

# ROSCP Update for the Sporting Chance Cancer Foundation



# Acknowledgement of Country

The Victorian Integrated Cancer Services acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work.

We acknowledge and pay respect to their Elders, past and present.

**'Hope & Connection – Bunjil over Wurundjeri Land'**  
by Vegas Fitzmaurice, 2022





# The PICS Regional Outreach and Shared Care Program (ROSCP)

The Regional Outreach and Shared Care Program (ROSCP) drives and facilitates family-centred paediatric cancer care in Victoria, delivered as close to home as possible.

Since 2006, ROSCP has helped health services deliver cancer care closer to the homes of over **1000** regional and rural Victorian patients and their families.



The Sporting Chance Cancer Foundation (SCCF) has partnered with the RCH Foundation and the Victorian Paediatric Integrated Cancer Service (PICS) for over 15 years, aiming to enhance the journey for children diagnosed with cancer and their families in regional Victoria.

This enduring support has played a crucial role in sustaining the Bob Skilton Outreach Nurse program throughout this period. Furthermore, it has served as a foundation for the PICS to expand and develop the Victorian Regional Outreach Shared Care Program (ROSCP) into its current robust state.



# How are we getting care closer to the home?



Outreach clinics



Formal agreements to share care



Supportive care



Clinical education



Relationship & capacity building



Integrated survivorship care

# The ROSCP team



**Nicole Sirianni**

*ROSCP Clinical Nurse Coordinator*

- \* Identifies patients for the program
- \* Coordinates outreach clinic appointments
- \* Coordinates shared care appointments
- \* Prepares patient documentation



**Chris Williams**

*Nurse Consultant*

*Bob Skilton Regional Outreach Nurse*

- \* Delivers Outreach Clinics alongside the PTC Oncologist.
- \* Delivers staff training/education
- \* Supports clinical governance and program management

*Funded by the Sporting Chance Cancer Foundation*



**Jo Owen**

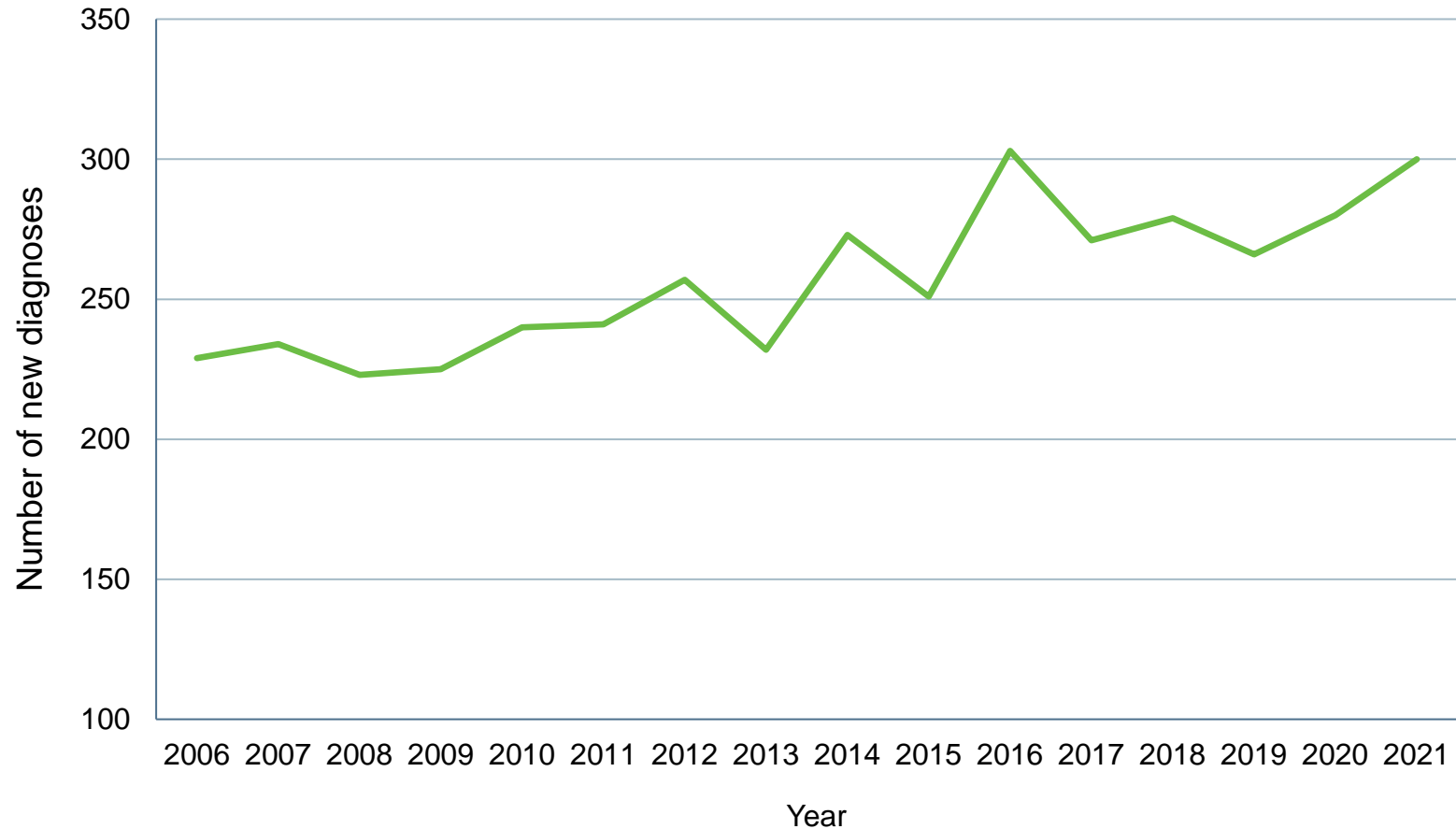
*ROSCP Clinical Nurse Coordinator (Albury-Wodonga based, 0.4 FTE)*

