

The Link

Silverchain Foundation Newsletter

The difference you make

Your donations are helping bring better home care to the older Australians who need it most, and those who have no one else.

You have supported us to create better mental health care for Australians receiving aged care at home. Silverchain research showed many older Australians receiving aged care at home experience low mood, depression and anxiety and we were able to use this evidence to demonstrate the importance of including better mental health care in the Australian Government's new Support at Home aged care program.

Thank you.

Your generosity also funded clinical trials and supported care initiatives that focus on improving mental wellbeing and quality of life for more of our loved ones as they age.

On page four you'll meet Silverchain researcher and PhD candidate Beliz Yegencik, who is studying the prevalence and impact of loneliness on older Australians receiving aged care at home.



Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae trying out our donor funded smart glasses in Parliament House with three of our nurses.

On page seven you can read about Silverchain's virtual lunch club trial, with group members reporting they gained confidence, a greater sense of purpose and the valuable social connection that the program offered.

Recently I had the opportunity to take some senior Silverchain nurses to Parliament House and demonstrate our smart glasses technology to the Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae. We demonstrated the value of our donor funded smart glasses technology and their potential to unlock critical capacity within the care system.

I'm so pleased to share these stories and many more in

this newsletter to show you how your generosity makes a real difference in the lives of others. Thank you for helping Silverchain provide compassionate home care for those who need it most, and supporting our care teams to be there for people who have no one else.

Yours sincerely,



Bronwyn Perry
Executive Director,
Silverchain Foundation

Leading the next generation of care

Your donations help Silverchain lead the way in home care innovation to deliver high quality care to more Australians.

At the Parliamentary Friends of Nursing Showcase in Canberra recently, Silverchain hosted Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Sam Rae to learn more about our donor funded smart glasses technology.

The Minister participated in a live demonstration of our virtual care technology, which unlocks great capacity in the care system.

Your generosity funded the research, purchase and implementation of this innovative care solution. Silverchain was the first home care provider to use smart glasses at scale across health and aged care in the home.

We are enormously grateful for your support that gave us the opportunity to show dozens of parliamentarians and

policy makers at Parliament House how care can be delivered differently to ensure everyone can access the care they need.



Made possible by your generosity: Silverchain nurses demonstrated the smart glasses virtual care technology to Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, Sam Rae.



Did you know?

After providing for your loved ones, leaving just 1% of your estate to Silverchain Foundation can be transformative in helping older Australians receive better care in their own home.

Many of our supporters choose to remember Silverchain Foundation in their Will. It can be one of the most powerful ways to create lasting change and help bring better home care to older Australians who need it most, and those who have no one else.

Interested? We'd love to have a confidential, no obligation chat. Call **1300 650 803** to speak to our Bequest Partner, Martin Carolan.

Giving James peace of mind

People like James often don't have anyone else they can turn to when things get tough, but this time he had you.

James* lives alone and does not have a primary carer. He spent eight years caring for his mother who sadly passed away five years ago. Caring for his mother and living with his own complex health conditions meant he has been unable to earn a regular wage for more than a decade.

During a home visit, James opened up to his Silverchain social worker Jacinta about his significant financial hardship, driven by rising living expenses and his worries about keeping up with the increasing costs of his medications.

James' circumstances had become critical, leaving him unable to consistently afford essential items such as food.

