



Harnessing research to improve outcomes for
injured workers in the construction sector





Identifying internal trauma fast

An Emergency Medicine Foundation research grant allowed the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) to better diagnose haemorrhaging trauma patients.

QAS showed their trauma response paramedics can use a portable ultrasound device to accurately and effectively diagnose patients with internal injuries or bleeding en route to hospital.

This means emergency departments can be alerted and clinicians ready to treat patients immediately on arrival—speeding up the time to treatment. Queensland is one of the first ambulance services in the world to use the device.

Who we are

The Emergency Medicine Foundation (EMF) is a non-profit organisation funding innovative Australian research that improves the way people are cared for in a medical emergency.

We are driving better emergency care to ensure patients receive quick and effective treatment.

Launched by Queensland doctors in 2007, EMF has invested more than \$17 million in research grants and capacity building initiatives.

We award research grants to emergency healthcare clinicians – doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health professionals – to lead high-quality, innovative studies aimed at improving patient outcomes.

As a non-profit, we rely on funding from governments, industry and the community.

Our impact on patient care

Excitingly, our impact-driven grants programs are delivering significant improvements to patient care in Australian emergency departments, ambulance service and retrieval services.

Critically, we have sped up the time from diagnosis to treatment for trauma patients in Queensland. Our projects have also seen the introduction of new diagnostics and protocols

for the faster diagnosis of chest pain; a new internationally recognised treatment for babies with bronchiolitis; and new models of emergency healthcare for older patients, one of the most vulnerable groups in our society.

In short, our programs have directly led to improved, patient-centric emergency healthcare, with more patients receiving the right treatment, at the right time, and in many cases going home and back to work sooner.

Our financial impact

In 2018, we commissioned KPMG to evaluate the economic value of EMF's grant programs. KPMG evaluated eight research projects funded by EMF and found they were associated with an estimated \$44 million in economic health benefits each year across Queensland and the Northern Territory. In separate evaluations, two additional projects co-funded by EMF were estimated to be returning a further \$15.7 million to the Queensland healthcare system.

If the outcomes from these research projects are adopted by emergency departments across Australia, they will lead to more than \$3.8 billion in gross benefits over the next five years in better patient care and improved emergency healthcare services.



35 construction workers are seriously injured each day in Australia (WorkSafe Australia)

77 killed in first six months of 2019; 182 from 2008–09 to 2012–13 (WorkSafe Australia)

19% of work-related emergency department presentations are from the construction industry (Australian Safety and Compensation Council)



Improving trauma patient survival

Clinicians from the Gold Coast University Hospital are leading an international project to save the lives of trauma patients with major bleeding.

The research team has shown that by giving patients a new fibrinogen concentrate, they can reduce haemorrhage and improve patient outcomes.

The Fibrinogen Early In Severe Trauma study (FEISTY) program, which has received \$500,000 in research grants from EMF, is now looking at the use of the treatment for both adults and children in separate clinical trials.

An investment in your workforce

Why you need to invest in research

The construction sector experiences a high rate of serious injuries and deaths amongst its workforce.

Tragically, 77 Australian construction workers have been killed in their workplace in 2019. Each year, more than 12,000 claims for serious injury are made by construction employees. Each one of these seriously injured or sick workers received care from emergency healthcare doctors, nurses and paramedics.

Without a doubt, the emergency healthcare challenges facing the construction industry require unique solutions.

Improving emergency healthcare for these workers is paramount, and it requires rapidly translated, evidence-based solutions.

By partnering with EMF, we can help injured construction workers receive the right care at the right time, allowing them to return to work sooner. Whether it is a focus on prevention or treatment, innovations in emergency healthcare can assist in reducing the high human and economic cost of workplace fatalities and injuries.

How you can partner with EMF

EMF can work alongside your organisation to:

- i. Facilitate a specific, **sponsored research** project—assembling the best possible research team and managing the project through to completion.
- ii. Allocate a donation to a **target research** area—grants can be created to honour a worker or ensure an organisation is publically recognised for their donation.
- iii. **Create a scholarship** for an emergency healthcare clinician to engage in a nominated research area—EMF would promote the scholarship and select the foremost recipient through a competitive, peer-reviewed process.
- iv. **Workplace Giving**— provide your employees with a smarter, tax-effective way to give through voluntary, automatic donations from pre-tax pay. Companies can enhance the impact of their workplace giving program by matching employees' donations and demonstrating their commitment to a cause that is important to the people driving their business performance.
- v. **Staff Fundraising**—working on a common cause is a positive, team-building experience, especially when the cause has personal meaning. Your staff and customers will have had direct involvement with emergency care and know the importance of finding better ways to save lives.
- vi. **Enforceable Undertakings** – through this program we can work alongside you to facilitate a specific research project, allocate a donation to a target research area or create a scholarship for an emergency healthcare clinician to engage in a nominated research area.



Fast new treatment for hand injury

An EMF funded study into the treatment of a common hand injury among construction workers is set to help get patients back to work faster.

Gold Coast University Hospital Emergency Department physician and research lead, Richard Pellatt (pictured left) said up to ten patients presenting with a fifth metacarpal fracture of neck of the hand per week, many of which are working age men in their mid-20's.

“When we buddy taped, we found the patients generally spent 30 minutes less in the ED than plaster patients and went back to work within seven days of presenting, with some resuming normal.”

The conventional treatment is to plaster a ‘Boxer’s fracture, which can sideline patients from their day-to-day activities for several weeks.

Your trusted partner

Operating for more than a decade, **EMF is a trusted, logical partner** for industry and government.

In Australia, EMF is the only organisation dedicated to funding emergency healthcare research. We are **highly respected** and our grants carry significant kudos for clinician-researchers

Our **world-class, innovative grants programs** are governed in line with Australia's NHMRC and ARC grant programs. They are rigorous and highly transparent, ensuring only the most scientifically robust projects are awarded funding.

Not only do we have the proven ability to operate highly-successful grants programs, **our operations are an open book**. We are audited annually and required to provide an annual report and six-monthly reports to the Queensland Government.

You can be assured that more than 80% of your investment is going to fund and managing research thanks to our **lean operations**.

Your investment is tax deductible. EMF is a non-profit organisation with charitable, health promotion and deductible gift recipient (DGR) status.








Emergency Medicine Foundation

Your investment in
research will lead to
rapid changes in clinical
care for injured
construction workers

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