



# Sister Bridget Clancy Scholarship for the Empowerment of Women

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An update prepared for the  
Sisters of St John of God

May 2022



ST JOHN OF GOD  
Foundation

Transforming health care for **humanity**

# Thank you for your support



## Dear Sisters

**On behalf of all our caregivers at St John of God Health Care, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Sisters of St John of God for your philanthropy and leadership. Your work and service is already an inspiration to many of us who are privileged to serve and walk the path you have paved in revolutionising health care in Australia.**

The establishment of the Sister Bridget Clancy Scholarship for the Empowerment of Women in your 150th year is another example of your service, vision and commitment to support our community.

Your philanthropic investment unlocks the potential of dedicated caregivers, enabling them to truly change their lives and continuing to make a difference. These scholarships will have an impact far beyond the life of the individual and can change the lives of their families for generations to come. When someone believes in their abilities to make positive change for themselves and others, it is a gift that goes beyond any financial assistance alone that could be offered. These scholarships instil that sense of belief in caregivers.

Your faith and support provides such encouragement to our caregivers. I take this opportunity to personally thank you for giving hope and for continuing to inspire us all. We are truly honoured to be the recipients of this incredibly powerful scholarship and your philanthropy.

**Dr Shane Kelly**  
Group CEO  
St John of God Health Care

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## Quotes from Leadership

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*“I would like to express my gratitude to the Sisters of St John of God, who made the generous gift to enable this scholarship to be made available. We are very appreciative of the Sisters’ strong support and commitment to keeping the development of our female caregivers an ongoing priority.*

*This is a significantly higher number of recipients than we had anticipated, and is a direct reflection of the exceptional calibre of the caregiver applicants we received.*

*Our clinical caregivers are on the frontline providing consistently high quality care to our patients and clients. These scholarships reward and recognise performance excellence and support skills development.*

*Each one of our successful recipients went through a careful selection process and demonstrated their commitment and dedication to both their studies and their ongoing strong contribution to St John of God Health Care.”*

**Dr Shane Kelly, Group CEO, St John of God Health Care**

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***“The Sister Bridget Clancy scholarship for the empowerment of women through education, supports career development and professional growth, and continues the legacy and vision of the courageous women who founded St John of God Health Care.”***