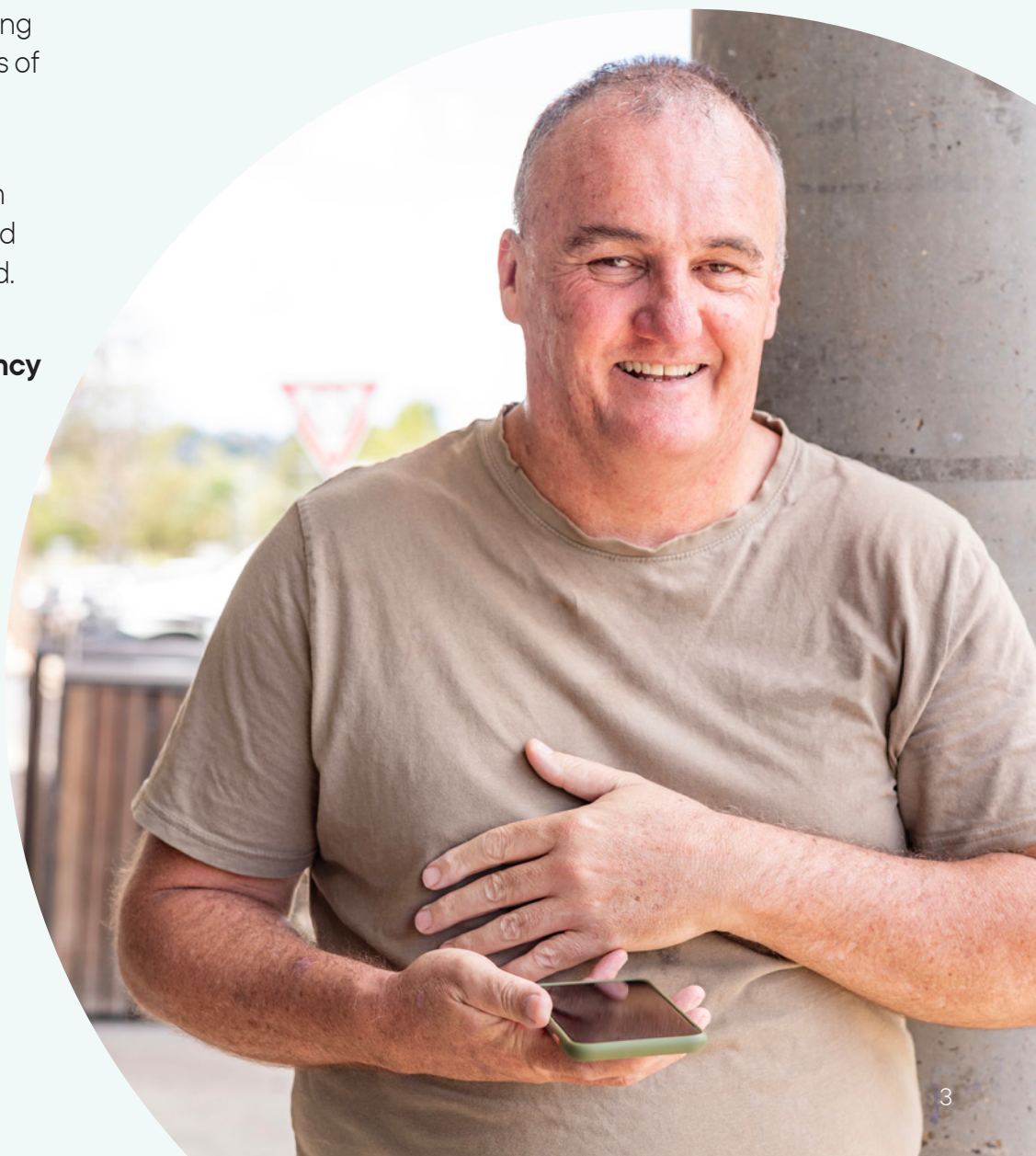
Donations to Silverchain Foundation fund emergency support for vulnerable people who have no one else to turn to and have exhausted all options.

Jacinta saw the incredible relief James expressed when he received a donor funded grocery voucher during a very tough time.

“Your generosity meant James could purchase his groceries and pay for his medications with peace of mind and without added financial stress. James showed huge relief and gratitude for this gift, which was wonderful to see,” Jacinta said.

Thank you for helping Silverchain to be there for people when they have no one else.

To donate to our Silver Hand program, please contact fundraising@silverchain.org.au or call **1300 650 803** to speak to a Silverchain Foundation team member.



* Names and images have been changed to protect personal identity.

Powering research discoveries that can transform lives

Beliz Yegencik is a PhD candidate and Silverchain researcher studying the prevalence and impact of loneliness on older Australians receiving health and aged care at home.



Beliz Yegencik is researching loneliness in home based aged care to help inform new care solutions that can give older Australians better quality of life.

Beliz Yegencik's passion for healthy ageing and mental health has taken her across the world. From Türkiye where she was born and raised, to the United Kingdom, and now to Australia, where she is undertaking a PhD focused on loneliness among older adults receiving care at home.

After completing a master's degree in psychology, Beliz worked in dementia research and clinical practice, but it was her broader experiences working alongside older people that shaped her future direction.

"The idea of contributing to healthy ageing really inspired me," Beliz said. "That's when I realised focusing on mental health and healthy ageing was the area I wanted to pursue further."

This led Beliz to Australia for a PhD opportunity through a partnership between Silverchain and Federation University Australia where she could combine academic research with practical innovation in aged care.

This has been possible thanks to your support.

With generous donations from the community, Beliz will carry out research to better understand the prevalence of loneliness and its impact among people receiving aged care at home. This is an issue increasingly recognised as a major public health concern.

While significant attention has been given to loneliness for those living in residential aged care, Beliz said less is understood about people receiving care at home, who often have more complex health needs and fewer opportunities for social connection.

"People accessing home based aged care can face barriers engaging with community based resources. It's important that we understand and respond to the needs of this group," Beliz said.

