

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Every dollar counts – support diabetes research at tax time**

With the end of the financial year approaching, Diabetes Victoria is asking for donations to inspire the best minds in Victoria to tackle diabetes research.

“Funding for diabetes research grants can save lives,” says Diabetes Victoria CEO Craig Bennett. “Last year, Diabetes Victoria contributed \$1.6 million to vital research – but 290 important projects still missed out on funding.”

The Diabetes Australia Research Program relies on the generosity and support of diabetes member organisations, corporations and individual donors. Every dollar donated ensures more vital research is undertaken.

“This year, the expert committee will again sort through hundreds of impressive applications for research funding. Each one may hold the key to that next development”, Mr Bennett says.

By donating to the tax appeal, Victorians can help fund cutting-edge research like Dr Stuart Mannering’s breakthrough medical research.

St Vincent’s Institute Medical Researcher Dr Mannering and his team received DARP funding and have for the first time observed the immune cells in the pancreas of a type 1 diabetes patient, allowing them to watch as the cells attack and destroy the body’s insulin-producing molecules.

This discovery was made possible through the donation of a pancreas from an Australian teenager who died from complications caused by type 1 diabetes a few years ago.

“It’s extremely rare to get that sort of opportunity”, Dr Mannering says. “Having access to a donated pancreas has given us an unprecedented insight into the body’s immune system.”

“Manipulating the immune system provides a promising approach to finding a cure for type 1 diabetes which is the ultimate goal of our research program”, Dr Mannering says. “It gives us hope to develop a treatment therapy in the future for people diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.”

Diabetes is the fastest growing chronic disease in our country with 74 Victorians diagnosed every day – more than 27,000 in 2014. Funding research projects means more chances to discover better treatments that will lead to improved quality of life and less complications for thousands of families living with diabetes.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Please visit [diabetesvic.org.au](http://diabetesvic.org.au) or call 1300 136 588 to support diabetes research.

*Diabetes Victoria is the leading charity and peak consumer body working to reduce the impact of diabetes in the Victorian community.*

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