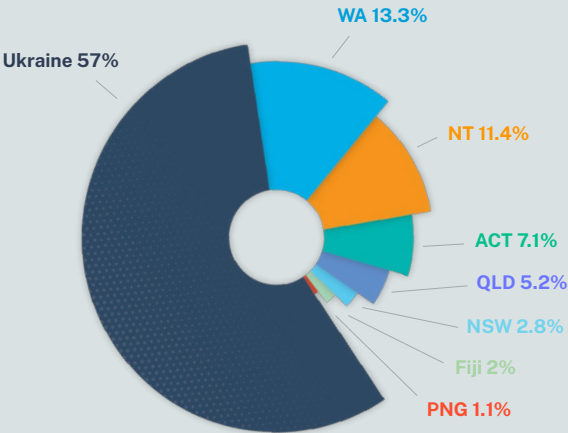


# Funding breakdown

## By sector



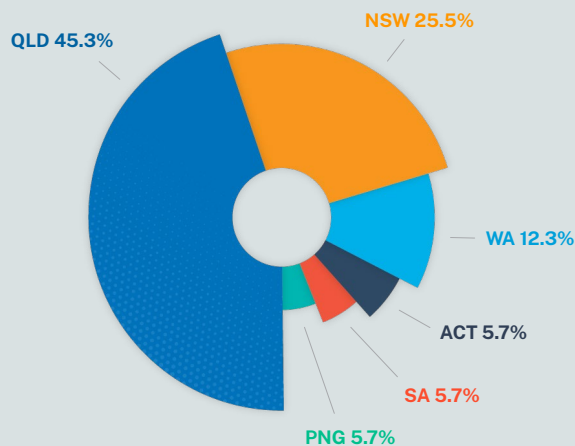
## By location



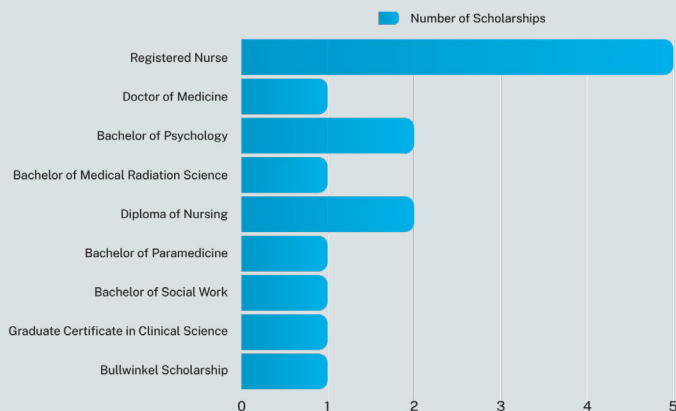
**Grants & Donations 95.7%**

# Scholarships

## By location



## By qualification studied



## By gender



# Programs Funded 2023/24

## Community



### Hands Across Canberra

**In the 2023 Hands Across Canberra, Canberra Foundations Collaborative grants round, the Aspen Medical Foundation funded:**

- MS Australia, Educational Day \$7,000
- Carers ACT, Laugh With Us program \$12,500
- Cerebral Palsy Alliance, multidisciplinary student placement development talent in the sector \$10,476
- Mental Health for Mob Aboriginal Corporation, Indigenous Mental Health Support \$17,500.



### Mental Illness Education ACT (MIEACT)

**3-year partnership, \$12,500 per year**

In 2023, the Aspen Medical Foundation signed a three-year partnership with Mental Illness Education ACT (MIEACT).

MIEACT is the primary local mental health and well-being education provider for workplaces, community groups and secondary schools across the Canberra region and surrounding area.





## First Nations Health



### Clean Slate – \$8,000

#### **Telle health detox program and D&A training @Goondir Aboriginal Health Service**

In 2023, the Aspen Medical Foundation partnered with Clean Slate Clinic to provide services in remote Queensland. Clean Slate Clinic is a healthcare social enterprise focussed on helping Australians keen to detox from alcohol, safely from home. Clean Slate Clinic's mission is to improve the health and wellness of individuals struggling with alcohol dependence and make withdrawal (detox) and recovery services accessible to every Australian who needs them, irrespective of postcode or socio-economic status.



### Malpa – \$102,000

#### **6 x Young Doctors for Life Programs (funded by Alcoa Foundation)**

In 2023, the Aspen Medical Foundation received a grant from the Alcoa Foundation to take the Malpa –young doctors for life program to Western Australia.

