



THE BENEFICIARIES

Lions Australia is part of the worlds largest and most respected service club organisation, Lions Clubs International. More than 27000 Australians are part of the 1400 clubs that make up Lions Australia, each volunteering their time, energy and ideas to help make Australia a better place.

What are we proud of:

- Lions for 60 years has been their when disaster strikes with material support, backing up emergency services and a helping hand. Lions found more than \$750,000 to help the victims of Cyclone Larry and provided countless hours of community service.
- Lions support the forefront of medical research and services in diverse areas like childhood cancers, vaccines for cervical cancer, spinal cord repair, prostate cancer and preventable blindness.
- Lions provide services for people with a disability like walkers and other mobility aids for children with cerebral palsy, spectacles for people in developing countries, and assistance for the aged and infirm.
- Lions have a long history of greening communities with parks, gardens and improvements and partner with Planet Ark to support National Tree Day.
- Lions support youth leadership through our Youth of the Year program, Leo development, peace posters and Youth Exchange.

Lions fund their own infrastructure so every cent donated to Lions is used the way our donors intend.

Lions Australia has recently commenced a three year sponsorship arrangement with GM Holden to support our humanitarian activities through Australia. As part of this sponsorship we are pleased to announce a National Raffle to support Lions yhumanitarian causes.

The lead beneficiary of the raffle will be StepAhead Australia who are conducted world leading research into curing spinal cord injury. Information about StepAhead Australia is overleaf.

50% of funds raised will go to StepAhead Australia. The remaining 50% of funds will go to local Lions Clubs who sell tickets in the raffle, to support local humanitarian issues in their community.

100% of the proceeds of the raffle will directl benefit needy individuals within Australia.

Rob Oerlemans
Executive Officer
Lions Australia

Connections, influence, friendship, philanthropy - we serve our communities every day
<http://www.lionsclubs.org.au>



About StepAhead Australia

Formerly the Spinal Cord Society of Australia (SCSA) StepAhead Australia (SAA) is a not for profit, national healthcare organization with a professional management team, outstanding group of medical researchers and a world-class Clinical Advisory Board that channels all its efforts into research aimed at finding a cure for chronic spinal injury (SCI). SCI affects nearly 14,000 Australians and is considered a disorder of large unmet medical need – there is currently no cure and funding for research is low compared to the size of the disease burden!

SAA has been endorsed by the Federal Government as the peak body to coordinate research into chronic spinal cord injury (SCI) and to raise awareness of the disease burden of SCI here in Australia and redress these needs. This endorsement combined with the generous support of **Lions Australia** through the **Spinal Cord Fellowships** over many years allows us now to be on the verge of realizing our goal of clinical trials for chronic SCI.

The SAA approach is unique in that we aim to translate existing SCI research discoveries, in combination, from the laboratory into clinic trials as rapidly and ethically as possible. Our efforts at restoration of spinal cord function currently revolve around the use of adult stem cells, the use of a biological scaffold or bridge and incorporating anti-scar agents into the therapeutic mix. Initial laboratory results from our research teams using rat models show great promise and it is hoped we can begin clinical trials as early as mid 2009.

However successful implementation of these therapies into the clinic from the laboratory requires significant investment and funds. The **generosity of Holden and Lions Australia**, through the raffling of this latest Commodore, will go a long way to making these SCI clinical trials a reality and help us make a difference for those with SCI. There is no worthier cause for your support!

<http://www.stepahead.org.au>