Existing research shows loneliness among older people can contribute to increased frailty, hospitalisation, depression and poorer overall health outcomes.

Beliz's research will contribute to Silverchain's broader effort to explore evidence based approaches to reducing loneliness and improving mental wellbeing for older Australians receiving care at home.

For Beliz, the opportunity to contribute to meaningful change in the lives of older adults is what continues to drive her research.

Thank you for your support that is powering emerging health and aged care researchers like Beliz to make important discoveries.

You have made it possible for projects like this to get off the ground and help transform home care for older Australians who may otherwise be left behind.



Your feedback is important to us

We have enclosed a short survey for you to complete with this edition of The Link newsletter.

Your responses will help us learn more about your connection to Silverchain Foundation, what motivates you to give so generously, and the areas of our work that are most important to you.

Your feedback helps us understand what's important to you as a supporter.

We would greatly appreciate if you could please grab a pen and take 10 minutes to fill in the survey and return it to us by 13 September using the Reply Paid envelope provided.

Thank you.

Investing in better care

Your donations meant the Silverchain Foundation Scholarships program could fund more education support across the organisation in 2025 than ever before!



Congratulations to Sara on completing her master's degree with support from generous donors like you.

Thanks to you, more Silverchain employees were able to complete further studies and training in areas of need including nursing, palliative care, mental health care, dementia care and more.

Silverchain Clinical Practice Consultant Sara was thrilled to graduate with a Master of Wound Care from Monash University thanks to your support.

Sara completed her master's degree by research, delivering a thesis on clinical improvements in critical wound care that could lead to improved health outcomes.

“Completing my Master of Wound Care has been an incredible and challenging experience. It has given me deeper knowledge and greater evidence to make sound recommendations

to our clients. I can also train our nurses in wound care more effectively. Ultimately, this means better outcomes for our clients thanks to more effectual wound management. I'm incredibly grateful to the Silverchain Foundation donors who made this possible.”

Sara, Clinical Practice Consultant – Wound Management

Sara's research will help develop evidence to support best practice for wound care in a home setting, and potentially improve outcomes across the country.

Thank you for helping bring better health and aged care to older Australians who need it most, through the Silverchain Foundation Scholarships program.

Your support broke new records!

Further education is an investment that keeps paying dividends, thanks to your generosity.



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Care Scholarships awarded



25

Study Assistance grants offered

Silverchain Lunch Club

Why your support for this simple idea with a life changing impact is so important.

Loneliness is often invisible. It's rarely spoken about openly despite its significant impact on older Australians every day, and there are few efforts to solve this growing problem.



"It became a really good way to really meet people from the comfort of their living room," Asmita said.

Generous donations are crucial in helping Silverchain researchers, clinicians and care teams to design, test, evaluate, and implement new services, just like this.

"I never thought I could join a social club because of my condition, which makes me vulnerable to illness. But an online program like Lunch Club gives me the opportunity to meet people."

Silverchain client who participated in the virtual lunch club pilot program

This project provides clear evidence that it is possible to incorporate social connection programs into health and aged care at home. This shows promising opportunities for similar programs to be adopted by aged care providers across the country.

Thank you for helping more Silverchain clients experience meaningful social connection. You are helping older Australians who have no one else gain a greater sense of purpose and belonging.

Your donations in 2025 funded the pilot of the Silverchain Lunch Club – a 12 week online group program designed to reduce isolation and loneliness for people receiving aged care at home.

Silverchain Research Fellow Asmita Manchha who is leading the pilot program said it was a great success, noting group members valued having something to look forward to each week, enjoyed meeting new people, and gained improved confidence and a new sense of connection and purpose.



Ways you can give

Your generosity helps bring better home care to the older Australians who need it most, and those who have no one else.

Make a one off gift

Every dollar helps bring more Australians the care they need and deserve at home.

Phone

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

Online

Go to silverchain.org.au/donate to send a gift via our secure online donation form.



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

For more information visit silverchain.org.au/containerdeposit

Mail

Fill in the donation form on the 2026 Supporter Survey and return it to Silverchain Foundation using the reply paid envelope supplied.

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

Silverchain Foundation
6 Sundercombe Street
Osborne Park WA 6017

Remembering Silverchain Foundation in your Will

By leaving a gift in your Will to Silverchain Foundation, you can create a legacy that supports better home care for more older Australians in their time of greatest need for generations to come.

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

Sterling Supporters

Set up a monthly gift 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 monthly gift today.

You can make a difference today.



Scan the QR code to donate or visit silverchain.org.au/donate

Silverchain Foundation Ltd

ABN 85 077 086 670 | ACN 077 086 670

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*Shaping the future
of care together*