For thousands of years the Ngangkari –the traditional Aboriginal healers in Central Australia –have passed on their skills to young children. The idea of children being “doctors” is deeply embedded in Indigenous culture and life. Now this idea is getting a new injection of life with the Young Doctors project. The project employs respected community members to teach the traditional ways and the contemporary ways of creating healthy communities to Indigenous and non-Indigenous children. The children become health leaders to their younger peers and their community.



### **Moonshine – \$27,500**

#### **3rd Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) Documentary**

Aspen Medical Foundation has signed on to support a third (RHD) documentary, focusing on RHD in remote Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland. In collaboration with Moonshine Agency, we aim to eradicate RHD by 2030. The Aspen Medical Foundation has previously contributed \$100,000 to produce two documentaries, Take Heart and Deadly Heart highlighting the disease's impact on Indigenous Australian children.



### **Remote Area Health Corp (RAHC) – \$100,000**

#### **Provision of health services (Co-funded with Cages Foundation)**

The Aspen Medical Foundation has collaborated with the CAGES Foundation to sustain the provision of remote Indigenous Clinical Services in the Northern Territory through the Remote Area Health Corps (RAHC). This partnership ensures that RAHC can continue delivering essential health services in the more remote regions of Australia, addressing health service shortfalls in Indigenous communities.



## Emergency Response

### UNBROKEN

#### First Medical Union - Unbroken – \$500,000

**Prosthetics and pain management Ukraine (funded by Alcoa Foundation)**

Funded by an Alcoa Foundation grant, Aspen Medical Foundation works closely with First Medical Union, the largest health system in Ukraine and the leading rehabilitation site in the country. FMU's Unbroken project is at the forefront of providing essential services, including reconstructive surgery, orthopaedics, robotic prosthetics, and comprehensive physical, psychological, and psychosocial rehabilitation.

The grant from Alcoa Foundation will enable the procurement of quality prosthetic limbs, tailored to meet individual needs, and facilitate a comprehensive training program for Unbroken's rehabilitation professionals. This project goes beyond the immediate relief of physical disabilities; it is an investment in the long-term resilience and well-being of the affected individuals and their communities.

#### Prosthetic limb – \$17,500

**Prosthetic arm for 9-year-old girl that lost her arm in a bus crash in Fiji.**

# Scholarships



## Edith Cowan University – \$10,000 per year

3-year scholarship / Bachelor of Registered Nursing.

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## Australia Awards - PNG – \$10,000 per year

3-year Scholarship / Diploma of General Nursing.

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## The University of Newcastle Australia – \$5,000 per scholarship per year