*Delivers Outreach Clinics alongside the PTC Oncologist.*

*Supports local families at the time of diagnosis and during local treatment*

*Funded by Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre Trust*

# Paediatric cancer care in Victoria



30% of children diagnosed with cancer live in regional or rural Victoria.

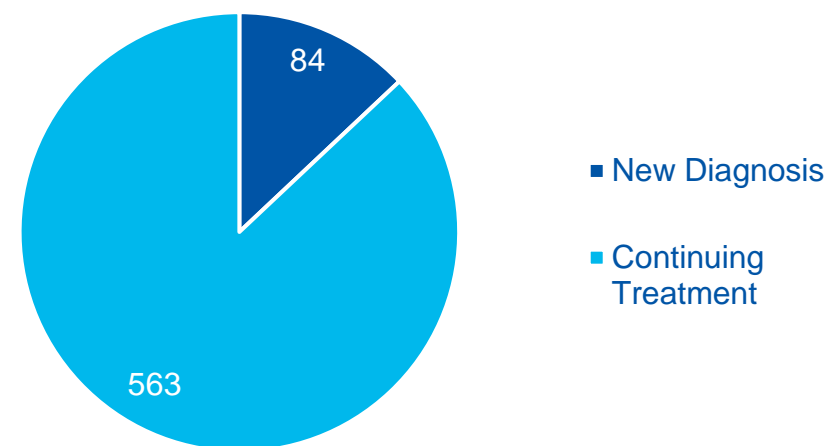


# Clinical Activity in 2022-23

- The program provided **635 outreach clinic appointments**, both in-person and via telehealth during **17 outreach clinics** across Victoria, delivered by the Bob Skilton Outreach Nurse and a paediatric oncologist in partnership with local paediatricians.

84 patients from regional areas were newly diagnosed with childhood cancer in FY 2022-23, representing 13% of the 647 regional families supported by the ROSCP during the year

Children & Adolescents supported in the program



# Education Delivery

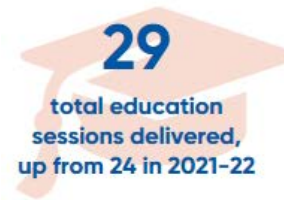
- A new module was developed to educate staff about how to support children during painful procedures.

