

# Media Release

**The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP**

Leader of the House

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services



Tuesday, 4 February 2025

## IMPROVING CANCER OUTCOMES BY BACKING OUR RESEARCHERS

The Allan Labor Government is backing Victoria's world-class cancer researchers, delivering \$2.7 million to improve cancer outcomes and save lives across the state.

Marking World Cancer Day, Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas today announced six post-doctoral fellowships would be awarded in partnership with the Cancer Council Victoria.

The funding will support early-career researchers who have not yet received significant research funding to investigate the causes, prevention, detection, and supportive care or treatment of cancer.

In alignment with this year's theme, *United by Unique*, this year's recipients are focusing on a diverse range of research areas – highlighting that every experience of cancer is unique.

The recipients of the early-careers funding include:

- Using physical therapy to improve frailty outcomes for children with leukaemia – Dr S Grimshaw, Murdoch Children's Research Institute
- Preserving female fertility and long-term endocrine function following cancer treatment by inhibiting PUMA – Dr L Alesi, Monash University
- Investigating how parity can protect against triple negative breast cancer – Dr B Virassamy, University of Melbourne
- Blocking key protein interactions to treat mesothelioma – Dr J Troung, RMIT
- Taking the MYC out of colon cancer – Dr L Jenkins, Latrobe University
- Dissecting the role of type 2 innate lymphoid cells in gastric cancer – Dr R O'Keefe, La Trobe University

The investment is also supporting Cancer Council Victoria's Grants-in-Aid program to support the best and brightest to achieve breakthroughs in cancer research – by discovering and improving prevention, detection, treatment, and care for Victorians affected by cancer.

Supporting cancer research forms a critical component of the Victorian Cancer Plan 2024-2028 launched in September last year – with the new plan focused on improving cancer survival rates and achieving equitable health outcomes for all people living with the disease.

The Labor Government has invested more than \$400 million to achieve a cancer-free future – by improving diagnoses and survival rates, including \$100 million for advanced cancer treatments, \$50 million to build the Paula Fox Melanoma and Cancer Centre, and \$35 million for the Victorian Paediatric Cancer Consortium.

For more information, please visit [cancervic.org.au/research/grants](https://cancervic.org.au/research/grants).

### Quote attributable to Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas

*"Victoria has some of the best cancer survival outcomes globally, but there's more to do – that's why we're backing our world-leading researchers, whose dedication could see the next big breakthrough in treatment and care."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs Danny Pearson

*"We want a future that is cancer-free, and research is critical – from helping to improve early detection, clinical trials, or innovative, lifesaving new treatments."*

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