

# The Link

## Silverchain Foundation Newsletter

### Thank you for your generosity

Because of donors like you, Silverchain Foundation has been able to support projects that make care safer, more personal and more connected for people across Australia.



Over the past 12 months, your support has helped progress major innovations across Silverchain. Our Research and Innovation team worked with more than 1,000 clients, carers and staff to codesign and test new service solutions, including digital and virtual models of care. This collaborative approach ensures that every project we invest in is grounded in lived experience and real needs.

Thanks to your support, we continued world-first research into the mental health of older people, completing the EMBED pilot and expanding a clinical trial exploring depression and anxiety in older Australians. We also designed and launched the Foundations in Mental Health course, which we've been able

to share with the aged care sector for free, thanks to your generosity, to help all aged care workers support people's mental health. There's an update on our EMBED pilot on page three in this edition of The Link.

You also helped us pioneer new ways to reduce social isolation. Our virtual lunch club pilot brought people together, creating meaningful moments of connection and companionship. We're also advancing evidence based care for complex wounds, which have a significant impact on people's quality of life.

While we can't showcase every project in The Link, please know that your support powers an extraordinary breadth of work and delivers better home care for more people.

In 2026, we look forward to sharing more, especially as we increase our focus on supporting carers, whose wellbeing is central to loved ones they care for.

Thank you for shaping the future of care with us.

Yours sincerely,



**Bronwyn Perry**  
Executive Director,  
Silverchain Foundation

# Celebrating our 2025 Silverchain Foundation Scholarship winners

As a Silverchain supporter, your donations support scholarships that help shape the future of care.

We are proud to announce the recipients of the 2025 Silverchain Foundation Scholarships, made possible thanks to you. Each recipient has been chosen for their commitment to advancing care, leadership, and innovation in our community.

The Silverchain Foundation Scholarships support our people to pursue further study in fields that will make a meaningful difference to our clients and communities. This year's recipients represent a diverse range of disciplines, from clinical excellence and aged care innovations, to palliative care, dementia care and wound care, to health leadership, care governance and clinical education.

Their commitment reflects Silverchain's values of compassion, integrity, and a drive for continuous improvement.

One such recipient is Tavonga Rhizhibowa, a Dementia Wellbeing Specialist, whose passion for dementia care drove her to apply to study a Masters of Dementia.

**“Having worked closely with clients and families living with dementia at Silverchain, my passion for improving dementia care has grown stronger,” Tavonga said. “I look forward to learning how I and Silverchain can create the benchmark for excellence and compassion in this vital area.”**

Others like Training and Education Lead Kate Fuller see their study contributing to the entire Silverchain team. “I want to position Silverchain as the sector leader in workforce education and development, ensuring our people are skilled, confident and supported to deliver the highest standard of care,” Kate said.

The Foundation Scholarships provide more than just financial support; they are an investment in the future of care at home. By supporting our people to grow, learn, and lead, your donations help ensure Silverchain remains at the forefront of care for all Australians.

**Thank you for creating opportunities for our carers and clinicians to take on new skills to better care for the community.**



Tavonga Rhizhibowa



Kate Fuller

## 2025 Silverchain Foundation Scholarship Recipients:

- Kate Fuller**
- Shaz Burrows**
- Kirsty Wallis**
- Stephanie Mann**
- Louise McAvennie**
- Tania Barnes**
- Tavonga Rhizhibowa**
- Aaron Burt**
- Deanne Craske**
- Glenn Stroud**
- Michelle Holmes**
- Uttara Ravisankar**
- Sharita Medell**

# Faith's EMBED journey, supported by you

As a busy retiree, Faith enjoys volunteering in the community and occasionally working as a celebrant. When Faith was diagnosed with low vision, her life changed dramatically.

"I've always been the optimist. I've never been one to have problems. I've been the one who has helped other people solve their problems, and then suddenly, I was on the other side," Faith shared.

Faith began receiving some aged care services, and her care team helped her to recognise that she was struggling with the impacts of her diagnosis more than she thought. Faith was offered the opportunity to participate in the EMBED program, the world-first model of care for older people with low mood, depression and anxiety. EMBED has been developed by Silverchain's mental health experts thanks to the generosity of Silverchain Foundation donors. It's a tailored, evidence-based model of care designed to improve aged care recipients' mental health

"I realised I was struggling more than I first thought - that I did have challenges with my mental health that I needed help with,"



Faith shares. "The EMBED team were easy to talk to and came up with great ideas. When I said I was struggling socially as I could no longer drive, they suggested alternate transport options and helped me explore them."