**Carla Bonev,  
Director, Group Workforce, St John of God Health Care**



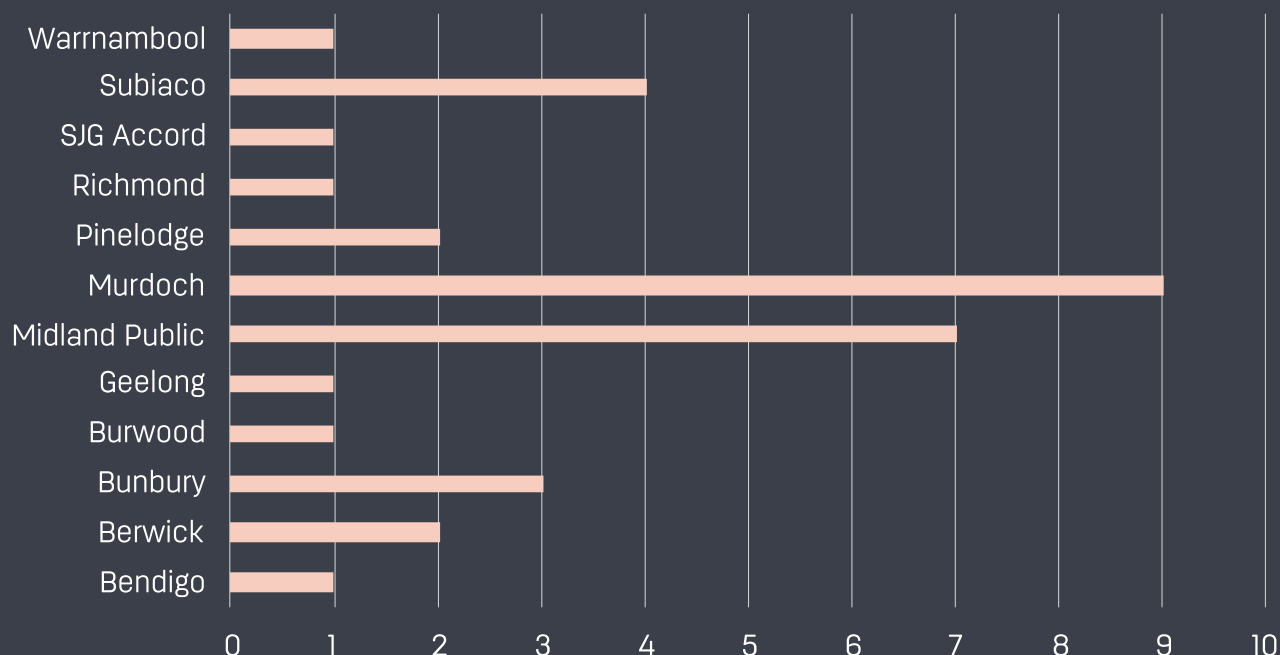
# Information update

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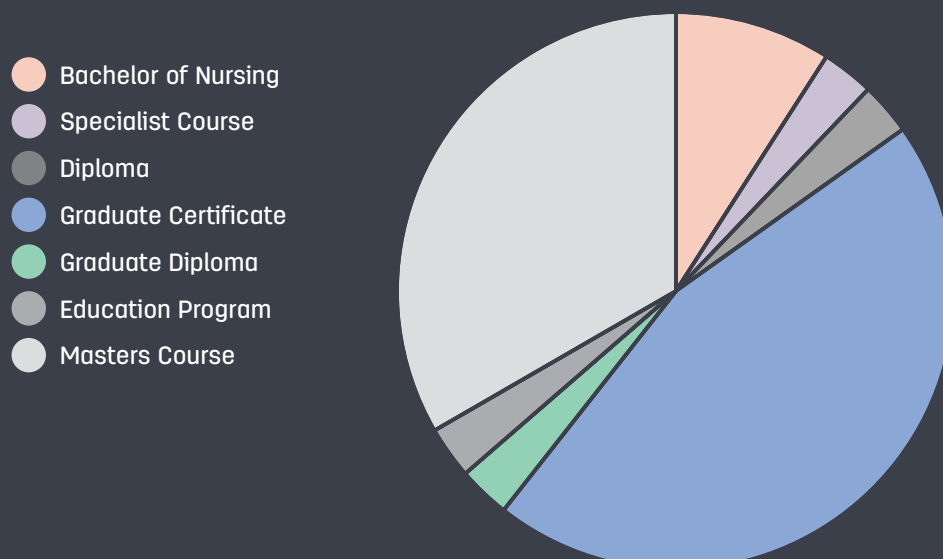
- 38 applications received
- 33 scholarship recipients announced on International Women's Day, 8 March 2022
- Empowering caregivers to continue their study with \$147,325 of scholarships (50% of course fees)

## Scholarships awarded

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## Courses supported through the Sister Bridget Clancy Scholarship for the Empowerment of Women





# Heartfelt gratitude

## from some of our scholarship recipients

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### **Courtney Langdon**

**Clinical Educator, St John of God Geelong Hospital**  
Enrolled in Master of Nursing (Critical Care)

*“Working as a nurse throughout the pandemic has been a challenge, but the community support has been priceless. As nurses, we all strive to be engaging, empathetic, adaptable and patient every day, however, the pandemic with all its uncertainty and chaos has left many of us feeling depleted.*

*I believe the community is aware of this struggle, as the appreciation communicated through thank you cards, and acts of kindness are restorative and validating.*

