



LIONS CORD BLOOD FOUNDATION INC.



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Lions Cord Blood Foundation Update March 2019

As of last December, the BMDI Cord Blood Bank has stored 13,863 cord blood units since inception in 1996 and involvement with the Lions Cord Blood Foundation over this period. Of that number 558 have been released in Australia and around the world. Each of these releases brings hope to someone with leukaemia and other types of cancers and blood disorders by providing a second chance at life for those like Ethan shown opposite.



Based at the Royal Children's Hospital, the BMDI Cord Blood Bank is one of three public cord blood banks in Australia, which together form the AusCord network of public cord blood banks, with the other banks in Sydney and Brisbane and access to more than 650,000 cord blood units around the world. Lions around Australia by donating over \$145,000 in the year ending

June 2018 to the Foundation have participated in this success as well as supporting a national digital database and early research using cord blood stem cells for the treatment of other diseases noted in Research below.

Research

Over the past 3 years Dr Elwood and a team of collaborators have made significant progress towards the establishment of a new type of stem cell bank from cord blood; these stem cells are called induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC). iPSCs are able to give rise to any cell in the body. Cord blood is an excellent source of starting material for making iPSCs in the laboratory. This is a long-term project with the ultimate aim to be able to provide an accredited and safe bank of stem cells from cord blood for new types of cellular therapies (such as retinal repair, muscle and nerve repair). A collaboration has been established with researchers at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience & Mental Health, who are undertaking experiments to show that the stem cell line the Bank has generated can also produce nerve cells which may be used for a clinical trial for the treatment of Parkinsons disease.

Lions Australian Grocery Grab 2019

Please join the Lions Cord Blood Foundation in our 14th year of this fantastic fundraiser by forwarding our 2019 Entry Form signed off by your Club Secretary by 26 July. The Foundation will get your tickets printed in time for the earliest Draw Date of 5 October 2019. While we recommend this date you may wish to nominate a later date. We point out that your Club does not pay for the tickets, however, we expect to receive back from the Club, 50% of the net profit with the balance going to a project of the Club's choice. Selling tickets at the local supermarket is great way to be involved in your community. Many clubs in the past have had great success in attracting new members this way. If your Club is interested you can fill out the Entry Form located on our website: lionsclubs.org.au/LCBF. Conditions of entry and project rules are also given. Please forward your entry to the email address on the form.



**By making a donation to the Lions Cord Blood Foundation Inc.
you are supporting our fight against Leukemia and other blood disorders.**

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