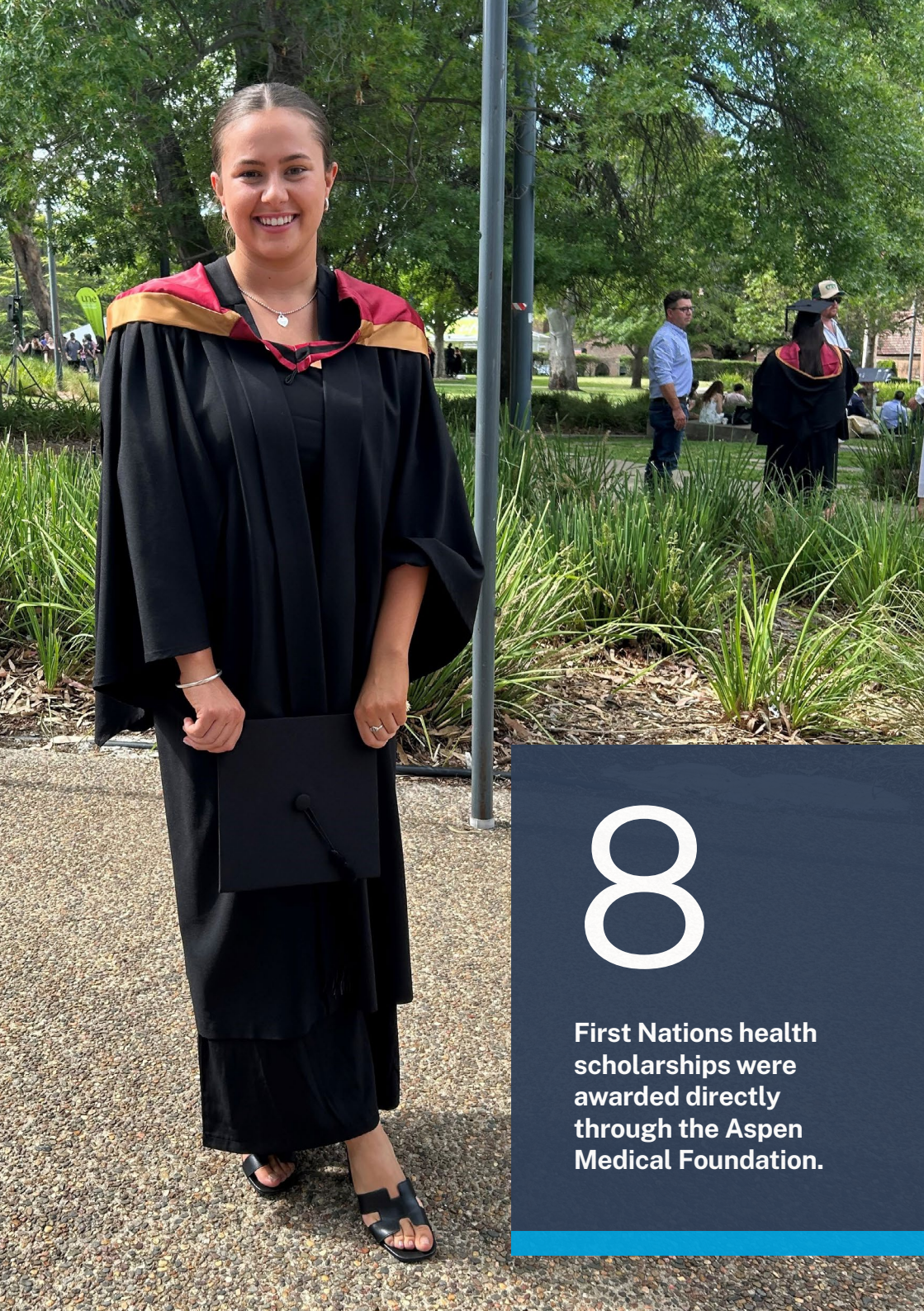
- 2 x Scholarship
  - Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Honours) (Diagnostic Radiography)
  - Bachelor of Psychological Science.
- 



## University of Canberra – \$5,000 per year

3-year scholarship / Bachelor of Registered Nursing.





8

**First Nations health  
scholarships were  
awarded directly  
through the Aspen  
Medical Foundation.**





**Tahni Derbin's journey from Enrolled Nurse to medical graduate highlights her dedication to healthcare, particularly in mental health and First Nations communities. Supported by the Aspen Medical Foundation, her story is one of resilience and profound impact.**



# Tahni Derbin: A journey of compassion and resilience

## From Enrolled Nurse to Doctor of Medicine

In late 2023, the Aspen Medical Foundation celebrated a remarkable achievement — the graduation of one of their scholars, Dr. Tahni Derbin, from Griffith University. Tahni's journey exemplifies dedication, resilience, and a passion for healthcare.

Tahni's path began as an Enrolled Nurse, where she discovered her love for studying and health. Her thirst for knowledge led her to pursue a Bachelor of Registered Nursing. But Tahni's ambitions didn't stop there. She went on to complete a Masters of Mental Health, driven by a desire to make a difference in her community.

It was during her Masters of Mental Health studies that the Aspen Medical Foundation first crossed paths with Tahni. Recognising her potential, they awarded her a scholarship — a pivotal moment in her journey. With their support, Tahni continued her education, eventually gaining acceptance into Griffith University's medical program.

Tahni's motivation stems from personal experiences, particularly the challenges faced by her family within the healthcare system. She noticed a deficiency in culturally sensitive care, which fuelled her commitment to improving healthcare outcomes for First Nations people. Her focus shifted toward mental health, especially for her Indigenous community, where child suicides remain a pressing concern.

Now, as a recent graduate, Tahni stands on the threshold of her medical career. Her studies have equipped her with the skills and understanding needed to provide optimal care to patients and her community. The Aspen Medical Foundation rejoices in her success, knowing that Tahni's compassion and resilience will shape the future of healthcare.