*Receiving the scholarship eases the financial burden of post graduate study, which I am thankful for, and being a successful applicant specifically for a scholarship focused on the empowerment of women through education is a legacy I am extremely proud to be a part of.*

***Completing this study will help me develop my role as a clinical nurse educator and support St John of God Geelong Hospital to grow its nursing workforce, to improve patient care through best practice and quality nursing and maintain workforce competency and accountability in practice.”***



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### **Laura Lombardo**

**Registered Nurse, St John of God Bunbury Hospital**  
**(Comprehensive Cancer Centre)**  
Enrolled in Graduate Certificate in Cancer Science

*“I have found that oncology is a specialised area that is always evolving with so much to learn, so I’m excited to receive this scholarship which will ensure I have the skills and knowledge to provide current, best practice and high-quality cancer care to our community.*

***This study will enable me to support my colleagues throughout the hospital and within the cancer team.***

*Our patients choose us for treatment and I feel I owe it to them to ensure they receive the best cancer nursing care.”*

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**Joice Zachariah**

**Intensive & Cardiac Care Unit  
and Clinical Nurse Educator,  
St John of God Midland Hospital**  
Enrolled in Graduate Certificate  
Health Professions Education

*"My passion for nursing, in particular in the intensive care setting, comes from being able to support another human at their most vulnerable time.*

***I am so grateful for this opportunity and feel blessed to be a part of this organisation that supports the careers of women.*** The scholarship provides me with financial support so I can invest my time in my studies while also presenting the opportunity to network with fellow scholarship recipients and share the journey of pursuing higher education.

*The most rewarding aspect of being a nurse is to be able to support another human in their most vulnerable state and to celebrate their recovery, or preserve their dignity when dying and supporting their loved ones through their most difficult times."*



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**Claire Chinnery**

**Clinical Nurse Manager, St John of God Subiaco Hospital**  
Enrolled in Diploma of Leadership and Management

***"I'm very grateful to be awarded the scholarship so that I can continue expanding my skills and knowledge, and increase my confidence in managing and leading as a nurse.***

*The course will also help me support the development of junior staff in the Intensive Care Unit.*

*Working in intensive care throughout the pandemic has been challenging but it highlighted the importance of strong leadership and working together as a team.*

*The caregivers in our unit have been amazing, participating in training and education, adapting to the challenges of working in personal protective equipment (PPE) and working together as a team to solve problems.*

*I think the pandemic has raised the profile of nursing in general and intensive care nursing specifically. However, it is also important to remember that an intensive care bed is not just a bed and a ventilator, but a team of highly skilled nurses, as well as doctors and other allied health professionals."*







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**Karen Benson**

**Physiotherapist, St John of God Warrnambool Hospital**

**Enrolled in Master of Physiotherapy – Pelvic Health**

*“I am so very thankful for the opportunity that the Sisters are able to provide, and I am proud to work for an organisation that recognises the need to support women and further education.*

*This scholarship allows me to continue my postgraduate studies, enhancing my skills and knowledge to provide the best possible pelvic floor physiotherapy care to patients in the southwest of Victoria. I pride myself on being an excellent physiotherapist who provides compassionate individualised care. I believe if I wish my patients to improve, I need to continue to improve myself.*

***Finally, I hope to be a role model for other girls and women, both in health care and the general community, by demonstrating that education is something to be proud of and striving for ongoing knowledge is possible and should be celebrated.”***

## Quotes from other scholarship recipients

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*“Many thanks again for your kind consideration, and I am delighted to be successful and look forward to upcoming studies.”*

***“I am very grateful for the offer. It is a privilege and a blessing to me.”***

*“Receiving this scholarship motivates me to maintain my continuing education and complete my post-graduate degree program successfully. I thank you for your tremendous support and co-operation.”*