Your support as a Silverchain Foundation donor gave Faith the care she didn't know she needed at the time. Silverchain's EMBED program has been developed through collaboration between our mental health experts, our care teams, and top universities. But supporting older people with their mental health and wellbeing has been made possible by you.

"Participating in the EMBED pilot helped me open my mind

to things I hadn't considered, because previously I hadn't had to. The tactics the team used were spot on. I want anyone who is older and on their own to have access to a program like it. It benefited me so much," Faith said.

Your generosity means more than 1,000 Silverchain employees have now been trained in how to identify whether someone might benefit from mental health support.

**In 2026, your support means we can offer hundreds of Silverchain clients the opportunity to take part in the EMBED program – to feel better, regain their independence, and enjoy the hobbies and activities they used to. Thank you.**

# Your donations make the world of difference

Through Silverchain Foundation's Silver Hand program, donations from generous people like you provide a helping hand to those in need.

Silverchain clinical nurse Liz Anderson is used to providing clinical care to improve the quality of a person's life, but when she had a client who was also facing financial hardship, Liz wanted to go above and beyond.

Liz applied for Silver Hand support for her client. The Silver Hand program gives us the opportunity to provide urgent, short term financial relief to vulnerable clients.

Liz has been caring for her client Frank for many years.

"I've seen Frank struggle with his health for a long time. He lives alone with no family support and is very isolated and vulnerable," Liz said.

Frank has several comorbidities that complicate his health and mean he has significant medication needs. His pension barely covers his expenses.

**"Recently, I felt like Frank was really at a low point. I knew he needed help," Liz said.**



"His bed and TV were broken, his phone screen was broken, and he had been having issues with neighbours in the housing trust accommodation he lives in. On the pension, he couldn't afford to pay for the repairs as well as his groceries, so I asked for support from Silver Hand for Frank."

Through the generosity of this donor-funded program, Frank received a \$300 food voucher. It meant he could purchase fresh, nutritious food that would support his health, and also pay for some of the repairs.

**"Frank was so thankful, but it was more than just the immediate help the voucher provided. It showed him that there are people thinking of and caring for him," Liz said.**

For Frank, knowing that someone cares enough to apply for this support made a significant difference.

Thank you for supporting people like Frank. Your generosity is making a meaningful difference for some of our most vulnerable clients.

To donate or find out more about our Silver Hand program, please contact [fundraising@silverchain.org.au](mailto:fundraising@silverchain.org.au) or call **1300 650 803**.



# A shared belief in dignity and care

With a strong focus on improving the quality of life for people as they age, the McCusker Charitable Foundation is supporting the Silver Hand program, providing compassionate assistance for those facing hardship.

A \$100,000 gift from the McCusker Charitable Foundation has empowered Silverchain's care teams to support vulnerable clients in ways that traditional funding and care models cannot.

Through this collaboration, clients have been able to access essential items and support that restore not only their dignity but also their sense of hope. Whether it's urgent medications, basic household goods, or emergency accommodation, the Silver Hand program ensures that no one is left behind when they face difficult times.

Tonya McCusker AM of the McCusker Charitable Foundation said it is vital to support all aspects of people's health and wellbeing, not just their physical health needs.

"When the Silverchain team explained how Silver Hand works, we understood the immediate benefits to the very many older people Silverchain supports across Western Australia," Tonya said.

"The Silver Hand grants mean Silverchain's care and clinical teams can provide urgent short-term financial support for their

clients when all options have been exhausted. It's a simple way to improve people's quality of life and give them greater dignity by meeting their social and economic needs as well as their physical health needs."

Bronwyn Perry from Silverchain Foundation said this support is particularly important for those in regional communities where support can be scarce.

"The Silver Hand program enables our care teams to identify who needs extra support, which means that help can be delivered quickly and respectfully, often when there is nowhere else to turn,"

Bronwyn said.

"The future of this program has been secured thanks to the

generosity of the McCusker Charitable Foundation. Silver Hand started many years ago, supported by hundreds of individual supporters including many of Silverchain's own staff. Today we're able to support dozens of vulnerable people each year to ensure they're not going without essential food, medication and utility services."

If you would like to support the Silver Hand program or would like more information on the impact that your donations are making, please call **1300 650 803** and ask to speak with the Silverchain Foundation team.