# Empowering lives through prosthetics: partnership with Unbroken

## Skripchak's journey to recover

### Empowering lives through philanthropy and innovation

Through a successful grant from the Alcoa Foundation, the Aspen Medical Foundation has been able to fund over 150 prosthetics and prosthetic components for victims of the Ukraine War.

Since the onset of the war in 2022, the number of service members suffering from amputations has surged to over 35,000.

Since February 2024, Lviv has become a major humanitarian hub, where those fleeing the war find refuge. Unbroken is a unique ecosystem of humanity that unites more than a dozen health projects in Ukraine. Unbroken provides a variety of services including treatment, prosthetics, physical and psychological rehabilitation, housing, and reintegration.



# Unbroken's Mission: Rescue, Rehabilitate, Prosthetics, and Reintegration

The project is implemented by the First Medical Union (FMU) of Lviv and aims to rescue, rehabilitate, provide prosthetics, and reintegrate Ukrainians in Ukraine.



Among the recipients is Andriy Skripchak, a courageous individual who lost his leg during the conflict. After receiving his prosthetic, Andriy worked closely with a specialist. The team at Unbroken provided Andriy with essential medications and all the components to make his prosthetic leg as comfortable and functional as possible. They also facilitated consultations with specialists, allowing for quicker and more effective resolution of his medical issues. Their support has been invaluable during his treatments and rehabilitation.

Three weekly sessions focused on physical exercises to adapt to the prosthetic and strengthen his muscles along with pain management techniques

and self-control methods have significantly improved his daily life. With this support, Andriy learned to use the prosthetic effectively and manage his medical issues.

Specialists at Unbroken create individual treatment plans based on the needs of each patient, significantly aiding overall recovery. This efficient use of time and resources accelerated Andriy's recovery. Andriy's determination paid off. He successfully restored his health and returned to an active life. Now, he actively participates in community events, supporting others facing similar challenges. His journey has increased awareness of the importance of quality medical care and rehabilitation in his community.

**Andriy's advice to others facing similar challenges is to always seek support. "Whether from loved ones or professionals, reaching out for help, even when it feels difficult it is essential," he said.**

Andriy's positive outlook and refusal to lose hope inspire us all.

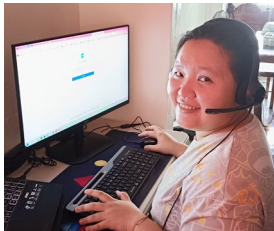
## UNBROKEN: A Testament to Ukrainian Resilience

Andriy Skripchak's story reminds us that compassion, innovation, and community support can transform lives. This also demonstrates the power of collaboration and philanthropy. Philanthropic grants allow the Unbroken team to do what they do best and help the people of Ukraine.

# Thank you

## Our employees helping us make a difference.

- Susan Pacey collects bottles at the Indo-Pacific Regional Headquarters in Brisbane and donates the profits directly to the Aspen Medical Foundation, with Aspen Medical matching the donation
- Ching Ching Lou and Dhammith Abesysuriya have been invaluable in assisting the Aspen Medical Foundation with all their finance needs
- Hannah Bortolotto has worked tirelessly with the Board on the re-branding of the Foundation and the new Aspen Medical Foundation website
- Eamonn Quinn has been instrumental in raising the profile of the Aspen Medical Foundation
- Employees donating straight from their pay has doubled
- Our Technology and Innovation and Corporate Support teams joined forces to sell pre-loved laptops and phones with all profits going to the Aspen Medical Foundation
- The team at our Indo-Pacific Regional Headquarters in Brisbane held a car boot sale with the profits being donated to the Aspen Medical Foundation
- Our Marketing team have assisted with all our marketing needs



# Thank you to our partners



Without the Alcoa Foundation's generosity, we would not be able to carry out the invaluable work with Unbroken in Ukraine, nor launch the Malpa project in Western Australia.



Cages Foundation share our strong passion for assisting First Nations people. Without their collaboration, we wouldn't have been able to assist the Remote Area Health Corps in maintaining much-needed health professional placements in remote communities in the Northern Territory.

The Aspen Medical Foundation has had a transformative year. We've changed our name, rebranded, updated our constitution, and launched a new website. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our partners.

**infinite.**

**SUPERCURIOUS**

*Arnold Bloch Leibler*  
Lawyers and Advisers

wherever you need us

CONTACT

2 King Street Deakin,  
ACT 2600 Australia

Phone +61 (0)2 6203 9500

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