# 2022 Scholars

## Sister Bridget Clancy Scholarship for the Empowerment of Women

Name	Role	Hospital/service	Area of study
Sarah Perry	Associate Nurse Unit Manager; Registered Nurse Gr 2 Midwife	Bendigo	Lactation Education Program
Janelle Ward	Enrolled Nurse	Berwick	Bachelor of Nursing
Lissy Mathew	Critical Care Registered Nurse	Berwick	Graduate Certificate in Critical Care
Emma Jenson	Registered Nurse	Bunbury	Graduate Certificate in Diabetes
Natasha Larsen	Clinical Nurse-Infection Prevention and Control	Bunbury	Graduate Certificate Diabetes
Laura Lombardo	Registered Nurse	Bunbury	Graduate Certificate in Cancer Science
Helena Hugn	Pharmacist	Burwood	Graduate Certificate in Clinical Pharmacy
Courtney Langdon	Clinical Educator	Geelong	Master of Nursing
Nicole Newell	Clinical Nurse Consultant	Midland Public	Master of Cancer Science
Mary Theophilus	Head of Department, General Surgery	Midland Public	Master of Cancer Science
Sarah Bonasera	Clinical Nurse	Midland Public	Graduate Certificate Critical Care Nursing
Ciara Delaney	Registered Nurse	Midland Public	Graduate Certificate Nursing (ED)
Jessica Bartley	Nurse Manager	Midland Public	Graduate Certificate Health Leadership
Joice Zachariah	Intensive & Cardiac Care Unit Clinical Nurse Educator	Midland Public	Graduate Certificate Health Professions Education
Maria Foundas	Consultant Aged Care & Rehabilitation	Midland Public	Master of Bioethics
Rajalakshmi Poongavanam	Registered Nurse	Murdoch	Master of Clinical Nursing (Critical Care Nursing – Intensive Care Specialisation)
Soumya Nair	Registered Nurse	Murdoch	Graduate Certificate in Critical Care Nursing
Katie Burgin	Registered Nurse	Murdoch	Graduate Certificate Critical Care Nursing
Tayla Parsons	Registered Nurse	Murdoch	Master Clinical Nursing (Oncology/Haematology)
Bonnie Letch	Registered Nurse	Murdoch	Graduate Diploma Midwifery
Ashleigh Murray	Clinical Nurse Specialist	Murdoch	Graduate Certificate in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Practice
Michaela BATTERY	Clinical Nurse; Clinical Nurse Specialist	Murdoch	Graduate Certificate in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Practice
Catherine Riordan	Clinical Nurse Specialist; Registered Nurse Casual	Murdoch	Continence Nurse Specialist Course
Joyce Chumba	Patient Care Assistant	Murdoch	Bachelor of Nursing
Beth Lewis	Registered Nurse	Pinelodge	Master Mental Health Nursing
Lorenie Marquez	Associate Nurse Unit Manager	Pinelodge	Master Clinical Nursing
Gurinder Kaur	Registered Nurse	Richmond	Graduate Certificate in Drug and Alcohol Nursing
Natalie Koehler	Quality, Risk and Compliance Manager	SJG Accord	Master Disability and Inclusion
Louise Los	Registered Nurse	Subiaco	Graduate Certificate Critical Care
Alana Castle	Registered Nurse	Subiaco	Master of Midwifery
Kelzang Choden	Registered Nurse	Subiaco	Bachelor of Nursing
Claire Chinnery	Clinical Nurse Manager	Subiaco	Diploma of Leadership and Management
Karen Benson	Physiotherapist	Warnambool	Master of Physiotherapy - Pelvic Health



# Recognising your support

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St John of God Health Care and the Foundation sincerely thank the Sisters of St John of God for your philanthropic leadership and vision. The Sister Bridget Clancy Scholarships are transformative for our caregivers who are recipients and will have a direct impact on delivery of high quality care to our patients.

We welcome a discussion or the opportunity to answer any of your questions. Please feel welcome to contact Shane or Bianca at the details below:

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