Tonya and  
Malcolm McCusker

# Your generosity supports better mental health for older Australians

Thanks to your generous donations, Silverchain is sharing a vital training resource with the aged care sector for free, to help support older people's mental health.

The *Foundations in Mental Health* online training program is already equipping countless aged care workers across the country with essential skills they need to better support the mental health and wellbeing of older Australians living at home.

Improving mental health is a national priority, yet our research shows that many older people receiving care at home are experiencing increasing mental health challenges. Aged care workers have historically had very limited access to mental health training.

**Your support is helping us change that by giving all aged care workers free access to this training to:**

- **Recognise the signs of depression and anxiety.**
- **Feel more confident supporting clients with mental health concerns.**
- **Reduce stigma and encourage early detection and referral to mental health specialists.**

The training was developed as part of Silverchain's Enhanced Management of home-Based Elders with Depression (EMBED) model of care, researched and developed by Silverchain's care teams and mental health experts.

Already, more than 1,000 of Silverchain's employees have completed the training.

We've also introduced routine mental health screening and evidenced-based treatment through the EMBED model of care, with strong engagement and promising outcomes.

**We have been able to share this training, for free, with the rest of the aged care sector thanks to your generous support.**

**By supporting Silverchain's research, innovation and education, you're empowering our care teams - and aged care workers across Australia - to provide better mental health support for older people in their homes.**



# The impact of Silver Links supporters: enhancing palliative care at home

Silver Links are an extraordinary group of people who have left a gift in their Will to support Silverchain.

The incredible generosity of Silver Links supporters helps to improve the high quality care our nurses and allied health clinicians provide in Silverchain's Specialist Community Palliative Care service.

Silverchain's Director of Palliative Care Clinical Operations Andrew Allsop has expressed his team's gratitude for the direct impact our Silver Links donors provide for people receiving palliative care at home.

**“At Silverchain, we have the privilege of caring for people in their homes during some of the most difficult times of their lives. Because of generous support from Silver Links, we have been able to implement meaningful support for grieving loved ones and provide a higher level of care to our clients,” Andrew said.**

**“We are so thankful to the Silver Links who have helped us continue to improve our Specialist Community Palliative Care Service. Your generosity directly benefits our palliative care clients and their loved ones.”**



By leaving a gift in your Will, you can help our care teams care for others on their end of life journey. Your legacy shapes the next generation of care.

To discuss becoming a Silver Link supporter by leaving a gift in your Will to Silverchain or if you would like more information on how you can do this, including a copy of our brochure **‘Leaving a gift in your Will: a legacy of care’**, please call us on **1300 650 803** and ask for Martin Carolan in the

Foundation team. Alternatively, you can email Martin directly at [bequests@silverchain.org.au](mailto:bequests@silverchain.org.au).



Martin Carolan

# Ways you can give

Your generosity helps us continue our work to ensure more Australians can receive the care and support they need, in the comfort and familiarity of home.

## Make a one off gift

Every gift to Silverchain Foundation helps us enhance the care our clients receive.

### Phone

Call **1300 650 803** to donate over the phone using a credit or debit card.

### Online

Go to [silverchain.org.au/donate](https://silverchain.org.au/donate) to send a gift via our secure online donation form.

## Mail

Fill in the enclosed donation form and return it to us using the reply paid envelope we've included with this newsletter.

If your bank still offers cheque services, you can also send us a cheque using the reply paid envelope, or post it to:

**Silverchain Foundation**  
**6 Sundercombe Street**  
**Osborne Park WA 6017**

## Leave a gift to Silverchain in your Will

By leaving a gift in your Will to Silverchain, you will help shape the future of in home health and aged care for generations to come. Your legacy will empower our clinical and care teams, and our innovators, to create real change for all Australians.

Please call **1300 650 803** and ask for the fundraising team, or send us an email at [bequests@silverchain.org.au](mailto:bequests@silverchain.org.au)

## Sterling Supporters

Set up a regular donation via direct debit or credit card to become a Sterling Supporter and help provide ongoing funding in our areas of greatest need.

Call **1300 650 803** to set up your regular donation today.



You can also support Silverchain Foundation through your local container deposit scheme.

For more information visit [silverchain.org.au/containerdeposit](https://silverchain.org.au/containerdeposit)

## You can make a difference today.



Scan the QR code to donate or visit [silverchain.org.au/donate](https://silverchain.org.au/donate)

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*Shaping the future  
of care together*