



FUNDING LIFE-SAVING CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH

 cure kids

Isabella, who lives with cystic fibrosis, with Professor Bob Elliott, cystic fibrosis researcher

This year's Red Nose appeal was one of our most successful yet! Our goal was to raise \$1 million, and we are excited to announce that we have exceeded our target, helping us to fund even more vital child health research.

This would not have been possible without the generosity of so many New Zealanders, including hundreds of businesses, schools, community groups and individuals throughout the country. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

As you'll already know, Cure Kids exists to support critical child health research. Each year, we invite the research community to submit their bright ideas for paediatric research projects.

This year we received 27 proposals, of which 17 were shortlisted after evaluation by an independent assessment panel of experts. These 17 were then subjected to the gold-standard in assessment; international peer review. Applications will be advised in early December as to whether they have been successful in receiving funding, and we look forward to sharing these with you.

[Donate today to support child health research](#)

Professor Andrew Day, Chair of Paediatric Research at University of Otago, Christchurch

In addition to our annual granting round, Cure Kids proudly funds four University Chairs in perpetuity. Following Professor Brian Darlow's retirement, Cure Kids is pleased to announce that Professor Andrew Day has accepted the position of Chair of Paediatric Research at University of Otago, Christchurch.

Prof Day is a paediatric gastroenterologist based in Christchurch.

After training in Canada and working in Sydney for many years, he returned to New Zealand in 2009. Prof Day has extensive expertise in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) in children and adolescents, of which New Zealand has some of the highest rates in the developed world.

His programme of research focuses on specific aspects of IBD, and is leading to improved outcomes for young patients living with the condition.



[Learn more about Professor Day](#)

Funding to Help Parents Manage Children Experiencing Post-Quake Mental Health Issues



Cure Kids Platinum Partner, AccorHotels, have generously supported a Cure Kids initiative to develop a research-based intervention to assist parents of children aged between five and twelve suffering from post-earthquake trauma.

Whilst there have been many initiatives to support children and families following the earthquakes, it has been identified by a collaborative group comprising child and adolescent mental health services, Barnados, Methodist City Mission and others, that there is a particular gap in this age group. Various studies suggest that exposure to large-scale natural disasters is associated with enduring mental health problems in about 20% of children and adolescents.

With this new source of funding, Cure Kids supported Professor Sally Merry, who holds the Duke Family Chair of Child and Adolescent Mental Health at the University of Auckland, will work with collaborators in Christchurch to develop a web-based intervention, usable on tablets and phones. This will provide parents with engaging information and skills helping them to address the most important and common mental health problems in their children (namely, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, depression and disruptive behaviour).

[Read more about the intervention, which is due for release in 2019](#)

Meet Dr Jane Alsweiler

We asked Dr Jane Alsweiler what drives her to continue her pursuit in child health research:

"Eighty years ago, doctors found that giving preterm babies oxygen improved their breathing and colour so many preterm babies were given large amounts of oxygen. Ten years later it was found that too much oxygen makes preterm babies blind, so people stopped giving babies oxygen altogether.

Subsequently, it was discovered that the correct amount of oxygen prevents cerebral palsy and death; in fact for every baby whose vision was saved by not receiving oxygen it is estimated that 16 babies died or developed cerebral palsy. If the proper research had been done at any of these time points, then the lives of many babies would have been improved or saved. Evidence-based medicine (medical care based on good research) saves lives.

What can be more important than saving the life of a baby?"



[Meet Dr Alsweiler](#)

[Please get in touch](#) if you would like to know more about Cure Kids or any of these initiatives, or if you can, please support Cure Kids by [donating today](#).



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