

St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne

CAMPAIGN COMPASSION

Ambassador

Jonathon Welch



Dear Friend,

Accepting the role of St Vincent's Hospital Foundation Ambassador was a proud day for me.

St Vincent's Hospital is a real jewel in the crowns of our city and our state – an institution we can feel we have all had a role in creating.

After 125 years of unstinting and faithful service to patients and their families, the Hospital was deservedly rewarded with the highest accolade of being voted as one of the top 100 Hospitals in the World.

My personal connection with St Vincent's Hospital spans over a decade. The Hospital has always been there for many of the members of the award-winning Choir of Hard Knocks, of which I am now the Founding Patron. It has always opened its doors to the community, providing care, service, space and welcoming those who need it most.

I am delighted to launch the **St Vincent's Hospital Campaign Compassion** and to put my whole heart into encouraging everyone who is able, to give and to support our dedicated doctors and nurses.

Our collective hearts go out to people, especially this winter, who are suffering adversity during this pandemic and due to the lockdown.

We know that mental health issues have increased and that there are frail, ill people suffering greater levels of hardship than ever before.

The medical staff at St Vincent's have worked incredibly quickly and tirelessly to ensure that they are able to provide the best possible care to patients who are most vulnerable.

In some cases this has meant setting up mobile services so that they can see people at home, in aged care or in shelters – wherever they may be – to offer them medical care and to support and protect them from the threat of coronavirus.

COMPASSION

Definition - sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it.



While most of us have experienced some pain, sickness, loneliness and isolation in our lives, there are more of us in this situation than ever before. At St Vincent's we aim to reach out with expert medical care whenever and wherever it is needed.

It is also essential that we provide emergency aid, such as warm blankets, warm clothing, bedding and other basic necessities for patients in need.

We know that we are all in this together, and that together we can achieve great things and alleviate enormous suffering.

The Sisters of Charity first set up the Hospital 125 years ago in a small house on Victoria Parade in Fitzroy and could not have imagined what wonderful foundations they were laying for the future.

From these humble beginnings, it has always been the people of Melbourne and Victoria, who through their gifts large and small, created the incredible world-class hospital we have today.

From day one, the foundations of the Hospital were embedded in the central values of compassionate care married with medical brilliance. Nothing has changed.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to thank you for being part of this incredible St Vincent's family.

I send my love from my family to yours. Please remain safe and well.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Jonathon

Dr Jonathon Welch AM

St Vincent's Hospital Foundation Ambassador

Founding Artistic Director and Patron

Choir of Hard Knocks

Australian of the Year – Local Hero 2008

ANZAC of the Year – 2009