



Health JANUARY 29, 2021 12:04 PM AEDT

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Hon Jaala Pulford visits Hudson Institute

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Hudson Institute was honoured to welcome the Hon Jaala Pulford, Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy to the Institute, the site of the proposed National Centre for Inflammation Research (NCIR).

Jaala Pulford MP tours Hudson Institute with Director Prof Elizabeth Hartland and former Monash Health inflammation patient, baby Willow O'Brien. (L-R) Hudson Institute Director and CEO Professor Elizabeth Hartland, Jaala Pulford MP, Brendan O'Brien with daughter Willow and partner Christy O'Brien, Mr Meng Heang Tak, the member for Clarinda.

Minister Pulford met former Monash Health patient Willow O'Brien and her parents to learn about the impact on babies of inflammatory disease, necrotising enterocolitis (NEC), before touring Hudson Institute with Director and CEO Professor Elizabeth Hartland and Associate Director Professor Paul Hertzog. They were joined by Monash Health CEO Andrew Stripp and Monash University Chair of Neonatal Paediatrics, Professor Rod Hunt.

Inflammation is the world's biggest killer, behind hundreds of illnesses including cancer, diabetes, stroke, heart diseases, and viral infections like coronavirus (COVID-19). Hudson Institute houses Australia's largest group of inflammation researchers who are at the forefront of inflammation research. Now, the Victorian Government has committed \$1 million in the recent budget to help the Institute prepare a business case for a NCIR.

The proposed NCIR will be a state-of-the-art research facility, enhancing Victoria's capability and capacity to respond rapidly to current and future health challenges, including pandemics such as COVID-19, ensuring inflammation discoveries are translated into new treatments, diagnostics and devices for Victorians, as well as stimulating the Victorian economy with immediate and sustained job creation.

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"A National Centre for Inflammation Research, the first of its kind in Australia, will boost Victoria's leadership in inflammation research and the development of new anti-inflammatory therapies," said Director and CEO of Hudson Institute, Professor Elizabeth Hartland.



Timeline

Every test helps

10:46 AM AEDT

Safety alerts issued for cattle and construction industries

10:34 AM AEDT

Gold Coast hairdressing salon operator in court

10:34 AM AEDT

Triathlon powers up to be roaring success in Moranbah

10:28 AM AEDT

Children's Library programs resume

10:24 AM AEDT

APRA releases its policy and supervision priorities for 2021

10:20 AM AEDT



Coles supporting Queensland farmers' growing world-class

healthy meat

10:20 AM AEDT

NZ police investigating Hastings sudden death

10:14 AM AEDT

New Slot Limit For Black Bream In Gippsland Lakes Plan

10:08 AM AEDT

Urgent call to implement RC recommendations on two-year anniversary of Hayne final report

10:04 AM AEDT

City of Launceston honours cyclist Richie Porte

10:02 AM AEDT

Marshall Government delivers to South Australians once again

9:55 AM AEDT



Do This To Escape Attackers

How this grandma had her a running scared without using

More security for Adelaide train passengers

9:54 AM AEDT

Police update: Assault charges at Rockhampton

9:54 AM AEDT

Territory Tourism Voucher Round 3

9:42 AM AEDT

Australian PMI: Manufacturing recovers over holiday period

9:41 AM AEDT

Building Up Our Veteran Community

9:40 AM AEDT

Restoring coastal wetlands to fight climate change

9:40 AM AEDT



New sleep and settling program available for parents

9:36 AM AEDT



A future cure for babies like Willow

Willow O'Brien was born at 24 weeks and six days, weighing a tiny 630 grams. She began life with her share of challenges – including the imminent threat of necrotising enterocolitis (NEC).

NEC is an inflammatory disease that attacks the bowel and affects 11 per cent of babies born weighing less than 1500 grams. Of the babies with NEC who require surgery, 65 per cent don't survive. The only other treatment option is antibiotics, which have limited efficacy.

Willow's parents, Christy and Brendan, knew that NEC was a risk. When Willow developed a fever it was raised as a potential cause.

Baby Willow O'Brien was born prematurely and battled an inflammatory disease called necrotising enterocolitis, or NEC. Willow O'Brien

"Hearing the word NEC was pretty scary. We knew about NEC and that it had a high risk of mortality," father Brendan said.

Their daughter endured several surgeries and before most babies are even born, was fighting for her life.

Enter Hudson Institute's Professor Marcel Nold and Associate Professor Claudia Nold, and their recent discovery that a naturally occurring anti-inflammatory called IL-37 is suppressed in NEC-afflicted babies. Therefore, supplementing these babies with IL-37 in a therapeutic form could bring substantial relief.



"Our data in pre-clinical models suggests that giving babies with NEC an IL-37 therapeutic may prevent or treat the condition," Prof Nold said.

"I think it's revolutionary," Brendan said. "To be able to detect whether NEC is occurring then being able to interfere with that inflammatory cascade to prevent the condition from developing, is just amazing."

Today Willow is thriving, and IL-37 could one day be a frontline treatment for NEC in other pre-term babies.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read Willow's story in the Herald Sun

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Nominations for Cultural Heritage Awards 2021 closing soon

9:24 AM AEDT

Advantage Australia

9:24 AM AEDT

2020 national organ donation outcomes released

9:12 AM AEDT

2019-20 annual financial disclosure returns published today

9:10 AM AEDT

New super players appearing before House Economics Committee

9:06 AM AEDT



A\$59 Watch Can Save Yo

Australia Seniors Are Wearing SmartWatch to Stay Safe and

NZ police seek information on firearm recovered during homicide investigation

8:58 AM AEDT

Chadwick Fatal Crash

8:48 AM AEDT

Project to get Indigenous communities talking about gambling

8:40 AM AEDT

Back to School: Labor Delivers Second Stage of Zuccoli Primary School

8:34 AM AEDT

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