This has been delivered by the Bob Skilton Outreach Nurse in collaboration with the RCH Child Life Therapist team.

- During quarter four of 2022-23, PICS evaluated the regional paediatric oncology education program. Over 60 staff responded to our survey.

The survey concluded that the education provided aligns with what is requested and needed by healthcare providers in regional services to provide effective paediatric oncology care within their scope of practice.

Over 90% of staff surveyed said they would recommend the education sessions to others.



Chris Williams, ROSCP CNC, delivering paediatric oncology education in Tasmania

# What ROSCP means for families



Less to juggle



Life can be more “normal”



Reduced burdens



More chance to be a family



Improved wellbeing





# What ROSCP means for families

*“Having access to the Regional Program has allowed less disruption and more normality to our everyday lives. Having appointments closer to home and even nursing care at home, has meant less travelling, less accommodation costs and overall less stress for our whole family. Most importantly, it has meant less time apart for our family and that is what really matters.” - Parent of a child with cancer*



*“The ability for Pippa to continue with local checkups is amazing. It means she only misses a few hours of school, instead of the two days if we had to travel to Melbourne each time. The ability to have treatment and checkups locally in Warrnambool takes the load off financially and reduces the stress for both me and Pippa, making appointments a much calmer experience.” – Parent of a child with cancer*



# Family experiences

*“The biggest issue we’ve had is getting blood tests done in the regional hospital... I wonder if training could be given to make this easier for regional kids? If RCH was just a bit closer we would drive down just for blood tests.” – Parent of a child with cancer*

*“Every time we had to drive down to the RCH we’d have to be there by 9:00, so we’d have to leave Bendigo at about 6:00 and it was a lot of travel. And if there was a complication or if Rowan needed a transfusion, it would be a really long day. We also had a young baby at the time, so it was much easier being able to be treated at home in Bendigo.” – Parent of a child with cancer*



*“It's been lovely to see the kids through their journey, and also the upskilling of the local nurses in oncology and to be able to increase our skills within the area and within the unit, and support the family through symptom management and even being able to do their weekly or monthly chemotherapy here.” - Albany Wodonga Health nurse*

*“The Regional Outreach & Shared Care Program is integral to giving rural kids in treatment a sense of normality. It gives them the ability to be at home with loved ones instead of hundreds of km's away. There really is no place like home.” – Parent of a child with cancer*



# How ROSCP supports Regional Health Services



Improved local workforce knowledge and skills



Improved service planning, uptake, and delivery for providers



Improved communication, coordination, and support for healthcare teams



Best practice care at scale, delivered locally

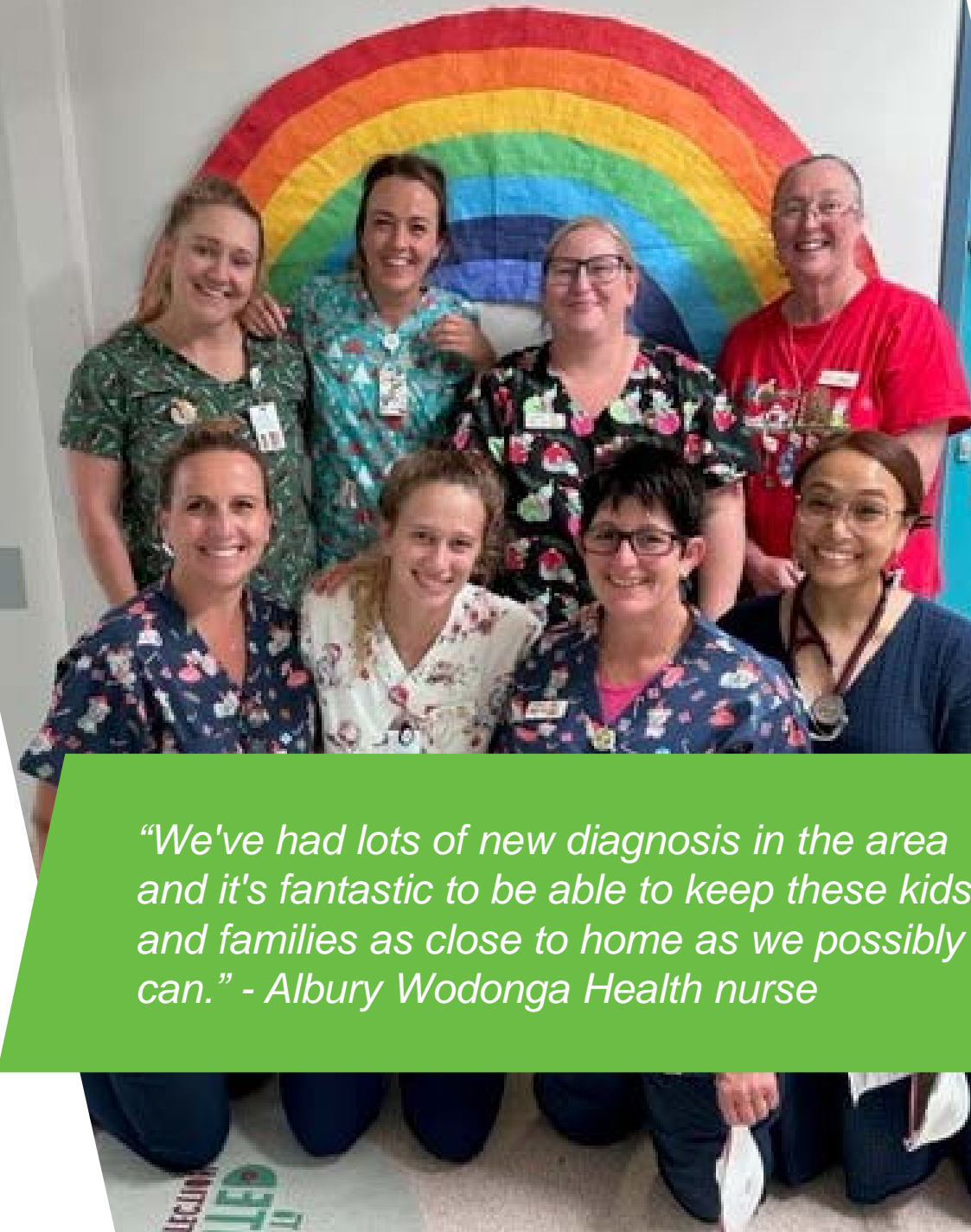




# How ROSCP supports Regional Health Services

*“We get to deliver chemo to children locally so they don't always have to travel to the tertiary centres in Melbourne.” - Bendigo Health nurse*

*“What we're looking forward to is just expanding what we can deliver here in partnership and making sure that each kid is getting the most appropriate care & support in the most appropriate spot. I think it's really fantastic for us to upskill and for families to engage regionally and be able to stay at home.” - Albury Wodonga Health nurse*



*“We've had lots of new diagnosis in the area and it's fantastic to be able to keep these kids and families as close to home as we possibly can.” - Albury Wodonga Health nurse*



# SCCF Regional Outreach Nurse Network

- In October of 2023, the Sporting Chance Cancer Foundation provided financial support for outreach nurses across Australia to attend the inaugural Lara Pitt SCCF meeting, hosted by Sydney Children's Hospital.
- It was a tremendous success, with a day packed-full of networking, learning from each other's experiences, collaborating, sharing the challenges and finding the solutions.
- It was also a great opportunity for the SCCF CEO Jack Hughes and Patrons Lara Pitt and Mark Taylor AO, to engage with the nurses that are supported within the program.
- The PICS and SCCF, with support from the RCH Foundation, are excited to host the next event here in Melbourne in October 2024!

# Together for better cancer care



The Victorian Integrated Cancer Services are supported by the Victorian State Government